



DICKINSON COUNTY NEWS-TIMES



Getting back to our roots



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On Monday, June 8th, Severe storms moved through Dickinson County and caused damages in the wake of its path. My husband and I were returning from a trip to California when we were hit by one of several storms moving throughout the area. We were outside of Burlington, Co when my husband spotted what looked like snow. It wasn't, it was hail and we drove right into it.

I don't know if anyone has ever gotten caught in a hail storm in a Corvette, but I will tell you it's pretty nerve racking. I wasn't worried about the car but the back window was in the direct line of fire. We pulled off at a flying J's to get food and call home to let our kids know we would be late, and that's when we learned Herington was in direct hit for a storm already having rotation in spots.

I am very confident in my 19 year old's capability to take care of my other two children, but to know tornados are heading towards the house...it was heart stopping. Even with a full basement and a fortified

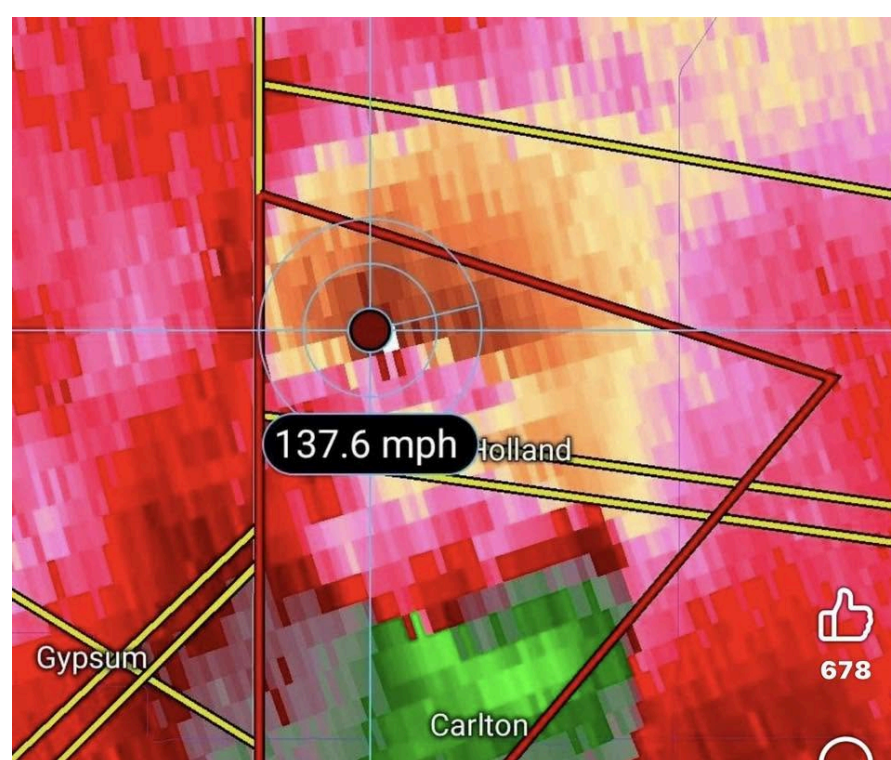
room in the basement, I was still on edge. I had been praying our whole trip, knowing that Kansas is one of the most Bi-polar states when it comes to weather. I won't keep you in suspense, My kids, my father, and our homes are all fine. However, there are many places that have substantial damages. The highways were

littered with broken signs and truckers. My husband needed gas to ensure we made it all the way home, I said "There is a Love's truck stop right up here". We get to the exit and its pitch black. No sign, nothing, just blackness. Trucks packed in tighter than sardines in a can. Driving through Abilene to highway 4, there were several homes with tree damage. One tree had all the limbs ripped off of it but the trunk still stood, this was no small tree might I add. On highway 4, there was debris littered throughout the whole route... causing that racing suspension to be put to the test as we swerved. Water was at the edge of the roads in some spots, but not over the roads...thank God we got home safe.

Storms Move through Dickinson County

We finally arrived at home at 3:30am (we were supposed to get back home at around 11pm), and then woke up at 7am to get my son to his baseball practice in Kansas City. The path that the storm took was apparent while traveling. Trees split in half, missing shingles on homes, and missing fence posts.

I also saw on Facebook where storm chaser, Kevin Fox, notified weather authorities of two tornadoes and 100 mph winds for Bennington/Salina areas. However, after reaching out to a few fire department personnel, the sirens were never activated for eastern Salina. I will personally tell you the I-70 corridor was hit hard, we almost ran directly into a truck that had tipped over in the right lane. This goes to show that when multiple storms are hitting at once, it might be hard for the proper personnel to notify you of danger. (photos Courtesy Kevin Fox)



