



The Sheridan Sentinel

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

Volume 141 No. 34

Hoxie, Sheridan County, Kansas 67740

Thursday, May 14, 2026

\$1.00 Single Copy

Congratulations Class of 2026



Wheatland High School graduates are:
(front) Jaxson Bernbeck, Luke Zerr, Daniel Mason, Broady Goetz, Colton Deges
(back) Brielle Hanna, Evangeline Godek
(WHS photo)

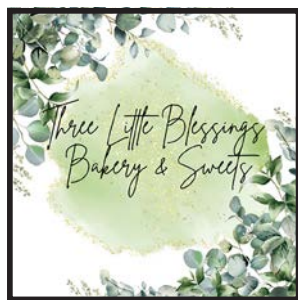


Hoxie High School graduates are:
(front) Draden Herl, Michael Haffner, Allie Gourley, Ian Giancola, Dakota Eller, Joseph Dorenkamp, Sarah Dardis, Caden Beckman, Addilyn Baker
(second row) Lilliana Luft, Rose Lowry, Taegan Lindenmann, Iauna King, Javon Kachel, Macie Juenemann, Layne Juenemann, Clara Johnson
(third row): Treydon Schneider, Kyra Reuber, Chloe Porsch, Coryn Nye, Gabrielle Meyer, Madison Meier, Avery Mauck, Keyara Mader
(back) Adleigh Ziegler, Yesenia Villegas, Hailey Vaughn, Brodie Tremblay, Cash Stillman, Teagan Slaubaugh, Nick Robben, Luis Rivero Juarez
(HHS photo)



Golden Plains High School graduates are:
(front) Braylee Knowles, Diego Perez, Anais Cepeda
(back) Jaxson Vasbinder, Ezekiel Weiner, Tanner Black, Dylan Wark
(Photo by Judy Rogers)

Homebased Business: Three Little Blessings Bakery



Hi I'm Crissy Rietcheck, the owner and baker behind Three Little Blessings Bakery here in Hoxie. My husband, Brady Rietcheck, and I have been together for 12 years, and we have three "little blessings" who inspired the name of my business. We've called Hoxie home for the past five years, and being part of this community truly means so much to me.

I've always had a passion for baking. I remember sitting and watching Food Network with my mom and saying, "That's what I'm going to do one day!" That dream never went away. What I thought would just be baking for family or close friends on special occasions slowly turned into something more. I always told my husband I'd love to open my own bakery someday, but I never thought it would actually happen—he's the one who made it happen. He's the one who encouraged me to take that leap of faith and go for it.

Before starting my own bakery, I had the opportunity to work for Emily Campbell at The Elephant Bistro & Bar, where I made desserts and learned so much. That experience helped build my confidence and grow my skills, and it played a big role in getting me to where I am today.

Now, I run my home-based bakery while also

working at our school's daycare. Staying busy is just part of life in this season, but I truly love both roles. Baking gives me a creative outlet and a way to connect with others, and it's also given me special time with my own kids. My daughter, Amiya, absolutely loves being in the kitchen with me and learning how I do things—I definitely think she'll be just like her mommy.

At Three Little Blessings Bakery, I offer custom cakes, cupcakes, cookies, and a variety of desserts for birthdays, events, and everyday treats. I love bringing people's ideas to life and being a small part of their special moments, and I'm always happy to work with you to create something special.

My "why" behind all of this is my family. They are the reason I started and continue to grow. Recently, I've also been doing a fundraiser through my bakery to support my daughter, Octavia, and her gymnastics season, including her opportunity to compete at Nationals. It's been so special to see our community come together in support.

I'm so thankful for the support I've received since starting this journey. Small towns truly show up for one another, and I feel so grateful to be able to do what I love while serving this community.

To place an order or get in touch, you can find Three Little Blessings Bakery & Sweets on Facebook.



Foundation Awards Scholarships to Area Students

By Karl Pratt, Executive Director, Sheridan County Community Foundation

Hoxie - The Sheridan County Community Foundation was pleased to present scholarship awards to area students during the Saturday, May 9, 2026, Commencement Ceremony at Hoxie High School.

Scholarship funds currently held at the Foundation include the Opal and Adolph Harris Estate Scholarship, the Youth on the Move Scholarship, the Pheasants Forever Memorial Scholarship, and the newly established Fred L. Moss Memorial Scholarship.

The Opal and Adolph Harris Estate Scholarship was established to benefit graduates of Hoxie USD 412 or home-schooled students residing within the district. Each recipient of the 2026 award received \$1,750.00. This year's recipients were Cash Stillman and Dakota "Cody"

Continued on page 5



Sheridan County Benefit Walk

It's less than a month away, and we've added something new...a gun raffle! Come join us for the Sheridan County Benefit Walk Friday evening,

June 5, beginning with a free-will offering pulled pork meal at 6 p.m. in the Sheridan County 4-H Building.

Because of many generous donors, door prizes will be given out throughout the evening, as attendees eat, view the luminary bags on the walls in memory of, or in honor of, those who have suffered a life-threatening illness, bid on the abundance of items in the silent auction, and visit with friends. DSNWK will have sugar cookies available for purchase. Helium balloons will be given out to anyone who wants to participate in the balloon launch to take place that evening.

One of the special events of the evening is time taken to honor those who have passed away and left a memorial to the Sheridan County Benefit Walk. Their families will be presented with a candle to light as those in attendance spend a moment in silence.

Be sure to stick around for the final event of the evening as names are drawn for the raffle prizes. Tickets for the raffles will be available from team members next week. If you are unable to stay and your name is drawn, you will be notified.

Come on out for an evening of fun and fellowship!

The Sheridan Sentinel is Expanding into Decatur County

The Sheridan Sentinel is excited to introduce itself to our neighboring communities in Decatur County and announce expanded local newspaper and creative services.

The residents may subscribe to both print and/or digital issues. We will work to provide our new subscribing communities with convenient access to local news, community events, school activities, sports, and important announcements. In addition to our newspaper, we want them to know that we also offer office printing, vinyl graphics & design, signage, heat press apparel, embroidery, and other custom embellished & promotional goods for businesses, organizations, schools, and individuals.

At The Sheridan Sentinel we are always seeking local participation to help strengthen coverage and storytelling throughout the area. We welcome contributions from community reporters, photographers, schools, churches, civic groups, coaches, and event organizers. Families are also encouraged to submit obituaries, announcements, and community milestones.

Local businesses are invited to partner with the newspaper through sponsorship opportunities for specific pages or sections, helping support local journalism while increasing visibility within the community.

For subscription information, sponsorship opportunities, printing services, or community submissions, visit our website at <https://www.sheridansentinel.com/>, "Like" us on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/thesherediansentinel>, or stop by our office at 716 Main Street, Hoxie.

Sheridan County EMS Invites Community to EMS Week Open House

By Jordan Riley, EMS Director

Sheridan County EMS is proud to invite the public to an EMS Week Open House on Sunday, May 17, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Sheridan County EMS Station in Hoxie.

The event is part of National EMS Week, which recognizes emergency medical service professionals and the important role they play in protecting the health and safety of their communities. This year's theme, "Improving Outcomes, Together," highlights the partnership between EMS providers, healthcare professionals, and the communities they serve.

Community members of all ages are encouraged to attend this free event to meet local EMS staff, tour ambulances and the station, and learn more about emergency medical services in Sheridan County.

Activities during the open house will include:

- Hands-only CPR practice
- AED demonstrations
- Stop the Bleed training demonstrations
- Ambulance and station tours
- Opportunities to meet local EMS personnel

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Words of Wisdom	Grain Report	Weather Report	Thought of the Week
<p>Keep words of wisdom Concise, short, & sweet Like a Haiku or a Tweet! ~Minh Tan</p>	<p>Reported on: Tuesday, May 12</p> <p>Corn 4.22</p> <p>Milo 3.75</p> <p>Beans 11.07</p> <p>Wheat 6.41</p>	<p>Date High Low Moisture</p> <p>5/3 80 41 --</p> <p>5/4 82 45 .15"</p> <p>5/5 49 42 1.38"</p> <p>5/6 49 37 .28"</p> <p>5/7 76 36 --</p> <p>5/8 74 49 .02"</p> <p>5/9 82 48 .25"</p>	<p>Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can. ~Arthur Ashe</p>

NEWS from the OUTSIDE with John Lester

Here we are again. The weather has been crazy and not sure when it's gonna straighten out. I had the shortest turkey season ever. It lasted maybe fifteen minutes. Now, if I can just get my friend a turkey, we'll be set! It seems that we're seeing way more turkeys than we did last year, and far more toms. I have also noticed a lot more deer around the area. So that's a good sign.

