



The Sheridan Sentinel

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Hoxie Girls take Regionals



Pictured (l-r) are coaches Dayton Bell, Tyler Baker, Ryan Etherton, and the girls' wrestling team after a successful second day at the Regional wrestling tournament. (HHS Wrestling photo)

By Kendall Baalman

On Friday, February 13, and Saturday, the 14, the Hoxie Lady Indians took on Regional Wrestling at Trego. Hoxie took six girls to compete, and three of them successfully punched their tickets to State. The six girls who competed included sophomore Lillie Denio (105), senior Gabbi Meyer (110), junior Josie Bell (120), freshman Keiley Kincaid (155), senior Sarah Dardis (170), and sophomore Molly Rahier (235). Earning their place at State were Josie Bell, placed 2nd, Keiley Kincaid, placed 7th, and Molly Rahier, placed 4th. "Each year, we gain a girl going to State. Last year, it was Mariah and me," said Bell. "All the girls come to practice ready to work and get better. We have all worked hard for this opportunity, and now it is time to show up and show out at State this year."

Throughout the season, the Lady Indians have built a strong bond and are pushing one another to succeed. Keiley Kincaid joined the team halfway through the season and has earned an 8-10 record in her short freshman year. Lillie Denio and sophomore Wyntr Kroeker (115) went 6-30 and 2-14 on their seasons, respectively. Molly Rahier improved to 15-11 at the Regional Tournament and hopes to continue adding wins in her first appearance at the State Tournament. Junior Estefania Castaneda (235) had a short season due to competitive wrestle-offs within the HHS team but still posted a 3-14 record. Josie Bell is looking to continue building on her 42-3 record at the KSHSAA State Tournament. Gabbi Meyer and Sarah Dardis concluded their high school wrestling careers with records of 8-20 and 12-23, respectively.

"Our girls wrestle a really tough regular season schedule. We compete not only against 3-2-1A schools, but all classes. All of the girls competed well throughout the season. We get a lot of good quality matches in and continue to improve each week. At the Regional Tournament, we qualified three girls for the State Tournament, which is the most we have ever qualified. All the girls wrestled well here, and we were close to having a few more qualify. Overall, I have been pleased with how the girls have competed each week and continued to show improvement," said Coach Tyler Baker.

The HHS Lady Indians have a week off to prepare for a competitive State Tournament, hosted at Fort Hays State University, on February 27-28.

Sheridan State Lake Friends Group Shares Project Update, Seeks Greater Community Involvement

Hoxie - The Sheridan State Lake Friends Group, Inc. held a public informational meeting Tuesday evening, Jan. 20, at the Community Impact Center to provide an update on the ongoing Sheridan State Lake renovation project and to gather public input.

Chairman of the board Brandon Carver called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. and welcomed the 27 individuals in attendance, thanking them for their continued interest and concern for the lake. Board members present included Vice President Adam Babcock, Secretary-Treasurer Janelle Cooper, and board member Clint Bland.

Carver explained that the Friends Group was formed as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to work alongside the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks (KDWP) and to advocate for the lake project as it progressed. The board became aware of the project plans early on and stepped into an advocacy role as challenges and delays emerged.

During the initial phase of the project, significant issues were discovered involving the lake's toe drain and sediment buildup. The drain was found buried beneath more than eight feet of silt, complicating drainage efforts. Since that time, the project has expanded in scope and duration, with funding now a growing concern.

The current phase of work involves construction of a "pilot channel" intended to manage standing water, natural springs, and sediment flow. The project was awarded to Sporer Land Development, which has already begun excavation. Crews have cut several channels, or "fingers," into the lakebed to help drain water, and a larger pilot channel is being excavated along the west side of the lake. According to the board, these efforts appear to be working as intended.

Carver noted that although the Friends Group has sought ongoing information from KDWP, project details were not readily available, prompting the group to submit an open records request. Several months later, the requested documentation was received. Original project plans include shoreline reinforcement, fishing piers, fish habitat improvements, restocking the lake, expanded camping areas, upgraded picnic shelters, and fire rings. A west-side pump has been repaired, restoring non-potable water access to the area.

Future needs include large-scale cleanup efforts, removal of dead trees and debris, campground improvements, lighting, and ongoing maintenance. A \$75,000 grant application remains pending. The lake encompasses approximately 53 acres, and project cost estimates discussed at the meeting exceeded approximately \$1.2 million.

The Friends Group and community members has contacted several state and federal officials for support, including Tracy Mann, Rick Billinger, and Jim Minnix.

Public discussion during the meeting covered a wide range of topics, including sediment removal, vegetation and weed control, invasive species, signage, trash service, lake boundaries, and fish stocking. Babcock stated that original plans called for restocking five species of fish: bass, bluegill, crappie, saugeye, and channel catfish. Questions were also raised about long-term maintenance, firewood policies, and bait availability, with a local bait supplier noting increasing difficulty in keeping bait stocked and fresh.

Attendees expressed concern that due to saturation of the lakebed, full silt removal in the main basin may not occur in 2026. Current projections place overall project completion in the spring of 2027. This information has not been confirmed by KDWP. Some residents also asked whether the lake could be transferred to county ownership, though Carver said the State has declined that option. Board members confirmed that local foundations and economic development groups are aware of the project, giving the local organization, a chance at obtaining additional grant funds.

Carver also addressed feedback regarding meeting accessibility. He stated that future meeting dates and times will be publicly posted on Facebook to improve communication and attendance. He added that future meetings will be scheduled later in the evening to better accommodate residents who are unable to leave work early. Several individuals indicated they wanted to attend the January meeting but were unable to do so because of work commitments.

Carver emphasized that the Friends Group's focus is on transparency, community involvement, and constructive collaboration. He said the organization remains committed to strengthening its working relationship with KDWP and ensuring the public remains informed as the project moves forward.

"This lake means a great deal to our community," Carver said. "Our goal is to keep people informed, involved, and engaged while working toward the long-term success of this project."

Community members are encouraged to follow the Sheridan State Lake Friends Group on Facebook for meeting announcements, project updates, and opportunities to get involved.

The meeting concluded shortly after 6:30 p.



HHS Sweetheart Crowning



By Helaina Heskett
Excitement filled the gym during the boys' basketball game against Trego as the Sweetheart King and Queen were crowned at halftime. Senior Brodie Tremblay was crowned King, and Madison Meier was crowned Queen. The other Sweetheart candidates included Caden Beckman, Joseph Dorenkamp, Kyra Reuber, and Avery Mauck. (HHS Yearbook Staff photo)

GPHS Sweethearts!



Golden Plains High School crowned their Sweetheart King and Queen at the half time of the varsity boys basketball game against Hill City in Rexford on February 10. Candidates and Attendants included Wendy Garcia, Conner Kier, Queen Kailee Wessel, King Diego Perez, Amia Durham, Ezekiel Weiner, Rayna Hynek, and Jose Montes. (Photo by Judy Rogers)

GPMS Compete in Spelling Bee

Golden Plains Middle School held their school Spelling Bee in Rexford on February 9. The top three will compete at the Thomas County Spelling Bee on February 26, with the alternate ready in case one of the three cannot compete. Winners included: First Place-Allen Mendoza, Second Place-Kaleb Schrader-Brown, Third



Place-Brookelynn Vahling, Alternate-Isabel Bieker. (Photo by Judy Rogers)

Words of Wisdom	Grain Report	Weather Report	Thought of the Week																																
 <p>Courage isn't having the strength to go on - it's going on when you don't have strength. ~Napoleon Bonaparte</p>	<p>Reported on: Tuesday, February 17</p> <p>Corn 3.76</p> <p>Milo 3.26</p> <p>Beans 10.14</p> <p>Wheat 4.56</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>High</th> <th>Low</th> <th>Moisture</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2/8</td> <td>69</td> <td>35</td> <td>--</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2/9</td> <td>74</td> <td>34</td> <td>--</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2/10</td> <td>48</td> <td>28</td> <td>--</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2/11</td> <td>51</td> <td>24</td> <td>--</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2/12</td> <td>61</td> <td>31</td> <td>--</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2/13</td> <td>60</td> <td>35</td> <td>.09"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2/14</td> <td>56</td> <td>38</td> <td>.7"</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	High	Low	Moisture	2/8	69	35	--	2/9	74	34	--	2/10	48	28	--	2/11	51	24	--	2/12	61	31	--	2/13	60	35	.09"	2/14	56	38	.7"	<p>Nothing is so strong as gentleness, Nothing so gentle as real strength. ~Francis De Sales</p> 
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Hello again, my friends. I hope all is well with my readers. I, myself, am doing well.

