

# The Sheridan Sentinel

The Official Newspaper of City of Hoxie, City of Selden, & Sheridan County

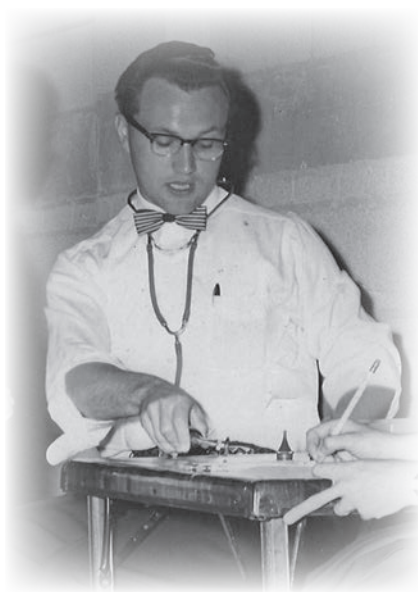
Volume 141 No. 25

Hoxie, Sheridan County, Kansas 67740

Thursday, March 12, 2026

\$1.00 Single Copy

## Dr. John Neuenschwander - 100th Birthday



Dr. John Neuenschwander's 100th birthday was on March 9, 2026. His birthday celebration with family was held earlier on March 7, 2026, hosted by Karl and Lu Neuenschwander at their home in Hoxie, Kansas. Three generations of immediate family celebrated with him, including his children - Daren Archer (Steve), Jim Neuenschwander (CeeAnn), Ronna Neuenschwander, and Karl Neuenschwander (Lu) - and his daughter-in-law, Sylva Neuenschwander. He was also joined by his grandchildren - Lori, Cindy (Nathan), Mark, Dena, Jamie (James), Bowe (partner, Grace), Katelin - and his great-granddaughter, Amaya. In addition to a family meal and pictures, the family also enjoyed listening to music from the treasured Swiss house music box, gifted to Dr. John's grandfather in 1893, and watching home movies dating back to 1947.

John Rapp Neuenschwander was born on March 9, 1926 in a rural area south of Indianapolis, Indiana to Reverend John and Marie Neuenschwander. He spent his childhood in small towns around the midwest and was the middle of five children. John graduated from high school in Linn, Missouri, at 16 years of age. After one year at Mission House College, John joined his two older sisters at Washington University in St. Louis (WashU). He boarded and worked at the Missouri School for the Blind, where he learned to read and write braille. It was during this time that his older sister, Miriam, introduced John to his future wife, Gloria Simpson.

John was drafted to serve in the U.S. Navy in August 1944 and was certified an Electronic Technician's Mate 2nd Class in November 1945. As the war was over, he was placed in the U.S. Navy Reserve and served in Norfolk, Virginia, processing discharge papers for eligible reserves. He was honorably discharged in September 1946.

John and Gloria were married by his father, Rev. Neuenschwander, in rural Mt. Vernon, Missouri, on September 22, 1946. John continued his education at WashU while Gloria, who had graduated, worked in a chemical lab. John graduated from WashU School of Medicine with his Medical Doctorate in 1951 and completed his internship at Menorah Medical Center in Kansas City, Missouri in 1952.

Dr. John and Gloria knew they wanted to settle in a small town where they could raise their family and he could practice general medicine. They found that the town of Hoxie, Kansas, was building a new hospital and looking for a doctor. In July 1952, Dr. John, Gloria, and their two children - John Rand and Daren - moved to Hoxie and Dr. John opened his medical practice in the front of the family home at 1401 Queen Avenue. Over the next four years, their younger three children - Jim, Ronna, and Karl - were born in the newly opened Sheridan County Hospital.

Dr. John was a general practitioner in Hoxie, for more than 45 years. Respected for his service to the community, he cared for and delivered multiple generations of families in the area. For most of his early time practicing medicine, he was the only medical doctor in Sheridan County. In an article about small town medical care published in 1970 in an area paper, Dr. John's workday was described as follows:

Dr. John still makes house calls, but most of his patients come into the office for medical care or go to the hospital in case of emergency. His day is long, and the work is hard. He arrives at the hospital by 7AM if he has surgery scheduled, or 7:30 otherwise. If there's no surgery, he works on records and insurance papers - a job which has become increasingly more complicated and demanding with the years. From 8 to 10AM, Dr. John makes his hospital rounds. Office hours are from 10 to 11:30AM and from 1 to 5PM. Approximately 30 patients visit the office on an average day, during which he usually fits in one house call. After his evening hospital rounds, he arrives home about 6:30PM. There's usually one or two hospital calls during the evening. The day's work seems long at times, but Dr. John was prepared for it. "When my generation went into medicine, we expected to work long hours," he said.

Dr. John was designated as a charter Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians in 1973, an honor recognizing physicians who have distinguished themselves through service to family medicine, community involvement, and ongoing professional development. Dr. John also served as a preceptor for more than 40 years. This program pairs medical students with rural physicians for four weeks of hands-on experience in community-based medicine. Dr. John and his son, Dr. John Rand, were awarded Co-preceptor of the Year by The University of Kansas School of Medicine in both 1977 and 1997. At his retirement party in 1997, Dr. John said "I have sponsored preceptees since 1953 - our most recent preceptee, who left in August, was our 171st."

In addition to his respected reputation as a practitioner, Dr. John had a signature style he was known for in his practice - a button down shirt and a bowtie. It was a practical choice with an amusing origin - after inadvertently wrapping his necktie into a plaster cast in his early days, he calmly cut it off and only wore a bowtie to work thereafter.

Dr. John retired from full time medical practice in October of 1997 in order to aid in the recruitment of a new doctor for Hoxie. He continued to serve part time to cover for vacations, meetings, etc. as needed until fully retiring on January 1, 2000.

Outside of work, Dr. John and Gloria enjoyed building their lives in the Hoxie community. They were both ordained elders in First Presbyterian Church and Dr. John was an active member of the Hoxie Rotary Club. Dr. John loved the outdoors and enjoyed hunting, fishing, bee keeping, and gardening. These activities provided many family traditions across the years, including harvesting honey, canning vegetables, and making venison sausage, jerky, and sauerkraut. An avid photographer, Dr. John and Gloria also spent many months restoring and making prints of glass negatives from the Nelson Long collection, which has since been digitized by the Sheridan County Historical Society. After their children were grown, Dr. John and Gloria took up quilting together and notably made hand-stitched quilts for each of their grandchildren. Dr. John often remarked that he enjoyed these evenings of hand stitching, as it kept his fingers nimble for suturing.

In June 2008, Gloria had a fall and entered the hospital. She was later transferred to the Long Term Care Unit (LTCU) where Dr. John tried to visit her every day. Gloria died on November 12, 2012. They had been married for more than 66 years.

Dr. John entered the LTCU in September 2016, shortly after his son, Dr. John Rand. Dr. John Rand died on December 14, 2016.

Currently, Dr. John lives at the LTCU. His mind is still sharp and he likes to tell stories from his younger days. He joins his family for Sunday dinners and other celebrations. He enjoys watching old home movies, as well as cheering on the Kansas City Chiefs, Kansas City Royals, St. Louis Cardinals, and KU Jayhawks.



## 2026 Sheridan County Benefit Walk June 5

The time is fast approaching for the 2026 Sheridan County Benefit Walk, to be held Friday, June 5, at the Hoxie fairgrounds. The event will kick-off with a pulled pork supper at 6 PM, followed by a silent auction, balloon launch, door prizes, a raffle drawing, and a special time

of remembrance for those benefactors who have passed away. If you are new to the area or unfamiliar with this event, it was established in 2010 to aid individuals in Sheridan County who are undergoing life altering situations such as serious illness, ongoing debilitating health conditions, fires, and tornadoes, to name a few. Money is donated to families, regardless of need, to help with expenses. This money is raised by selling raffle tickets for donated prizes, business and individual donations, memorials, luminary bags bought and displayed to remember friends and family who have passed away or to honor those who have survived a life-threatening disease, and a free will donation supper.

The SCBW is a non-profit organization, with all money raised, minus minimal operating expenses, being used to benefit residents of Sheridan County. Over 100 families were helped in 2025, due to the generous donations from the community.

Teams are formed to sell raffle tickets and t-shirts and collect donations. If you would like to join a team, please contact a board member or sub-committee member. Board members are Don Oelke, Annette Follis, Glenda Heier, Renee Spresser, Steve Heim, Elise Heim, Elsie Rietcheck, Maureen Bruggeman, Roger Aumiller, and Amy Seegmiller. Sub-committee members are Joyce Tice, Janelle Cooper, Amy Spillman, Courtney Gaede, and Lindsey Sauvage.