I can't say too much about the fishing lately. I've seen pictures on social media of a gentleman I know catching a lot of crappie. I'm guessing by now the walleye bite is pretty much done. I've never really gotten into fishing for them, and this season, I just haven't been fishing a whole lot. I don't really know why I just haven't been out.

I saw the head lance surveys out at Sheridan Lake a week or so ago, so hopefully they're getting something done there. Why am I not surprised that this project is taking way longer than they originally said it would? But then the greatest lie ever told is, "Hi, I'm from the government, and I'm here to help!" Good old government, the only organization that will create a problem for the country, and then tax the hell out of you to fix it.

I really haven't been paying a whole lot of attention anymore to what's going on in the government. I do know that the price of oil has not gone up near as high as our gas prices would indicate. I'm beginning to detect more than just a little bit of greed from our gas companies and stations. Then, of course, we've got good old AOC telling the world that she knows all about world war eleven. You know, World War Two, but not to her. It's world war eleven. What an absolute moron. Then, we have both California and New York trying to tax businesses that are leaving. They claim they have to pay an exit tax. If that isn't pure evil in greed, I don't know what is. Remember Democrats, these are the people that you voted for. You can't blame us, Republicans or MAGA people for any of this. Before I finish, I have one more thing to say. Nancy Pelosi is a drunk. Chuck Schumer is a criminal, as is Adam Schiff. Epstein still didn't kill himself, and Hillary Clinton should be in prison.

That's all I have for now. But remember, stay safe and enjoy the outside.

FHSU to Host Financial Aid Workshop

By FHSU University Communications

Hays - Fort Hays State University (FHSU) will be hosting a free, live webinar to help students and their families navigate Financial Aid and how to pay for college. This webinar will take place on Wednesday, May 20, from 5 to 6 p.m.

As the landscape of higher education funding continues to evolve, FHSU is committed to transparency and student success. This event is designed specifically for incoming students, applicants, and their families to navigate the complexities of college costs, federal policy shifts, and the path to a debt-conscious degree.

The workshop will be hosted by the university's top financial experts: Chantelle Arnold, Director of Financial Aid, and Dane Lonnon, Director of Student Fiscal Services. Together, they will cover everything from initial grant applications to final fund disbursements.

"Our goal is to pull back the curtain on the financial aid process and replace confusion with confidence," said Chantelle Arnold, Director of Financial Aid. "With the specific shifts we've seen in the 2026-27 FAFSA, it is more important than ever that students have a clear roadmap. We want our future Tigers to start their journey at Fort Hays State focused on their education, not stressed by their paperwork."

The event will feature:

Financial Aid Basics: A deep dive into the Cost of Attendance (COA) and the difference between "free money" (grants and scholarships) and borrowed funds.

The 2026-27 FAFSA Update: Critical insights into the "Big Three" changes affecting federal aid eligibility and priority deadlines.

Navigating the Workday Portal: Guidance and information regarding student account billing, payment options, and financial aid disbursement, all accessible in the Workday student portal.

A live Q&A session: An interactive open forum where attendees can ask questions for live answers from the Directors.

Fort Hays State University continues to be a leader in affordability across the Midwest. This workshop serves as a vital resource for students, their families, high school counselors, and community college advisors to support their students in the transition to higher education.

Registration Information:

The event is free and open to all FHSU applicants and interested students. For more information, email FHSU Online at online@fhsu.edu or call 785-628-4291. Register online now to save your spot: www.fhsu.edu/online/events/

CLOSED
Memorial
Day
Monday, May 25

Courthouse * Road & Bridge Dept. * Landfill

Commodities Distribution

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

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

canned pinto beans, canned peas, canned carrots, canned mixed fruit,
canned pears, grape juice, raisins, chicken drumsticks, smooth peanut butter,
elbow macaroni, apple juice

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



Birthdays & Anniversaries

- May 7: Tia Carter, Debbie Shuler, Gwen Schultz
- May 8: Darcie Kresser Giles, Kim Wessel
- May 10: Don Koerperich, John Koerperich, Greg & Traci Bruggeman
- May 11: Jason Rall, Madison Stanton
- May 12: Dan Shuler, Tom & Jan Juenemann, Killian Dellere
- May 14: Micah Goscha, Eric Schultz, Mason Mumm
- May 15: Terry Preston
- May 17: Dan Mumm, Ryan Stevenson, Journey Rhodes
- May 18: Dan Wachendorfer
- May 19: Harold Murphy, Leslie Wessel
- May 21: Dennis & Marla Rogers

The Selden Senior Citizens met on April 23, 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 Helen Carman, Margee Wilson, Ellis Walker, Barb Jones, Sandra Dahl, and Steve Skubal. Those staying to play cards included Pat Wessel with a score of 607, Bob Wessel with a score of 623, Steve Carman with a score of 356, Boyd Wilson with a score of 555, JR Albers with a score of 618, Kou Lovin with a score of 515, Shirley Emigh with a score of 844, and Jacque Boultinghouse with a score of 695.

The Selden Senior Citizens met on April 30, 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 Helen Carman, Margee Wilson, Ellis Walker, Steve Skubal, and Barb Jones. Those staying to play cards were Boyd Wilson with a score of 526, Steve Carman with a score of 685, Bob Wessel with a score of 728, JR Albers with a score of 783, Shirley Emigh with a score of 721, and Tammy Shaw with a score of 410.

Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

May 15, 1:30 P.M. (CDT), Hybrid Meeting
The Kansas Water Office's (KWO) Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will have a meeting to discuss current water issues affecting the region as well as the state.

The hybrid meeting will be Friday, May 15 at 1:30 p.m., in Colby at the GMD4 Office at 1290 W 4th Street. The agenda will include an update on regional projects and discussion from RAC members on regional issues.

The agenda and meeting materials will be available at www.kwo.ks.gov or you may request copies by calling (785) 296-3185 or toll-free at (888) KAN-WATER (526-9283).

If accommodations are needed for a person with disabilities, please notify the Kansas Water Office at 900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 404, Topeka, KS 66612 or call (785) 296-3185 at least five working days prior to the meeting.

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We Too Busy Watching Everybody Else... To Notice Our Own Soul Dying

A lot of us say we walking with God but spend more time watching everybody else's walk than paying attention to our own. We study their marriage, their money, their platform, their failures, their blessings, while our own soul sits starving in the corner.

My walk with God is personal. The storms He carried me through, the ways He corrected me, the doors He opened and closed, that's between me and Him. And your walk is yours. So why are we trying so hard to live everybody else's life while neglecting the one God actually gave us?

Some of us know more about our neighbor's problems than the condition of our own heart. We scroll through everybody else's life while ignoring the mess God is trying to clean up inside us. We call it concern, but sometimes it's really distraction. It's easier to point at somebody else's sin than admit we're spiritually exhausted, angry, distant from God, and barely praying anymore.

Sometimes the soul needing checked ain't theirs. It's ours.

That's the dangerous part. You can get so focused on everybody else's drift that you stop noticing your own. God didn't call you to obsess over somebody else's assignment. He called you to walk your own path faithfully.

And your healing may not look like theirs. Your timing won't look like theirs. Your battles, your scars, your testimony, your growth, all of it is different. Some people smiling online are crying themselves to sleep. Some people preaching strength are barely hanging on in private. Only God sees the full picture.

Maybe instead of constantly checking everybody else, we need to get on our knees and ask God to search us, correct us, strengthen us, and break the pride in us. Revival doesn't start with judging people. It starts with repentance.

Before you point another finger or speak on somebody else's walk, stop and look in the mirror. Ask yourself honestly: "Am I even walking close to God myself?"

Because sometimes the soul needing revival isn't the one you're talking about.

It's yours.



PRESERVE...PROTECT...

LAMINATE

The Sheridan Sentinel
785-675-3321

Cruise, Shoes & BBQs in Grainfield

Saturday, May 23, 2026

- Poker Run
- Beer Garden, Concessions, Food Vendors
- Pickleball Tournament (free)
- Memorial Wall
- Lisa (Manhart) Althouse 5K Color Run
- Country Swing Dance Lessons (free)
- DJ Dance (free)

Sunday, May 24, 2026

- Car Show
- MECHANICAL BULL (FREE)
- Hoop Shoot Competition, Laser Tag (free)
- Virtual Reality Roller Coaster, Face Painting (free)
- Beer Garden, Concessions, Food Vendors
- Burger Battle & Cornhole Toss Competition (free)
- Concert in the park KINGPIN POSSE (Free)
- Caricature Artist!