This weather has been all kinds of odd the last few weeks. The poor geese don't know which way to go. I've seen them flying north and south, and I am finding them in odd places too. Farm ponds, creeks, and of course city sewer ponds. There's sure no set pattern to them. Last Tuesday we had them flying right over the trucks in easy range. But we chose to get away from the trucks and find good hiding places, and did they ever show up! I won't go into details but let's say the shooting was less than fabulous! I finally shot four, then ran out of shells in my pocket. So, I walked to the truck and watched two friends get after them. My friend from Norton finally shot his first snow goose! The other friend shot up way too many shells, then gave it up. He did admit he needs a lot more practice at this game!

Praise the Lord!! There's a lot of dirt being moved at Sheridan Lake! I am excited to see the finished project. But I am also not really expecting them to be done by the summer of 2027. I also hope that they do not put any grass carp in the lake. It seems every lake they put those into the bass and sunfish populations just tank! There's no cover for them and the carp also muddy the water to no end. I remember when Antelope Lake was restored. It had the best bass and sun fishing in the state. After they introduced grass carp, the cover and then the fishing went to crap. Several of us bow fishermen tried to fix it but the damage was done. All because a few people cried about getting moss on their hooks. Hopefully a restored Sheridan Lake doesn't meet the same fate. Oh yes, a fish cleaning station would be nice too!

I could go on forever about the happenings in Minnesota right now. But you don't have to be the head cashier at Wallyworld to figure out why they're fighting ICE so hard. ICE is exposing the fraud that is rampant up there, and good old Tim Walz and Omar are right in the middle of it! You know something is not legit when the idiots can't even spell learning right! And the fact that there were zero kids in any of those daycare centers! Plus, you don't go confront ICE agents armed and expect nothing to happen. The same as that nut job lady that tried to run over an ICE officer. She got exactly what she deserved. Nothing less. I tell you folks, the left-wing loonies are getting crazier by the day! All I can say to my readers is be prepared! I know I am.

Anyway, that's all I have. As always stay safe and enjoy the outside.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

February 13: Olga Vargas, Robert Ritter, Carol Lobato, Ethan Stanton

February 14: Marge Miller, Alan Spresser, Shirley Niermeier, Dan & Miriam Shaw, Steve & Leah Sewell

February 15: Myrna Aumiller LeCount

February 20: Heather Hunziker, Bella Sauvage, Lindsey Shaw, Jill Reichert

February 21: Lynn Cheney, Jan Heck, Kari Schaben Rush, Barb Ritter

February 22: Tony Korte, Thersia Weber, Ian Koerperich, Shane Ryburn, Brenna Wessel

February 24: Ryan Brantley

February 25: Stephanie Anderson

There will be a Valentine's Dance February 21, at the Leoville Parish Center. The evening begins with wine tasting by Wahlmeier Farms Vineyard at 5pm. Supper starts at 6pm with a main course is roast beef. The beef is provided by Foote Cattle company. Reservation information, kids 5 and under are free, kids 6 to 12 are \$10. Single ticket is \$25. Couples tickets are \$40 and a table reservation for 8 is \$150. Get your ticket reservations from Denise at 678-8437, Peggy at 470-7896 Shelly at 678-3050 or Stephanie at 470-7818. CS Entertainment will be present as the DJ and Wahlmeier Farms will be selling wine and slushies.

The Selden Senior Citizens met on February 12, at the Community Center for a delicious meal prepared by Gloria Goscha of Midway Cafe followed by an afternoon of pinochle. Those attending included Margee Wilson, Helen Carman. Carlene Bruggeman, Ellis Walker, Sandra Dahl, Joan Austin, Steve Skubal, Bob Wessel, Betty Hickert, and John Milner. Those staying to play cards included Boyd Wilson with a score of 658, JR Albers with a score of 541, Shirley Emigh with a score of 614, Pat Wessel with a score of 534, and Jacque Boultinghouse with a score of 600.

Weather Spotters meeting will be in Selden at the Community Center on February 24. Meeting starts at 6:30pm. Don't be late.

Local Students Complete Fall Degrees at Wichita State University

Wichita - Meghan Broxterman and Jacelyn Jarrett are among the more than 1,160 students completed a total of 1,087 degrees and certificates at Wichita State University in fall 2025.

Undergraduate students who have attained a grade point average of 3.9 out of a possible 4.0 received the summa cum laude award; those with an average of 3.55 received the magna cum laude award; and those with an average of 3.25 received the cum laude.

Meagan Broxterman, Bachelor of Arts in Education, ECU/Elementary Educ Apprentice, Cum Laude
Jacelyn Jarrett, Bachelor of Arts in Education, ECU/Elementary Educ Apprentice, Magna Cum Laude



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That Ain't Luck

People ask me all the time—and they don't ask it gently. They ask it with sarcasm.

With frustration.
With hurt still stuck in their throat.
“Why do you believe in God... especially with the world like it is today?”
They point to wars on the news.
Kids growing up too fast.
Marriages falling apart.
Anxiety dressed up like strength.
A culture that's loud, angry, and exhausted.
And they wait for me to stumble over my words.
They expect theology.
They expect debate.
They expect a polished answer that sounds good but feels empty.

But my answer's simple.
Have you ever been hungry—like really hungry—and you didn't know where the next meal was coming from... but somehow, you still ate?
Ever been broke, numbers not adding up, calculator telling you “no,” bank account telling you “you're done”... and yet the lights stayed on and the bills still got paid?
Ever been broken—body tired, soul tired, mind tired—laid up in a hospital bed, staring at ceiling tiles, wondering if this was the moment everything finally caved in... and you're still breathing today?
That ain't luck.

Luck doesn't show up that consistently.
Luck doesn't carry you through seasons you shouldn't survive.

Luck doesn't sit beside your bed at 2 a.m. when your thoughts get loud and your hope feels thin.

That's God.
That's Him making a way when you didn't even have the strength to ask for one.

That's Him protecting you when you didn't know you needed protecting.
That's Him holding you together when you were one bad day away from falling apart.

Just like He's done for me.
See, faith isn't built in comfort.
Faith isn't born in ease.
Faith doesn't grow in the shallow end.
Faith is forged in the storms.

In the struggle.
In the nights you cry where nobody can hear you.
In the moments when everything in your life screams, “You won't make it out of this.”

And then... somehow... you do.
The walk of faith isn't soft.
It'll beat you down.
It'll knock you flat.
It'll strip away the illusion that you're in control.
It'll bring you to your knees—not once,

not twice—but over and over again—and it'll dare you to stay there.

It'll whisper, “God forgot you.”
“Your prayers don't matter.”
“If He loved you, it wouldn't hurt like this.”

But right there—on your knees—that's where the truth gets loud.
Because that's where you realize your faith was never about avoiding pain.

It was about who you trust when pain shows up.
That's where the choice lives.
You can stay down—define your life by what broke you.
Or you can armor up.

You can stand up with tears still in your eyes, pain still in your chest, fear still knocking—and walk forward anyway.

Not because you're strong.
Not because you've got it figured out.
But because you remember.

You remember every time God made a way.
Every time He pulled you through.
Every time He carried you when you couldn't carry yourself.

And you know this:
If God got you through it before, He'll get you through it again.
Maybe not how you wanted. i
Maybe not on your timeline.
But always with purpose.

So no—I don't believe because the world is good.
I believe because God is faithful in a world that's falling apart.

I believe because I'm still standing when I shouldn't be.
And that... that ain't luck.

Amen.

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Immanuel Lutheran Church 1400 Locust St, Hoxie
Living Word Fellowship 454 Hwy 24, Hoxie
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Selden United Methodist Church Selden
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2025 ~ 2026

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Arnberger Wins Free-Throw Contest at WKLL Tournament



Golden Plains Freshman Ruxin Arnberger won the free throw contest at the Western Kansas Liberty League Tournament in Goodland on February 7. Arnberger shot 19 of 25 on Tuesday to qualify for the finals. He tied with 20/25 in the finals on Saturday, then made all five of his shots in the shoot off to win. "It was pretty fun," said Arnberger. There were a lot of people in the stands, and I felt the support of the crowd." (Photo by Brett Arnberger)

Lady Bulldogs Place Third at League



The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs placed third in the WKLL Basketball tournament in Goodland on February 7. Team members included (front) Alicia Vargas, Adilyn Meier, Anais Cepeda, Brenlynn Rath, Elizabeth Weiner, MaKenlea Focke-mgr.; (back) Coach Kelli Smith, Molly Ritter, Searee Bruggeman, Jade Dible, Kailee Wessel, Coach Parker Christensen. (Photo by Judy Rogers)

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs placed third at the WKLL tournament held at Wheatland and Goodland on February 3-7. They defeated Northern Valley in the quarter finals but lost to Cheylin in the semi-finals. They defeated Western Plains on Saturday to claim third place. This is the third year in a row that the Lady Bulldogs have finished third at the league tournament.