The Benefit Walk is open to anyone who would like to attend, so bring your friends and relatives, and join us for a fun-filled evening June 5th. We are looking forward to a another great event this year.

## Our Nation's Birthday - 1976

By Don Pickinpaugh

The summer sun blazed mercilessly, casting waves of heat across the dry Kansas grasslands as cars jostled for any available spot along the dusty road leading to the Elks Lodge. As we neared the festivities, it became clear the parking lot was overflowing, forcing many to squeeze their cars into the uneven ditches alongside the road. For a kid like me, this chaotic scene was a treasure trove of excitement, signaling that loads of other young kids would be roaming about. I was eager to see many of my friends and find out what they had been up to over the summer.

My dad expertly steered our small blue Mustang into a snug space just by the Elks Lodge entrance. As I popped out of the car in the hot breeze, families were making their way to the colorful tables set up alongside the Elks Lodge. The air buzzed with anticipation, and I felt an electric thrill as I realized this was going to be a fun-filled night. Unable to contain my excitement any longer, I told my parents I would catch up with them later and darted off, my heart racing as I ran to find my buddies.

Giant cut-up watermelons were laid out along several white tables, their vibrant green rinds contrasting beautifully with their deep red flesh. Dozens of moms, with bright smiles and excitement in their eyes, expertly sliced through the thick skin, serving generous wedges to the townsfolk who had traveled for the much-anticipated annual fireworks display. The air was thick with laughter and chatter as people lined up to sink their teeth into the juicy, sweet, and refreshing watermelon.

As kids, we wanted to be off on our own, away from prying adult eyes. After all, who wanted to sit quietly when games abounded? We grabbed our slices and dashed away to the lush fringe of grass bordering the ninth hole of our local golf course. The dark green turf was an inviting seat. Close by, families were setting up their chairs in anticipation of the display to come. Tonight was particularly special; the sky would soon burst into brilliant colors, heralding our nation's 200th birthday. A thrill coursed through us as we nestled upon the soft grass, ready to indulge in our ripe watermelon. Games quickly turned into friendly competitions to see who could spit the tiny black seeds the farthest. Each seed flew through the air like a tiny projectile floating in the wind.

As the late afternoon waned and dusk descended, the western skies transformed into a canvas of soft pastels. The final golden rays of sunlight cast their last warm glow over the Elks Lodge. Beside me, my friends and I played jokes on each other, waiting for the event to begin.

On the other side of the valley, near the tee box, a group of men busily arranged the final details of the fireworks display, ensuring everything was in place. There would be no surprises or accidental explosions. Meanwhile, the town's fire truck eased into position near the men, its red paint gleaming under the fading daylight. The volunteer firefighters emerged, vigilant and prepared, ready to combat any rogue spark that might ignite the parched grass surrounding the golf course. The lack of rain during the summer months in the plains always brought extra caution.

Then, without warning, the atmosphere shifted with an electrifying bang, commanding everyone's attention. This hair-raising, thunderous explosion reverberated through the earth beneath us. The show had begun. Moments later, the air ignited with another barrage of fireworks, which roared to life and launched into the night sky. We all gazed upward, eager to see the breathtaking display of colors that would soon illuminate the darkness, each burst painting the heavens with fleeting brilliance.

The dark summer sky transformed into a breathtaking picture as vibrant red, white, and blue fireworks cascaded like sparkling waterfalls, celebrating our nation's independence with a dazzling display. As young boys, we stood wide-eyed in awe, feeling immense pride for the land that had welcomed us into the world. Near the end, a symphony of loud explosions with bursts of colors and lights illuminated the night in every direction.

People stood and gave a thunderous round of applause as the grand finale began. An American flag was revealed, its radiant colors coming to life in the night sky. The blue stars, along with the red and white stripes, evoked powerful emotions as I watched. Many veterans stood at attention, their faces etched with reverence, saluting the flag that represented our freedom and collective spirit. It was an unforgettable scene, an emblematic celebration of our nation's 200th birthday on July 4, 1976—a moment that captured the essence of pride, history, and unity.



Words of Wisdom	Grain Report	Weather Report	Thought of the Week																																								
<p><b>Abundance is not something we acquire. It is something we tune into.</b> ~Dr. Wayne Dyer</p>	<p>Reported on: Tuesday, March 10</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Corn</td> <td>3.94</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Milo</td> <td>3.47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Beans</td> <td>10.82</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wheat</td> <td>5.19</td> </tr> </table> <p>HI-PLAINS COOP</p>	Corn	3.94	Milo	3.47	Beans	10.82	Wheat	5.19	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>High</th> <th>Low</th> <th>Moisture</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3/1</td> <td>39</td> <td>22</td> <td>--</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3/2</td> <td>44</td> <td>21</td> <td>--</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3/3</td> <td>52</td> <td>33</td> <td>--</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3/4</td> <td>63</td> <td>31</td> <td>.02"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3/5</td> <td>67</td> <td>34</td> <td>--</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3/6</td> <td>57</td> <td>31</td> <td>--</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3/7</td> <td>57</td> <td>30</td> <td>--</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	High	Low	Moisture	3/1	39	22	--	3/2	44	21	--	3/3	52	33	--	3/4	63	31	.02"	3/5	67	34	--	3/6	57	31	--	3/7	57	30	--	<p><b>True Abundance isn't based on our net worth, it's based on our self-worth</b> ~Gabrielle Bernstein</p>
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## JENNINGS NEWS

It is time once again to check addresses and other information of yourself, other family members, classmates, and friends, in the Jennings Alumni book. Please contact Marge Hartzog at 785-678-3010 to leave text or oral messages or [hartzog@ruraltel.net](mailto:hartzog@ruraltel.net) for email messages. Please leave phone or email contact info if you would like to be contacted that way.

## TOWN HALL MEETING

**Senator Rick Billinger and Representative Jim Minnix** plan to have a Town Hall Meeting in Hoxie on **Tuesday, March 31, 2026.**

The meeting will be from 11:00 - 11:45 AM at the Impact Community Center - 820 Main.

## Spring Break Activities at FHSU Kansas Wetlands Education Center

By FHSU University Communications

**Hays** - Fort Hays State University's Kansas Wetlands Education Center (KWEC) will host a variety of free daily hands-on activities each afternoon of Spring Break, March 16-20, providing a chance for people to get out and explore the diversity of the wetlands.

A different activity will take place from 1-4 p.m. each day. The event is informal, come-and-go, and no registration is required. Activities are geared toward school-aged children. After enjoying the hands-on activities, visitors can check out the center's interactive exhibition hall, classroom with live animals, 16-minute video about Cheyenne Bottoms, and walk the nature trail. They can also grab a map and take a self-guided tour of the wetlands.

Events include:

Monday, March 16 - All About That Bass

Get ready for a fantastic fishy adventure! Students will discover how awesome fish features, like cool mouths, speedy tails, and wiggly body shapes, help them survive and thrive. Then it's time to get crafty and create their very own paper fish with fun adaptations of their choice.

Tuesday, March 17 - Terrariums to Go

Ever want to have your own pocket-sized world? Well, now you can. Learn what goes into creating a perfect habitat for living creatures and put it into practice by making your very own terrarium to take home and enjoy your own little world.

Wednesday, March 18 - Bioluminescent Beetles: Fantastic Fireflies

Fireflies, lightning bugs, glowworms, blinkies, moon bugs, golden sparklers, marsh flickers; no matter what you call them, these bioluminescent beetles have a unique way of capturing our attention. Flash on over to learn more about these insects. We will learn about how and why they glow at night and craft a paper lantern inspired by fireflies for you to take home with you.

Thursday, March 19 - Cheyenne Bottoms Buffet

As many as 41 species of shorebirds migrate to Cheyenne Bottoms each year. With so many migrants, you might be wondering how all of these birds find enough food to eat. Migrate out to the Kansas Wetlands Education Center to learn about microhabitats as well as how these shorebirds eat. In addition, we will be making a flapping bird for you to take home.

