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Kid's Only Farmers Market—
vendors ages 5-17
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Friday June 26th
4-8PM, set up 3:30PM
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A STATION LOT



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Lemonade
Slushes
Bookmarks
Dog Treats

Candles
Duroc Pork
Arts
Crafts
3D Items

Homemade Ice Cream
and more!

THE TRI-COUNTY FREE FAIR IS ALMOST HERE



Hey Herington, on July 11th, once you are done at the Tri-County Fair, stop by First Baptist Church yard, back at the Gazebo for a "Jam at the Gazebo". We will be playing some Old Rock, Country, Hymns, Christian Contemporary, and who knows what else. Bring your lawn chair or blanket and listen, get up and sing, sit around the fire and maybe toast a S'more, and simply enjoy a relaxing time. Hours are 5-9, weather permitting.

First Baptist Church is located on East Hawley Street in Herington.

CELEBRATE AMERICA 250 WITH US!
JUNE 1 - JULY 31, 2026

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DRAWING ON AUGUST 5

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(PUB)LIC LIBRARY CRAWL

The Tri-County Free fair will be here soon. July 5th is the Horse show at the arena in Herington. Thursday, July 9th, the 4-H events will be happening in the buildings by the Baseball fields. July 10th, will be the Carnival, parade, and Rodeo. July 11th will be the Demolition derby and Fireworks show. Each year we have several people come out to see all the great thing our Fair Committee puts on. If you have not came to any of the events, you are definitely missing out. There is always great food, great fun, and lots of memories. I take my father to both the Rodeo and the Demo Derby. Due to my husband's PTSD, I usually have to drive him home for the fireworks. My youngest likes to go to the Horse Show and the 4H events, well I do too. This year my oldest will be in the Horse Show, so OF COURSE WE WILL BE THERE.

Simply put...there is something for everyone and this community participates to give our visitors a warm welcome.

If you want to know the full calendar of events go to the Tri-County Free Fair facebook page or you can pick up one of the tabloids from several vendors. If you cannot find the tabloids, please reach out to the newspaper at dk.co.newstimes@gmail.com, and I will get one to you. THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO WORK DILIGENTLY TO PUT THIS EVENT ON.

ALSO-

Check out their Firework Stand to help support next years firework show. Its open June 27th until July 5th from noon till 11pm. They are located in the Fair Building in Herington (located behind the Museum, which is another wonderful place to visit)

APPLY NOW

Kansas Department for Children and Families and a KanCare representative will be on site to help with the following applications:

- Cash Assistance
- SNAP
- Child Care Assistance
- Kancare Medicaid

When? Thursday, June 25th
9am-noon

Where? Herington Public Library
102 S Broadway St
Herington, KS

What to Bring? Proof of income, Each Adult in the Household will need an ID and everyone in the Household will need social security numbers
Walk-ins Welcome- No appointment needed

Please call Cindy Whittington at 1-785-200-5012 for any questions

Philip Sarnecki Calls on Republican Legislature To Go Into Special Session to Provide Property Tax Relief; Eliminate Property Tax Exemptions for Green Energy

Today, Kansas Gubernatorial Candidate Philip Sarnecki called on the Republican Legislature to go into special session to provide property tax relief for Kansas and to eliminate the property tax exemptions for wind turbines and solar panels. While Kansans are suffering from rising property taxes, green energy is receiving 10-year property tax exemptions. Green energy has flooded into Kansas because the politicians in Topeka have given them tax breaks.

“For three straight years, Ty Masterson said property tax relief was his top priority. He failed to get it done. However, the legislature managed to get tax relief to foreign companies, data centers, green energy, and professional sports teams. This is unacceptable,” stated Sarnecki.

“The legislature should go into special session immediately to eliminate the current property tax exemptions for green energy and provide property tax relief to the working people of Kansas.”

**MONDAY
JUNE 29th**

Herington Hearts Core Community PRESENTS

NIGHT AT THE PARK

MEAL 5:30-6:15 Everyone in the Tri-County area is encouraged to attend

FREE MEAL & CHILDCARE
Enjoy an evening at the Father Padilla Pond with our participants and say hello to our local Herington Fire Department as they cook & serve the meal

QUESTIONS? CONTACT KEVIN @ 785.366.6308

====Kids will go to the park area after the meal with our childcare leaders

CORE community HERINGTON HEARTS

Contact Information: Dickinson County News-Times
dk.co.newstimes@gmail.com • Phone 785-524-4200

Closed: Monday - Tuesday for Delivery and Production
Phone Hours: Wednesday - Friday 11 am - 3 pm

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

St. Michael Catholic Church

210 E. 6th St. • Chapman
Sunday Mass 9 a.m.
Fr. Peter O'Donnell

 Marita Campbell,
Parish Life Coordinator
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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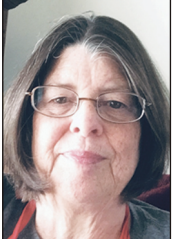
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Rev. Connie D. Wooldridge

Chapman United Methodist Church

PASTOR'S CORNER

I remember when our children were in elementary school and we first started hearing about something called Juneteenth. Feeling a bit clueless, I asked my friends and neighbors about it. They did not know any more than me. Now in 2026 we are called to recognize and commemorate June 19th as Juneteenth Freedom Day (it became a federal holiday in 2021). It's about time.

On the first day of January 1863 (163 years ago) President Abraham Lincoln announced that all enslaved people must be released to live as free people. It was two and one half years before enslaved people across Texas were finally released from those who had kept them as slaves. I didn't learn this because I was not adversely impacted by this history.