KSDAR State Conference in Manhattan, KS April 31st thru May 2nd

By: Leesa Hettenbach

The Kansas State Daughters of the American Revolution's Conference was held on April 31st thru May 2nd at Manhattan's Garden Hilton Inn. Over 275 members and guests attended the conference. Thursday evening a memorial service was held for all daughters that had passed the previous year. Dee Marshall and Jane Foltz's names were read on the roll. DAR members from the Abilene Chapter present were Leesa Hettenbach, Cynthia Kalivoda, Shari Lenhart, Katherine Marshall, Julie Roller-Weeks, and Robin Williams. On Friday, Abilene's Regent. Cassy Wilson attended and sat in on the

business secession and ate at the awards luncheon. Saturday was the youth luncheon and Ella Strunk, JAC winner, came with her mother Ann. Leesa Hettenbach, State Marshall, was there for the duration and keep busy making sure the conference ran smoothly. She helped with the Service Project, which was assembling more than 50 Mother's Day Boxes for women stationed at Fort Riley. The boxes included pampering items for women, snacks, reading material, gift cards, etc. She also attended the Friday night Celebrate Daughters Banquet with guest speaker Mary Messner, who is a nationally recognized keynote speaker and strategic advisor who empowers other to lead with confidence, courage, and authenticity. The Saturday Created Equal Banquet's speaker was Randolph Cabral of Wichita, the founder of the Kansas Braille Transcription Institute, and also became a Library of Congress Certified Brailist.

Pictured L-R Ann Strunk, Ella Strunk and Leesa Hettenbach standing in front of the Abilene DAR Chapter's Flag. (Top Right)



L-R Ann Strunk, Ella Strunk and Leesa Hettenbach displaying their patriotic pride. Ella is holding her stuffed bear that she received for winning the State Junior America Citizen Award. The bear is dressed as the Statue of Liberty. Next year's JAC theme will be about Lady Liberty and Ella is already looking forward to entering the contest. (Pictured to Left)

Contact Information: Dickinson County News-Times
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Worship Guide

First Baptist Church

9 am - Connection Section
Enjoy snacks, coffee & fellowship

9:30 am - Sunday School
For adults & kids of all ages

10:30 am - Worship Service

201 E. Hawley St.
Herington, KS 67449
785-258-3207
www.fbcherington.org

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210 E. 6th St. • Chapman
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Fr. Peter O'Donnell

 Marita Campbell,
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785-922-6509
smichael-chapman@sbcglobal.net
www.smchapmanparish.org

Alida Upland Cooperative Parish
2243 3300 Ave., Junction City
11 a.m. Worship Service

Enterprise Community Church
210 W. South St., Enterprise
9 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Worship

First Baptist Church
201 E Hawley St., Herington
9 a.m. Connection Section
Coffee & Fellowship
9:30 a.m. Sunday School for adults and children
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

First Christian Church
15 S. First St., Herington
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

Grace Baptist Church
117 E. Third St., Chapman
9:45 a.m. Bible School
10:45 a.m. Worship/Service

Immanuel Lutheran Church
2201 1000 Ave., Herington
8:30 a.m. Worship
(Alternating Sundays)

Our Redeemer Lutheran
802 E. Trapp, Herington
10:30 a.m. Worship

St. John's Lutheran Church
2124 Highway 4, Herington
8:30 a.m. Worship
(Alternating Sundays)

St. Paul Lutheran Church
114 N. Eighth St., Herington
9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class
11 a.m. Worship/Communion

Sutphen Mill Christian Church
3117 Paint Rd., Chapman
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

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Rev. Connie D. Wooldridge

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PASTOR'S CORNER

As an educator, my dad often went away for the summer to take continuing education classes at a university a few hours from home. One summer he took the whole family with him. We moved into a small basement apartment. When it was dark outside, it was really dark in our apartment underground. One night I stumbled through the dark to the bathroom. I finished my task with no problem, but when I stood to leave the room and turned to go down the hall, I turned too early and walked into the little shower stall. I hit the shower wall, and it seemed no matter how I moved I remained in the shower, but I did not know where I was or why I was trapped. My imagination ran wild and I began to see monsters and towers all around me. I started screaming which awakened my mother. She navigated through the darkness toward my voice, but when she entered the bathroom, I was unseen. It took her a moment to turn on the lights and find me in the shower stall.

HELP! I'M TRAPPED!

I was never in any danger, but I perceived great danger. My mother was sure something frightened me, but when she could not find me, she also perceived danger. Today as I look back through more than 60 years to that night, I can tell you I have been in situations that were much more dangerous than that one, but I have seldom been that frightened. I think I felt that way because my problem should have been easy to remedy.

The shower stall was made of metal and when I hit its wall, I thought I had run into the washing machine so If I took a couple of steps to the left, I should easily move around the washer, but I kept hitting the wall. My solution had not worked because I did not really see the problem and I felt hopelessly lost.

Sometimes life feels like that. We get stuck and no matter how we try to free ourselves, we are boxed in at every turn. It is frightening and it is hard, but I am convinced that there is always someone who can turn the light on our situation and help us find the way forward. It is courageous to ask for help, sometimes we just need a little light to find our way and once we do, we may be able to light the way for others.