Want to register or learn more?

Visit www.grainfieldks.com Click on Cruise, Shoes & BBQs for event details and entry forms. Or Text Kay 785.673.3039

Watch next week's paper for the full schedule!







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

“Born to Stand Out” - WHS Seniors Celebrate Graduation

By Miss Megan Iseman, Class Sponsor
 Seven WHS seniors graduated Saturday, May 9, at 3:00 p.m. in the Wheatland High School gym. The seniors chose the white lily for their class flower, and colors were royal blue, black, and silver. They selected the following quote for their class motto: “Why fit in when you were born to stand out?” - Dr. Seuss

Joined by a large audience filled with family, friends, and supporters, the graduates began their ceremony with the Pledge of Allegiance and meditation.

Valedictorian Broady Goetz, and Salutatorian Evangeline Godek, addressed the audience with some of their favorite memories.

Daniel Mason announced the commencement speaker, Mr. Bryant Briggs, whose speech included a lighthearted, funny message while also trying to inspire them to be their best selves as they continue into adulthood.

Following the senior slideshow and tribute to parents, Mr. Marvin Beesley awarded the American Legion Award to Evangeline Godek and Broady Goetz. Miss Wetter presented the WGGP Award and Scholarship to Broady Goetz. Administrative Assistant Mr. Will Bixenman announced Broady Goetz and Evangeline Godek as the winners of the KSHSAA Citizenship Award.

Board members Amber Hutchison and Nick Zerr presented diplomas to the graduates. The seven graduates turned their tassels as Mr. Briggs introduced the newest group of Wheatland-Grinnell Alumni. Congratulations, Class of 2026!

Class of 2026 Graduates at HHS

By Helaina Heskett
 On Saturday, May 9, Hoxie High School hosted the 2026 graduation ceremony for the Class of 2026. The ceremony was held at the Hoxie High School auditorium. Class Salutatorian Sarah Dardis and Valedictorian Michael Haffner gave speeches on behalf of the class, and select students were recognized by Karl Pratt for the Sheridan County Community Foundation for various local scholarships. Congratulations to all the new graduates on their accomplishments!

HHS Competes at Dighton Track Meet

By Helaina Heskett
 On Friday, May 8, Hoxie High School's track team traveled to Dighton to compete. The team had a great meet with many athletes earning PRs or continuing to break school records. This is the last regular-season track meet with everyone competing before league and postseason meets starting next week.

Starting with the boys' throwing events, sophomore Jensen Armknecht placed 8th in the shot put with a throw of 41' 3.5". Senior Javon Kachel placed 13th with a throw of 39' 7.5", and junior Alex Bufkin placed 30th with a throw of 32 ft 10.25 in. In boys javelin, sophomore Jensen Armknecht placed 10th with a throw of 136' 3", sophomore Carter Giancola placed 12th with a throw of 131' 11", and freshman Evan Farber placed 27th with a throw of 101' 5".

For boys' discus, Javon Kachel placed 6th with a throw of 135' 6". Evan Farber placed 16th with a throw of 117' 4", and Jensen Armknecht placed 21st with a throw of 110' and 3".

In the running events, senior Nick Robben placed 5th in the boys' 300-meter hurdles with a time of 44.72. Robben also competed in the 110-meter hurdles, placing 3rd with a time of 16.68. In the 1600-meter run, senior Michael Haffner placed 3rd with a time of 4:40.92, junior Gunner Wentz placed 12th with a time of 5:12.04, and sophomore Ty Fenner placed 14th with a time of 5:15.99. In the 800-meter run, Gunner Wentz placed 12th with a time of 2:14.06, and sophomore Nathan Haffner placed 18th with a time of 2:20.77. In the 400-meter run, sophomore Logan Heskett placed 5th with a time of 53.62. Junior Gabe Koster placed 5th in the 200-meter dash with a time of 24.42. Rounding out the individual events in the 100-meter dash, Gabe Koster placed 9th with a time of 11.81, and Alex Bufkin placed 38th with a time of 15.07. In the relays, the boys' 4x400 relay placed 4th with a time of 3:40.26, and the 4x100 relay placed 5th with a time of 45.95.

On the girls' side, sophomore Jaylen Herl placed 6th in shot put with a throw of 36' 7.5". Herl also placed 5th in discus with a throw of 113' 7". Sophomore Rylan Moss placed 17th in shot put with a throw of 29' 8". In javelin, junior Kendall Baalman placed 5th with a throw of 115' 7". Junior Evie Schippers placed 16th with a throw of 92', and Rylan Moss placed 32nd with a throw of 72' 11". In the triple jump, junior Emma Schamberger placed 3rd with a jump of 34' 11.75", and sophomore Harper Mauck placed 4th with a jump of 34' 10.75". Schamberger also competed in the long jump, placing 3rd with a jump of 17' 3.5".

The running events were also successful for the Lady Indians. In the girls' 100-meter hurdles, sophomore Camryn Gourley placed 1st with a time of 14.53. Gourley also won the 200-meter dash with a time of 25.70. In the 100-meter dash, Gourley placed 2nd with a time of 12:30. In her final event, the 300-meter hurdles, Gourley placed 2nd with a time of 45.31. Gourley already held the HHS records in all four events and set new records again at the Dighton meet. In the 3200-meter run, senior Taegan Lindenman placed 6th with a time of 12:57.12. In the 1600-meter run, freshman Brylie Lindenman placed 7th with a time of 5:55.30, and junior Emily Farber placed 19th with a time of 6:50.11. In the 400-meter dash, senior Madison Meier placed 2nd with a time of 58.47, breaking the school record. Meier

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Braylee Knowles Signs with CCC Rodeo Team



Golden Plains senior Braylee Knowles signed a letter of intent to join the Colby Community College Rodeo Team in the fall of 2026. Joining her for the signing was front--Britton Knowles, Braylee Knowles, Jo Williby, back--Clair Schrock, Briella Knowles, and Coach Karson Harris. (Photo by Judy Rogers)

Broady Goetz Among KAWG Scholarship Recipients

The future of Kansas agriculture depends on young leaders willing to serve their communities, embrace innovation and carry on the legacy of production agriculture. This year, three Kansas students were recognized for those qualities through the 2026 Herb Clutter Memorial Scholarship.

Administered by the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers (KAWG), the scholarship honors students pursuing careers in agriculture while recognizing Herb Clutter's lifelong leadership and advocacy for wheat farmers.

The scholarship was established in 2009 to honor Herbert W. Clutter, a farmer from Holcomb, KS, and the first president of the National Association of Wheat Growers, established in 1948. Clutter encouraged Kansas wheat farmers to organize as a unified voice, helping lead to the formation of the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers in 1952 and the Kansas Wheat Commission in 1957.

The scholarship is awarded to a college or university-bound incoming freshman from Kansas pursuing a career in agriculture. Students applying for this scholarship must complete a 400-500-word essay discussing why they chose a career path in agriculture.

Broady Goetz
 Broady Goetz of Park, KS, plans to attend Kansas State University and pursue a degree in milling science & management. Growing up surrounded by wheat and corn fields on his family's farm in western Kansas, Goetz said his agricultural experiences inspired both his work ethic and career goals.

As a longtime participant in 4-H and FFA, Goetz has been active with livestock projects, public speaking and parliamentary procedure contests. He credits those experiences with helping him develop leadership skills and a motivation to contribute to the future of food production.

“Through hands-on involvement in organizations like 4-H and FFA, agriculture has shaped my morals, instilled a relentless work ethic, and ignited a passion to contribute to sustainable food systems for future generations,” Goetz said.

Goetz hopes to combine his agricultural background with professional expertise in milling and agribusiness to help address challenges facing the food industry.

“In a world where agriculture feeds billions, I am prepared to contribute, honoring the legacy that shaped me while forging a road toward a more resilient future,”

GCDC Youth Grant



By Alexandria Roberts, Staff Editor
 On Sunday, April 26, the GCDC Youth members participated in a grant presentation at the opera house. These girls had the opportunity to explain what they would need the grant money for and why it would benefit the school and community. Their main goal was to receive funding to help repaint the high school gym and repair the school's sound system, which has been falling apart and needs major improvements.