This is a year of celebration because 250 years ago the people of these United States declared their (and our) independence. What did they write? "We declare these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are en-

JUNETEENTH

dowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights..." We certainly have not always lived as if these words are true. We are not currently living as if these words are true.

My faith teaches that all people are created in the image of God; all are sparks of the Divine. My understanding of my citizenship teaches me that all are created equal. I am, however, a product of a world steeped in inequality. It is so much a part of our system that we may not even see it. I have not always recognized my privilege. I did not learn the Juneteenth history because it did not adversely affect my family. We did not come from Texas; we did not own slaves. We have, however, benefited in a world set up to give some an advantage and hold others back.

I think a good way to commemorate this holiday is first to acknowledge celebrate the ways in which we are doing better. I think it is also important to pay attention to the ways in which our system still fails to recognize the humanity of all people. I pray for courage and boldness to stand hand-in-hand with all people and work to enact the dream of equality once declared by our forbearers.



Mark Will
DCNT Columnist

THIS DAY IN THE HERINGTON TIMES

SNAKES

125 years ago – 1901
A SNAKE STORY – While Mayor Shepherd was driving over the prairie last week, he suddenly felt something strike him in the back of the head. He turned quickly and was just in time to dodge a second stroke. He stopped the buggy and found that a large bull snake had wound itself around the wheel in some way, and the quick revolution of the wheel made it whip itself through the air. It is supposed that it was crossing the road and became entangled in the wheel and that it wrapped itself around the wheel. Mr. Shepherd killed the snake and brought it to town where it was measured five feet in length and 3 inches in diameter. While not a poisonous reptile, it is not a very pleasant sensation to be whipped over the back with a live snake of that size.

100 years ago – 1926
WEREN'T ENOUGH LICENSES – City Clerk Ethel Davis, has found it necessary to have two hundred extra fishing licenses for the local lake printed. So many have answered the lure of the barbless hook that the original hundred licenses were inadequate. The fishermen have been biting as well as the fish. According to actual count, there were one hundred and thirteen fishers on the lake during the day on Wednesday and one hundred and thirty-six licenses were issued up to Wednesday night.

75 years ago – 1951
COL. DITTMAN LOSES EYE IN FISHING ACCIDENT– Col. Henry (Pelly) Dittman, former commanding officer of the Herington Army Airfield, lost his right eye recently after an infection developed in a fishhook wound while fishing in Galveston. The fishhook was removed, but infection complicated the wound. Col. Dittman was flown to Brooke Hospital where his right eye was removed in an effort to halt spread of the infection. His family reported that his condition is critical and it would be several days before it would be known if the left eye could also be saved. Col. Dittman entered the Air Forces before World War II, after graduating from Texas A&M College. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross during duty in the Pacific in WWII and was then assigned to the Herington Army Airfield.

50 years ago – 1976
GI FORUM CHAPTER GETS STATE AWARD – The Mascareno Chapter of the American G. I. Forum in Herington was awarded a plaque Saturday night at an annual state convention in Topeka as the state organization's Most Outstanding Chapter and Outstanding Ladies Auxiliary of the year. Nick Gonzoles, chairman of the Herington Chapter accepted the award and was also elected state vice-chairman. The Gi. I. Forum was established in 1948 to develop ways and means of abolishing discrimination practices which returning Mexican-American veterans were encountering in the areas of education, employment, and medical attention. More than 500,000 Mexican-Americans served in World War II and the Korean conflict.

Herington Historical Society & Museum, 800 S. Broadway. Hours: 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. – markcwill1963@gmail.com

Send your photos, stories, opinion pieces, letters to the editor, and events to Dk.co.newstimes@gmail.com

VIEW FROM THE HILL- Scott Hill

Neighbors Helping Neighbors and Heroic Lineman

Weather is something that most people in Kansas pay attention to. Our history and stories often revolve around weather events. Tornadoes develop an identity of their own.

When we hear “The Greensburg Tornado,” hearers immediately get transported back to 2007 when 12 people were killed in Greensburg, KS in one of the strongest tornadoes ever recorded. The suddenness of violent weather and the random appearance of storms lend to the reputation Kansas has of being a place where weather is a topic of conversation.

Last week was no exception to the storied history of Kansas storms. A strange and violent storm straddled Interstate 70 from west of Salina to Topeka. While not being as violent or deadly as a tornado, this strong thunderstorm caused chaos for nearly 120,000 people in central

and eastern Kansas. Continuous lightning and devastating winds rocked our communities in a manner that will require long-term cleanup and rebuilding. The short-term response is what I want to discuss. Before the light bulbs became cool from the absence of electricity, actions were being taken to mitigate the damage from the storm. Salina was the hardest hit of the numerous communities that experienced storm damage. The weather service recorded 113 mph winds at the edge of Salina. If you have ever watched footage of tropical hurricanes as they slam into coastal regions of the southern and eastern United States, think about this: The criteria to become a category 1 hurricane is winds at 74 mph. The second category is winds at 110 mph. A category 3 hurricane has winds over 110 mph and is characterized by “Devastating damage, including major damage to well-built homes, widespread power outages, and

uprooted trees.” The “inland hurricane” that hit Salina destroyed as many as 500 power poles.