Mark Will
DCNT Columnist

THIS DAY -IN- THE HERINGTON TIMES

125 years ago – 1901
HAILSTORM – The storm last night was severe in the south part of the county. There was high wind and, in some sections, much hail fell and great damage was done. The hail stones fell as large as a man's fist and beat the wheat and growing crops into the ground past all resurrection. Hedges and trees were stripped of foliage and every window was smashed. Even this morning, hail stones remained on the ground as large as hen's eggs. It was the worst hailstorm ever known in this part of the country. No one was hurt and now cattle reported killed, but the farmers in the storm's path

100 years ago – 1926
MOTHER OF THE CITY IS DEAD – Mrs. Jane Waters Herington died peacefully Saturday morning (June 5th) at her home in Herington. Mrs. Herington, as the wife and helpmate of the founder of the town, never had a spectacular part to play; her portion was too profound. Hers was the work of building the social structure rather than the physical framework. It was she who established in her home the first church services to be held in Herington. A devout Baptist, she did not confine her support to the one church but gave of her ability and strength for the encouragement of other denominations. She leaves bereft her aged husband, M. D. Herington.

75 years ago – 1951
CITY BUSY CLEANING UP – Employees of the City of Herington have been busy clearing the debris and mud from the

MARSHAL HART LAYS DOWN THE LAW

streets and alleys in the flooded area. Last Wednesday, five inches of rain in the space of three and one-half hours sent Lime Creek on a rampage right through the heart of the city and damage is estimated to reach \$50,000. Water reached nearly the same depth as two years ago when the damage was estimated at over \$200,000. Many homes in this area had water in the basements and on the ground floors. At the crest of the flood by 11:00p. m., water was running three to four feet over the Walnut street bridge. Clark Lumber Co. reported 26 inches of water in their office and showroom. Scheufele Supply Co., Mom's Café, as well as several other businesses were flooded.

50 years ago – 1976
CITY LIBRARY STATISTICS – A report compiled by City Librarian Virginia Stuart shows that 21,873 books, or about 5 ½ books per person living in Herington, were loaned at the public library last year. Adults checked out 15,032 books while youth checked out 6850 books. The report also showed that 502 books were added to the library and that 51 were placed as memorials. A total of 219 books were deemed too old to continue their places on the shelves. The summer reading program was conducted again this year and was a success, concluding with a picnic and free swim tickets for each child who had completed the required reading. Herington Historical Society & Museum, 800 S. Broadway. Hours: 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. – markcwill1963@gmail.com

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Research Participants Needed!

Study Information
The University of Kansas is studying public trust in self-driving cars. Participants must be aged 18+. The survey is expected to take 5-10 minutes. Take the survey online: tinyurl.com/KUselfdrivingsurvey

Contact Information
Logan Pittman Shi'an Wang
Principal Investigator Faculty Supervisor
(316) 221-0224 (785) 864-3393
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Friday, June 12: Swedish Meatballs with Sauce & WW Noodles, Italian Vegetables, Jello w/ Fruit, Oatmeal Raisin Cookie

Monday, June 15: Turkey Tetrazzini, Peas & Carrots, Kidney Bean Salad, Hot Spiced Peaches, Wheat Roll

Tuesday, June 16: Spaghetti / Meat Sauce, Italian Vegetables, Corn & Baby Limas, Seasonal Fruit, Garlic Bread

Wednesday, June 17: Chicken & Rice, Broccoli Casserole, Green Beans, Strawberry Shortcake, Cornbread Muffin

Thursday, June 18: Oven Fried Fish or Chicken Patty, Macaroni & Cheese, California Blend Vegetables, Applesauce, Bread

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Friday, June 12: Swedish Meatballs with Sauce, Rice, Meadow Meadley, Jello with Fruit Roll, Milk

Monday, June 15: Chicken Tetrazzini, Peas & Carrots, Roll, Peaches, Milk

Tuesday, June 16: Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Italian Blend Veggies, Garlic Bread, Fruit, Milk

Wednesday, June 17: Ham & Potato Au Gratin, Green Beans, Cornbread Muffin, Cake, Milk

Thursday, June 18: Oven Fried Fish/Chicken, Macaroni & Cheese, California Blend Veggies, Applesauce, Milk



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Dickinson County Earns E-Community Designation from Network Kansas

After more than a decade of pursuit, Driving Dickinson County has earned E-Community designation from Network Kansas — unlocking new capital, programming, and statewide connections for local businesses and entrepreneurs.

ABILENE, Kan. — Some milestones take years to reach — and some are worth every mile of the journey. Dickinson County has officially been awarded E-Community status by Network Kansas, joining a statewide network of communities committed to building stronger entrepreneurial ecosystems. This designation has appeared in the organization’s strategic plans for over a decade, and Driving Dickinson County is proud to say: the county is finally in the driver’s seat. E-Community status is a practical, tangible set of tools — capital, coaching, connections, and programming — now available to every entrepreneur, small business owner, and aspiring startup in Dickinson County. It is one of the most meaningful economic development milestones the organization has achieved under new leadership, and it would not have happened without the persistence of leaders who kept this goal alive through every strategic plan, and the support of partners who believed in what Dickinson County can become. “We have been on this road for many years. Earning E-Community designation means Dickinson County is now backed by one of the most powerful entrepreneurship networks in the state — and our businesses will feel that difference,” said Natalie Muruato, CEO of Driving Dickinson County.