They girls opened the tournament against the Northern Valley Lady Huskies in Grinnell on February 3. They put in 6 points in the first quarter while the Huskies scored 5. The Dogs added another 6 in the second holding the Huskies to 3 to lead 12-8 at the half.

The Dogs persisted to add 7 in the third finishing with 11 in the fourth. The Huskies added 6 in the third and 12 in the fourth to end the game with a 30-26 Bulldog win.

Brenlynn Rath led the Bulldog offense with 12 points while Anais Cepeda added 9—all from threes. Adilyn Meier made 3, Elizabeth Weiner 2, Kailee Wessel 2, and Madson Focke 2. Rath also had 12 rebounds, Wessel 5, Cepeda 5, Weiner 4, Meier 2, and Jade Dible 2. Meier had 3 assists, Rath 2, and Cepeda 2. Their strong defense captured 16 steals including Rath 5, Weiner 2, Meier 3, Cepeda 3, and Wessel 2.

The girls advanced to take on Cheylin for the semi-final game on Friday in Grainfield. The Dogs led for most of the game but fell to the Cougars 32-38. They led 10-6 at the end of the first quarter. The Cougars worked their way back in the second to take a one-point lead with 3 minutes until the half. Adilyn Meier hit a 3 to reclaim the lead. A final shot at the buzzer from Elizabeth Weiner gave the Bulldogs a 22-18 halftime lead.

The Cougars fought hard in the third as they opened the quarter by tying up the game and taking the lead. Weiner tied the game up again. Additional shots from Rath and Anais Cepeda kept the Dogs on top 29-28 to head into the final quarter.

The Cougars hit two free throws to take the lead in the fourth. They pushed ahead as the Dogs missed 5 of 6 free throws. Weiner made the only basket of the quarter with Rath hitting a late quarter free shot. It wasn't enough as the Cougars put in 10 to win the game 38-32.

Rath once again led the Bulldogs with 12 points. Weiner added 7, Cepeda 6, Meier 5, and Wessel 2. Weiner and Rath each had 7 rebounds, Meier 6, Cepeda 5, Wessel 2, and Jade Dible 2. Assists were dished out by Rath 3, Meier 2, Weiner 1, and Cepeda 1. Rath had 6 steals, Cepeda 2, Meier 1, and Wessel 1.

The Dogs faced Western Plains for the fourth time this season. They had defeated the Bobcats by 2 at Sagebrush early in the season but lost the next two contests. They were determined to not let that happen again in this tournament.

The Dogs took a 9-3 lead in the first quarter and never looked back. Both teams added 9 in the second, but the Dogs maintained their lead 18-12 at the half.

They came out in the third with determination and strong defense to hold the Bobcats to 5 and pushed 14 through the hoop for a 32-17 lead. The fourth quarter was still all Dogs as they finished with 8 holding the Bobcats to 2. With a 40-19 win, the Bulldogs placed third in the league.

Brenlynn Rath and Kailee Wessel each scored 14 for the Bulldogs. Elizabeth Weiner added 8, Meier 2, and Dible 2. Wessel had 15 rebounds, Weiner 7, Rath 6, Cepeda 4, Meier 2, and Dible 2. Meier and Wessel each had 3 assists with Cepeda 2, Weiner 1, and Rath 1. Rath had 3 steals, Meier 2, Cepeda 2, Weiner 1, and Wessel 1.

"We worked together pretty well," said Anais Cepeda—the only senior on the Bulldogs team. "Our defense was better than it has been. We have five games left of the season. We are hoping to keep everyone healthy and get a few more wins to put us in a good position for sub-state."

The girls return to their home court for four of their next five games as they host Hill City in Rexford on February 10.

Wark and Weiner Named to WKLL Academic Team



Golden Plains seniors Dylan Wark and Ezekiel Weiner were named to the Western Kansas Liberty League All-League Academic Team at the league basketball tournament in Goodland on February 7. Senior students must have a minimum 3.7 GPA and have participated in a minimum of 6 athletic and 6 non-athletic activities during their first 7 semesters of high school. Fifteen students throughout the league received this recognition at the tournament. (Photo by Dez Wark)

Bulldogs Win One at League

By Judy Rogers

The Golden Plains Bulldog basketball team won their final game of the Western Kansas Liberty League Tournament in Goodland on February 7. They lost to Cheylin in the first round on Tuesday and to Northern Valley in the semi-finals on Friday. They finished with the win over Triplains/Brewster on Saturday.

The Bulldogs opened the tournament with the Cheylin Cougars in Grainfield. They led the Cougars 9-7 at the end of the first quarter. They added another 12 in the second as the Cougars put in 13 to give the Dogs a one point lead at the half 21-20.

The Dogs went on a drought in the third quarter only making a single 3 point shot from Cristian Garcia. The Cougars pulled ahead with 11. The boys kept up the intensity and never let up as both teams scored 20 in the fourth. The 3rd quarter cost the Dogs as the Cougars kept their lead to win the game 51-44.

"We could have done better," said senior Diego Perez. "We had too many errors that led to our loss when we need to keep up our intensity." Dylan Wark and Perez each had 12 points against the Cougars. Javier Romero added 6, Garcia 5, Adam Ritter 4, Ruxin Arnberger 3, and Kasch Buehler 2.

Perez pulled down 6 rebounds, Wark 5, Garcia 4, Ritter 3, Romero 3, and Arnberger 1. Perez also led the Dogs with 5 assists, Wark 3, Arnberger 1, Garcia 1, Romero 1, and Arnberger 1. Steals were snatched by Perez 2, Wark 1, and Romero 1.

The Dogs advanced on the consolation side of the bracket to play Northern Valley in Grinnell on Friday. This was the first time these two teams had met this season. They kept the game close throughout the first tying the game up at 11. A final 3-point shot from the Huskies gave them the lead 14-11 at the end of the quarter. The Dogs were only able to put in 5 in the second while the Huskies added 10 for a 24-16 half time lead.

The Huskies continued to outscore the Dogs in the third 14-9 extending their lead. The boys stayed strong with the Dogs finishing with 12 in the fourth and the Huskies 14 for the 51-47 win. Perez led the Dogs with 13 along with 12 from Wark. Garcia added 4, Arnberger 3, Kelby Buehler 2, Ritter 2, and Kasch Buehler 1.

Kasch Buehler and Garcia each had 5 rebounds along with Wark 4, Kelby Buehler 3, Perez 2, and Romero 2. Assists were given out by Wark 3, Garcia 2, Perez 2, Kasch Buehler 1, and Kelby Buehler 1. Perez had 5 steals, Wark 2, Garcia 2, Kasch Buehler 1, and Ritter 1. Kelby Buehler also had 2 blocks along with 1 each by Garcia and Romero.

The final game of the tournament for the Bulldogs was against the Triplains/Brewster Titans in Goodland. The Dogs had defeated the Titans the week before and were ready to do so again. The Dogs opened with an 8-0 run before the Titans could get on the boards. Seniors Dylan Wark and Diego Perez hit the boards hard to give the Dogs the lead 17-8 by the end of the first.

The Dogs continued to hustle and move the ball around the floor in the second as they added another 15 holding the Titans to 2 for a 32-10 lead at the half. The Dogs pushed in another 14 in the third—with 12 coming from Perez—as the Titans added

Golden Plains senior Diego Perez puts in a layup against Triplains/Brewster in the final game of the WKLL Basketball tournament in Goodland on February 7. (Photo by Judy Rogers)



7. The Bulldogs finished with 7 in the fourth as the Titans came on to put in 16. The earlier lead gave the Bulldogs the win 53-33.

Perez led the Dogs with a career-high 30 points. Wark added 11, Arnberger 6, Ritter 2, Parker Vahling 2, and Kelby Buehler 2. Wark had 8 rebounds for the Bulldogs. Perez had 6, Kelby Buehler 4, Romero 3, Garcia 3, Kasch Buehler 3, Arnberger 1, and Ritter 1. Garcia had 3 assists along with Romero, Wark and Perez with 2 each. Perez grabbed 3 steals, Wark 4,

Continued on page 9

The Hoxie Democrat February 20, 1891

O. F. Ellithorpe is very ill and confined to his bed.

Frank Hutchings was taking in the sights Saturday.