Friday, March 20 - A Wild Introduction to Field Journaling

Did you know some of history's most groundbreaking ideas, expeditions, and discoveries began in the pages of a field journal? Such as Charles Darwin's sketches from the Galapagos Islands and Lewis and Clark's charts from their expedition. So, let's get started on your very own field journal. Together, you will learn tricks and tips to not only draw your observations but also write about and understand what they mean. Afterwards, we will put your skills to the test with a walk through our

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## SELDEN NEWS

By Jacque Boultinghouse

**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

March 5: Nina Soriano Hunter

March 7: Linsay Barrett

March 8: Amy Seegmiller, Vala Albers, David Weis

March 10: Mark Miller, Lindsay Oakley, Debbie Koerperich, Joe Zodrow, Raymond Zodrow

March 11: Jacob Mosier, Lois Neff, Margee Wilson, Clay Bruggeman

March 13: Elaine Koerperich, Jami Shaw, Sara Kennedy, Lynetta Cressler

March 14: Cole Wachendorfer, Connor Stanton, Micah Goscha

March 15: Levi Rogers

March 16: Marvin Kaus, Mary Peter, Josh Mosier

March 17: Betty Barnett, Boyd Wilson, Dan Campbell

March 18: David Gould, Nick Rall, Cody Jacobs

Congratulations to great-grandparents, Steve & Helen Carman and Bob & Elaine Koerperich on the arrival of Kendall Koerperich on February 26. Kendall's parents are Kory & Fernada Koerperich of Tucson, AZ.

The Selden Senior Citizens met on February 26, at the Community Center for a delicious meal prepared by Gloria Goscha of Midway Cafe followed by an afternoon of pinochle. Those enjoying the day included Margee Wilson, Helen Carman, and Steve Skubal. Those staying to play cards included Shirley Emigh, Kou Lovin, Boyd Wilson, JR Albers, and Steve Carman.

The Tripoley Club met on Wednesday, March 4. Those enjoying a salad luncheon and the game included Shirley Emigh, Helen Carman, Elaine Koerperich, and Jacque Boultinghouse. The next Tripoley meet will be April 2, at the Community Center.

## WPAA Presents Queen City Jazz Band

March 22, Western Plains Arts Association sponsors the Queen City Jazz Band at the Goodland High School Auditorium in Goodland at 3:00 PM central (2:00 PM mountain time).

This traditional jazz band was founded in Denver more than 60 years ago and is recognized across the nation for playing outstanding traditional, Dixieland, gospel and spiritual music. The group has also toured widely across Europe.

Admission to this show is with a WPAA season ticket or an individual program ticket which may be purchased at the door. Thank you to the area sponsors, especially the Sherman County Community Foundation, and the Dane Hansen Foundation.

Also sponsored in part by the state of Kansas through the Kansas Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts.

## USDA Approval of SNAP Soda and Candy Waiver

**Topeka** - Governor Laura Kelly announced that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved Kansas' Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Food Restriction Waiver.

"Today, Kansas joins 21 other states in implementing restrictions on candy and soda purchases with SNAP dollars," Governor Laura Kelly said. "I have always supported policies that incentivize healthy eating, including axing the state sales tax on food to put more money back in Kansans' pockets. Going forward, I would encourage the USDA to develop a nationwide eligibility strategy to reduce confusion and uncertainty for retailers and recipients alike."

The approved waiver, which will go into effect February 15, 2027, will exclude all candy and soda beverages (also known as soft drinks) from the definition of eligible foods under 7 CFR 271.2 for purchase with SNAP benefits. Candy and soda are defined by the state's food and sales tax laws within the state retailer tax:

- Candy is defined as a preparation of sugar, honey, or other natural or artificial sweeteners in

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## Isolated On Purpose

life.

Because when God wants to build a man, He doesn't send applause. He sends isolation. There was a time I thought I was surrounded. Phones buzzing. People laughing. Rooms full of noise. But I was starving. Starving for truth. Starving for depth. Starving for something real. I had people around me... but no alignment.

And the moment I stopped shrinking myself to fit the room,

the room got quiet real fast. That's when I realized something. Some people don't love you. They love access to you. And when access changes, so does their loyalty. That season hurt.

I questioned everything.

But God carved a truth into my chest:

He will empty your circle before He elevates your calling.

Because you can't carry destiny while dragging distractions.

Isolation is where the surgery happens.

No crowd to impress.

No noise to hide behind.

Just you... and God.

That's where I had to face something hard.

I wasn't just betrayed.

I was undisciplined.

I wasn't just hurt.

I was hiding.

God didn't isolate me to break me.

He isolated me to strip me.

Strip the ego.

Strip the approval addiction.

Strip the version of me that needed a crowd to feel valuable.

And when that burned off... what was left?

A man who understood something powerful: Peace is better than popularity.

Alignment is better than attention.

Obedience is better than applause.

Now my circle is small.

And that's not weakness.

That's wisdom.

Because a man who survives isolation doesn't fear silence anymore.

He finds God in it.

So if you're in that quiet season right now... if the phone isn't ringing... if the circle got smaller... good.

Stay there long enough to hear God clearly.

Because when God isolates a man, He isn't burying him.

He's building him.

And the man who can stand alone with God will never bow to the world again.

You didn't lose your circle.

God protected your calling.



**Grainfield Fire Department**  
*Nut Fry Fundraiser*

Sunday, March 15 ~ 10 am - 2 pm  
129 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street

Serving:  
Bull Fries, Chicken Strips, Scalloped Potatoes,  
Baked Beans Coffee, Tea, Water

**FREE WILL DONATION**

**Commodities Distribution**

**Tuesday, March 24, 2026**

10am - 11am Courthouse - Hoxie  
1pm - 1:30pm Community Center - Selden

canned carrots, canned black beans, refried beans, green beans, canned mixed fruit, canned pears, cling peaches, dried cranberries, cream of mushroom soup, frozen chicken

Foods subject to change at last minute.  
**Arrive early or there may not be anything left!**

**The Sheridan Sentinel**

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**Ellis Small Animal Sale**

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday  
March through October  
Open at 10am  
(NO SALE IN JULY)

505 Cottonwood Street, Ellis, KS  
Adam "Spanky" Weber 795-673-3284

Sale Order: Outside Equipment/ Cage Animals  
Big Hoofstock/Sheep, Goat, Pigs  
Facebook: Ellis Small Animal Community

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DELUXE 1300+ sq ft  
2 BR/2BA Apartment Now Available

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**CONTACT YOUR COMMISSIONER**

Chairman: David Stithem ~ [sixds@ruraltel.net](mailto:sixds@ruraltel.net)  
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**Submission Guidelines**

Print-ready ads and content deadline: noon Tuesday  
Non-print-ready ads MUST be in by 3 pm Monday.  
Due to time constraints, all ad & content submissions must be emailed in .doc, .docx, or .pdf format; photos in .jpg or .png format.  
All non-print-ready ad submissions are subject to a design fee (starting at \$10).  
Please email articles, news, and photos to: [editor@sheridansentinel.com](mailto:editor@sheridansentinel.com) or bring them by our office at 716 Main Street, Hoxie.  
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We confirm receipt of all emailed submissions within 24-hours.  
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Fire Dept. 785-675-3773  
EMS 785-675-3364  
Emergency Mgmt. 785-386-8051  
County Clerk 785-675-3361  
Road & Bridge Dept. 785-675-3621  
Library 785-675-3102  
Pregnancy Pathways 785-657-7707

**Area Churches**

Christ Community Church  
2008 Sheridan Ave, Hoxie

Hoxie Baptist Temple  
1000 Valley Ave, Hoxie

Hoxie Christian Church  
1025 Queen, Hoxie

Hoxie United Methodist Church  
900 12th St, Hoxie

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church  
Hwy 223, Leoville

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
1400 Locust St, Hoxie

Living Word Fellowship  
454 Hwy 24, Hoxie

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church  
14988 E Rd 70 S, Hoxie

Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
202 S Missouri, Selden

St. Frances Catholic Church  
924 17th, Hoxie

Selden United Methodist Church  
Selden

St. Martin's Catholic Church  
Seguin

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The Sheridan Sentinel

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**2025 ~ 2026**  
**AREA SCHOOLS**  
HOXIE INDIANS - GOLDEN PLAINS BULLDOGS - WHEATLAND THUNDERHAWKS

**AUNT SHANNON'S \* BETTER BUILT TRAILERS \* BUFFALO PARK STATION \* EQUITY BANK \* FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES-KENDRA BARNES  
FIRST STATE BANK \* FOOTE CATTLE CO \* GOLDEN PLAINS BOOSTER CLUB \* GRAINFIELD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
HARVEST MARKET \* HI-PLAINS CO-OP \* HIRSCH-ABBOTT LAW \* HOXIE SPRAYERS \* HOXIE VET SERVICE \* JAMBOREE-HOXIE  
L & C HOME HEALTH AGENCY, INC \* JIM MYERS, CHARTERED \* MIDWEST ENERGY \* NOVUS AG/PATHWAY AG \* NUTRIEN AG  
OLSON CONSULTING, P.A. - MARK R. OLSON, DVM \* OUTDOOR BANK \* SHEPARD PERFORMANCE HORSES  
SHERIDAN COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION \* 6-TOES FEED & SEED \* STEVE'S BODY SHOP \* WATKINS INSURANCE & REALTY  
WOOFER PUMP & WELL**

**SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY AND YOUR SCHOOL'S ACTIVITIES**

## Lady Indians Finish Season at Sub-State

By Carley Cooper

The Hoxie Lady Indians basketball season came to an end on Friday, March 8. The Lady Indians had a very successful season with a record of 24-1 going into the Sub-State Championship against the Oakley Lady Plainsmen in Smith Center. The Indians and Plainsmen had battled three times this season, with the Indians winning the first two, including the MCL League Championship. Both teams are well-coached and have very talented athletes. In the first quarter, the Indians and Plainsmen were neck and neck at 14-18; the second quarter ended 24-32. After halftime, the Indians came back in the third quarter and brought the game within 1 point, before the Plainsmen pulled away in the fourth quarter with a final score of 59-72.