About Network Kansas E-Community
Network Kansas is a statewide organization established through the Kansas Economic Growth Act to drive entrepreneurship and small business growth across Kansas. The E-Community Partnership connects local communities with the tools, expertise, and capital their entrepreneurs need to start, grow, and sustain businesses. Today, the E-Community network spans more than 75 Kansas communities — and Dickinson County is proud to be among them. Designation is not automatic but a competitive application process. It requires a community commitment: local leadership teams, a financial review board, and a genuine investment in building an entrepreneurial environment. Driving Dickinson County is making that commitment on behalf of every community in the county.

The E-Community program has approved more than \$26 million to Kansas businesses through its loan programs and connects entrepreneurs with a statewide network of 600+ resource partners.

What E-Community Status Means for Dickinson County
E-Community designation opens immediate access to gap financing through a locally-controlled revolving loan fund. Loans range from \$3,000 to \$45,000–\$50,000 and can cover up to 60% of a total financing package, working alongside a bank or funding partner to help entrepreneurs close the capital gap. Funds can be used for equipment, real estate, inventory, and working capital.

Beyond financing, the designation provides access to additional Network Kansas funding programs including GrowKS, the Kansas Community Investment Fund (KCIF), and the Kansas Healthy Food Initiative (KHFI), as well as entrepreneurship programming, technical assistance, and Community Entrepreneurship Advisors who serve as a dedicated bridge between Dickinson County and the full Network Kansas ecosystem.

How the Loan Program Works
If a business needs \$20,000 in total capital, a local bank or funding partner provides 40% (\$8,000), and the E-Community loan fund covers up to 60% (\$12,000). The loan is locally administered, with decisions made in Dickinson County by a local financial review board.

Applications are scored on financial soundness, owner experience, business plan quality, projected growth and economic impact, quality of life contribution, and community commitment.

More Than Capital: A Community Commitment
What makes E-Community designation meaningful is not just the money — it is what it says about Dickinson County. Becoming an E-Community requires a community to formally commit to entrepreneurship as an economic development strategy. It signals to businesses, investors, and future residents that this is a county that believes in its own people.

Driving Dickinson County has always believed that. Now the organization has the statewide partnership to prove it — and the tools to back it up. “Entrepreneurship is not a side lane. It is one of the core roads to Dickinson County’s economic future — and E-Community status puts us in a much stronger position to travel it,” Muruato added.

Driving Dickinson County expressed gratitude to the team at Network Kansas for their partnership, patience, and belief in what rural Kansas communities can accomplish when they commit to growth.

MHS EMPLOYEES DONATE TO ABILENE PARKS AND RECREATION TO ASSIST YOUTH TO PARTICIPATE IN SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Employees of Memorial Health System (MHS) in Abilene participated in another “Jeans Days” fundraiser throughout the month of May. Employees make a donation, of at least \$2, and are allowed to wear blue jeans at work. A total donation of \$732 was presented to Abilene Parks and Recreation to assist youth to participate in summer activities. The monthly Jeans Day fundraiser is organized by the MHS Employer of Choice (EOC) Council.

Pictured from left are: Tyler Ediger, Recreation Supervisor with Abilene Parks and Recreation, and Sara Boyd, MHS Senior Director of Operations and EOC Council member.



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205 LINCOLNVILLE AVE.

OCCK More Than You Think Scholarship Applications Due June 15
OCCK, Inc. is reminding students and families that applications for the More Than You Think Scholarship are due soon.

The scholarship supports students with disabilities in North Central Kansas who are pursuing higher education, including college, university, community college, vocational school, technical school or another credentialed learning opportunity.

Eligible applicants must live in one of the following Kansas counties: Cloud, Dickinson, Ellsworth, Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Ottawa, Republic or Saline. Applications must be submitted online or postmarked by June 15, 2026.

Application materials and additional information are available at <https://occk.com/scholarships/>.

For questions, contact OCCK, Inc. at 785-827-9383. About OCCK, Inc.
OCCK, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that provides services and supports to people with disabilities of all ages in North Central Kansas. OCCK works to help people live, work and fully participate in their communities through a wide range of programs, including employment services, independent living supports, transportation, home care, assistive technology and more.

WHAT'S UP

at the

LIBRARY

Herington Public Library

102 S Broadway, Herington KS 67449

Phone: 785-258-2011

Email: director@heringtonlib.nckls.org

Webpage: herington.lib.nckls.org

LIBRARY

Events

Summer Library Programs kicked off June 4 in the library basement. The first day was Dinosaur Day. Young children made mini dino lamps and the older children created dino terrariums.

The June 11 session is bound to be messy so wear old clothes. Youngsters will be painting with dirt, courtesy of the Dickinson County Conservation Service. The next session will be a surprise from the county Extension service and June 25 is searching for treasure with metal detectors.