W. F. Cardell received a car of coal Monday and the famine is raised.

Traveling men with large trunks are to be seen daily on our streets.

Several of our citizens have gone glimmering no one knoweth where.

John Costello and Mike Campbell were in the city Saturday doing business.

Thomas Pratt and sister were in the city Tuesday and purchased a gasoline stove.

Jas. McClain was promenading the streets Saturday looking for broom corn men.

W. S. Quisenberry returned home last Saturday and reports good luck on his trip and western Kansas land in demand.

W. H. Batchelder was in the city the latter part of the week and is an enthusiastic Alliance man and glories in the defeat of Ingalls.

Robert Brewster, one of our best farmers living near Lucerne was in the city last week and feels very much encouraged by the outlook.

L. C. Pennell and family are visiting in Phillips county. This is a well deserved holiday as they have been faithful for the past two years.

E. H. McCracken has hurt his knee to such an extent that he was confined to the house last week. We are glad to report that he is much better and out of danger.

The railroad company had a car of coal shipped to this station last week and on hearing that the city was out ordered the agent to allow the people to have it.

M. E. Thorpe and J. M. Woodworth left for Kansas City and the east last week and will be gone for several days. We understand that Thorpe has a suit in court over some books which he wants to recover.

Last Saturday evening our people were aroused from their lethargy by a social event which occurred in the south part of our city on Water street. It was the marriage of John Beery to Miss Ella Brown. Both are well known to our people and all join in the best wishes for their future happiness and good luck.

Skelton Letter

Mrs. J. W. Coates has been on the sick list, but is better.

Fred Mulholland was at the concert, also several young men from Fremont.

Rev. Mitchell filled his appointment at this place Sunday. He had missed his last two appointments. He will preach again the 15th of March.

Xerxes

125 Years Ago February 21, 1901

H. L. Korb went down the road Tuesday on official business.

F. J. Stires, of Ohio, a cousin of A. T. Wyatt, of Springbrook has bought J. L. Winchell's Springbrook farm.

Four and one-half miles northwest of Grainfield, in Springbrook township, is where J. L. Winchell's big sale will be held March 5th.

J. P. Sager and son, of Sheridan township, were in Hoxie Tuesday and took out enough seed to seed from thirty to forty acres. They know what alfalfa is and are exerting every effort to seed every foot of their land that is at all suitable.

McKinney Bros. are offering some special inducements on winter goods.

Presbyterian preaching in the church on Sabbath morning and evening, March 3rd, by Rev. A. W. Loggett, of Longmont Colo. All are invited.

Charley and James Foster of the vicinity of Studley favored Hoxie with their presence Wednesday.

Tom L. Pratt visited Colby last Friday for the purpose of buying a piece of isolated government land.

Will permit.

Bloomfield Items

Mrs. Press McKinney has been very sick.

Will Teel has been having an attack of the grip.

L. S. Meeks and wife visited at J. W. Christians' last Sunday.

Mr. W. J. Gilchrist has ordered a thoroughbred Hereford calf that cost him at least one hundred and fifty dollars.

A Farmer

Elliott Clippings

Frank Phillips visited at Selden Sunday.

A. Cressler delivered a load of hogs to Jennings Friday.

Mr. Martin will begin this week building his new house.

Mr. Dwight Bainter visited with his grand parents Sunday.

Katie Dyd

Saline Siftings

Frank Phelps is painting his barn.

Miss Lizzie Borger is taking music lessons of Mrs. Gallogly, she has a fine new organ.

The people in this part of the county are lamenting the loss of our trading place, and all are in hopes to see Mr. Gallogly resume business as soon as possible. He has the good will and sympathy of all his customers in this part of the county.

Orange Items

Willie Johnson went to Grinnell Saturday.

Alex Livingston was out driving for his health.

John Maxwell and son were seen on the streets of Grinnell Saturday.

William Fullerton and family spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Houser of

How About It?

"They tell me that this mail order battery is just as good (How about it?)"

"Well sir, first of all I won't knock the mail order battery. It is all right, into place and if people buy them it is their business, but I'll tell you what I will do. I'll sell you a battery just exactly like I was a mail order business. First give me your check for the amount of the battery and then come in five days and then I'll give you the battery, but don't forget about the express charges and also that you must put the battery in your car yourself because I am a Mail Order House in Chicago."

"Then when you want water put in your battery you must pay me or someone else to do it and then if something happens to your battery, you will have to rent a battery or lay up your car while it is being repaired and then there will again be express charges to pay, only this time it is to and from Chicago, because we are a Mail Order House in Chicago. And if you figure it up, Mr. Burger you see you aren't going to be anything ahead by buying from a mail order house. Their quality is doubtful, otherwise they could not sell at that price. What they are after is volume of sales."

"By the time you go to the post office and get a money order, we can have a Genitor Willard Battery installed in your car and then if something goes wrong you won't have to crate it up and ship it in to be fixed."

**GENUINE 11 PLATE CW13 \$11.95
WILLARD FOR.**

Service station, also any other make, Willis, Farm Lighting Plants, 1250 watt generator, 240 ampers hour battery.

Grinnell Electric Shop

GRINNELL, KANSAS.

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

Springbrook township,

Cracker-Jack

Bow Creek Items

Mrs. McMullen lost a good horse last week.

Louis Hines visited with his brother Ollie last week.

Chadley Miles has purchased a horse ready for spring work.

Harry Davis, who has spent the winter in Colorado, is expected home Tuesday.

Incognito

100 Years Ago February 11, 1926

Local News

J. McConche, of Salina, was a Hoxie visitor Wednesday.

Gaylord Shafer was among the many Hoxie visitors Saturday.

G. C. Payne and brother, who resides at Colby, contemplate taking a trip to the eastern part of the state this week.

Arthur Moore will hold a sale the first part of March. Watch *The Sentinel* next week for date.

Mrs. J. A. Chamblin, who is a graduate from the Fletcher School of Beauty Culture of Denver, Colorado, at present is located in the *Sentinel* building and will be glad to make appointments with you for marcelling. She may later equip a beauty parlor and be ready to care for all your needs in this line, including treatments, shampooing, facials and manicuring.

Mrs. Ora Jones, a trained nurse, who is now making her headquarters in Hoxie, was called to Colby the first of the week to care for a patient in the home of Harry Wisdon.

I. L. Vinson left the first of the week for St. Joseph, Missouri, to purchase his new spring stock of goods. Mrs. John Miner is clerking in his place.

Frank Lambertson, district manager of the United Telephone Company, was down from Colby on business the last of the week.

Miss Alma Summerson became suddenly ill Thursday and is at present confined to her room. Her many friends hope that she will get along all right.

Mrs. Tom L. Pratt has gone to Chicago where her daughter, Elizabeth, recently underwent a successful appendix operation.

Valley

Charles Taylor got his arm hurt in playing basket ball at Oberlin and it got to hurting him so badly his folks took him to Norton Monday to find out what the trouble is.

Mrs. P. A. Congard celebrated her 75th birthday last Thursday the 11th of February. All the children and relatives living here took dinner and came in to help her celebrate but the great surprise to her was the shower of post cards, letters, handkerchiefs, and many other lovely things given to her by her children and other friends who live away from here as well as by those close by.

North Fork News

Mrs. La Vate Aumiller and children visited at Mrs. John Godfrey's Monday.

Joe Zadow helped Leonard Zadow with his tractor Thursday.

Miss Bernadine Schroer gave a

Valentine party for her pupils Friday.

John Sulzman visited with his brothers, William and Frances Wednesday.

75 Years Ago February 22, 1951

Denning Electric Moves

The Denning Electric finished the task of moving into their new location during the week end and are nicely located in the former Anderson Impl. Co. building just west of the Hoxie State Bank. Mr. Denning is quite pleased with the new location, which gives him ample room for display as well as for a larger office and a spacious shop repair room.

Mr. Denning stated that it would be some time before the new place would be ship shape, but customers will be taken care of anytime they are in need of his merchandise or services. A formal opening day will be declared in the near future, at which time a full line of merchandise will be on display and for demonstration.

Mickey's Want Ads

Our Bargain Prices continue this week. Many special offers on lamps, chairs and bedroom suites.

"We never realize the full value of anything until we lose it," said the minister consolingly.

"No, sir," replied the widow. "He wasn't insured."

Big cuts in dishes, utensils, tools, odd paint.

The Party Line

Everyone must be bashful this week as scarcely any news came my way.

Mrs. Stan Winter gave a Stanley party Thursday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Mills were Sunday dinner guests in the Charles Patton home.

Arlie Orens spent Sunday afternoon with Mrs. Anna Oren and Ken.