The rest of the story is the heroic effort made by the utility companies to restore power. Nearly 1,000 linemen descended on Salina and had most power restored by Friday. Storms are never welcome; however, the response by both utilities and neighbors reminded me of why central Kansas people are deservedly known for their compassion, neighborliness, and work ethic. Starting Tuesday, after a Monday storm, neighbors helped neighbors clear trees, pick up debris, and provide temporary power to those without power using generators. It is a great honor to represent such hard working and generous people in the Kansas State Capital. Thank you central Kansas.

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Classified

Public Auction

Simmons Towing & Auto Repair

will be host to a **sealed bid** abandoned vehicle public auction. All bids will be accepted by Monday, June 22nd, 2026, at 10 am where the following vehicle(s) will be sold to the highest bidder if said vehicle(s) are not claimed by owner on or before 6/19/2026.

2010 Ford Fusion
VIN: 3FAHP0HA7AR3B2580
2014 Acura MDX
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All vehicles sold with no warranty.
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AUCTION 

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2026 • 10:00 A.M.
420 South D St • Herington, KS
OPEN HOUSE: June 19, 2026 • 5-7 P.M.

REAL ESTATE:
Description: Ranch style house on a nicely shaded corner lot. Spacious kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 1 bath and large living room with a fireplace. Large family room and full bath in the basement. 1848 sq. ft. Oversized detached garage, 45' x 24' and fenced backyard with deck. Lot size 75' x 140'. Hot water heater CA.
2025 Taxes: \$3,222.80
Terms: 10% earnest money due on the day of the auction. Balance due when merchantable title and Executors' deed are delivered. Closing on or before August 6, 2026. Property sells in As Is condition. All buyers' inspections are to be done prior to the auction. Broker and Auctioneers are representing the seller. For more information, contact Greg Hallgren, Broker and Auctioneer at 785-499-2897 or go to www.hallgrenauctions.net

FURNITURE & TOOLS:
Oak bedroom set with queen size bed and dresser - nice; Lazy Boy recliner; plaid love seat; trundle bed with brass frame; gentleman's chest; SS side by side refrigerator - nice; numerous occasional chairs; globe; several nice framed prints and paintings; maple hutch, tables, and chairs; globe; several nice framed prints and paintings; maple hutch with tables and chairs; floral sofa - extra-long; lift chair; pine hutch; wicker rocker; bar stools; toy chest; various glassware and kitchen items; potato bin; Somerset China; Roland keyboard; console stereo; music box; walnut curio cabinet - nice; filigree mirror; 2 vices; bench grinder; various hand tools; five point kerosene heater; misc. shop items.

EVELYN M. EDMONSON ESTATE

For pictures and more information go to hallgrenauctions.com

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Friday, June 26: BBQ Baked Chicken, Sweet Potatoes, Peas, Fruit, Wheat Bread

Monday, June 29: Meatloaf / Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli / Cheese Sauce, Seasonal Fruit, Wheat Roll

Tuesday, June 30: Polish Sausage on Bun, Sauerkraut, Peas, Tropical Fruit, Bar Cookie

Wednesday, July 1: Baked Chicken, Creamy Noodles, Seasoned Spinach Peas & Carrots, Seasonal Fruit, Wheat Roll

Thursday, July 2: Cheeseburger /Wheat Bun w/lettuce, Onion & Pickles, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Cinnamon Apples



Hilltop Community Center
2 South A St. • Herington • 785-258-2956

Friday, June 26: Baked Ham, Cheesy Potatoes, Broccoli/Cauliflower Mix, Roll, Pineapple, Milk

Monday, June 29: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Broccoli with Cheese, Roll, Fruit, Milk

Tuesday, June 30: Chicken Strips, Tator Tots, Green, Beans, Fruit, Roll, Milk

Wednesday, July 1 & Thursday, July 2

Sorry!
Menus not available before print time!


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As New Federal Child Savings Accounts Launch, Education Savings

Still Deserves Its Own Strategy

Kansas families can use Quest529 for more than a traditional four-year education

TOPEKA, Kan. – June 18, 2026 – New federally supported child investment accounts expected to launch this summer are generating fresh conversation about how families save for their children's futures.

As families explore new ways to invest for the next generation, Kansas State Treasurer Steven Johnson encourages parents and grandparents to remember that education remains one of the most significant investments many families will make—and today's education pathways extend far beyond a traditional four-year university. Today's students have more options than ever before. Whether a child chooses a four-year university, community college, trade school, apprenticeship, certification program, or workforce training credential, Quest529 can help Kansas families save for qualified education expenses. Unlike general-purpose investment accounts, Quest529 was specifically designed for education savings. The program offers tax advantages, flexible investment options, and one of the lowest fee structures in the nation, helping families prepare for a wide range of educational pathways.

"Many people still think of 529 plans as college savings accounts, but today's students are pursuing many different routes to career success," said Johnson. "Quest529 gives Kansas families a flexible way to save for education, whether that means a university degree, technical training, or an industry certification."

Additional benefits of Quest529:

Eligible unused funds may be rolled into a Roth IRA for the beneficiary, subject to federal requirements and limits.

- Kansas taxpayers qualify for state income tax deductions on contributions.
- Earnings grow tax-deferred and qualified withdrawals are tax-free.
- An online gifting tool that lets relatives contribute directly.
- Portfolios that automatically adjust the investment approach as a child ages.

As families consider new ways to invest in their children's futures, starting early remains one of the most effective strategies. Even modest monthly contributions can help families prepare for future education expenses, potentially reducing the need for student borrowing.