July 2 is Red/White/Blue Day to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the USA.

Additional pop-up programs will be offered over the summer months. Watch for announcements!

NEW Books on order

- Road Trip by Mary Kay Andrews
- A Dark Path by Linda Castillo
- Ironwood by Michael Connelly
- Sing the 50 Unite States by Dr. Seuss
- Murder by Design by Lee Goldberg
- Meet Me in Paris by Kristin Harmel
- Duck & Goose, Honk! Quack! Boo! by Tad Hill
- Sleepless by Gordon Korman
- The Divorce by Freida McFadden
- Diamond Fever by Steve Sheinkin
- This Could All Go Bad by Spencer Hall
- Daughters of the Sun and Moon by Lisa See
- Jia Has a Dog Problem by Stephanie Allen Sy

Mark Your CALENDAR

Thur., June 4th

Rotating books are exchanged

Tue., June 9th

Board meeting - 4:30 PM held in the basement

Summer Program every Thursday in June at 9:00 AM & 10 AM

North Central Kansas Libraries

Announce Summer "Public Library Crawl"

Celebrating America 250 * June 1 - July 31

Libraries across North Central Kansas are launching a region-wide Public Library Crawl in celebration of America 250. The summer initiative invites community members to explore local libraries while discovering the unique stories and history that shape each town.

Participants are encouraged to visit each library on the official crawl list. Every stop earns one entry into a regional prize drawing, and completing the full crawl awards an additional ten bonus entries.

At each location, visitors can scan a QR code and answer a library-specific history question or identify a special password to qualify for the drawing.

Winners will be selected on August 5, with multiple prizes awarded.

The Public Library Crawl is sponsored by the Marysville Public Library and the North Central Kansas Library System. For more information, contact director@marysvillepubliclibrary.org.

NOTIFICATIONS



MARTHA IRENE KRAMER
MAR 14,1960 - JUN 6, 2026

Pratt - Martha Irene Kramer, 85, passed away Saturday, June 6, 2026 at Parkwood Village. She was born on March 14, 1941 in Wichita to William Harley and Lucille Alfredia (Batterton) Rich. Martha married Robert D. Kramer, II. on September 2, 1960 in Pratt. He preceded her in death on July 23, 2004.

Martha graduated from Pratt High School in 1959 and went on to attend Business College in Hutchinson. She owned Martha I. Kramer Taxi Service and drove for the Rock Island, Cotton Belt and Southern Pacific Railroad. She was a member of First United Methodist Church, Elks and Women's Guild. Martha volunteered at Pratt County Historical Museum, Christian Food Bank and Meals on Wheels. She enjoyed playing cards, specifically Pitch, Bunco and Bridge, playing Chickenfoot and Bingo and golfing. She was an

avid Jayhawk and Chiefs fan.

She is survived by her children, Tracy (Daryl) Trimpe of Pratt, Robert D. "Rob" (Marcy) Kramer, III of Louisburg and Terri (Jake) Turley of Colwich; grandchildren, Megan (Joe) Parks, Alexandra "Lexi" (Andrew) Heyl, Jessica (Brady) Carter, Cole (Emma) Kramer, Taylor (Tristyn) Berry, and Ryann Kramer (fiance, Seth Coin); and great-grandchildren, Emma Claire, Richie Ace, Covin, Stetson, Jaxon, Cooper, Brynlee and Ridge.

Martha is preceded in death by her parents and husband, Robert D. Kramer, II.

Visitation will be Friday, June 12, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. with family receiving friends from 5-7 at Larrison Mortuary, 300 Country Club Road, Pratt. Funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, June 13, 2026 at Larrison Mortuary. Burial will follow at Greenlawn Cemetery, Pratt.

Memorials may be made to Pratt Area Humane Society or Lemon Park Lights. People may watch the funeral and leave online condolences at www.larrisonmortuary.com.

Junior League Club of Abilene Announces 2026
Scholarship Recipients: Payton Ballou, Solomon; Hannah
Pritchard, Herington

ABILENE, Kan. – The Junior League Club of Abilene is proud to announce the recipients of its 2026 scholarships: Payton Ballou, a 2026 graduate of Solomon High School, and Hannah Pritchard, a 2026 graduate of Herington High School.

The club’s scholarship program was created in 2022 to recognize and support young women from Dickinson County who demonstrate a strong commitment to serving others in their communities. The first scholarships were awarded to graduates in the class of 2023.

Ballou and Pritchard stood out among the competitive applicant pool for the meaningful ways they have given back while pursuing their education and personal goals. Their service, leadership, and continued investment in others reflect the mission of the Junior League Club of Abilene: women helping women and families in Dickinson County.

“We’re inspired by these young women already making a difference in our community,” said Shannon Krueger, 2025–2026 President of the Junior League Club of Abilene. “Payton and Hannah represent the spirit of service these scholarships were created to recognize, and we are proud to support them as they continue into their next chapter.”