This season, the Lady Indians big accomplishments included winning the Purple and Gold Tournament and the MCL League Championship. These ladies have lots to look forward to in the next season. "I am very grateful for everything this team has given me. My coaches have taught me many lessons throughout the season that I will never forget," said senior Allie Gourley. "The bonds and friendships formed by this team will forever be something I will hold close. I wish we could have continued our season, but we fought hard, and I am proud of the name on the front of my jersey. I wouldn't have done it with any other team."

The Indians had three Seniors on this year's team, Allie Gourley, Avery Mauck, and Macie Juenemann, who all had successful high school careers. Allie Gourley and Avery Mauck will play in the all-star game in Colby on March 29.

## Forensics Team Members Place in Almena



Golden Plains Juniors Addy Wessel and Brielle Karnes placed second at the Northern Valley Forensics Meet on February 28, to qualify for State Champs in May. Wessel has also qualified for state in IDA with partner Katie Carter and in Humorous Solo. (Photo by Robynn Wessel)

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains High School Forensics Team had additional state qualifications at the Northern Valley Meet in Almena on February 28. Several team members placed or tried new events. The team placed third overall behind Phillipsburg and Norton.

Katie Carter and Addy Wessel are by no means a new partnership, but they continue their winning streak by placing 1st in IDA. Addy's other partnership with Brielle Karnes was also fruitful with a 2nd place in Duet and another qualification for state champs! Addy tried humorous solo for the first time and decided to qualify for her 3rd event at state champs by placing 1st in humorous solo.

Poetry continues to be a difficult category. Takoda Cline and Madison Focke didn't quite make finals round, but with the quality of their performances, it's just a matter of time. Tanner Black did make finals and placed 5th! Maleea Valdez qualified for finals again in Serious Solo and placed 7th. Searee Bruggeman filled in for impromptu for the first time and also placed 7th. Searee partnered up with Kaytlin Kennedy in duet and IDA and just missed finals round, but they had some great comments and scores in the preliminary rounds. A new partnership that tried out IDA today was Javier Romero and Christian Garcia. They had some great draws and good scores, but also missed out on finals round.

"It was another crazy awesome day of forensics today!" exclaimed Coach Robynn Wessel. "These kids never cease to amaze me. I am so proud of all of these kids and their hard work, effort, and commitment."

## DNA Discoveries in Biology



Golden Plains Sophomores Takoda Cline, Madison Focke, and Searee Bruggeman concentrate on their DNA Extraction experiment in Biology class. (Photo by Judy Rogers)

## Bulldog Finish Season at Sub-State

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains High School boys' basketball team finished their season in the quarterfinal round of Sub-State with a 32-38 loss to Cheylin in McDonald on February 23.

The Dogs opened with a two shots from senior Diego Perez. The Cougars matched those shots and pulled ahead 8-4 by the end of the first quarter. Dylan Wark and Adam Ritter put in 9 points for the Bulldogs in the second quarter. The Cougars only added 6 as the Dogs closed the spread 13-14 by the half.

Perez pulled the Dogs ahead to start the third with two free throws. The Cougars tied it back up only to have the Dogs regain the lead once more. They traded shots throughout with the Dogs holding a 22-21 lead at the end of the third.

The back-and-forth battle continued during the fourth and final quarter. The Dogs kept the game tied at 29 before the Cougars pulled ahead. Wark hit a final three for the Bulldogs, but the Cougars finished with a final shot and free throws of their own to claim the win 38-32.

Wark finished the game with 13 Bulldog points. Perez added 10, Javier Romero 4, Ruxin Arnberger 4, and Adam Ritter 1. Perez pulled down 9 rebounds, Wark 7, Romero 5, Arnberger 4, Kelby Buehler 3, Cristian Garcia 2, and Ritter 1. Perez and Wark each had 3 assists and Romero 1. Romero, Wark, and Perez each had 2 steals, and Arnberger 1.



Seniors Diego Perez and Dylan Wark finished their high school career. Wark scored 323 points his senior season and totaled 1278 throughout high school. He had 102 rebounds, 48 assists, 61 deflections, 48 steals, and 2 blocks as a senior. "I enjoyed my senior season," said Wark. "I enjoyed helping the younger players understand the game and playing with our team. I encourage next year's team to keep working hard every day."

Perez scored 279 points this year. He had 131 rebounds, 49 assists, 74 deflections, 53 steals, and 7 blocks throughout the season. "It was fun just being with the team and playing with the team," said Perez. "They always brought the energy and we all got along. I would encourage the younger athletes to stay committed and work hard both on and off the court."

Senior Diego Perez stays on defense against the Cheylin Cougars on February 23. (Photo by Alicia Vargas)


## Lady Bulldogs Finish Season




Golden Plains Sophomores Elizabeth Weiner (11) and Adilyn Meier (15) fight for the ball against the Wheatland/Grinnell Lady Thunderhawks in Grainfield on March 2. The Lady Bulldogs fought hard but finished their season with a loss to the Hawks. (Photo by Judy Rogers)

**Happiness is Pi Day!**

9th Annual Pi Day  
Friday March 13, 2026  
Methodist Church  
12th and Royal Ave - Hoxie, KS



**9" homemade pie  
\$20.00 donation**



**5" mini pie  
\$5.00 donation  
8:30 a.m.  
until sold out!**

Proceeds will be divided between the  
Sheridan County Library and the  
Sheridan County Historical Society

We appreciate your  
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Call Today 785-675-3142  
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- ✓ Check fluids regularly to keep your vehicle's systems in working order!
- ✓ A regular oil and filter change is one of the best things you can do to keep your car in top shape!
- ✓ Keep an eye on your spare tire! Check it monthly to ensure proper inflation.
- ✓ Check wiper blades. If they are not cleaning your windshield properly, are split or perished, you should consider replacing them. Stop by to get them checked out!
- ✓ Colder weather can take a toll on your vehicle's battery! Make sure you check on your battery to stay safe this season.
- ✓ Keep the good times rolling with a new set of tires! Stop by today to find the perfect set for your vehicle.




**65TH ANNUAL  
COLBY GUN & COIN  
COLLECTORS SHOW**





**Saturday  
March 21**

**9am - 5pm**



**Sunday  
March 22**

**10am - 3pm**



**Colby Event Center Auxiliary Gym  
1200 S Franklin Ave, Colby KS**

Admission is \$5 (\$6 with credit card)

Kids 12 and under are free admission must be accompanied by an adult



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Guards on Duty Overnight. Not responsible for Accident or Theft. All guns coming in will be checked at the door. All firearms will have the action tied for safety. All dealers and attendees must obey all FEDERAL, STATE, and LOCAL LAWS and are ultimately responsible for payment of all sales taxes due.

## The Hoxie Democrat March 13, 1891

Miss Cora Frazier is reported ill.  
Steve Leaton has got another car of corn.

The pension board did no business this week.

Andy Nestor says the small grain looks splendid.

The boys had fun last week sleigh-riding with Huff's donkey.

Lew Berry is stopping here a few days on his way west to look for work.

W. L. Humes has been sick this week with the prevailing disease la grippe.

Charley Gabunkey was in town Monday with two milch cows hitched to his wagon.

The family of Sion Harris have been very ill with the la grippe but are getting better.

W. J. Barnes returned to Topeka this week to finish his legislative business and draw his salary.

J. H. Patmon was a caller this week and is going to make proof on his claim and also put in a large crop.

R. G. Vaught has severed his connection with the Sheridan County Bank, and is now a gentleman of leisure.

Fred Mulholland helped us this week. He has all the elements of a good compositor if he would only stick to it.