About Quest529

Quest529 is one of the Kansas 529 postsecondary education savings programs, administered by the Kansas State Treasurer, Steven Johnson. With average total annual asset-based fees at 0.08%, Quest529 is among the most affordable 529 plans in the nation.

1 Kansas taxpayers can reduce their state taxable income up to \$6,000 if married filing jointly (\$3,000 filing single) for contributions made into Quest529 per beneficiary. Learn more at Quest529.com. To learn more about Kansas' Quest529 Education Savings Plan, its investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses see the Plan Description at Quest529.com before investing.

Read it carefully. Prior to investing, check with your home state to learn if it offers tax or other benefits such as financial aid, scholarship funds or protection from creditors for investing in its own 529 plan. If the funds aren't used for qualified higher education expenses, a federal 10% penalty tax on earnings (as well as federal and state income taxes) may apply. Investments in the Plan are neither insured nor guaranteed and there is the risk of investment loss. TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC, Member FINRA, distributor and underwriter for Quest529.

Funds rolled over to a Roth IRA can be withdrawn free from federal and Kansas income tax. If you are not a Kansas taxpayer, these withdrawals may include recapture of tax deduction and state income tax.

Account Owners and Beneficiaries should consult with a qualified tax professional before rolling over funds from their 529 plan to contribute to a Roth IRA.

An individual who files an individual Kansas state income tax return may deduct up to \$3,000 per beneficiary, per tax year (\$6,000 for married taxpayers filing jointly) of total combined contributions to a Section 529 plan sponsored by any state, including the Kansas Section 529 Plans. The \$3,000 (individual) and \$6,000 (joint) limitations on deductions will apply to the total contributions made to all Section 529 plans (and any ABLE Account) for the same beneficiary without regard to whether the contributions are made to a single account or more than one account. The state income tax deduction is available to individuals other than the Account Owner who contribute to an Account. The deduction for Kansas individual income tax purposes for contributions to the Plan does not apply to transfers between Accounts of different Beneficiaries.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The risks of replacing the current Supreme Court nominating commission with direct election are severe. Two of those risks involve the influence of partisanship and money.

Twenty-two states directly elect their supreme court justices. Campaigns are partisan in 14 of them and non-partisan in eight. If Senate Concurrent Resolution 1611 (SCR 1611) is approved, the legislature will decide the type of campaign judicial candidates will run. Either way, Kansans can learn a lot from the states that currently elect justices.

In April 2025, Wisconsinites elected Susan Crawford, the liberal candidate, to their supreme court over the conservative Brad Schimel. Although Wisconsin justices are elected on a non-partisan basis, Crawford was supported by the Democratic Party and Schimel by the Republicans. Regardless of whether the Kansas legislature decides to have partisan or non-partisan judicial campaigns, partisanship emerges.

Furthermore, electing Supreme Court justices puts our highest court on sale to the largest donors. A total of \$144 million was spent in Wisconsin, of which \$100 million came from outside the state, and two of the biggest donors were Elon Musk and George Soros. Studies show that justices are more favorable to litigants who supported their most recent campaign—a blatant act of corruption.

Kansans are fed up with divisive partisan politics and the influence of wealthy donors. We should not introduce the same vices to the state supreme court. Let's maintain the Kansas Supreme Court's impartiality and vote NO on SCR 1611 in the August primary election.

Kelm Lear
Manhattan, KS 66502

Stories & Songs of the Flint Hills

by Annie Wilson – named the “Flint Hills Balladeer” by the Kansas Governor



Flint Hills Discovery Center	conservation mission, it also cautions “Don’t Treat Soils Like Dirt,” outlining both threats and solutions for maintaining healthy soils.	to take the Discovery Center for granted. But we must remember: before its opening in 2012, there was nothing like it.
As a person who loves the Flint Hills, when I step through the doors of the Flint Hills Discovery Center, it’s almost like entering a place of worship - each exhibit a shrine to some amazing aspect of the region, revealing precious knowledge of this place I care so much about.	In the section on the Cattle Industry and the Railroads, the iconic photo of cattle stepping up into a boxcar at Matfield Green brings to mind our beloved Jim Hoy, whose expertise on this and other topics laid the foundation for much of Center’s cultural heritage section.	Awareness of the region at that time had been growing, following the important establishment of the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in 1996, and the beginning of the Symphony in the Flint Hills in 2007. But there was no permanent “center” for focused exploration of the ecology, history and culture of the Flint Hills.
Passing through the lobby, I am drawn to “The Underground Forest” exhibit – a wondrous hallway seeming to descend into the prairie earth, displaying the astonishingly deep roots of the tall grasses, explaining the prairie’s rich, complex soils, even revealing the subterranean mammals and reptiles we never see, who spend their lives in the secret world beneath our feet.	The exhibits seem to explore every imaginable aspect of the region’s heritage and science – geology, ecology, history - including early Native people, even the arts. It’s all here.	Now there is. Furthermore, the Center is also a dynamic institution with broad outreach, hosting rotating special exhibits, extensive educational programs, and special events. Its dedicated staff and volunteers welcomed 86,000 visitors last year.
I’m an admitted “prairie nerd” and am gratified to find exhibit captions written with the enthusiasm their subjects deserve. The Soils section proclaims: “It’s the Greatest Life Force on Earth” and “Soil is the one constant element needed for successful human communities.” In the spirit of the Discovery Center’s	Wandering the halls, I cannot imagine the breadth and depth of research it took to design these displays – distilling the essence of the region’s science and culture into these compelling images and concise text.	For our beloved Flint Hills and all these visitors, it is truly: a center for discovery.
	Today, as the significance of Flint Hills region is more broadly recognized, one might be tempted	See more stories & songs of the Flint Hills at www.tallgrassexpress.com

Public
Welcome



Herington Housing Authority

Business Meeting

Thursday, June 25, 2026, 6pm

Golden Age Homes Clubhouse, 201 E. Helen Street, Herington, Kansas

VAN YANDELL
GET IN GEAR BOY

GET IN GEAR BOY

Proverbs 4: 1-5 “Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law. For I was my father’s son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother. He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live. Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.”