Through her involvement in FFA, the Love Chloe Foundation, and work as a CNA at Village Manor, Ballou dedicated many hours to caring for the people of her community. Pritchard likewise gave back in a meaningful way, identifying a need in Herington for hygiene items and leading her church group to collect, assemble, and donate hygiene kits to the Family Resource Exchange, where they were quickly distributed.

“These scholarships are one of the ways our club lives out its mission,” Krueger added. “We’re proud to support these young women whose spirit of service mirrors our own. Just as our club shows up when the most vulnerable in our community are in need, we’re confident that Payton and Hannah will continue to positively impact those around them wherever they go.”

For more information about the Junior League Club of Abilene and its scholarship program, contact juniorleagueofabilene@gmail.com.

About the Junior League Club of Abilene

The Junior League Club of Abilene supports women, children, and families in Dickinson County through direct assistance and community service, especially in times of urgent need. The club’s Women Helping Women Legacy Fund is managed by the Community Foundation of Dickinson County and supported entirely by donations from club members and proceeds from the annual Chicken Salad Luncheon. Through its scholarship program, the club also recognizes young women whose commitment to service and leadership reflects this mission.

SEND YOUR STORIES TO DK.CO.NEWSTIMES@GMAIL.COM

Catholic Charities

St. Michael Catholic Church
210 E 6th ST
Chapman, KS 67431
Every 4th Wednesday of the month
9am-10am

St. John Catholic Church
712 Broadway
Herington, KS 67449
Every 1st Wednesday of the month
1pm-2pm

St. Andrew Catholic Church
311 S Buckeye Ave
Abilene, KS 67410
Every 3rd Wednesday of the month

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
3599 N Field Rd
Solomon, KS 67480
Every 3rd Wednesday of the Month

Enterprise Community Church
210 S High St.
Enterprise, KS 67441
Every 4th Wednesday of the Month
10:30am till 11am

DRIVE THRU FOOD PICK UP

First UMC Manhattan
1710 Avery Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66503
785-539-1748
PLEASE CALL TO CONFIRM
HOURS
Tue
3rd of each month 9:30 AM - 10:30
AM

Westview Community Church
615 Gillespie Drive
Manhattan, KS 66502
785-537-7173
PLEASE CALL TO CONFIRM
HOURS
Fri
1st of each month 10am-11am

Ogden Community Center
220 Willow Street
Ogden, KS 66517
785-564-0071 or 785-410-6672
PLEASE CALL TO CONFIRM
HOURS
Tue
4th of each month 9:30am-10:30am

Highview Church
402 Main Street
Alta Vista, KS 66834
620-767-2844
PLEASE CALL TO CONFIRM
HOURS
Tue
4th of each month 11:30 AM 12:30
PM

SRHC presented Yellow Brick Road Award after 15-year partnership with Project SEARCH–Kansas

(June 8, 2026) – Salina Regional Health Center was recently presented the Yellow Brick Road Award by Project SEARCH–Kansas for its 15-year partnership as a business host site for the program, which teaches job skills to young adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Salina Regional Health Center hosts the program in collaboration with the Central Kansas Cooperative in Education, USD 305 Salina Public Schools, OCCK, Inc., Workforce Solutions, Inc., Kansas Rehabilitation Services and Independent Connection. Over the years, 157 students have graduated from the Salina program and 76% have gone on to find employment in the regional workforce. There are currently 16 graduates of the program who are employed across Salina Regional Health Center’s system of hospitals and clinics. Across Kansas, high school graduates with disabilities have an employment rate between 16% and 17%. Many may not have had access to a workforce transition program like Project SEARCH. “Many Project SEARCH students are not sure what they want to do with their lives as they enter the program,” said Cheryl Laaker, Project SEARCH–Kansas statewide coordinator. “They don’t realize the potential they have after high school graduation, like their peers do. But, as they move through internships in Project SEARCH, we begin to see them develop. And when they complete Project SEARCH they’re prepared – not to just move into an entry level position – but to move into a career.” Salina Regional Health Center was one of the original host sites for Project SEARCH–Kansas when it first began organizing in 2010 – along with the University of Kansas, Memorial Hospital, Wichita Public Schools and Newton Medical Center. Today, Project SEARCH is hosted at 16 locations across the state, which are part of a growing worldwide movement that is changing the face of employment for young adults with disabilities. Salina Regional’s affiliate hospital in Concordia, North Central Kansas Medical Center, also serves as a host site for Project SEARCH–Kansas. Project SEARCH was founded at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital in 1996, which created the original curriculum for the program that is largely still in use today. The Salina program accepts up to 14 students a year, and most of them are recent graduates from area high schools. To qualify for the program, students must have a disability identified by an Individual Education Plan or by a medical provider. Students accepted are those who will most likely have difficulty finding employment on their own. “This program has had a significant, positive impact on area families,” said Ardis Bryan, Project SEARCH instructor at Salina Regional. “Many families may have never thought their young adult could be working, and many weren’t sure what they were going to do after high school graduation. “Through this program these students learn to be more confident, take on responsibility and become more independent,” Bryan said. “My favorite part is when they call years down the road – after completing this program – after finding employment. Some have bought their first car, or moved into their own apartment. A couple have even purchased their own homes.” Students in the program complete three, 10-week internships in differing departments around the health center. Each intern goes through an interview process for hire and a resignation process upon completion of each internship. Students work alongside hospital employees, receive instruction from their co-workers and take shifts like they would in an actual employment situation. An emphasis is placed on mastering soft business skills like teamwork, showing up to work on time, not abusing breaks, dressing appropriately and following directions. “We’re proud of the partnership we have with Project SEARCH and all that it has accomplished over the last 15 years,” said Joel Phelps, President and CEO at Salina Regional Health Center. “It’s simply phenomenal to see the growth these young men and women accomplish each year. We’re also pleased to have added a number of these Project SEARCH graduates to our team where they fulfill vital roles in the delivery of health care services. We take pride in being a part of building a future for such special people.”