John Woollums returned Tuesday and will remain this summer, he looks well and will perhaps engage in business.

Rev. Bell of Atwood was in the city the first of the week, from indications he is going to carry off one of our good ladies.

R. M. Harris, of Solomon township, was in the city several days last week, snow bound. He had been to Lenora and was on his way home.

Snow fell all day last Friday and the ground will be in splendid condition for spring crops. Sow and plant for this is the ear that you will reap.

Rube McConnell is in the country for a short visit. He reports the family well and that they will return in the spring and do considerable farming.

Clerk of the district court Sprage held his first court Monday and decided that E. H. Lupton should be appointed assignee of the defunct Hoxie Sate Bank.

Thos Patmon is reported as doing a large business at Geneva, Neb. Report says that he has traded a number of quarters of land for city property and has made money.

Walt Foreman made us a pleasant call this week and says he will put out about 500 acres of broom corn early and continue to plant as long as the season lasts. He is an expert and always makes some money out of his crop.

## 125 Years Ago March 14, 1901

M. A. Chambers attended court at Gove City the first of the week.

Mrs. Diamond, of Studley, is visiting with her sons, Dave and Jake Mosier.

Monday, April 1, is the date for the city election, but as yet no ticket has been named.

Jack Colgan commenced plowing Monday, he is probably the first one to commence in the county this year.

Fully a half dozen people were trading in Hoxie Saturday. This was due to the inclemency of the weather.

Ote Zeigler has been very sick the past week, at times his life was despaired of, but at last reports he was improving slightly.

Dr. Thomas will again visit Hoxie on his regular trip next Wednesday and Thursday, March 20, and 21, prepared to give you all kinds of dental work at living prices.

T. J. McKinley has a team to exchange for plowing.

The question, why can't Hoxie have a telephone system along with other towns of less importance is often asked. There is no reason in the world why she could not, within the past week we have talked with enough people who agree to patronize it, to put one in and guarantee its success.

W. S. Quisenberry and daughter, Miss Nellie, returned from Illinois last Saturday, leaving Mrs. Q. and the other children back there to complete a long deferred visit. Miss Nellie is thoroughly disgusted with her native state and its mud and says she never wants to make her home there.

Elder Jackson goes to Roscoe this week to hold a few nights meeting.

F. R. Brown occupied the pulpit at the church last Sunday evening.

## Violenta Items

Violenta school closed last Friday.

Mr. Warford preached at the stone church Sunday.

Messrs. Geisenhener and Hines went to Oberlin Monday.

D. M. Warner expects to build on his land in Decatur county soon.

## Orange Items

Orville Andrews made a flying trip to Grinnell Wednesday.

Wm. Fullerton and family spent Sunday evening with Mr. Clarksons'.

Art Spielman and wife passed through this vicinity Friday enroute for Grinnell.

Ben Dickman and Andy Wagner were

**BASKET BALL!**

**DOUBLE HEADER, 1ST. AND 2ND. TEAMS**

**HOXIE SCOUTS**

**VS.**

**OBERLIN SCOUTS**

**BOOST YOUR BOYS**

**HIGH SCHOOL GYM. 7:30 THURSDAY MAR. 11**

**ADMISSION 25 CENTS**

From *The Hoxie Sentinel*, 1926. (Kenoxie Archives & Museum photo)

hauling wheat to Menlo the last of the week.

## Cracker-Jack

### Elliott Clippings

Jack Shaeffer came home from Selden over Sunday.

Ed Pickerell has placed an organ at Mr. Walkers' on trial.

Bro. Alexander filled his appointment at Macgraw Sunday.

Mr. McWilliams attended divine services at Macgraw Sunday.

## 100 Years Ago March 11, 1926

Russell Davis of Harrisonville, Missouri, arrived in Hoxie last week and will assist his brother-in-law, Ira Hatten, in his painting and decorating business.

George Fairchild is here from Hutchison this week looking after business matters. George has many friends here who are always pleased to extend him the glad hand when he comes back home.

The Studley State Bank is publishing its financial statement for this quarter in the *Sentinel* this week. This institution is constantly growing and is of great service to the people around Studley.

The Rebekah Lodge served a most delicious lunch to the Chamber of Commerce, Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Ackerman and Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Launchbaugh spent Sunday with Elder and Mrs. W. H. Robb at Menlo.

Miss Ila Mort spent Sunday in Hill City.

J. L. Beckner, of Colby, is visiting his son, Dr. E. J. Beckner, and family this week.

Henry Feldt, of Angelus, was a Hoxie business visitor Monday forenoon.

Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Rouse and children were over from Norton Sunday visiting at the B. R. Reed home.

Miss Margaret Montgomery was a guest at W. R. Cunningham's in Morland, Tuesday night.

L. B. Patmon left last Friday for Salina and thought he might probably go on to Kansas City before returning home.

Mrs. Harold Lavine, of Salina, visited her mother, Mrs. George Keller, last week. Her little daughter, Margie, who had been visiting her grandmother for some time, returned home with her mother.

## Pleasant Ridge

Delbert Borger was unable to attend school Monday as he was sick.

Mr. Nick McWilliams was a Hoxie visitor Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. I. Transue were shopping in Hoxie Tuesday.

Mrs. Lonnie Carder visited Tuesday with Mrs. George Simon.

## Sunshine Items

Sun-Shine Club met Wednesday March 3, with Mrs. J. B. Moorehouse. The time was spent in quilting and visiting. At the noon hour a delicious two-course dinner was served. Those present were Mrs. J. B. Moorehouse, Mrs. Charlie Haynes, Mrs. Della Dawes, Mrs. Lloyd Cressler, Mrs. Herb Cressler, Mrs. Jess Miller, Mrs. J. E. Karnes, Mrs. Englman, Mrs. Frank Smith and Mrs. H. S. Montgomery. Mrs. Doris Karnes was a visitor. Club adjourned to meet with Mrs. Jess Miller March 17.

## Studley News

The revival at Studley closed last Tuesday evening due to the illness of

Mrs. Anderson.

Mr. Fyler goes to Hoxie Wednesday where he has been called on the jury.

Rev. Flowers, of Hoxie, preached at Studley Sunday p.m. Everyone enjoyed his sermon. He did not know until he arrived at the church about 3:30 that he would be called on to preach. Mrs. Flowers will preach in the morning and evening of every other Sunday beginning Sunday, February 28.

## 75 Years Ago March 15, 1951

### Has Two Sets of Twins

Phil Gallagher's home, at the south edge of town, has been more or less a show place the past week as car after car has brought folks to see his two sets of twin calves, both sets being born a few days apart. The sets are normal, robust calves and all bear the Whiteface marking. Another interest is that all are heifer calves. Phil is of the opinion that the cow mothers must have heard of the critical situation existing at this time in which everyone is asked to double their efforts in order to help the war situation, and are doing their best for the owner, as well as their Uncle Sam.

### Parnell Progressive Unit

Unit met with Mrs. C. E. Gaede Jr., Feb. 20, with nine members present. The meeting opened with the lesson, "Taxes". This concluded our tax lesson. We discussed some business and then Cupid appeared with a lovely Valentine for each of us.

### Allison News

Mr. and Mrs. Byron Jones returned from New Mexico Saturday evening.

A telephone meeting was held at the Chicago church Monday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Meitl were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Meitl.

Mrs. Lois Scott, Allan and Susan, called on Mrs. Joe Kinser Wednesday afternoon.

### Mickey's Want Ads

Let us show you a Bendix automatic washing machine.

The timid customer squirmed and fidgeted. Finally he beckoned the waitress and, looking embarrassed, he said, "Could you tell me where the smoking room is?"

"Oh," the waitress replied, "you can smoke right here at the table."

Roost paint, Mite-cide, feeders, waterers, chick medicines and other poultry supplies. One stop will do it all.

### Studley Items

Mrs. Dorothy Sullivan and daughter and Mrs. Ramona Ball and daughter, of Jennings, spent Thursday night with the ladies' parents and sisters, Mr. and Mrs. Bob White, Kay, Alice and Elizabeth.

G & G Club met with Esther Brandt last Thursday. The usual good dinner and day of visiting and working together was enjoyed by all present.

Ray Davis, Fred Davis, H. E. Madden and John Ploeger, were in Hill City Wednesday to see the commissioners about a bridge east of Studley.

Mrs. Kenneth Woods and children are staying with Earl and T. F. Stout yet this week as some of the children were not able to go back to Hoxie so they could go to school.