Daddy made statements that still ring in my ears and quickly get my attention. One was “I always know where to find my tools; they’re wherever Van used them last.”

Admittedly, I had the bad habit of not putting the tools back in their appropriate place. Always seemingly in a rush, I still have that bad habit.

Another, if he observed me being lazy was “Get in gear, boy; we’ve got work to do.” Still a third was “Let’s get to work; we’re burning daylight.”

With his attitude that I should be an over-achiever (which at the time, I did not share), to see me wasting time disturbed him to an extent, at the time, was not understood by me.

Dad taught me plumbing, electrical wiring and laying concrete blocks. I still use those skills occasionally and have memories of our precious times spent together. At the ripe age of ten years old, I was threading and soldering pipe, crawling around in attics stringing electrical wire or mixing mortar to lay blocks. In today’s upside down world, most of that would be considered child

abuse.

Daddy was indeed a serious student of the Bible. I well remember walking into his store. He was reading his Bible; the text was Matthew 27. It was the story of how Jesus was mocked and tortured before the crucifixion.

I noticed tears in Dad’s eyes. It was so hurtful to him to read of Jesus’ torture that fateful day nearly 2000 years ago. Many promote we should have a personal walk with our Savior. Dad did!

It was like he was reading about someone he knew personally. Years later I realized he actually did. The construction trades and belief in Savior Jesus were not the only lessons from my dad. He loved America, the land of the free. He loved his freedom to speak freely, worship, assemble with his friends around a card table or go to church.

Maybe his most valued freedom was freedom of opportunity. Being citizens of a free country, Americans have opportunities many in our world do not have. Freedom of opportunity to educate ourselves, either to self-educate or in a public education institution is a basic right. Opportunities are abundant in a free society. Any citizen has a right to pursue their goals.

Dad did not encourage me to go to school (high school or college). He expected it and I knew it! Some encouragements are observed in actions that dictate expectations, not words.

He never could come to grip with my blasé attitude toward school. My priorities were not math and

science. I learned my math on the job and science in the fields and forests. Dad finally gave up on me and let me be me. Now, that’s great father!

But that doesn’t work in all cases. Children need guidance and discipline. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 “And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”

Wife Margie worked in early childhood education and is a firm believer that environment is a determining factor in a child’s future. In her case she may even say “the determining factor.”

Without a doubt, children are products of their raising. If we teach them hate, they will hate. If we teach them work ethics, compassion and love, they will grow to emulate those qualities.

Dad’s intentions, in retrospect, were all the above. On a job one day when I was probably around twelve years old, Dad gave me a task to solder a fitting on a length of copper pipe.

I knew the pipe was too long for its placement and asked why. One of the few times he became short with me he said “Don’t ask why, just do it!”

I then said “But daddy, I really need to know why we’re doing it that way.” He realized that was a teachable moment and explained to me “why” he wanted it done that way.

Never again if I asked why, did he not stop and explain

why it needed to be done in a specific way. As the years have passed I’ve realized that children have a natural curiosity and to want their questions answered is good.

Dad was very serious about his faith in our risen Savior. His exasperated moments trying to raise me at times may not have exemplified that but all in all I could not ask to have had a better father.

Our father in Heaven is even more patient with us. At times we can be assured His patience is tried to the limit but He created us the way we are and when we realize we are not perfect, we can go to Him in confession and repentance.

The Bible teaches there is only one eternal salvation. That is by a faith based belief (Ephesians 2: 8) that Christ Jesus was crucified (Matthew 27: 35) for the remission of sin (Romans 4: 25), resurrected (Matthew 28: 6) and ascended alive into Heaven (Acts 1: 9).

Father’s Day is a special day to me. Dad died in 1984 and I still miss him and am sure as long as I’m alive that missing him will not end. I so much wish at times I could call him with a question being sure he would take time to answer.

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and missionary. His email is vmy3451@gmail.com

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SRHC ranked top full-service hospital in state for readmission rate

(June 23, 2026) – A report released this week by Becker’s Hospital Review, citing information from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Unplanned Hospital Visits data, shows Salina Regional Health Center is the top-rated, full-service hospital in Kansas for hospital readmission rate. This is the second time in a row Salina Regional has topped the state list for readmission rate.

The CMS measures evaluate unplanned hospital visits and readmissions following inpatient stays and outpatient procedures – offering a key indicator of quality care and successful patient recovery following discharge. In the most recent report, the average national hospital readmission rate was 15.0 with 2,114 hospitals listed under the national average. Salina Regional’s readmission rate is listed at 13.2, making it one of only four full-service hospitals in Kansas to make the Becker’s list.

“Achieving the lowest readmission rate among full-service hospitals in Kansas reflects the dedication of our physicians, nurses, pharmacists, care coordinators, therapists and support staff who work together every day to help patients heal and stay healthy after they leave the hospital,” said Robert Freelove, MD, Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer at Salina Regional. “It’s not just about providing excellent care during a hospital stay. It’s about ensuring patients have the tools, education, medications, follow-up care and support they need to continue recovering successfully at home.”