Jennings News

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Aumiller, of Washington state, and Mrs. Aumiller, of Selden, called at the Morton Store Friday morning to visit Mrs. Morton. They were on their way to Norton to visit the Arthur Shoemaker family there. Mrs. Robert Aumiller and Arthur are brother and sister. Mrs. Morton is a cousin.

Nell Kemper and Willis Mowry, of Colorado Springs, came last week to visit relatives and friends here. They returned home last week. Mr. and Mrs. Lee Kemp accompanied them home for an indefinite visit.

Roland Mowry's moved from the pool hall to Mr. Noone's place in the north east part of town.

Seguin Items

Al Meier was a Friday evening caller at the Bill Thummel home.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Schuetz and Anita spent Wednesday at Oberlin.

Callers at the John Rietcheck home Sunday were Felix Rietcheck and children, Pat Geerdes, Jimmy Curtin, Sylvester, Barbara and Rosella Bange, Geo. Geerdes, Pete Thummel, and Junior Rietcheck.

Tasco Notes

Mrs. Floyd Karnes and E. E. Schropp spent Tuesday morning in Quinter.

Judith Karnes spent Wednesday night at the Bert Hojda home in Hoxie.

Tasco school teachers and pupils were entertained to a Valentine party at Studley school Wednesday afternoon.

50 Years Ago February 19, 1976

Spillman Brothers in Partnership

Doren Spillman, owner-operator of Doren's 86 Service station here the past 12 years announced this week that he has sold a half interest of the business to his brother, Lloyd Spillman.

Lloyd recently sold the Vickers station in Hoxie after operating it for 8 years.

The partnership will be known as D & L Service and Doren and Lloyd invite you to visit their station for continued courteous service as has been offered in the past.

Hoxie Speech Squad Placed Second

Last Saturday, Feb. 14, Hoxie participated in the Ellis Speech and Drama Contest. Oakley won the Sweepstakes with 332 points and Hays and Hoxie tied for second with 201 points.

Mickey Want Ads

Pre-season prices now on garden hose; plastic, rubber, nylon reinforced vinyl and betted radial garden hose.

After a traffic accident, one woman rushed out of the gathering crowd to lean over the victim. She was roughly pushed aside by a man who directed:

"Step back, I've had a course in first aid."

The woman stood and watched the man's ministrations for a few minutes, then tapped him on the shoulder.

"When you get to the part about calling a doctor," she said, "I'm already here."

Also, Nelson sprinklers - everything from the traveling sprinkler to the Nelson hose nozzle.

Broadway News

Mr. and Mrs. Lottie Carder called on Albert Smith and Ray Corke at the Quinter Hospital on Thursday. They called on Aunt Bertha Phelps at the ITC; also called at the Stella Simon home.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Borger were in McCook Saturday. They also attended a horse sale there.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Simon and children went to Colby Friday evening to see the film, "The Hiding Place". Several from this area have attended the movie.

Indians Lose to Colby

The Hoxie basketball B-team was defeated by the Colby Eagles 43-35 on Feb. 13 at Colby.

Colby jumped out to take a 26-22 halftime lead. Hoxie rallied in the third quarter but were down by three at the end. Colby took over in the fourth quarter making the final 43-35.

Plainsmen Blitz Hoxie Indians in Game Here

The Oakley Plainsmen showed why they are the state's number seven ranked team as they blitzed their way to an 81 to 55 over the Hoxie Indians in a game played at Hoxie Feb. 10.

Pat Koster had 14 points while Erick Prickett had ten points to lead the Indian's attack. Kirk Hemmert had 20 points to pace Oakley, who had all five starters in double figures.

25 Years Ago February 15, 1901

Cub Scouts Enjoy Camping at Ranch

On Jan. 13-14, the Hoxie Cub Scouts braved the weather to make their way to the Cottonwood Ranch to camp out. It consisted of a lot of different activities.

They cooked on a wood burning stove, with the exception of Saturday's evening meal, which was cooked on a camp fire.

Rexford

The Red Barn Band went to Quinter on Friday to play at the nursing home. They ate dinner there before returning home. This was a make-up session because they didn't get there in December.

Deb Stepper brought the cake for the Barnswallows pinocle party last Monday. There were 11 present.

Grace Cheney hosted the Worthwhile Club at the Red Barn on Wednesday afternoon with all the members present.

Broadway

Lance and Becky (Simon) Brina, of Manhattan, are the parents of a baby girl, Taylor Nicole, born Feb. 2, 2002. She weighed 8 lbs., 6 oz.

Rev. Sherman Beasterfeld and his wife of Miltonvale, were visiting friends in Quinter the first week of February. They were house guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Popp. Pastor Sherman is interim minister at Barnard, Kan.

Curt Simon and Ila Pierson went to Manhattan Sunday to visit the Bruner and baby Taylor.

The monthly meeting of the ABW was canceled Thursday due to Wednesday night's freezing drizzle. Then, Thursday afternoon, we had thunder snow showers, with snow and wind continuing into Friday morning. The snow isn't drifted too badly in the yard, but the road appears to be drifted in places.

Angelus 4-H Club

On Jan. 15, President Kevin Lager called the meeting to order. Marty Lager gave the secretary's report for last month.

Stephanie Solwartz gave the treasurer's report. There were no bills for the previous month.

Linda Lager reminded the club of upcoming events and deadlines. Bob Schwarz also reminded them the beef weigh-in coming up on Feb. 11.

Kevin Lager gave the talk of the month. His talk was "How milk is healthy for you." Unless you see the "REAL" sign on the dairy product, it may not be made out of whole milk, but an imitation.

Gov. Kelly Vetoes Women's Privacy Law (S.B. 244)

Kansas Governor Once Again Fails to Stand Up for Women

Topeka - Kansas Governor Laura Kelly has vetoed Senate Bill 244, legislation which strengthens the state's Women's Bill of Rights by restoring clear, consistent definitions of sex in Kansas law and ensuring that women and girls have access to private, secure, sex-specific spaces in public buildings. It passed both legislative chambers with veto proof supermajorities in the House 87-36 and in the Senate 30-9.

S.B. 244 provides statewide clarity for agencies, schools, and public institutions by clarifying that the use of "sex" and "gender" in statute is defined by biology. The bill also establishes clear expectations for the designation of multiple occupancy restrooms, locker rooms, and changing areas in public buildings, ensuring these spaces remain reserved for one sex only.

Statement of Brittany Jones, Esq., President of Kansas Family Voice:

"Governor Kelly once again refuses to stand up for Kansas women. Most kindergartners know the difference between a boy and a girl & can tell you which restroom each should use, yet the governor of our state cannot seem to recognize the distinction.

S.B. 244 reflects common-sense reality that most Kansans operate under every single day. Men belong in men's restrooms and women belong in women's restrooms. This bill does not require any structural changes in government buildings. The vast majority of public restrooms are already designated for men, women, or are single occupancy restrooms.

The Governor used a great deal of imagination to cast aspersions on the clear intent of this bill. S.B. 244 is not hard to understand or enforce. The Legislature should act swiftly to ensure this law goes into effect to protect women's and girls' privacy and ensure common-sense is restored in our state. We call on the House and Senate to override this veto when they return to Topeka next week!"

Governor Kelly Vetoes Poorly Drafted Legislation

Topeka - Governor Laura Kelly on Friday vetoed House Substitute for Senate Bill 244.

The following veto message is from Governor Kelly regarding her veto of House Substitute for Senate Bill 244:

"This poorly drafted bill will have numerous and significant consequences far beyond the intent to limit the right for trans people to use the appropriate bathroom.

"Under this bill:

"If your grandfather is in a nursing home in a shared room, as a granddaughter, you would not be able to visit him.

"If your wife is in a shared hospital room, as a husband, you would not be able to visit her.

"If your sister is living in a dorm at K-State, as a brother, you would not be able to visit her in her room.

"If you feel you have to accompany your nine-year-old daughter to the restroom at a sporting event, as a father, you would have to either enter the women's restroom with her or let her use the restroom alone.

"I believe the Legislature should stay out of the business of telling Kansans how to go to the bathroom and instead stay focused on how to make life more affordable for Kansans.

"Therefore, under Article 2, Section 14(a) of the Constitution, I hereby veto House Substitute for Senate Bill 244."

KDOT's Cost Share Program Applications Being Accepted

The Kansas Department of Transportation is now accepting applications for the spring 2026 round of the agency's Cost Share Program. More than \$163 million has been given to Kansas communities since the Cost Share Program began in 2019.