The presentation gave each group a chance to share their project ideas and explain how the money would make a difference. The GCDC Youth members spoke about how important the gym is for students, athletes, and community events throughout the year. Repainting the gym would help improve school pride and create a better atmosphere for games, practices, and school activities. Repairing the sound system would also make a big difference during sporting events, pep rallies, concerts, and school assemblies.

There were five places awarded in the grant competition. First place received \$5,000, second place earned \$4,000, third place won \$2,000, and fourth and fifth place each received \$1,000.

After all of the presentations were completed and the votes were counted, the GCDC Youth members were excited to learn they had earned first place and received the full \$5,000 grant. The group was proud of their hard work and thankful for the opportunity to represent their school and community.

The members shared, “We are excited to have been able to present our

Continued on page 5

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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EMERGENCY

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 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

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Vans are Available for:

- ✓ Errands
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- ✓ Long Term Care Outings
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- ✓ Daycare Outings
- ✓ Appointments
- ✓ Out-of-County Appointments & Errands

Call the Sheridan County Clerk's Office to Book Appointment: 785-675-3361

CONTACT YOUR COMMISSIONER

Chairman: David Stithem ~ sixds@ruraltel.net
 Vice-Chair: Buck Mader ~ mcauto2@outlook.com
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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 or bring them by our office at
 716 Main Street, Hoxie.

For advertising, send to lori@sheridansentinel.com
 We confirm receipt of all emailed submissions within 24-hours.
 If you have not received confirmation, or if it is a time-sensitive submission, please call us at 785-675-3321.

www.sheridansentinel.com

LENORA HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL MEETING

NEW DATE: Banquet & Meeting May 23
 11am Community Room opens
 12pm Banquet
 Meeting follows
RSVP REQUIRED of number attending by:
 Monday, May 18
Bertsie Bruinekool 785-567-8373
 bertsieb@ruraltel.net
Tammy Gerlits 785-262-7441

The Sheridan Sentinel

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Publication #490440
 ISSN #2473-649X
 Published every Thursday by:
 The Sheridan Sentinel, LLC
 716 Main Street, Hoxie, KS 67740
 785-675-3321

Postmaster:
 Send address changes to:
 The Sheridan Sentinel, LLC
 PO Box 78, Hoxie, KS 67740

Subscription Rates:
 Newspaper - \$52 per year * Online - \$26 per year

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The Sheridan Sentinel

www.sheridansentinel.com



LIKE US ON FB

The Hoxie Democrat Friday, May 15, 1891

Attend the social Saturday evening. The bet last week was no go, both squealed.

Judge Horton gave us a pleasant call last week.

Six proofs were made last week and four this week.

Fred says that Sherwood is herding his cattle in good shape.

Fred J. C. Witt made proof on his quarter of land last Saturday.

C. F. Reed was examined Wednesday he says the north-west is flying.

A very light court docket this term; court will only last about two days.

Sam Shaw is hard at work and has sent his family \$40 since he got to St. Joseph.

Ed Worthen left Monday evening for Denver where he will work in the office with J. R. Reed.

The Little Minnie passed up the road Tuesday evening. The water tank inspector was in charge.

Traveling men are thronging our city daily and Cantrell has his hands full taking care of them.

J. W. Barry of Randall township, Thomas county, was examined this week by the pension board.

W. F. Schultheis left for the west Tuesday evening. He is in search of business and looking at crops.

John Wolten is so busy this week putting in new goods and arranging to carry a line of garden vegetables and fruit that he cannot write an ad.

Joseph Ogier has fifteen acres of rye that stands knee high and all the small grain in Logan township is fine and the people are consequently happy.

G. M. Brooks of Salina, and a large property owner of this county, was in the city Saturday, looking after his investments and shaking hands with the boys.

A. Cressler is taking in the country and performing surgical operations on young stock. Anyone having horses to attend to would do well to drop him a card at Hoxie.

R. M. Herron returned last week from the superintendents convention held in Salina. He reports a grand time and much good accomplished by the exchange of ideas and a closer union of the educational interests.

Quite a number of our people went to Gove City last Saturday to spend Sunday with the boys down there. They report a good time and Gove City, the Queen of the west to put in a Sabbath day. We did not learn how many of them attended church. The two carriages contained the following: W. S. Quisenberry, Grover Walker, H. L. Korb, and J. T. Patterson, Ad. McClellan, A. Cressler, A. L. McCallum and Wm. Waite.

125 Years Ago May 16, 1901

Arthur Brown and wife have moved to Selden where they will engage in the hotel business.

Davy Wiggins finds solace in his banjo of late. From early morn till late at night his ding dong may be heard.

Bert McKinney went to Topeka Friday and after transacting some business there he will go on to Oklahoma to look up a location.

A. D. Davison, assistant cashier of the First National Bank, is absent from his post of duty for a short visit with his sister at Kirwin and his relatives at his old home in Missouri.

Charley Turtle, of Studley, accompanied by James Davis, the Studley blacksmith, was in Hoxie Tuesday. Charley has taken charge of his father's store and reports getting along in good shape.

Geo. H. Pratt, the Museum cattle man, paid Hoxie a brief visit Monday. He reported that his stuff is all going onto grass in excellent condition considering the severe storm of a month ago and the backwardness of spring.

Elmer Cramer and two of the Haynes boys of Bow Creek township transacted business in Hoxie Monday.

W. N. Birrer and Miss Carrie Miner attended a concert at Grainfield given by the cornet band of that place, Saturday evening.

John Forster and Henry Ploerger, two prosperous Saline township farmers and cattle growers left their herds and fields long enough Tuesday to come to Hoxie to attend to urgent business.

Joe Hamilton and Captain Wolfe were in the city Tuesday for the purpose of closing up a deal whereby they deeded to Mr. Zimmerman, of Sheridan township, a fine piece of land.

Uncle John Doubleday and W. J. Gilchrist, two of Bloomfield township's farmers and stockmen who have met the general - prosperity, favored this city with their presence Tuesday. Wheat a little backward, but never better is their report.

Valley Items

George Parr is breaking prairie. Tom Pratt is seeding 40 acres to alfalfa. Billy Haines has sweet potato plants for sale.

Reporter

Selden Items

UNCLE SAMUEL SAID THE WORD

He prescribed the specifications for the manufacture of our Navy Oils, Gas and Greases during the war, and the same standards are kept up yet, and our products are as good as the best.

When in Hoxie call at our service station and let us explain to you the value of correct lubricants.

Our New Navy Motor Oils, Tractor Oils, Hard Oils and Greases are made to give service and we invite a trial believing that you will want more.

Kent Oil Co.

—INDEPENDENT OIL COMPANY—

DAVE GILCHRIST, Manager

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

Mr. Joe Hamilton was breaking a fine team of colts last week.

Mr. S. W. Barcus' new residence is rapidly approaching completion.

Mr. M. Glenn purchased a new mill and tank of Mr. Sprague Saturday.

Elliott Clippings

Mr. and Mrs. George Launchbaugh called at Elliott Thursday.

The Epworth League at Macgraw gave a program Sunday evening.

J. H. Heroy purchased an organ of E. E. Pickerell Monday.

Katie Dyd

100 Years Ago May 13, 1926

Vic's Grocery Burglarized

Victor Newland's grocery store was broken into early Sunday morning and the cash register opened and relieved of what change was therein, amounting to nine or ten dollars and some groceries were taken. Mr. Newland doesn't know just how much they did secure.

The robbers also picked the lock on the Kent Filling Station.

It is said that they were driving a large car and operated here along about five o'clock Sunday morning, as a man was seen in the alley near Vic's Grocery about this time.

Local News

Mr. Hamilton, an employee of the *Oberlin Herald* office, was a Hoxie visitor Sunday.

Miss Ina Pratt, of Studley, visited the Misses Mina and Nina Allen this week.

Miss Kate Pratt, of Studley, visited at the A. T. Andregg home several days this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Steinshouer and two sons, of McCracken, Kansas, visited relatives in Hoxie Sunday.

Ray G. Corke is another rural route patron to switch from the Quinter route to the new Studley route.

A. T. Andregg and Ward Andregg and M. C. Zeigler were visitors at the John Steigler home at Menlo on Sunday.

M. F. Wade and Al Sumier are in Salina this week attending the butchers' convention. Mr. Wade loses no opportunity to keep up-to-date in his chosen line.

Mrs. Fred White is in the Hays hospital. In January she had the misfortune to get a bone broken in her left arm and the limb became infected and is giving her much pain.