Salina Regional has invested in a variety of programs designed to improve patient outcomes and reduce the likelihood of return hospital visits. These efforts include transitional care services, chronic care management, medication reconciliation, bedside prescription delivery through the Meds-to-Beds program, post-discharge follow-up and close coordination with primary care providers and specialty clinics.

“This recognition is the result of a system-wide commitment to quality and patient-centered care,” Freelove said. “Every department plays a role in helping patients achieve the best possible outcomes, and this distinction demonstrates the impact of that collective effort.”

As health care systems nationwide strive to improve quality of care while reducing avoidable costs, hospital readmission rates remain an important indicator of performance and a central target of health care reform efforts.



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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
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Manhattan, KS 66503
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Westview Community Church
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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
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Highview Church
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Alta Vista, KS 66834
620-767-2844
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HELP US HONOR OUR GOLD STAR FAMILIES

The members of the Solomon FFA Chapter are creating a Gold Star Memorial to honor the families who have lost a loved one in service to our country. We want to ensure that every local Gold Star Family is recognized and remembered.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

IF YOU ARE A GOLD STAR FAMILY MEMBER OR KNOW OF A GOLD STAR FAMILY IN OUR COMMUNITY, PLEASE SHARE THEIR INFORMATION WITH US SO WE CAN RECOGNIZE THEM.

Information Requested:

- Name of the fallen service member
- Family name
- Contact information

Contact Us:

Kyle McCook- 785-201-4596
Lynn Peterson- 786-479-0122
Myah McCook-785-479-0576

Gold Star Families will be recognized on July 18th following the flag raising at 7:45am at Solomon Park.

If you would like to donate towards this project send donations to Solomon High School 409 N. Pine St. Please make checks payable to Solomon FFA and on the memo line put Gold Star memorial.

Rep. Derek Schmidt-Led Bill to Strengthen Small Business Competition Passes House

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. House of Representatives today passed the Main Street Competes Act, bipartisan legislation introduced by U.S. Representatives Derek Schmidt (KS-02) and Hillary Scholten (MI-03). The bill would help level the playing field for small businesses. The bill would require federal agencies to report to Congress each year on how antitrust laws are working, how they are helping small businesses compete, and what changes in antitrust law or policy could better support small business growth.

“Many small businesses find themselves competing against national or global corporations that have far more resources, influence, and market power,” Congressman Schmidt said. “This bill is about making sure policymakers have the information needed to promote fair, competitive markets that help entrepreneurs succeed. The House passing this bipartisan effort sends a strong statement of support for Main Street small businesses, and I look forward to working with my Senate colleagues to keep it moving forward.”

“Small businesses are truly the foundation of our economy, but too often they are left to unfairly compete against a handful of large corporations,” said Congresswoman Scholten. “I’m so proud that the House passed our bipartisan Main Street Competes Act, which will help close the gap in our federal laws that make it easier for larger businesses to evade accountability for illegal activity. I came to Congress to make the federal government work better for the people it serves, and this legislation does exactly that.”

The Main Street Competes Act previously passed unanimously out of the House Small Business Committee, and with today’s House passage now heads to the Senate for consideration.

Samuel Stevens of Abilene Named to University of Alabama Spring 2026 Deans List

TUSCALOOSA, AL (06/17/2026)-- Samuel Stevens was named to The University of Alabama Deans List for Spring Semester 2026. A total of 14,306 students enrolled during Spring Semester 2026 at The University of Alabama were named to the dean’s list with an academic record of 3.5 (or above) or the president’s list with an academic record of 4.0 (all A’s).

The UA dean’s and president’s lists recognize full-time undergraduate students. The lists do not apply to graduate students or undergraduate students who take less than a full course load.

For more information visit news.ua.edu.

The University of Alabama, part of The University of Alabama System, is the state’s flagship university. UA shapes a better world through its teaching, research and service. With a global reputation for excellence, UA provides a forward-thinking environment and over 200 degree programs on a beautiful, student-centered campus. A leader in cutting-edge research, UA advances discovery, creative inquiry and knowledge through more than 30 research centers. As the state’s largest higher education institution, UA drives economic growth in Alabama and beyond.

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Kansas Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt announces over \$20.7 million distributed to Kansas firefighters

Topeka, Kan. – Kansas Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt, today, announced, that the Kansas Department of Insurance has made its annual distribution to local Firefighter Relief Associations (FRAs). Pursuant to the Kansas Firefighters Relief Act, \$20,743,262.24 has been distributed to 552 FRAs throughout Kansas.

“Firefighters put their lives on the line to keep us safe, and the Kansas Firefighters Relief Act acknowledges that by providing additional protections for firefighters and their loved ones,” said Commissioner Schmidt. “The Act not only gives first responders needed safety nets, but it also allows local communities to provide their citizens with improved firefighting equipment and resources.”

The funds from the Kansas Firefighters Relief Act are generated by a two percent tax paid by insurance companies on fire and lightning insurance premiums written in Kansas. Associations primarily use their distributed funds for insurance premiums and safety enhancements. The relief funds may pay for the health, accident, disability, and life insurance premiums of local firefighters. Safety enhancements such as new firetrucks, fire station building improvements, and firefighting gear can be purchased via relief funds loaned to local governing entities.