The Cost Share Program provides financial assistance to local entities for construction projects that improve safety, leverage state funds to increase total transportation investment and help both rural and urban areas of the state improve the transportation system. This is the 13th round of projects to receive funding.

"KDOT's Cost Share Program improves transportation, creates economic growth and increases job opportunities across Kansas," said Michelle Needham, Economic Development Programs Manager. "Past Cost Share participants have proven this program to be the financial boost that many small and large communities needed to achieve their project goals."

All transportation projects are eligible, including roadway (on and off the state system), rail, airport, bicycle/pedestrian and public transit. Candidate projects should include investments that provide transportation benefits and are not eligible for other KDOT programs. This round of grant funding has an overall budget of \$6 million, with a maximum amount of \$1 million awarded per project.

The deadline to submit applications is March 26. More information and the application link are on KDOT's website at <https://bit.ly/3MKdVM4>. All applications will be completed online, and a sample PDF application will be available for preview.

Please contact Needham, michelle.d.needham@ks.gov, with any questions.

Commerce Launches Two New Kansas Community Empowerment Grants

Topeka - Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland today announced the launch of two new grant opportunities through the Kansas Community Empowerment (KCE) program. KCE, which is housed within the Quality Places Division at the Department of Commerce, supports locally driven projects that strengthen quality of place, volunteer engagement and long-term community vibrancy across Kansas.

Applications for the KCE Kickstart Grant and Impact Grant are now being accepted. For the first round of funding, the Kickstart Grant will have \$40,000 available and the Impact Grant will have \$30,000.

"While we bring opportunities and prosperity to all parts of our state, these new grants will specifically target rural and smaller communities across Kansas," Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland said. "Whether it's helping a small volunteer-led initiative or funding a transformational placemaking project - these grants are designed to meet the needs of the communities while building their pride, momentum and lasting impact."

The Kickstart Grant is designed to provide funding for smaller, community-driven projects that build capacity, engagement and momentum. The highlights of the Kickstart Grant include:

- Awards ranging from \$500 to \$5,000
- Ideal for short-term, highly visible projects such as community cleanups, engagement events or early-stage vibrancy initiatives
- Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis through December 4, or until funds are depleted

The Impact Grant is designed to support larger, long-term investments that create permanent improvements to community assets. Highlights of the Impact Grant include:

- Awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000
- Eligible projects include public art installations, downtown improvements, park and recreation upgrades, community gardens, signage and other placemaking efforts
- Applications will be accepted through March 31

Both grant opportunities require a 1:1 match, which may include in-kind contributions such as volunteer hours.

"Our community leaders and volunteers are the visionaries, voices and trailblazers of our state - they have the ideas, and they have the passion," Assistant Secretary of Quality Places Matt Godinez said. "Because of these two new grant opportunities, awarded organizations will be able to bring what was once a vision to something tangible - and really embrace community vibrancy."

The grants are administered by the Kansas Department of Commerce and funded in part by the Patterson Family Foundation, the Kansas Health Foundation, the Sunflower Foundation and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas.

An informational webinar will be held at 12:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 18. To register, sign up at <https://bit.ly/4tDWpK5>.

Applications must be submitted through the Kansas Community Empowerment online application system, which can be found at <https://bit.ly/3ZBEAxx>.

For application details, eligibility requirements and webinar information, visit the Kansas Community Empowerment webpage here or contact Sara Bloom at Sara.Bloom@ks.gov or (785) 506-9278.

Op-Ed: An American Outbreak: Measles, Influenza, RSV, Covid, and Stupidity

By J. Basil Dannebohm

Last week, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention made more than \$600 million in cuts to public health grants in Minnesota, California, Illinois, and Colorado. Meanwhile, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) administrator Dr. Mehmet Oz pleaded with the American public to get vaccinated against the measles.

"Not all illnesses are equally dangerous, and not all people are equally susceptible to those illnesses," Oz told CNN's "State of the Union." "But measles is one you should get your vaccine."

In South Carolina, nearly 1,000 residents have been sickened with measles since October 2025. Just last week at Ave Maria University, a staunchly conservative Catholic college near Naples, Florida, measles cases soared to nearly 60 students. In a bizarre new trend, many right-wing Catholics are claiming religious exemption to vaccines. Adding insult to injury, numerous dioceses are honoring requests for exemption documentation. Though I've been Greek Orthodox for many years, as a product of Catholic education and a theology major, I can say with some degree of certainty that there is nothing in Catholic teaching that suggests vaccines

Continued on page 7

FHSU's Next Science Café Set for February 23

By FHSU University Communications

Hays - Fort Hays State University's upcoming Science Café is set for Monday, Feb. 23.

This month's presentation, "AI for Advancing Research Across Diverse Disciplines," is sponsored by FHSU's Science and Mathematics Education Institute (SMEI) and will begin at 7 p.m. at The Venue in Thirsty's Brew Pub & Grill, 2704 Vine.

Dr. Anas Hourani, FHSU Associate Professor of Computer Science in the Werth College of Science, Technology and Mathematics, will provide an overview of how artificial intelligence and machine learning techniques are transforming research across diverse disciplines by enabling knowledge extraction from large-scale data.

Please note, while drinks will be available for purchase, NO FOOD WILL BE SERVED during Science Café.

Science Café presentations are free and open to the public. Questions can be directed to Cari Rohleder at cbrohleder@fhsu.edu or 785-628-4743 or by visiting:

www.fhsu.edu/smei

www.facebook.com/FHSUScienceCafe

FHSU to Host 8th Annual Criminal Justice Career Fair

By FHSU University Communications

Hays - The Fort Hays State University Criminal Justice Program will host its 8th Annual Criminal Justice Career Fair on Monday, March 2, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Fort Hays Ballroom, Memorial Union.

The event brings together a wide range of agencies and organizations representing law enforcement, court administration and court services, corrections, community corrections, mental health services, advocacy organizations, family services, and related professional fields.

The Career Fair is designed to connect students and community members with employers seeking qualified candidates for internships, part-time employment, and full-time career opportunities. While rooted in criminal justice, the event highlights the interdisciplinary nature of today's workforce. Agencies will be recruiting individuals pursuing degrees not only in criminal justice, but also in psychology, social work, leadership, political science, sociology, business and accounting, nursing, natural sciences, human resources, and other career fields.

"This event reflects the broad scope of careers that intersect with the justice system," said Tamara Lynn, Chair and Professor of Criminal Justice. "It is an opportunity for students to explore meaningful career pathways while engaging directly with professionals serving our communities."

The Criminal Justice Career Fair is free and open to FHSU students and alumni. Professional dress and copies of résumés are encouraged.

Smoky Hills PBS Broadcasts State Wrestling

Bunker Hill - The tradition continues as Smoky Hills PBS will provide live coverage of the 2026 Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) Class 3-2-1A State Wrestling Championships. The event is scheduled for February 27 to February 28, 2026, at Gross Memorial Coliseum on the campus of Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas.

Smoky Hills PBS will once again showcase both boys' and girls' competitions, continuing a long-standing commitment to local sports and its tradition of bringing LIVE coverage of high school sports to viewers across central and western Kansas.

"Our production crew and our many volunteers take great pride in delivering live, reliable coverage of this championship every year," said Les Kinderknecht, Senior Producer/Director at Smoky Hills PBS. "Covering the 3-2-1A State Wrestling Championships is about celebrating the athletes, the schools, and the communities that support them."

Action will begin at 9 AM Friday, February 27th, and continue at 9 AM Saturday, February 28th. A rebroadcast of the Championship Finals will air on Sunday, March 1st at noon.

For more information on broadcast times and additional coverage details, please visit our website at SmokyHillsPBS.org or download the free Smoky Hills PBS mobile app for Android and iPhone users.

Local sports coverage like this is made possible by VIEWERS LIKE YOU, and many local businesses who believe in the mission of Smoky Hills PBS.

Smoky Hills PBS serves 71 counties in Central and Western Kansas. Smoky Hills PBS is available over the air, on many cable systems, DirecTV, DirecTV Stream, and Dish Network, HULU + LIVE TV, and YouTube TV. You can also access Smoky Hills PBS via the FREE mobile app for Android and iPhone devices and is also available to stream by clicking here: video.smokyhillstv.org/livestream. More information on Smoky Hills PBS and its programs and projects are available at SmokyHillsPBS.org or by calling 1-800-337-4788.

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2026 Conservation Reserve Program Enrollment

USDA announced on February 10th the enrollment periods for agricultural producers and landowners to submit offers for the Continuous and General Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting offers for Continuous CRP starting February 12th, 2026, through March 20th, 2026. Enrollment for General CRP will run from March 9th, 2026, through April 17th, 2026. FSA will announce dates for Grassland CRP sign-up in the near future.