Mr. and Mrs. Norton Mullender have gone to Beardsley, Kansas, to live. Mr. Mullender has charge of the Foster Lumber yard there.

George Bomhoff, of Osborne, passed through Hoxie Tuesday on his way to Burlington, Colorado. He called at this office to see his cousin, Mrs. Bear.

Pleasant Ridge

Rev. Howard and wife were shopping in Morland Tuesday morning.

Mrs. Lottie Green visited at the H. T. Corke home Tuesday and Wednesday.

Miss Sadie Loof attended Mrs. Dingle's funeral at St. Peter, Thursday morning.

Saline Pick Ups

A large crowd attended the Mother's Day services and basket dinner at Prairie Flower.

Mr. and Mrs. Simon called at the F. H. Phelps home in Quinter Sunday.

Earl Breeden stayed a couple of weeks with his sister, Mrs. Ray Corke.

Lucerne Items

Everyone enjoyed the rains but not the dirt.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Long and children, Mr. Wilbur Small and Mr. Gaylord Haynes spent Sunday at the Jess Bangle home.

Mrs. J. L. Shoemaker spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Ira L. Shoemaker and family.

75 Years Ago May 17, 1951

Improvements at Mickey's

Those who have had the occasion to visit the Mickey Hardware since the first of the week have noted many changes on the inside appearance of the store. New and modern shelvings line the entire north side of the store and to the rear, or east side. These fixtures are the very latest and add much to the appearance of the store. Vernon also stated that more fixtures have been ordered and upon their arrival will have the entire store decked out with an inside dress. The next time you are in town drop in and look over these improvements.

Thimble Circle Club

Club met with Lucille Mowry for an afternoon meeting. Sewing and embroidery work was done for the hostess. A delicious lunch was served at the close of the meeting.

Fifty or more members and guests fathered at Alice Mileys Tuesday for the annual Farm Bureau Mother's Day meeting and tea. A fine program was rendered before the tea in the afternoon. A wonderful cooperatives dinner was served at noon.

Miss Leora Gates and Mr. Alvin Henderson, of Oakley, were married last Saturday at Denver, going from there to Wyoming where they will make their home.

Tasco Notes

Club met with Bessie Rowilson May 3rd, with eleven members present. A fine dinner was served at noon. Quilting was done for the hostess. Everyone enjoyed the day. Club will meet with Nettie Ackerman May 17th.

Leoville News

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Dreiling and children spent Thursday with his parents in Victoria.

Woody Fleckenstein, of Denver, was a Sunday visitor at the August Karls home.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Meier and daughters, of Menlo, were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Campbell and family.

Midway Items

The Fred Johnson home was the meeting place of Midway Unit, last Thursday. Fifteen members and one visitor answered roll call with helpful hints. Mrs. Bill Vickers gave a report on the spring tea held at the Methodist church, Wednesday, May 9.

Mrs. Lula Russell spent Wednesday with Mr. and Mrs. Ray Russell.

On May 1, Bowen Bros. sold four mor 4-H calves to Oklahoma parties.

Lucerne Items

Bill Mowry has been quite busy grading township roads the past week.

Donald Kemper is the owner of a new Buick.

LeRoy Mowry has been doing some work for Art Mowry the past week.

50 Years Ago

May 13, 1976

Hoxie Elks Win State Trophies

Hoxie Elks Lodge #2415 recently received two trophies for their participation in the Elks National Foundation Scholarship Program. The presentations were made at the Kansas State Elks Association spring meeting held in Wichita.

The local lodge received for the third consecutive year the trophy for the most new members to begin pledging their support to the Elks National Foundation for a lodge with membership between 400 and 800 members. The lodge had 57 new members the past year.

Studley Items

Mr. and Mrs. Sylvan Harris and son and a grandson visited her mother, Mrs. Rachel Niblock, Friday night and until noon on May 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Niblock and family, Mr. and Mrs. John Lewis and Marty, Mr. and Mrs. Roldon Sanchez and Duane Dechant's father were Sunday, May 2 dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Duane

Dechant, Lisa and Karen.

Mrs. Myrtle Covalt spent Mother's Day with Mr. and Mrs. Roy Covalt and attended church with them. We were happy to have her.

McGraw News

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Weimer, Jason and Jodi were Thursday evening guests of Mr. and Mrs. Dwane Tice.

Mrs. Ben Tribble was a Sunday morning coffee guest at the Dwane Tice home.

Alvin Leist was a Thursday guest of Mr. and Mrs. George Launchbaugh and Steve.

Leoville News

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Kruse and boys and Mrs. Anna Kruse were in Hays Sunday and visited relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. John Meitl were Sunday dinner guests of the Walter Meitl family.

Don Fortin who is stationed in Germany is home on leave visiting his father, Gene Fortin, and other relatives.

Mickey's Want Ads

In case you missed the Pumice sticks last week we've got more in stock now.

Two attractive girls walking down Main Street, with a lone sailor dogging their every footstep. Finally one of the girls wheeled around and announced angrily, "You there, Mr. Fresh! Either quit following us this way, or get another sailor!"

Lawn chairs - all sizes and different colors.

Ladies Golf

There were 14 ladies who enjoyed golf and the noon luncheon Tuesday, May 11. Sharon Mosier won the prize for having the highest score last week.

Prize next week is the best score on the even-numbered holes.

Bring your salad and join us. - Reporter

Broadway News

Rev. and Mrs. Marshall Schirer of Scott City called at Albert Smiths Monday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Corke visited Paul Corkes at Allen, Kansas, a few days the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Popp spent Sunday at Jim Popp's.

25 Years Ago

May 10, 2001

Kennedy Wins State History Day Competition

Jenna Kennedy, a freshman at Hoxie High School, won first place in the senior individual documentary category at the Kansas State History Day contest in Abilene on Saturday, May 5.

Kennedy presented a 10-minute documentary entitled, "Frontiers of Freedom," the story of the Volga-Germans who migrated from Germany to Russia's Volga River region in the 1700s.

Student Signatures to Travel in Space

Many youngsters dream of traveling into space. The lucky students at Hoxie Grade School and Junior High School are being given a chance to live that dream vicariously by having their personal signatures travel aboard a United State space shuttle mission this fall as part of the "Student Signatures in Space" program.

The program was introduced to the Hoxie school by Joyce Schultz, astronaut trainer with NASA in Houston, Texas. Schultz is the cousin of Joe and Les Pratt.

Jennings-Allison

The Lions Club will host a Mother's Day dinner at the Masonic Hall from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

They will also host the Sports Banquet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 17, at the school. Guests of the club will be student athletes and coaches. Parents and other supporters will be asked to pay \$3 each to help cover expenses. The \$400 Mac Harris Scholarship will be awarded during the banquet.

The Tuesday Study Club visited the Prairie Museum of Art and History in Colby where they toured the museum and dined at the Desert Rose Bed and Breakfast.

Broadway

The news this week is about as scarce as hen's teeth - I'm sure there's lots of it out there, I just don't know what it is.

Lisa Popp, accompanied by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Popp, went to Horn Creek, Colo. on Monday. Lisa will be working at the Christian Camp there the next five months.

Curt Simon drove his mother, Ila Pierson, and her friend, Dorothy Hull, to Hoxie on Friday night where they attended the Pops Choir After Dinner Show at the high school. Pastor Leroy and Gwen Herder of Quinter, also attended, along with several from this community.

McGraw

Mr. and Mrs. Gayle Bainter went to the Rotary district conference in Concordia on Friday and Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Dee Lewis spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Larry Kness in Thorton, Colo. Mr. and Mrs. Troy Allen and Grace were Saturday afternoon guests of the Knesses and Lewises.

Mr. and Mrs. George Launchbaugh, and Steve Launchbaugh visited Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Sines in McCook on Sunday.

Bridge Construction Nearing Completion



The bridge construction north of Hoxie on Hwy 23 was finally pouring the concrete last week. It won't be long before it will be open to traffic. (Sentinel Staff photo)

Museum News

By Shari Buss, Director, Hansen Museum

The Hansen Museum continues to host SPECTACLE, a captivating photography exhibition traveled by the National Geographic Society. This remarkable collection showcases powerful images from around the world, highlighting extraordinary moments, diverse cultures, breathtaking landscapes, and compelling human stories through the lens of talented photographers. Each photograph offers visitors a chance to experience places and perspectives they may never encounter otherwise, making the exhibition both thought-provoking and memorable. Whether you enjoy photography, travel, history, or storytelling, SPECTACLE provides an unforgettable gallery experience for visitors of all ages.