Funding available for projects in KDOT’s Rail Service Improvement Program

An estimated \$10 million in funding is available for projects submitted to the Rail Service Improvement Program, according to the Kansas Department of Transportation. The selected projects will help to enhance safety, promote economic efficiency and improve sustainability to the state’s rail network.

Projects for the rail program can be submitted starting June 29, and the submission deadline is noon on Aug. 31. Awards are scheduled to be announced in early 2027. Applicants are required to provide a 30% match of the total project cost. There are no minimum or maximum project award amounts. A link to the application portal can be found on KDOT’s website: <https://www.ksdot.gov/programs/multimodal-programs/rail-service-improvement-program>.

Qualified entities include any Surface Transportation Board certified Class II or Class III railroad, a port authority established in accordance with Kansas laws, any entity meeting the rules and regulations established by K.S.A. 75-5050 or any owner or lessee industry track as defined in 49 C.F.R. § 218.93 and located on or adjacent to a Class II or Class III railroad in the state of Kansas.

For more information on program details, contact Michael Espinoza, KDOT Freight and Rail Program Manager, at (785) 296-3228 or Michael.Espinoza@ks.gov.

Kansas Masonic Foundation Supports Local Kansas Masonic Lodge With High School Donation

Lebo Lodge No. 152 Donates \$800 to Lebo High School Students

Lebo, Kansas (June 19, 2026)—The Kansas Masonic Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to benefiting Kansas communities, has partnered with Lebo Lodge No. 152 to donate \$800 to send two Lebo High School students to national FBLA and FCCLA conferences.

Founded in 1888, Lebo Lodge No. 152 is a Kansas Masonic lodge dedicated to Freemasonry, the oldest surviving fraternal organization in the world. The lodge has 43 active members and is heavily involved in the community. Some of its most notable efforts include sending local band students to the Kansas Shrine Bowl, donating to the Lebo and Hartford food pantries, the Lebo Senior Center, and the Special Olympics, and collecting toys, personal hygiene items, and monetary donations for families in need. The lodge has also provided candy for pre-school and elementary school Halloween parades and participated in the Annual 4th of July Car Show and community-wide celebration.

“Participating in these conferences is a unique opportunity to represent our community on a national stage, learn valuable leadership skills, and compete among some of the brightest young minds in the nation,” said Lebo Lodge No. 152 Secretary Steve Zumbrunn. “The experience is not only personally enriching but also contributes to our local community’s overall growth and success.”

Continuing their support for the local community, the Brothers at Lebo Lodge No. 152 have teamed up with the Kansas Masonic Foundation to donate \$800 to Lebo High School students. All donated funds will help send two local students to national FLBA and FCCLA conferences, providing outstanding leadership and networking opportunities. A formal donation announcement will take place in the coming weeks.

About the Kansas Masonic Foundation:
As the philanthropic arm of Kansas Masons, the Kansas Masonic Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to benefiting Kansas communities and supporting fellow Masons and their families. Since its inception, the foundation has invested more than \$50 million in Kansas communities and individuals through funding academic, scientific, and charitable endeavors. For additional information about the Kansas Masonic Foundation and to get involved, please visit kansasmasonic.foundation.

About the Grand Lodge of Kansas:
The Grand Lodge of Kansas is the governing body of Freemasonry in Kansas, established on March 17, 1856, five years prior to Kansas’ statehood. Freemasonry is the oldest, largest, and most widely recognized fraternal organization in the world. Freemasons are men, aged 18 and over, of good character who strive to improve themselves and make the world a better place. Kansas Freemasonry encompasses nearly 11,000 Kansas Masons and 170 Lodges across the state. For more information, please visit kansasmason.org.

OCCK, Inc. and KANSASWORKS to Host Salina Job Fair

SALINA, Kan. – OCCK, Inc., in partnership with KANSASWORKS, will host a job fair on Friday, June 26, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at OCCK, Inc., 1710 W. Schilling Road in Salina.

Job seekers may apply for any of OCCK’s current openings during the event. OCCK staff will be available to discuss open positions, answer questions and help attendees find opportunities that fit their experience, interests and employment goals. The KANSASWORKS Mobile Unit will also be on-site to assist attendees with applications and provide additional employment resources. Those unable to attend may view current openings and apply online at www.occk.com.

About OCCK, Inc.
OCCK, Inc. is a private 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to helping North Central Kansans with short- or long-term disabilities remove barriers to employment, live independently and fully participate in their communities. In operation since 1970, OCCK has more than 350 employees who serve more than 6,500 people each year.



Dijon roasted chicken and vegetables is a play on a classic French dish, known as poulet à la moutarde. It creates decadent crispy skin, juicy chicken and perfectly roasted vegetables for dinner. It's OK to wing it, even with classic French chicken dishes. When I go to try a recipe I think sounds tasty, I often follow the directions pretty closely, only deviating here and there to kick some of the flavors up a notch. When Joey is inspired by a recipe, he looks up a few more versions of the same dish and then goes completely rogue, creating his own, unique interpretation. That was the case recently, when he announced we were going to figure out our own path to making a French dish, poulet à la moutarde (or mustard chicken). He volunteered to spatchcock the chicken (one of my least favorite kitchen chores) and told me to grab pen and paper, as he already watched several videos on making the classic French recipe and had ideas on how to do it his own way in our Kansas kitchen.

SpiceUpYourLife-DijonRoasted Lindsey Young

So, while I normally give you a source for these recipes, this one is a Joey Young creation. He was certainly inspired by the French, but if you look at their recipes and what we ended up making, you'll see he improvised quite a bit.