CRP is USDA's flagship conservation program, providing financial and technical support to agricultural producers and landowners who place unproductive or marginal cropland under contract for 10-15 years and who voluntarily convert the land to beneficial vegetative cover to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and support wildlife habitat. USDA is still very close to the 27-million-acre statutory cap, with 1.9 million acres available for all CRP enrollments this fiscal year, so enrollment is likely to be competitive. This isn't about the total number of acres enrolled; it's about producers and landowners offering the acres that can best deliver real, lasting benefits to soil, water and wildlife, and the USDA accepting them.

Kansas Wheat Scholarships Applications Open

High school seniors and current Kansas college students have until Friday, March 13, 2026, to apply for one of two \$1,000 scholarships from Kansas Wheat honoring industry leaders Herb Clutter and David Radenberg. The scholarships - each worth \$1,000 - continue a proud tradition of supporting the future of the Kansas wheat industry.

"Inspired by the enduring legacies of Herb Clutter and David Radenberg, Kansas Wheat is proud to help empower the next generation of the Kansas wheat industry," said Justin Gilpin, CEO of Kansas Wheat. "Through these scholarships, we honor the passion of these industry leaders and help to provide opportunities for future leaders in agriculture."

Herb Clutter Memorial Scholarship

Administered by the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers (KAWG), the Herb Clutter Memorial Scholarship will award one \$1,000 scholarship per year to a college or university-bound incoming freshman from Kansas pursuing a career in the field of agriculture. To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must plan to be a full-time student at any two or four-year Kansas college or university.

Recipients will be selected based on academic achievement, leadership qualities and career objectives focused around the field of agriculture. The scholarship will be toward tuition for the student's college or university education. The scholarship is non-renewable.

The Herb Clutter Memorial Scholarship was established in 2009 to honor Herb Clutter's influential role in organizing leadership groups on behalf of Kansas wheat producers and is supported by the generosity of the Herb Clutter family. Herbert W. Clutter was a farmer from Holcomb and the first president of the National Association of Wheat Growers, which was established in 1948. Clutter encouraged Kansas wheat farmers to organize as a strong, unified voice, which led to the formation of the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers in 1952. He encouraged research in education and industrial uses of wheat, improved variety development and methods to produce the best product at the lowest cost. Clutter's efforts led to the formation of the Kansas Wheat Commission by the Kansas legislature in 1957.

Apply for the Herb Clutter Memorial Scholarship by completing the scholarship application at kswheat.com/clutter. The application includes a 400-500 word essay discussing why the applicant has chosen to pursue a career in agriculture. The selection committee will use this essay, along with the student's application, in determining the scholarship winner.

David Radenberg Memorial Scholarship

The David Radenberg Memorial Scholarship will award one \$1,000 scholarship to a current undergraduate or graduate student from Kansas who is pursuing a career in the field of agriculture. Preference will be given to students pursuing a career related to the improvement of wheat, including but not limited to wheat genetics, wheat agronomics, wheat breeding, plant pathology, Extension and bioinformatics.

To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must be enrolled as a full-time student at any two- or four-year college or university in Kansas. Incoming freshmen or transfers are not eligible.

David Radenberg was a lifelong wheat farmer in Claflin, Kansas, where his family has farmed for more than 100 years. He represented central Kansas on the Kansas Wheat Commission from April 2011 to March 2020, including serving as chairman from August 2018 to May 2019. Radenberg was also a founding board member of the Kansas Wheat Commission Research Foundation.

During his tenure as a commissioner, he supported wheat research and international marketing efforts, including attending the 31st annual Latin American Millers Conference in Lima, Peru, in 2013. At the time, he expressed how he enjoyed sharing with millers, bakers and merchandisers about the research investments Kansas farmers are making to provide a better-quality product.

In 2013, Radenberg also visited multiple Pacific Rim countries to promote U.S. wheat. The contrast between third-world poverty he saw in thriving modern cities left an impression on him and reinforced his support of wheat research to help feed a hungry world.

Apply for the David Radenberg Memorial Scholarship by completing the scholarship application at kswheat.com/radenberg. The application includes a 400-500 word essay discussing why the applicant has chosen to pursue a career in agriculture. The selection committee will use this essay, along with the student's application and a statement of financial need, in determining the scholarship winner.

For both scholarships, the application and associated documents must be submitted to Kansas Wheat at 1990 Kimball Ave, Manhattan, KS 66502, by Friday, March 13, 2026. Learn more or download the scholarship applications at <https://kswheat.com/growers/outreach/>. More information is also available by contacting 785-539-0255 or kawg@kswheat.com.

KFU Calls for Mandatory Country-of-Origin Labeling

Mpherson - Kansas Farmers Union (KFU) is calling on Congress and the Trump administration to implement Mandatory Country-of-Origin Labeling that would support American farmers and ranchers raising cattle and beef.

President Trump recently entered into a trade agreement with Argentine President Milei that opened the United States to an additional 80,000 tons of Argentina beef valued at \$800 million. Trump has claimed this is an effort to reduce the cost of beef to American consumers.

"This move will not change the price of beef for consumers at the grocery store," said KFU President and Pottawatomie County cattleman Donn Teske, "It's no secret that the U.S. imports cheap, lean beef from other countries, but it comes at a cost. Cattle markets ultimately react negatively, and farmers and ranchers pay the price."

"The recent trade agreement with Argentina is simply another attempt at market manipulation for political purposes," said KFU board member and Brown County cattleman Jack Geiger. "It doesn't serve the interests of American beef producers or American consumers."

Geiger went on to say, "Over the years, Kansas beef producers have had to weather many market cycles. Beef is a major component of our rural economy. Our customers have continued to reward us recently with increased year-on-year demand. Importing more foreign beef under preferential terms, while at the same time denying consumers Country-of-Origin Labeling is unfair to both producers and consumers."

Teske added, "KFU calls on Congress to pass and President Trump to sign into law the American Beef Labeling Act and the Country-of-Origin Labeling Enforcement Act of 2025. We also urge consumers to contact their legislators and demand the right to know where their beef comes from, along with how it is raised and processed."

About Kansas Farmers Union - Since 1907, Kansas Farmers Union (KFU) has worked to protect and enhance the economic interests and quality of life for family farmers and ranchers and their communities. Kansas Farmers Union represents its members, who are engaged in diverse farming and ranching pursuits, through education, legislation, and cooperation.

Food Additives – School Meals

Senate Bill 390 bans 13 food additives from school food service programs beginning in the 2027-2028 school year. "School" refers to each school district and nonpublic school in the state that offers any of the grades, kindergarten through 12. These additives, ranging from red 40 to titanium dioxide to butylated hydroxyanisole (BHA), are primarily petroleum-based additives approved by the FDA years ago. They are now under review in light of the 'Make America Healthy Again' movement at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Eight other states have banned similar artificial additives, including Arizona, California, Delaware, Louisiana, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and West Virginia. These states account for approximately 28% of the U.S. population.

During the required school food service inspection, the school shall certify that the facility does not serve food containing any of the food additives listed in this law. If a school cannot certify that a school facility meets the requirements in this law, such school shall submit a corrective action plan within 30 days of the inspection. The school shall post the official notice of the violation and the corrective action plan on the school's website for one year. This bill includes measures to ensure that parents are notified if their school is unable to comply with these requirements.

Senator Kenny Titus requested this bill in the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources committee, which held a hearing on February 5th after the bill's introduction on January 27th. Compliance will be implemented by the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Food Safety Division, which already conducts inspections of school meal facilities and should not require additional staff or administrative costs. The Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB) did have concerns over the potential cost to schools and that this legislation goes far beyond what USDA requires as part of the national meal program. Rural districts may be particularly challenged because access to multiple food service vendors or compliant products may be more limited. School districts will need adequate state funding and flexibility to reformulate menus, retrain staff, and establish reliable supply chains for compliant products. These restrictions apply only to school meals, not to vending machines in schools or to food served at sports or other activities.

Winter is For the Birds

By **Jessica Butters**, Twin Creeks District K-State Extension

Winter is a great time to bird watch! Due to limited resources outside, setting out bird feeders will definitely attract feathered friends. But how can we do this in a low-cost, easy way? How do we attract cardinals? And what about this bird flu we heard about a while ago? I have some great insight from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology through their website, All About Birds!

Which feeder is best, and what should I fill it with?