## 50 Years Ago March 11, 1976

### Jail Inspector Makes Visit

Dale Bohannon, state jail inspector,

was in Hoxie on Monday and met with the county commissioners and other officials in regard to the condition of the county jail.

Following inspection of the building, Bohannon made several recommendations for upgrading the facility. Among them were: remove 4 bunks in each cell; put guards around light bulbs; install intercom system; and interior cleaning and painting.

### Ringneck Campers Met at Rexford

The Ringneck Camper Chapter met at Rexford on March 7 with 34 members present. The meeting was called to order by our president, Frank and Dorothy Sawyer, who led us in the Flag Salute.

Florence Emigh read a letter from Mrs. C. G. Baalman telling of the meeting at McAllen, Texas, with 16 members and ten visitors present.

### Mickey's Want Ads

Save 90c Bag-o-Brushes: Includes 2 scrub brushes plus dish, nail, bowl and vegetable brush. Now \$2.55. Reg. price \$3.45.

Found in a fortune cookie at a Chinese restaurant:

"You will meet a beautiful woman, you will give her money, she is our cashier."

Save 25%. Samsonite Saturn II Take-off Sale. Shop today for luggage at these sale prices for that trip tomorrow.

### Studley Items

Ladies Aide met with Mrs. Grace Spencer Tuesday afternoon. Eight members and two visitors, Mrs. Quint and Rev. Jim Graves, were present. Our lesson leader, Mrs. Viola Riedel, was unable to be present. Mrs. Betty Treu had charge of the lesson on Peace. Grace served refreshments.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Engel called on her uncle, Chas. Davis Thursday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Davis of Iowa came to Chas. Davis' Thursday evening for a visit. Chas. and Don are cousins and this was the first time they had met. Chas. and Mr. and Mrs. Don Davis visited Mrs. Ida Schropp at Hoxie on Friday.

### McGraw News

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Vahling, Jeff and Melissa were week ago guests of Mr. and Mrs. Dwane Tice. That afternoon they all visited Mr. and Mrs. Mike Weimer and Jason.

Mrs. Gerald Shipley and Lisa and Mr. and Mrs. Gayle Bainter visited Mr. and Mrs. Roy Bainter Friday afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. Dwane Tice were Saturday morning visitors.

Mr. and Mrs. John Webster, Jay and Ty were Friday supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Wade Smith and family in honor of Eric's birthday anniversary.

## 25 Years Ago March 8, 2001

### Indians Win Sub-State Title

When the final buzzer sounded on Hoxie's 84-72 victory over Quinter in Saturday's night sub-state championship game, it was truly a great moment.

For the players, it was the realization that all the practices, the summer league games and the numerous basketball camps had finally paid big dividends and had yielded the biggest prize of all - a trip to the state basketball tournament.

### Shaw Wins Spelling Bee

On Feb. 21, eighth graders Jesse Miller and Nichole Spresser and seventh grader Jessica Shaw represented Golden Plains Middle School at the Thomas County Spelling Bee in Brewster.

After seven rounds of stiff competition, Golden Plains speller Jessica Shaw was declared the winner. She won on the word "hypochondriac".

### Rexford

Dale and Jane Hudson, of Brewster, visited their grandmother, Lula Thieler, last Saturday afternoon before attending the basketball tournament at the school house.

Angie Albers and Chris Broeckelman of Golden Plains School were selected to be on the All League Academic team this year. Congratulations to the team.

Josh Miller and Matt Juenemann were chosen to be members of the Northwest All Star Basketball team to play on March 18 in Colby. Good luck to you both in this game.

### Broadway

Stan Smith preached at the Bureau Fundamental Church at Colby Sunday morning. Debbie and the boys accompanied him.

Alma Maude Smith visited in the Ormand Breeden home Monday morning.

Don and Oneita McWilliams returned home Sunday from a week long trip to central Kansas, combining business and pleasure.

### Jennings/Allison

The Senior potluck supper will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday. Lori Vahling and Kristi Smith will show tapes of their trip to New York City, when they performed in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Everyone is invited.

The library is getting a facelift, thanks to volunteers Warren Tacha and Pat McKenna. They have spent over 200 hours replastering damaged areas on the walls, painting, and refinishing the shelves.

## US 83 Freight Technology Upgrades Underway

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) has begun phase two of the U.S. 83 Advanced Technology Project, which will install advanced highway technology along U.S. 83 from Rexford to Liberal. This phase will install highway technology in Finney, Scott, Thomas, Haskell, Seward and Logan counties.

Work will take place at 28 sites along this corridor. Key improvements include upgrading four signalized intersections with connected vehicle technology and freight signal priority, including Freight Video Detection Systems. The project will also add nine permanent portable dynamic message signs, 14 CCTV cameras, two permanent dynamic message signs, one road weather information system and two wind speed and visibility detector sites. These upgrades will provide travelers with real-time updates on roadway conditions, traffic delays and closures through KanDrive and message boards while also supporting improved mobility and efficiency for truck traffic.

Phillips Southern Electric Company Inc., of Wichita, is the contractor for this \$2.5 million project. Completion is expected in spring 2027, weather permitting.

For more information, contact Yazmin Moreno, KDOT Southwest Public Information Officer, at (620) 765-7080.

## Senator Rick Billinger Newsletter

3/9/26

In my previous newsletter I mentioned property tax relief for senior citizens and disabled veterans. Under current law to qualify for this property tax adjustment a home must be valued at less than \$350,000 for a person eligible. Last week SB 402 was passed out of the Senate and sent to the House for approval. SB 402 would increase the value to \$375,000 or less to those who qualify for this tax relief.

An update on our budget: Last Tuesday the Senate bill Sub SB 315 was debated and passed on the Senate floor. The vote represents a key step in the process towards adopting a budget for FY 2027. The budget focuses funding on core state responsibilities such as education, public safety, and transportation. With 70% of the budget dedicated to court-mandated spending on K-12 education and human services, the budget wisely holds the line on true discretionary spending and provisions that will help root out waste, paving the way for a positive fiscal future for our state.

After the incidents in Minnesota this year and similar dangerous interactions between left-wing protestors and law enforcement around the country, it became important to review our laws and close loopholes that exist to protect both the public and law enforcement in situations that may develop in the future. The Senate President worked with law enforcement to create SB 452, which would create the crime of unlawful approach of a first responder and would incorporate federal law enforcement officers, their vehicles and enforcement of federal law into certain traffic, criminal and tort laws. This new law passed the Senate and has been passed to the House for approval.

The Senate passed Sub HB 2299 which establishes a bell-to-bell prohibition on the use of cell phones for all public and KSDE accredited non-public schools giving our state's teachers a distraction-free environment where students can focus on learning.

The Senate adopted HCR 5033 which ratifies and provides for the continuation of the state of disaster emergency declaration issued on February 24, 2026, for certain counties. This resolution is a continuation for the wildfires in western Kansas, including all the counties in our 40th Senate District.

I am honored and grateful to represent the 40th Senate District in Kansas. Please do not hesitate to contact me by email: rick.billinger@senate.ks.gov or call me with your questions or concerns. My office number is 785 296-7399 or my cell number is 785 899-4700. If you are in Topeka, stop by my office at 545-S.

## FHSU Announces Opportunities for Next Generation of Entrepreneurs

By FHSU University Communications

**Hays** - High school seniors ready to turn entrepreneurial ambition into action can take the next step this fall at Fort Hays State University (FHSU). Through hands-on programs and real-world experiences, students transform ideas into viable business opportunities while building practical skills that last a lifetime.

Experiential programs such as the Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge, EPI<sup>2</sup>C Weekend Challenge, and Faulkner Business Plan Challenge provide students with opportunities to develop innovative ideas, collaborate with mentors, and pitch their concepts in competitive environments. These immersive experiences foster confidence and create a strong foundation for launching and growing a business.

FHSU is also home to the Dane G. Hansen Entrepreneurship Hall, the only residential community in Kansas designed specifically for students interested in starting their own businesses. Open to students of all majors, Hansen Hall connects driven individuals with mentors, resources, and a collaborative peer network focused on innovation and action.

"Fort Hays State University helps students turn ideas into real businesses by providing access to the tools needed to create and launch ventures," said Henry Schwaller, FHSU senior lecturer in management. "Through Dane G. Hansen Entrepreneurship Hall and our entrepreneurial campus environment, students don't just learn about business - they live it, collaborate across disciplines, and build ventures that make an impact."

Prospective students and families are invited to experience this unique environment at the Hansen Hall Open House on Monday, March 31, from 4 to 6 p.m. Guests will tour the facility, explore the E-Lab, enjoy refreshments, and meet current student entrepreneurs who call Hansen Hall home.