Detroit Ramblers Do Some Gardening

By Grace Hanback

The Detroit Ramblers May Meeting was called to order on May 11 th 2026 at 6:30pm. The meeting was held at Enterprise Estates. Our club all got together and pulled weeds, raked up leaves, planted flowers and other tasks while cleaning up the Enterprise Estates Garden. We worked very hard as a club to clean up the Garden for all the residents to enjoy. After cleaning we had our meeting. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Gabriel Boyd. Our roll call was “What are you looking forward to most this Summer?”. Pledge of Allegiance and 4-H Pledge were led by Savana. For our song we sang “Happy Birthday” to Gabriel Boyd. After the meeting we had juice and cupcakes for Gabriel’s birthday. It was moved and seconded that we Adjourn the meeting with the 4-H club motto “To Make the Best Better!”.

Legal Notice

(First Published in Dickinson County News Times on Wednesday, June 3, 2026)
Darren Denter sentenced 36 Months for possession of paraphernalia w/intent to use for planting, growing, etc, any contrlld sub 5 or more plants, and distribution/possession with intent to distribute marijuana at least 25g less than 450g in Dickinson County, Kansas, has applied for executive clemency. Persons wishing to comment should send information in writing to below address within fifteen (15) days after the date of publication.
Kansas Department of Corrections
Prisoner Review Board
Jayhawk Walk
714 SW Jackson, Suite 300
Topeka, KS 66603

Setting the Stage for Future Kansas Workforce

MANHATTAN, Kansas — Twenty-one students from five Kansas schools have been awarded the Kansas Department of Agriculture’s Kansas Agriculture Skills and Competencies Certificate. High schools with students earning certificates include Buhler, Herington, Holton, Lyons, and Skyline. To earn the certificate, students must complete requirements in classroom instruction, supervised agricultural experience (SAE) and FFA participation. Recipients have demonstrated excellence in agricultural knowledge, career readiness, and leadership development, while maintaining a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher

in all school coursework. “Students earning the 2026 KDA Agriculture Skills and Competencies Certificate represent the best of Kansas agricultural programs. Their achievement reflects years of dedication, leadership, and involvement in agricultural education and FFA activities. These students are well prepared for college, careers, and future success,” said John Clark, the agricultural education teacher at Buhler High School. “These students are developing the technical skills, work ethic and leadership experience that will strengthen Kansas agriculture,” said Suzanne Ryan-Numrich, KDA marketing director. “No matter what sector of agriculture they pursue

careers in, they are helping build the next generation of Kansas’ workforce and ensuring our state remains a leader in agriculture.” For over 10 years, the certificate has been endorsed by industry organizations and employers across Kansas. Applications for the Kansas Agriculture Skills and Competencies Certificates are accepted each spring. To find more information, visit agriculture.ks.gov/ageducation. Kansas Agriculture Skills and Competencies Certificates were awarded to the following students:
Buhler High School
Alexis Andrew
Taylor Black
Khloe Blackwell
Ty Campbell

Reuban Harder
Emily Hare
Emma Hays
Kiley Holmquist
Cooper Jones
Jenna Lackey
Mekenna Mendenhall
Tucker Schlatter
Grayson Smith
Gage Warkentin
Herington High School
Colten Gehrke
Henry Nelson
Ethan Urbanek
Holton High School
Mara Marten
Dalton Peters
Lyons High School
Kennedy Grizzle
Skyline High School
Trystan Harrold



Southern pecan chewies have a chewy, soft center, as advertised, with pops of crunchy pecans throughout. They are a great bar cookie for summer events.

There’s a phrase we often hear when we travel north: Minnesota Nice. It refers to how friendly the folks in Minnesota are, and that’s especially true when you visit in the summer months. After being snowed in and freezing in sub-zero temperatures all winter, they are ready to go out and about and are happy to see any other smiling face around them. Kansas obviously doesn’t have quite the same winter woes as Minnesota, but I do think there’s a kind of excitement when the weather warms to be social and spend

<https://peartreekitchen.com/pecan-chewies/>. I added extra vanilla in my version.