I have great luck with tray feeders, which can be hung or set on a pole. Other feeders include tubes and hoppers. When it comes to food, black oil sunflower seed is an economical option that many birds love! It is also easy to keep clean. Buying mixed bird seed, which includes "filler seeds" that birds just push aside, can be a waste of money and make a mess. For instance, some birds don't like some kinds of millet, and striped sunflower seeds have tougher shells. Birds will scrape these seeds to the ground, potentially attracting rodents if you don't rake them up. A good winter food option is suet! Suet is a high-energy block of fat mixed with seeds. The fat stays fresher longer in winter thanks to cold temperatures. Suet will also attract more woodpeckers, who are so fun to watch! Place suet blocks in a wire cage and attach it to a deck or the side of a tree.

Where should I put it?

Feeders do best about 10 feet from cover, such as evergreen trees or shrubs. This distance lets your visitors quickly hide from hawks or your cat if their meal is interrupted. Placing feeders any closer to trees may allow squirrels to leap to your feeder and enjoy the snacks you so kindly left out. Another consideration is windows. Placing feeders within three feet of a window lowers the speed at which birds fly into them, rattling their bird brains a bit less. Having a feeder suction-cupped to the window may stop collisions altogether, and will provide better bird viewing!

What about the bird flu?

The Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) had this to say about bird feeders and the current strain (H5N1) of the avian flu: "H5N1 is not currently considered a threat to songbirds that frequent feeders. There is no need to remove bird feeders unless you have poultry on your premises. Keep feeders clean and always wash your hands after handling feeders" (Avian Influenza Frequently Asked Questions, July 2025). If you have poultry and bird feeders, KDA suggests removing the feeders along with other steps. To clean your feeders, soak them in a 1:10 ratio of household bleach to water for 10 minutes twice a month. Rinse the feeder and let it dry before putting it back up. Drying is important to keep feed from molding.

How do I attract cardinals and other songbirds?

Kansas has tallied 475 species of birds in the state, and cardinals are just one of them! They particularly like black oil sunflower and safflower seed, the latter of which is great if you attract too many house sparrows, starlings, and squirrels for your taste; they don't like safflower as much. I personally didn't get cardinal visitors until I used a tray feeder; I wonder if some hoppers are too small for their feet to grip? If you like goldfinches, you may want a mesh or sock feeder designed for thistle (or Nyjer) seed, but I have had them visit my tray feeder for sunflower seeds in winter! Lastly, perhaps the best way of attracting all kinds of birds to your yard is with a bird bath. Fresh water is especially hard to find in winter, and a heated bird bath would definitely attract a wide array of birds. Be sure to clean it out often! If you don't have birds visiting your yard right away, be patient and keep the food and water fresh. Two months passed before I finally attracted cardinals. Birds will eventually find your oasis!

How can I help birds?

My singular tray feeder with black oil sunflower seed attracted cardinals, goldfinches, house finches, northern flickers, blue jays, dark-eyed juncos, and (of course) house sparrows last year. I live in town and have the feeder hanging off my deck rail. To help birds even more, plant native flowers and shrubs that provide berries and seeds that Kansas birds have evolved to eat, such as coneflowers and chokecherries. Oak trees also make great habitat and provide acorns, a favorite among blue jays. Evergreens or shrubs with thick foliage are great shelters for songbirds. Well-maintained nest boxes can also provide refuge.

It's not too late to add a bird feeder to your yard to attract some color in the form of feathers. In fact, you are right on time!



Leading Through Change

By **Nathan Mentzer**, Allen County farmer

Change of seasons, change of crops, the progress of technology or even physical changes as we watch our families grow and age. Change is inevitable. But when faced with it, we have two choices. We can ignore it and seek comfort on our farm and hope it goes away or adapt and grow with it, becoming stronger and more resilient with each new step we take.

My wife and I farm near Iola, and I am privileged to represent the third Casten Fellows cohort. I am always amazed at the talent Kansas Farm Bureau brings to the table and my cohort represented a wide and diverse cross section of agriculture in Kansas. We also have a diverse set of backgrounds and experiences.

The opportunity to build relationships with

Continued on page 9

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FB Insight

Continued from page 6
such amazing leaders throughout the state and gain insight into how they tackled issues is what originally attracted me to the Casten Fellows program.

A year ago, as our group was starting this journey together we were looking for ways to grow as individuals for the betterment of our communities and our organization. Through this time, we have gotten to know each other, become friends and we are now a group that is comfortable sharing deep conversations and taking on tough issues.

We learned how to discuss issues with a commitment to lean into vulnerability, to stay curious and generous. We have rumbled about the many changes in agriculture and how they have impacted us and Kansas—trade and tariffs, artificial intelligence, farming practices, personal beliefs — and dived into local issues

such as access to schools, local economies, fentanyl and the impacts of drug use. Our experience culminated with an international excursion to Israel.

Leading through change has been a big focus for our cohort this year, as we have seen change, not only within our own lives and work operations, but within the Casten Fellows program as well, including changes in staff, changes in our destination country and changes in timelines because of conflict in the Middle East.

In Israel we experienced the impacts of continuous change. The most obvious being a Tel such as in Tel Aviv. In Hebrew a “Tel” is a small hill resulting from the ruins of one civilization built on top of another built on top of another. Our tour guides would joke that if we saw a mosque, it was generally built on top of a church that was built on top of a synagogue. We saw how the conflict and cooperation between these cultures shaped Israel into what it is today.

One of the first books we studied this year was “Dare to Lead” by Brené Brown, who gives an example of leading through change:

“During a time of difficult change and uncertainty, daring leaders might sit with their teams and say: These changes are coming in hard and fast, and I know there’s a lot of anxiety — I’m feeling it too, and it’s hard to work through ... I will share everything I can about the changes with you, as soon as I can”.

The team at Kansas Farm Bureau dared to lead

us through these changes and we as a cohort grew in our own abilities because of their example and our own experiences.

We have learned to listen, to understand, to assess the situation, to pivot to new ideas when needed and to navigate the new dynamics. Many other organizations might have quit or given up at any one of the challenges that arose, but we pressed on and moved forward. This represents to me the strength and resilience of Kansas Farm Bureau as an organization and our commitment to develop leaders equipped to lead through change on local, state, national and global level.

Personally, I am looking forward to implementing all of the lessons I have learned on the farm, being better a father, on local co-op, water and Farm Bureau boards. The one thing they all have in common is that change is inevitable.

“Insight” is a weekly column published by Kansas Farm Bureau, the state’s largest farm organization whose mission is to strengthen agriculture and the lives of Kansans through advocacy, education and service.

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Op-Ed

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my attention were it not for the fact that the boys sounded like a walking tuberculosis ward. They coughed, they hacked, and they wheezed -- all without covering their mouths.

“We’d like to place some to-go orders,” granddad told the hostess.

They placed their order, requested a round of water, and took a seat to wait. The boys laid their heads on the table, looking pale and miserable, hacking all the while.

Grandfather decided to call mom and check in.

By now I was curious. I overheard him telling her that the boys weren’t feeling any better. He also proceeded to inform her that he took them to the science museum and decided to stop off to grab some lunch on the way back to the house so they could eat and go to bed.

He took them to the freaking science museum.

There are school districts forced to cancel classes because influenza, RSV, and Covid are running rampant in communities. It was as plain as a Quaker on his day off that these kids were sick. Yet gramps, who at first blush didn’t appear to be a stupid individual, thought a field trip was in order. If kids are too sick to be in class, they have no reason to be at a museum, much less a restaurant.

In a post-pandemic society, there should be no place for irresponsible morons such as this gentleman.

Over the last decade or so, respiratory illnesses have gotten far more aggressive. While there are probably several causes, unearthen communications between Epstein and oligarchs could shed a little light on why this is the case. Whatever the reason for the uptick in sickness, stupidity is a super spreader for viruses, and we live in an age where ignorance is a very serious, obviously contagious pandemic.

Sadly, there’s no cure for idiocy.

As children, we learned the proper and responsible things to do if one falls ill. I don’t care if you take a holistic approach to healthcare or receive every inoculation at your disposal, but as someone with a compromised immune system, I cannot say this loud enough: If you are sick, stay at home, or at the very least, wear a mask.

J. Basil Dannebohm is a writer, speaker, consultant, and former state legislator. His website is www.dannebohm.com. He is a registered Independent.

Bulldogs Win

Continued from page 3

Ritter 2, Arnberger 1, Romero 1, and Garcia 1. Kelby Buehler also had 1 block.

The Bulldogs will host Hill City in Rexford on February 10, then travel to Alma to face the Huskies for the second time this season. “I’m glad we get to meet Northern Valley again,” added Perez. “It will help us work the little things out as we prepare for sub-state where we hope to advance.”

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