Creative opportunities continue at the museum with several exciting classes coming up. Sew What? Bags is scheduled for May 30 and will be taught by area instructor Pauline Poage. This fun and practical sewing class gives participants the opportunity to create their own large tote bag using The Big Bag Theory pattern. Designed for confident beginner sewers, the class provides step-by-step instruction through the construction process, including adding a lining, flap, and insert for extra structure and durability.

Participants in Sew What? Bags will gain confidence working with multiple layers of fabric while learning techniques that can be used in future sewing projects. Students may choose coordinating fabrics for a polished look or use a charm pack to create a unique patchwork design. By the end of the class, each participant will leave with a stylish, functional tote bag and the skills needed to continue creating more bags on their own.

The museum is also excited to offer a basket weaving class with Marsha Jensen on June 6 featuring Jillian's Basket. This medium-sized round basket measures approximately 12 by 7 inches and is designed for a variety of everyday uses. Ideal for students who already have some basket weaving experience, the class introduces more advanced techniques while helping participants strengthen foundational weaving skills.

During the class, students will learn how to construct a solid, spoked base and incorporate several intermediate weaving methods under guided instruction. Participants will complete a beautiful and durable basket while developing greater confidence in shaping baskets, handling tools, and understanding basket structure and design. The class offers an excellent opportunity for those ready to challenge themselves creatively and expand their weaving knowledge.

Also featured this month is Artist of the Month Mary Beth Rose. Her charming fiber art creations include handmade cards, trinket books, and enchanting Northern Lights shadow boxes illuminated with delicate fairy lights. Her work combines creativity and craftsmanship in ways that capture both whimsy and warmth. Visitors are encouraged to stop by and enjoy her unique collection.

There is always something new to experience at the Hansen Museum, from inspiring exhibitions to hands-on classes and local artistic talent. Visitors are encouraged to take time to explore SPECTACLE before the exhibition closes on June 14, 2026. The Hansen Museum is located at 110 W. Main Street in Logan, Kansas. Museum hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.; Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.; and Sunday and holidays from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. The Museum is handicapped-accessible, and admission is always free courtesy of the Dane G. Hansen Foundation. For additional information, please call 785-689-4846. We hope to see YOU at the Museum soon!

Prairie Doc Perspective: Pump Handles and Public Health

By Jill Kruse, DO

Health care is often thought of as something that happens one patient at a time in a clinic or hospital. Public health takes a broader view and is focused on improving the health of entire populations. In 1854, a London physician helped stop a deadly cholera outbreak by removing a simple pump handle. That moment would become one of the earliest and most powerful examples of public health in action. Back then no one understood how cholera spread. Many believed it was caused by "bad air" or mysterious environmental forces. They did not know that it was actually caused by a bacterium that was spread through contaminated water sources.

Dr. John Snow noticed a pattern. In London's Soho neighborhood, a cluster of cholera cases seemed concentrated around a single public water source, the Broad Street pump. When he mapped where people lived, most of the infections pointed back to that pump. Even those who lived farther away, but became ill reported getting their water from the same source. Meanwhile, workers at a nearby brewery, who drank beer instead of water, were largely spared. The brewing process, alcohol and acidity of the beer made it difficult

'Click It or Ticket' Launched

Memorial Day weekend marks the unofficial beginning of summer and the season for vacations and road trips. The Kansas Department of Transportation, Kansas Highway Patrol and Kansas Turnpike Authority urge drivers and passengers to always buckle up.

"Memorial Day is one of the busiest travel times of the year, and as we begin the Click It or Ticket campaign, we remind everyone to make seat belt use a habit," said Kansas Highway Patrol Colonel Erik Smith. "Wearing a seat belt takes only seconds and saves lives, so please ensure everyone in your vehicle is properly restrained on every trip."

Drivers will see an increased law enforcement presence on Kansas roads during the national Click It or Ticket campaign, which runs from May 17-June 1.

"There is no question – using seat belts saves lives and prevents serious injuries," said Transportation Secretary Calvin Reed. "Whether you're heading out on a summer road trip or to the grocery store down the street, please buckle up every time and make sure your family and friends do the same."

Preliminary 2025 data shows that 30% of people killed and 21% of those seriously injured in crashes were unbelted. Buckling up can reduce your risk of death by up to 60%, depending on the type of vehicle and your seating position.

"On the Kansas Turnpike, drivers typically travel longer distances at higher speeds, which makes buckling up even more critical," said Jeri Biehler, KTA's director of marketing and communications. "Our crews, KHP Troop G, and responders see firsthand how seat belts reduce serious injuries and help people walk away from situations that could otherwise be fatal."

For more information on seat belt safety, visit nhtsa.gov/SeatBelts.

For the latest updates on road closures and conditions, visit KanDrive.gov, call 511 in Kansas or 866-511-5368 outside Kansas. Travelers who need assistance on the highway can dial *47 for the KHP or *582 while on the Kansas Turnpike. If it's an emergency, call 911.

TeleMental Health Credential Training at FHSU

By FHSU University Communications

Hays - Fort Hays State University's Counseling Program has been approved as a Registered Credential Training Provider (RCTP) for the Board Certified-TeleMental Health (BC TMH) credential by the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) and its credentialing affiliate, the Center for Credentialing & Education (CCE).

This designation places FHSU among a select group of institutions nationwide authorized to offer training that meets NBCC's national standards for telemental health practice. As an RCTP, FHSU can provide coursework that fulfills the educational training requirements for the BC TMH credential, supporting both counseling students and licensed professionals seeking to strengthen their competence in ethical, legal, and effective technology assisted mental health services.

FHSU delivers BC TMH aligned training through its Advanced Education Programs, offering a structured sequence of courses that address telemental health foundations, advanced clinical skills, and service delivery for special populations. Designed for flexibility and accessibility, the fully online format allows graduate students and working professionals to engage in high quality training while developing practical, real world skills.

The initiative is further supported by Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) grant funding, which is focused on expanding telehealth education and strengthening the behavioral health workforce across Kansas. Grant support aids curriculum development, training opportunities, and outreach efforts to improve access to mental health services statewide.

Students enrolled in FHSU's counseling programs may begin completing BC TMH aligned training as part of their graduate coursework. Licensed counselors and other qualified professionals may participate through continuing education offerings within Advanced Education Programs. While training may be completed prior to licensure, the BC TMH credential is awarded after a clinician obtains an independent license and successfully completes the required application and examination process.

As demand for virtual mental health services continues to rise, FHSU's RCTP designation reinforces the university's role in preparing a counseling workforce equipped to meet evolving delivery needs.

Individuals interested in learning more about telemental health training opportunities or the pathway to the BC TMH credential may visit the Fort Hays State University website or contact the Department of Advanced Education Programs.

for the cholera bacteria or other pathogens to survive.

Armed with this evidence, Dr. Snow convinced local officials to remove the pump handle. This cut off public access to the contaminated water. After this happened, the number of new infections quickly declined. That simple act marked the beginning of modern public health; using data, observation, and intervention to stop disease at its source.

Today, public health has evolved from reacting to outbreaks to preventing illness before it starts. Public health professionals work behind the scenes to protect and improve the health of communities. They do this through providing education, guiding policy, and conducting research. They are the unsung heroes of healthcare. When Public Health works well, it can be almost invisible or easy to ignore. However, when there is a breakdown in Public Health services, the results can be devastating to a community and the effects are obvious.

Federal, state and local health departments prepare for emergencies, monitor for disease outbreaks, ensure food safety, and safeguard water quality. They also advocate for health screenings in underserved or high-risk populations. Public health officials work to reduce barriers to care and promote healthier lifestyles for

Scholarships

Continued from page 1

Eller.

The Youth on the Move Scholarship, sponsored by Hoxie Recreation, supports graduates of Hoxie USD 412 who have been actively engaged in community and youth activities throughout high school. Receiving awards of \$250.00 each were Madi Meier, Allie Gourley, Avery Mauck, and Chloe Porsch.

The Pheasants Forever Memorial Scholarship, established by the local Pheasants Forever organization, is awarded to a graduate of Hoxie USD 412 who has completed the Hunter Education Certification course. Hailey Vaughn was selected to receive the \$500.00 award.