The best part, though, was the experiment was absolutely delicious. **Dijon Roasted Chicken and Vegetables**

Ingredients

1 whole chicken, spatchcocked
1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
1/2 teaspoon paprika
1/2 teaspoon onion powder
leaves from one sprig fresh rosemary (or 1/2 teaspoon dried)
about 1/4 to 1/2 cup dijon mustard
2 large potatoes, cut into one-inch pieces
1 medium onion, thinly sliced
3 stalks celery, diced
1 bulb garlic, cloves separated and peeled
1 tablespoon dried parsley
black pepper, to taste
Sauce Ingredients
1/4 cup milk (I used skim)
3 tablespoons dijon mustard
garlic salt and pepper, to taste

Directions

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Place the spatchcocked chicken on a cutting board while you prepare it. Combine the garlic salt, paprika, onion powder and rosemary leaves in a small bowl, and then rub it evenly under the skin of the breast and along the bottom of the chicken.

Now, coat the entire outside of the

chicken in a thin layer of dijon mustard. Put the prepared potatoes, onion, celery and garlic, along with the parsley and black pepper into the bottom of a nine-by-13-inch baking dish, and stir to combine. Add the chicken on top, breast side up. Put the chicken in the oven and check the internal temperature after 45 minutes. Let the chicken cook to 160 degrees, and then remove it from the oven. Carefully place the chicken on another dish or cutting board to rest while it up-cooks to 165 degrees.

While the chicken rests, mix the sauce ingredients in a small bowl, and then pour over the vegetables in the baking dish. Give it a stir and then place it back in the oven for 10 minutes. Remove the vegetables from the oven, and give them another stir.

When the chicken has reached 165, slice and serve it, along with the roasted vegetables.

This was moist and tender, and while Joey and I both expected the mustard to overpower the entire meal, it was actually just a really nice supporting character to the overall dish.

Plus, the mustard created a beautiful, crispy skin on the chicken, which was a great texture and flavor addition. Everything also reheated well, which was nice, as we ate on this for leftovers.

And, luckily, I did manage to keep up with Joey as he explored our spice cabinet and added ingredients, or we'd never know exactly how to recreate this awesome dinner.

But who needs a recipe when you are this good at making it up as you go along? 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

“Dementia and Home Safety: Tips for Caregivers”

By Ranelle Nissen, Ph.D., OTR/L and Allison Naber, Ph.D., OTD, OTR/L

Caregivers of people with dementia are often tasked with keeping their loved ones safe at home. Unpaid family members or friends, referred to as care partners or caregivers, dedicate significant time and resources to assist the person with dementia as their needs intensify. Caregivers may find themselves providing increased assistance with everyday tasks like cooking and cleaning, and self-care tasks like dressing, bathing and toileting. This is often due to a decline in the person with dementia's awareness of time and place, ability to solve problems or assess situations, strength and mobility, and senses (vision, hearing or depth perception). These declines also put people living with Alzheimer's disease or other related dementias at increased risk of injury, especially as the disease progresses. Caregivers can take steps to create a safe home environment that minimizes the risk of injury or harm while maximizing the person's independence for as long as possible. First, organize important information, including insurance information, names and contact information for healthcare providers, medications and allergies, emergency contact numbers, legal papers (living

wills, advance directives and power of attorney), and contact information for friends and family members. Next, assess the home and outdoor spaces for potential barriers, such as uneven terrain or thresholds, poor lighting, chemicals or other potentially hazardous items. Once safety concerns are identified, caregivers can implement helpful strategies and adaptations to keep their loved ones safe, including:

Checking the temperature of food, beverages and bathwater

Removing throw rugs, cords or other items that could cause someone to fall

Installing adaptive equipment in the bathroom, like grab bars or shower chairs

Adding extra lighting or nightlights in entryways, stairwells, bathrooms and hallways

Using a hidden breaker or gas valve, or removing knobs to limit use of the stove when unattended

Storing hazardous items or tools in a secure location

Locking up medications and supplements

Some people living with dementia may exhibit wandering behaviors, such as forgetting how to get to familiar places in the home or community, talking about past obligations like

going to work, restlessness or pacing, or being nervous in crowded or new locations. Structured routines, exercise or movement, deadbolts or locks on upper doors and cabinets and increased supervision or support can decrease the risk of wandering.

While the journey with dementia brings many challenges, creating a safe home can help foster peace of mind for everyone involved. A sense of purpose and connection through participation in familiar routines, favorite activities and nurturing relationships with family and friends can promote safety, comfort and quality of life for people living with Alzheimer's disease or other related dementias. If you or someone you love is impacted by Alzheimer's disease or other related dementias, resources are available through organizations such as the Alzheimer's Association and the Veterans Affairs, as well as state agencies such as the Department of Human Services. No one needs to face this journey alone. These organizations provide education, home safety checklists and recommendations, extra help in the home and support groups. Check with your state to see what resources may be available

to you. Ranelle Nissen, Ph.D., OTR/L, serves as an associate dean and associate professor in the School of Health Sciences at the University of South Dakota. Nissen is a licensed occupational therapist in South Dakota. She has helped families and individuals affected by dementia through both her professional work and her volunteer work with the South Dakota Alzheimer's Association. Allison Naber, Ph.D., OTD, OTR/L, is the academic fieldwork coordinator and an associate professor in occupational therapy at the University of South Dakota. Naber is a licensed occupational therapist in Minnesota and South Dakota. She volunteers for the South Dakota Alzheimer's Association as a support group facilitator and community educator. 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).

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