Space in Hansen Hall is limited and fills quickly. Students are encouraged to apply early to secure their spot and immerse themselves in an entrepreneurial experience from day one.

Apply through FHSU Residential Life or email [entrepreneurship@fhsu.edu](mailto:entrepreneurship@fhsu.edu) for additional information.

## KDOC and BLM Extend Wild Horse and Burro Program to Hutchinson Correctional Facility

**Hutchinson** - The Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have reached an agreement to extend the Wild Horse and Burro Program at the Hutchinson Correctional Facility (HCF). This extension ensures the program remains active through May 31, 2026, while both agencies work toward a long-term contract to secure the program's future.

The decision directly prevents the immediate closure of a program that has been in operation for over 25 years. By extending the partnership, both agencies are prioritizing the following:

- **Animal Welfare:** Approximately 300 wild horses and burros will remain at HCF under the care of experienced handlers, avoiding immediate relocation to long-term holding facilities.
- **Workforce Retention:** The extension saves the specialized roles of resident horse handlers, allowing these individuals to continue gaining vocational skills in animal husbandry and training.
- **Program Continuity:** The additional time allows both the BLM and KDOC to negotiate sustainable funding and operational model to keep this rehabilitative program active indefinitely.

Since its inception in 2001, the Wild Horse and Burro program at HCF has been a cornerstone of the BLM's adoption efforts, providing halter and saddle training to wild horses to make them suitable for private ownership. The program also serves a critical role in the rehabilitation of residents, offering emotional growth and professional skills that aid in successful reentry into society.

## Kansas Crop Progress and Condition

**Manhattan** - For the week ending March 8, 2026, there were 5.4 days suitable for fieldwork, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Topsoil moisture supplies rated 10% very short, 28% short, 55% adequate, and 7% surplus.

Subsoil moisture supplies rated 12% very short, 28% short, 56% adequate, and 4% surplus.

Field Crops Report: Winter wheat condition rated 4% very poor, 10% poor, 30% fair, 46% good, and 10% excellent.

## Property Tax Change Challenges

The 2026 Kansas Legislature will struggle the last few weeks of this session to lower property taxes on residential property and find the revenue to fund the change. Surging home values and stagnant commercial assessments have forced homeowners to shoulder a larger share of property taxes. Decades of granting commercial and industrial property tax exemptions have resulted in residential taxpayers paying the lion's share for schools, roads, and emergency services. The velocity of home price increases (especially after the pandemic) has outpaced the higher commercial rate.

In 1985, the Legislature authorized a statewide reappraisal of all real estate properties. Most properties at that time had not been revalued for many years or longer. This created horrible inequities between similar properties in terms of valuations and taxes. In 1990, by a constitutional amendment, Kansans passed a tax rate for residential property at 11.5% of appraised value and the rate for commercial properties at 25%. Once the dust settled from these changes, residential property owners paid 38% of total property taxes while other classifications, primarily commercial, accounted for the remaining 62%. In 2024, residential property owners paid 57% of all property taxes while commercial and other property owners paid 43%.

In 2006, any newly acquired commercial or industrial machinery and equipment was exempted from property tax. The Kansas Legislature has removed additional items from tax rolls, including certain business machinery, boats and personal property, often to attract new business. Commercial properties built with Industrial Revenue Bonds or given economic development exemptions by local boards can avoid property taxes for up to 10 years. These exemptions remove possible revenue streams (primarily for counties and cities) that pay for public services and transfer the tax burden to other property types for a period. If a commercial property has its value reduced as part of a hearing with the county appraiser or the Kansas Board of Tax Appeals, this lower value is maintained for an additional two years. Median home sale prices in Kansas in 2016 were \$159,000. In 2024, the median price was \$305,000. At the same time, commercial loan values have increased by half that rate.


Most of the solutions for narrowing the disparity between residential and commercial property taxes require legislative or constitutional changes. Colorado had the Gallagher Amendment that made it a requirement for residential properties to pay no more than 45% of the total property taxes in the state. It was repealed in Colorado in 2020. Kansas lawmakers have proposed the 'Cap Assessed Value Protection Amendment,' which would limit property tax assessment increases to 3% for most real estate and residential mobile homes in 2027. This measure has a look-back provision that would value 2027 assessments at no more than 3% above their 2022 levels, effectively rolling back significant valuation spikes seen during the COVID-19 pandemic. Because local governments budget for essential services that are relatively fixed, capping valuations will simply force a mathematical spike in the mill levy to cover the funding gap. By looking back to 2022 and its lower values for the 2027 tax year, it won't take long before many properties are extremely undervalued, which will lead to a painful correction for taxpayers as happened in the late 1980's. Today, state statutes require that appraisals remain within 10% of market value. Kansas lowered property taxes (particularly for schools) in the early 1990's by increasing the state sales tax and income taxes. Is Kansas at that juncture now? Strip local governments of their key funding source (property tax) will necessarily underfund police protection, ambulance services, passable roads and clean parks. What services are residents willing to forego in favor of lower taxes?

## Glyphosate Saga

Now that President Trump has signed an executive order to protect and promote glyphosate herbicides for national security purposes, Bayer-Monsanto has been given a license to poison people. Bayer is now attempting to put the thousands of glyphosate disease lawsuits into one class action in Missouri at a cost of \$7.1 billion. Bayer is the only company in the United States producing glyphosate, but the U.S. also imports large volumes of generic glyphosate copies from China.

For many years, U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. publicly attacked glyphosate and built a national profile suing its maker. On the campaign trail, both Kennedy and Trump pledged to confront pesticides like glyphosate and clean up the food supply, along with the Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) movement. Glyphosate is now under a mandatory review at HHS. Will a healthy food supply win out over Bayer's campaign contributions?

House Bill 2476 - which sailed out of the Kansas House with little meaningful debate - will be heard before the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources committee on Tuesday, March 10 at 8:30 am in RM 144-S. This bill was drafted by Bayer to provide the company with greater liability protection at the local level. It has been introduced in 15 states and has passed in three so far. It strips protections for local governments and injured citizens by codifying into law that the EPA is the sole regulator of pesticide labeling. For opponents, this bill would not allow legal claims in Kansas state courts to be brought against pesticide companies for product liability.

  
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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

(First published in The Sheridan Sentinel February 26, 2026)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF LOGAN COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of ALFREDA STEPHENS, Deceased Case No. LG-2026-PR-

**NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on February 17, 2026, a petition was filed in this Court by Michael Stephens, an heir, devisee and legatee, and executor named in the "Last Will and Testament of Alfreda Stephens," deceased, dated August 18, 2015, praying the will filed with the petition be admitted to probate and record; petitioner be appointed as executor, without bond; petitioner be granted Letters Testamentary.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before March 25, 2026, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. in the District Court, Oakley, Logan County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the said estate within the latter of four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice under K.S.A. 59-2236 and amendments thereto, or if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, 30 days after actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

*Michael Stephens*  
Petitioner: Michael Stephens

DREILING, BIEKER HOFFMAN LLP  
111 W. 13th Street  
P. O. Box 579  
Hays, Kansas 67601  
Attorneys for Petitioner

(Last published in The Sheridan Sentinel March 12, 2026)

**SNAP**

Continued from page 2

combination with chocolate, fruits, nuts, or other ingredients or flavorings in the form of bars, drops, or pieces. Candy does not include any preparation containing flour and shall require no refrigeration.

Soft drink beverages are defined as nonalcoholic beverages that contain natural or artificial sweeteners. Soft drinks do not include beverages that contain milk or milk products, soy, rice, or similar milk substitutes or beverages that are greater than 50% vegetable or fruit juice by volume.

During the approval process USDA recommended an implementation date of February 15, 2027. USDA provided this recommendation based on feedback from retailers in other states that have similar approved waivers and avoids concerns with implementing restrictions over and through the 2026 holiday season.

The Kansas SNAP Food Restriction Waiver is made up of four plans that focus on communicating information to SNAP Food Assistance recipients and authorized retailers, as well as detailed evaluation, monitoring, and compliance plans.

DCF released a request for proposals (RFP) which closed on February 17, 2026. This RFP is to bring on a contracting partner to help DCF manage the implementation plans and process. The proposals received are under review and a contract is expected to be in place by April 2026.