In addition, Hailey Vaughn was named the inaugural recipient of the Fred L. Moss Memorial Scholarship receiving a \$500.00 award. This scholarship was established by the Moss family following Fred's passing in late 2025 to honor his legacy and support future generations of Hoxie students.

The Foundation extends their sincere gratitude to the scholarship funders for their generosity and foresight in establishing these awards, as well as to the individuals on each scholarship review committee for their time, dedication, and care in reviewing applications and making thoughtful funding recommendations. We are honored to support these graduates as they embark on their next chapter, and we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the entire Hoxie High School Class of 2026.

Donors interested in creating a scholarship or other grant funds with the Foundation are encouraged to contact 785-677-5090 or director@growsheridancounty.org.

SCCF is an affiliate of the Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation based in Bird City. The foundation seeks to encourage, prudently manage, and distribute charitable contributions to improve the quality of life of Sheridan County residents, now and in the future. To learn more, contact Pratt at 785-677-5090, director@growsheridancounty.org, or visit www.growsheridancounty.org. Connect with SCCF at www.facebook.com/sheridancf.

EMS

Continued from page 1

Free hot dogs, chips, cookies, and drinks will also be provided throughout the event.

Sheridan County EMS hopes the event will provide the community with a closer look at the services EMS professionals provide every day and help educate the public on lifesaving skills that can make a difference during emergencies.

"EMS is about more than just responding to emergencies – it's about serving, educating, and building relationships within our communities," said Sheridan County EMS Director Jordan Riley. "We're excited to open our doors and give the public an opportunity to see what we do and how they can play a role in improving outcomes together."

The Sheridan County EMS Station is located at 1717 Oak Avenue in Hoxie. Everyone is welcome, and there is no cost to attend.

Dighton

Continued from page 3

also competed in the 200-meter dash, placing 3rd with a time of 26.25. In the relays, the 4x800 relay placed 5th with a time of 10:52.21, and the 4x400 relay placed 2nd with a time of 4:17.51. The 4x100 relay was the girls' most successful event, placing 1st with a time of 50.57. With their combined points, the Lady Indians took 1st place as a team.

The Indians will start their postseason competition on Thursday, May 14, at the MCL track meet in Smith Center, with Regionals to follow on May 21.

GCDC

Continued from page 3

project and would like to give a special thank you to Kay Haffner for all of her consideration and the hard work she puts toward each and every one of us."

Winning this grant will allow the group to begin making improvements to the high school gym and sound system, helping create a better experience for students, staff, and the entire community.

everyone. They may not be removing pump handles anymore, but they are still working every day to protect our water, our food, and our communities. They are helping us all, as we say on the show, to stay healthy out there people.

Dr. Jill Kruse is a hospitalist at the Brookings Health System in Brookings, SD. She serves as one of the Prairie Doc Volunteer Hosts during its 24th Season providing Health Education Based on Science, Built on Trust. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Tik Tok. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).

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Kansas Press Association

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

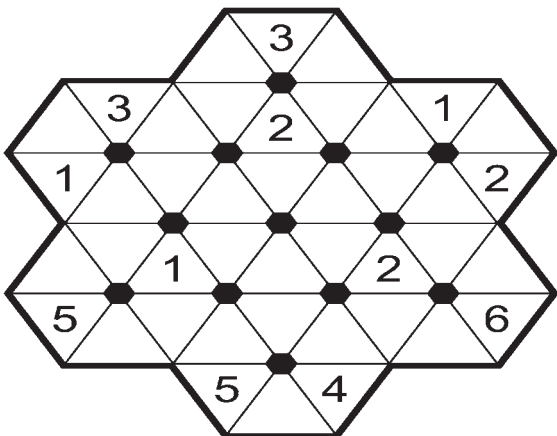
◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆◆

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆◆ Difficult

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Super Crossword

A DOSE OF REALITY

- ACROSS**
- 1 "The Real O'Neals" network
 - 4 Eye-popper
 - 8 Town in NE New Jersey
 - 13 Root
 - 19 Old Olds
 - 20 Some till fill
 - 21 Obstinate reply
 - 22 Nobelist Hemingway
 - 23 Phnom Penh's land [2015]
 - 25 Tonga's site [2011]
 - 27 Top points
 - 28 Purplish-red flower
 - 30 Apple product
 - 31 "Beats me!"
 - 33 Fashion's Anna —
 - 34 Aries, e.g.
 - 36 Home of Columbus
 - 40 Kitchen raiders
 - 41 Neighbor of Mexico [2005]
 - 44 Kenya's home [2001]
 - 46 Zing
 - 47 Virginia hrs.
 - 48 Varieties
 - 50 They're part of French Polynesia [2002]
 - 55 Country with the capital Vila [2004]
 - 58 Tint
 - 59 Sailor's site
 - 60 Big Apple NFL team, on score-boards
 - 62 Umlaut pair
 - 63 High-five sounds
 - 65 Conduct, as business
 - 68 Legal exam
 - 70 "Adios!"
 - 72 Harvest mo.
 - 73 Where Tagalog is spoken [2012]
 - 76 "Finished!"
 - 80 Sailing
 - 82 Biology div.
 - 83 Inventive
 - 85 Cola brand
 - 88 Comic Foxx
 - 90 Log cutter
 - 92 Paradises
 - 93 "Hail, Livy!"
 - 94 Luzon province north of Isabela [2014]
 - 97 Its president is Daniel Ortega [2010]
 - 100 One who dawdles
 - 102 Cartoon yell
 - 104 Tram cargo
 - 105 Where balboas are spent [2006]
 - 106 World's largest rain forest [2003]
 - 110 Cotillion girls
 - 114 Hose mishap
 - 115 "Pardon?"
 - 116 "— tu" (Verdi aria)
 - 117 Diner staple
 - 119 "Mamma Mia!" quartet
 - 122 Treatment process
 - 125 Greek vowel in this puzzle
 - 132 "Billy —" (2000 film)
 - 133 Maine city
 - 134 Sky color
 - 135 Butyl or propyl ender
 - 136 Titans
 - 137 Native of Italy's Leaning Tower city
 - 138 Desires
 - 139 Outlaw Kelly
- DOWN**
- 1 Secret stuff
 - 2 Signal light
 - 3 Perpetrate
 - 4 Having slack
 - 5 German link
 - 6 Viking Ericson
 - 7 Chant for the Dream Team
 - 8 Aquarium swimmers, to toddlers
 - 9 Deuces
 - 10 Novelist — May Alcott
 - 11 Necessitate
 - 12 Numerical suffix
 - 13 Sewer's line
 - 14 Whale type
 - 15 Horse's mythical kin
 - 16 Ump's kin
 - 17 2000-15 TV drama
 - 18 List abbr.
 - 24 Nap locales
 - 26 Lapel sticker
 - 29 Affectedly adorable
 - 32 Old film critic James
 - 35 Entire scope
 - 37 Too — price
 - 38 Freeze over
 - 39 Havens
 - 42 Co. with Crown trucks
 - 43 "True Life" channel
 - 44 Hgt.
 - 45 Soul-seller of legend
 - 46 Many groan-eliciting jokes
 - 49 Egg-hunt holiday
 - 50 Verbal jewels
 - 51 Lot division
 - 52 Harvest
 - 53 Australian airline
 - 54 Opposer
 - 56 Conforms
 - 57 Brief denial
 - 61 "The Wizard of Oz" witch
 - 64 Hoity-toity
 - 66 Jungle beast
 - 67 Fee
 - 69 Jacuzzi joint
 - 71 "Do — say!"
 - 74 Gent partner
 - 75 "— get it!"
 - 77 Blood type, in brief
 - 78 Half of Mork's farewell
 - 79 Film lioness
 - 81 "Attack, mutt!"
 - 84 Richard of "No Mercy"
 - 85 Feelers on insects
 - 86 Brand of spring water
 - 87 Del. neighbor
 - 89 Ground
 - 91 Major Turkish city
 - 95 Noted coach Parseghian
 - 96 Classy gp.?
 - 98 Dove's noise
 - 99 River in Italy
 - 101 Cosmonaut Yuri
 - 103 Poet Ralph Waldo —
 - 107 John Wayne film of 1962
 - 108 Group that shares a culture
 - 109 Flies past
 - 110 Actress Moore
 - 111 Late morning time
 - 112 "Vamoose!"
 - 113 Gazed rudely
 - 115 Used to exist
 - 118 Dance parts
 - 120 Dark stain
 - 121 Smithereens
 - 123 Writer O'Brien
 - 124 Noel
 - 126 Wooden nail
 - 127 Yale attendee
 - 128 Pie — mode
 - 129 Chop (off)
 - 131 RBI part

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
19			20					21				22								
23			24					25				26								
27					28		29					30								
31				32		33			34		35				36	37	38	39		
40				41	42				43			44	45							
				46			47				48	49								
50	51	52	53			54		55	56	57							58			
59						60		61		62				63	64					
65					66	67		68	69				70	71						
72					73			74				75			76	77	78	79		
				80	81			82				83			84					
85	86	87				88	89			90	91				92					
93				94	95				96		97		98	99						
100				101					102	103			104							
105							106	107	108				109				110	111	112	113
114							115				116			117	118					
				119	120	121			122		123			124		125				
126	127	128					129					130	131							
132								133				134							135	
136								137				138								139

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: G equals Y

TAFM GNY'QF OZSFQVMR KYUS
SAF CVQUS TNQW NC O UFMSFMBF,
GNY BNYZW DF BAOMRVMR SAF
UYDKFBS.