Southern Pecan Chewies

Ingredients

- 1 cup butter, melted
- 2 cups brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup pecans, chopped

Directions

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Prepare a nine-by-13-inch baking pan by spraying it with cooking spray, and set it aside.

SpiceUpYourLife-SouthernPecanChewies

Lindsey Young

time out on a porch or patio with other people. We benefitted from some friends’ desire to host on a recent, beautiful evening. As soon as I heard we were going to hang out and enjoy food off the grill, I knew exactly what recipe I wanted to try to bring along with us. This recipe comes from the blog “Pear Tree Kitchen.” You can find the original at

Add the butter and brown sugar to a mixing bowl, and mix until it’s well combined. Mix in the eggs and vanilla. Add in the flour, baking powder and salt, and mix until smooth, and finally, stir in the pecans. Evenly pour the batter into your prepared pan and bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until the edges are browned and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean or with only moist crumbs. Let the bars cool completely before slicing and serving. Store the bars in an airtight container. These were nutty and sweet and perfect for a summer evening. It’s nice to have some non-melty desserts in your back pocket for summer events, and these did not disappoint. They’re a little chewy and soft in the middle, and the crunchy pops of pecan are a perfect addition to these bars. And, even better, I didn’t need to bring any leftovers home with me. They were well-loved by the assembled group.

There are few things better than sitting in a lawn chair, eating a masterfully charred burger and fresh salad, while talking with a group of interesting people, and summer in Kansas is the perfect time to do so. Spice Up Your Life is a weekly recipe column by Lindsey Young, who describes herself as an enthusiastic amateur cook and can be reached through her website at spiceupkitchen.net.

Prairie Doc Perspective

“Every Story Is an Act of Power: Why Direct Service Providers Must Practice Dignified Storytelling”

By Darla Biel, Ed.D.

Stories are at the heart of direct service and clinical work. Whether written in case notes, shared in supervision, included in grant reports, or told at community meetings, stories help others understand the impact of our work. They build emotional connection in ways data alone cannot. But storytelling is also an act of power, and when we’re not careful, that power can unintentionally cause harm.

For many families, their stories are told about them, not with them. Direct service providers often hold the microphone through professional language, reports, and presentations. Even with good intentions, stories can strip dignity, reinforce stereotypes, or expose families to stigma, especially in small or close-knit communities where anonymized details are often still identifying.

Dignified storytelling asks us to slow down and be intentional. At its core is a simple truth: it’s not our story. The direct service provider’s role is not to extract compelling narratives for program promotion, but to honor people’s humanity, safety, and agency while still communicating the value of direct service work. One of the most common pitfalls is what some call “hardship”

or “bootstrap” storytelling. This is the idea that success comes only from individual effort and that suffering must be emphasized to prove impact. These stories often rely on pity-inducing language, exaggerate trauma, or cast providers as heroes while families appear passive or broken. Not only does this framing erase strengths and resilience, it ignores the real systems that shape people’s lives, such as access to housing, healthcare, childcare, and economic opportunity. A more ethical approach focuses on balanced, multidimensional stories. Dignified storytelling acknowledges challenges while also highlighting strengths, goals, decision-making, and progress. It shows people as parents, workers, community members, and partners and not just as clients or problems to be solved. It shifts the narrative from rescue to relationship. Consent is another critical piece of ethical and dignified storytelling. Consent is not just a form signed once and filed away. True informed consent requires that people understand why their story is being shared, what will be created, where and how it will be shared, and for how long. It must happen in accessible language, in

settings where it’s genuinely safe to say no, and with the clear understanding that consent can be withdrawn at any time. What felt acceptable at intake may not feel safe months or years later. Sometimes, the most ethical storytelling choice is not to share a story at all. If there is any risk of harm, retraumatization, stigma, or identification, especially in situations involving young children or families facing substance use, violence, or child welfare involvement. The answer may need to be no. Saying no to sharing a client’s story isn’t a failure; it’s ethical leadership. Fortunately, there are always alternatives. Aggregated data, composite stories, systems-level insights, and reflective narratives can demonstrate impact without putting individuals at risk. And when individual stories are shared. Co-creation, with families reviewing and approving how they’re represented, offers one of the strongest safeguards. A useful litmus test is this: If you wouldn’t want the family to read what you wrote about them in an article or report, don’t write it. People are always more important than program promotion. Every story is an opportunity to honor or to harm. The choices that

clinicians and other direct service providers make every day shape not only individual experiences, but organizational culture and public understanding. Practicing dignified storytelling helps ensure that the stories we tell today build trust, respect, and dignity for years to come. Darla Biel, Ed.D. is Assistant Director of the Center for Prevention of Child Maltreatment (CPCM) within USD 39’s School of Health Sciences. Her research interests include community-engaged scholarship, social determinants and health, and cross-sector collaboration efforts in primary prevention of childhood adversity. Biel leads the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) grant funded by HRSA and is a member of the SD Childcare Task Force 39’s executive committee. She lives in Brookings with her husband, Marc. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Tik Tok. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).