**Plug-In Solar Panels**

Solar panels that hang from the balconies across Europe may soon be coming to New England to lower energy costs and ease grid demand. More than two dozen states are considering this legislation, which has already passed in Utah. There are estimates that a 1,200-watt plug-in solar unit could reduce the average Central Maine Power customer's annual electricity bill by 21%. These plug-in small units (200 to 1,200 watts) are prohibited in most of the U.S. (like Kansas) because they conflict with electrical codes and utility rules that assume electricity flows in one direction. Plug-in solar reverses that flow, allowing panels equipped with small inverters to plug into a standard outlet and feed power back into a household's electrical system. Plug-in solar is typically allowed only if customers secure special agreements with their utility. Utilities have a clear monopoly on providing power, so they want that maintained along with the profits taken from captive ratepayers. Clearer rules and standards are essential to get around this monopoly and allow distributed power to further ease system-wide grid demand.

**Kansas Corn Frustrated with E15 Inaction**

Kansas Corn Growers Association leaders said they were pleased with yesterday's passage of the "skinny" Farm Bill in the House Agriculture Committee. Kansas Representatives Tracey Mann (R), and Sharice Davids (D) both voted in favor of the Farm Bill. However, KCGA remains extremely frustrated with the lack of movement for passage of year-round access for E15 fuel. A Democrat-backed E15 amendment to the Farm Bill in the committee was shot down in a partisan vote, with Rep. Davids voting in favor. Republican committee members voted against the amendment on a procedural basis.

"We are well aware that E15 lies outside of the jurisdiction of the House Ag Committee, but desperate economic times in farm country call for unorthodox measures, and we're disappointed with progress on E15," KCGA CEO Josh Roe said. "If Congress was concerned about playing by the rules, then we would have a report out of the E15 task force by now. The task force has missed the imposed deadline for an agreement, and we're past the promised deadline of the end of February for a House vote."

KCGA President Matt Splitter, Lyons, said passage of year-round E15 is critical for farmers who are experiencing extreme hardship.

"I'm disappointed that actions have come short of the words and talking points promising a tireless effort to see E15 through to the finish line. We appreciate the representatives who have worked to push E15 forward, and we wish all our congressional leaders shared the same sentiment in calling for aggressive measures to make sure Kansas corn farmers have needed markets available during these undeserved low economic times," Splitter said. "Kansas corn farmers are searching for champions to help bring stability back to a deflated ag economy. We are willing to have a dialogue with representatives who will commit to helping Kansas farmers gain access to a market that has proven itself viable and ready to meet the demand today."

In a surprise move in January, an E15 proposal backed by corn, ethanol, and petroleum groups was removed from the House spending bill and a Rural Domestic Energy Council was formed to bring forward a compromise measure for year-round E15. The Council failed to meet Speaker Johnson's deadline for a proposal from the council for a House vote which was to take place by the end of February.

"House leadership is quick to point out that progress is being made," Roe said. "But it appears that the same few foreign-owned refiners are blocking progress when agriculture and the U.S. consumer need it the most. We will continue to hold our leaders accountable to American farmers and consumers until E15 is across the finish line."

The continued lack of year-round market access for E15 has slowed widespread adoption of the popular higher octane, lower cost fuel that has been hindered by an obsolete rule since it was approved for use in 2011. Year-round E15 has the potential to create market demand for well over two billion bushels of corn, creating desperately needed markets for farmers in a depressed farm economy, as well as lower fuel prices for consumers at a time when fuel prices are rapidly increasing.

Established in 1975, the Kansas Corn Growers Association represents its members in legislative and regulatory issues and promoting Kansas corn and its products. Visit [kscorn.com](http://kscorn.com) for more information.

**Commission Minutes**  
3/3/26

Now on this 3rd day of March 2026, the Board of Commissioners, Sheridan County, Kansas, met in regular session with Chairman David Stithem presiding. Other members present were Kyle Emigh, Mike "Buck" Mader, Steve Hirsch, County Attorney, and County Clerk, Heather Bracht.

At 8:00 a.m. Stithem called the meeting to order.

Those in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Steve Hirsch discussed an unpaid landfill bill. After discussion, the citizen will be banned from dumping at the landfill until the bill is paid and then all fees have to be paid the day the landfill is used.

Joe Herskowitz, Road & Bridge Supervisor, came to the table. Two gravel pit leases were reviewed and approved by the Board for Ron Schamberger and Dan Haffner.

O'Neill Smith, Noxious Weed Director, is testing today and then again toward the end of the month. Smith has completed treating three properties for prairie dogs, will follow-up on

two other areas and then concentrate on Wessel ground. He will come in and talk with the Board about the baiters.

The bridge in the southeast part of the county is still moving along. The feedlot road has been taken care of, and gravel will be put down where they cleaned out the culvert.

There was a brief discussion about equipment and a new tarp system for one of the trailers.

On a motion by Stithem and second from Mader, the February 24, 2026 Minutes were approved as presented and the February 27, 2026 Payroll was approved as presented. Carried 3-0

The following payroll was reviewed and approved by the Board:

- General \$94,754.23
- Road & Bridge \$43,377.23
- Nox Weed \$1,803.10
- Public Transp. \$1,087.00
- Landfill \$2,121.11

At 9:22 a.m. with no further business, Stithem made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Emigh. Carried 3-0. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Room.

Attest: Heather Bracht, County Clerk, David Stithem, Chairman

**Rep. Mann Advances Farm Bill Out of Committee**

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Representative Tracey Mann (KS-01) voted to advance the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 out of the House Agriculture Committee. This legislation, which passed in the committee by a vote of 34-17, authorizes farm programs for the next five years. Rep. Mann released the following statement after the vote.

"The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 is about supporting American agriculture and the rural communities that power it," said Rep. Mann. "After strengthening the farm safety net last year in the Working Families Tax Cuts, this legislation builds on our progress by investing in rural development, expanding market access, lowering energy costs, and ensuring producers have the tools they need to stay competitive. I am especially proud that this bill permanently moves the Kansas-born Food for Peace program to USDA, prioritizing American-grown commodities and restoring the program to its original mission. Kansas farmers and ranchers feed, fuel, and clothe the world, and this Farm Bill brings much-needed certainty to the producers who keep America's food supply strong."

The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026:

- Builds on the historic agricultural investments included in the Working Families Tax Cuts
- Completes overdue reauthorization of key farm bill programs across conservation, rural development, research, trade, energy, and specialty crops
- Permanently moves Food for Peace to USDA, prioritizing American-grown commodities and cutting unnecessary bureaucracy
- Expands market access for U.S. agriculture by strengthening export promotion programs and reducing trade barriers
- Improves access to credit for farmers and ranchers while supporting young and beginning producers
- Invests in rural communities through stronger broadband, rural health care access, water infrastructure, and workforce development
- Promotes precision agriculture, research, and innovation to keep American producers competitive
- Supports voluntary, locally led conservation programs that protect working lands without adding unnecessary regulations

During his opening remarks, Rep. Mann emphasized the need for the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, which delivers the certainty farmers and ranchers depend on, strengthens national security, and invests in rural America.

The bill now awaits consideration from the full U.S. House of Representatives.

**USDA Announces MAHA Agenda Advancement**

Washington, D.C. - Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins, joined by U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., and National Nutrition Advisor at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Dr. Ben Carson announced the USDA's commencement of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans Strategic Partnerships, an effort which encourages the private sector to participate in educating the American people about the importance of the Guidelines and how they serve as the foundation to better eating. Additionally, today's event featured an update on the impending Stocking Standards final rule, a rule that holds any retailer interested in accepting Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits accountable to a higher minimum standard of staple food stocking requirements. And lastly, Secretary Rollins was proud to sign four new SNAP restriction waivers for Kansas, Nevada, Ohio, and Wyoming.

"The Make America Healthy Again movement has brought together the private sector, including retailers, the medical community, farmers, rancher, producers, and the media to play a key role in encouraging healthier families and healthier communities," said Secretary Rollins. "Today's announcement not only invites the private sector to educate on the importance of the DGAs, but also adds four new States to SNAP restriction waivers, and highlights the impending rule that will increase the number of real food options retailers must carry. Real food is the foundation of healthier families and healthier communities."

"If retailers take taxpayer dollars, they must put real food on their shelves," said Secretary Kennedy. "SNAP exists to nourish vulnerable Americans—not bankroll the products driving our chronic disease crisis. Today, we are putting nutrition back at the center of SNAP and giving millions of families greater access to real food."

"As National Nutrition Advisor to the Department of Agriculture, I commend Secretary Rollins' work to Make America Healthy Again," said Dr. Carson. "For over 12 years, minimum stocking standards in retailers have been debated. This impending rule is practical, doable, and will provide families with new, more healthful choices no matter where they shop. Complementing this are four new restriction waivers, making certain highly processed junk food is not eligible for purchase with taxpayer-funded SNAP benefits."

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## Wetlands

Continued from page 2  
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