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GO FIGURE!

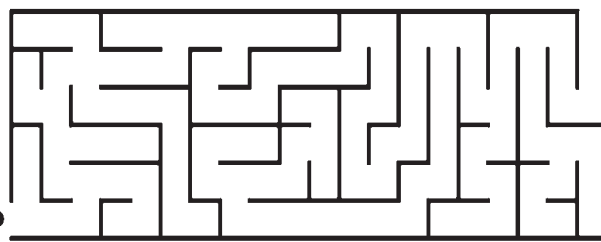
The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	÷	+		11
+		×	÷	
	×		÷	14
+		+	+	
	×		-	17
13	12	11		

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult ★★★ GO FIGURE!

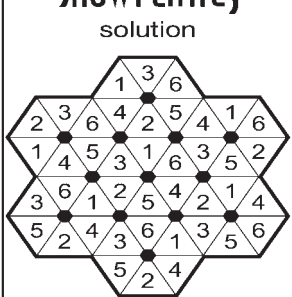
Kids' Maze



Kids' Maze Solution



SNOWFLAKES solution



Go Figure! answers

2	÷	1	+	9	11
+		×	÷		
6	×	7	÷	3	14
+		+	+		
5	×	5	-	8	17
13	12	11			

Super Crossword

Answers

A	B	C	L	L	U	F	T	L	E	E	S	O	U	R	C	E			
R	E	O	N	E	S	I	W	O	N	T	E	R	N	E	S	T			
C	A	M	B	O	D	I	A	S	O	U	T	H	P	A	C	I	F	I	C
A	C	M	E	S	F	U	C	H	S	I	A	I	M	A	C				
N	O	I	D	E	A	S	U	I	S	I	G	N	O	H	I	O			
A	N	T	S	G	U	A	T	E	M	A	L	A	A	F	R	I	C	A	
				P	E	P	E	S	T	M	E	L	A	N	G	E	S		
M	A	R	Q	U	E	S	A	S	V	A	N	U	A	T	U	H	U	E	
O	C	E	A	N	Y	G	D	O	T	S	S	L	A	P	S				
T	R	A	N	S	A	C	T	L	S	A	T	T	A	T	A				
S	E	P	T	P	H	I	L	I	P	P	I	N	E	S	D	O	N	E	
				A	S	E	A	A	N	A	T	O	R	I	G	I	N	A	L
P	E	P	S	I	R	E	D	D	S	A	W	E	D	E	N	S			
A	V	E	C	A	G	A	Y	A	N	N	I	C	A	R	A	G	U	A	
L	I	N	G	E	R	E	E	K	O	R	E								
P	A	N	A	M	A	T	H	E	A	M	A	Z	O	N	D	E	B	S	
S	N	A	G	W	H	A	T	E	R	I	O	M	E	L	E	T			
				A	B	B	A	T	H	E	R	A	P	Y	O	M	E	G	A
P	E	A	R	L	I	S	L	A	N	D	S	S	U	R	V	I	V	O	R
E	L	L	I	O	T	O	R	O	N	O	B	L	U	E	N	E			
G	I	A	N	T	S	P	I	S	A	N	Y	E	N	S	N	E	D		

Fun Page Solutions

CryptoQuip answer

When you're altering just the first word of a sentence, you could be changing the subject.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

5	8	6	4	9	1	3	2	7
2	3	4	8	6	7	9	1	5
1	9	7	5	3	2	4	8	6
6	2	8	1	7	4	5	9	3
3	7	5	9	2	6	1	4	8
4	1	9	3	8	5	7	6	2
9	6	2	7	1	3	8	5	4
8	4	3	6	5	9	2	7	1
7	5	1	2	4	8	6	3	9

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City Minutes
4/13/25

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 13, 2026

The Governing Body of the City of Hoxie, Kansas, met in regular session on Monday, April 13, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the City Office. Present were Dawn Elliott, Mayor, Jim Erwin, Street Commissioner, Kevin Schoendaler, Water Commissioner, Janet Bainter, City Clerk, Justin Armknecht, City Superintendent, Paul Wisinger, Chief of Police, and Harry Joe Pratt, City Attorney.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dawn Elliott at 7:00 p.m. Guests present were Sofia White, Karl Pratt, Kerissa Payne, Norie Zerr, Tami Porsch, Rachel Farber, Viktorija Briggs, and Tucker Armknecht.

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 9, 2026, were read and approved on a motion made by Mayor Elliott and seconded by Schoendaler. Motion carried 3-0

Sofia White entered the meeting to discuss concerns about the former Getz IGA building and to see how she could help resolve the issue. She said she had been in contact with Sara Bloom, Quality Places Director, at the Kansas Department of Commerce, and would follow up to determine what, if anything, could be done. White left the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Karl Pratt entered the meeting to present a tornado siren grant check to the City for \$18,491.67. The most recent quote for the sirens was \$67,266.70. Armknecht said he would attend the County meeting again to see whether the County would help cover the cost.

Kerissa Payne came forward to discuss the Sheridan County Community Foundation survey. The SCCF is a countywide strategic planning initiative, in partnership with City and County Commissioners, schools, and hospitals, to strengthen the community for the future. Survey participants may enter a raffle after completing the survey. Payne said a Town Hall meeting will be held May 26 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the 4-H Building. Pratt and Payne left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Tucker Armknecht left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Norie Zerr entered the meeting. Erwin made a motion to hire Norie Zerr as pool manager for the 2026 season at a pay rate of \$500.00 per week. Schoendaler seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Mayor Elliott made a motion to start new guards at \$10.00 per hour and give returning guards a 50¢ per hour increase. Schoendaler seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-1.

Mayor Elliott made a motion to increase daily admission to \$4.00 per hour regardless of age. Erwin seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Schoendaler made a motion to increase individual season passes \$5.00 each to \$90.00 and family season passes \$10.00 to \$160.00. Motion carried 3-0. Zerr exited at

PUBLIC NOTICE

Published in The Sheridan Sentinel May 14, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Hoxie Housing Authority has developed its Agency Plan in compliance with the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998. It is available for review at the Hoxie Housing Authority Office located at 925 8th Street, Hoxie, Kansas 67740. The Authority's hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. A public hearing will be held on May 18, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Room located at 925 8th Street, Hoxie, KS. The public is invited.

8:02 p.m.

Tami Porsch, Viktorija Briggs, and Rachel Farber asked for the Commission's approval to put metal signs on the light poles. They brought in examples and said they would be working on grant funding. The Commission gave their approval. Porsch, Briggs, and Farber exited at 8:09 p.m.

Bainter reported that the Hoxie Hotrodders will hold this year's Rod Run on Saturday, June 20, 2026. They requested permission to block off Sheridan Ave. from Main St. to 15th St. for the car show and to offer free swimming that day. Mayor Elliott moved to approve the Hotrodders' requests, and Erwin seconded. Motion carried 3-0

Pratt will draft a waiver for the Hoxie Gun Club members to sign to protect the City from liability for accidents.

Wisinger reported that the Sheridan County LEPC requested a keypad be installed on the east door of the Scout House so the Sheriff's Office and EMS can access the building during severe weather. He also said he is still working to remove junk vehicles. Wisinger will attend the Chiefs Conference in Wichita on May 3.

Armknrecht presented a quote in the amount of \$7740.00 for 6 dumpsters. He stated that he is still waiting for another quote. Schoendaler moved to order the dumpsters from the vendor with the lower bid, and Erwin seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Erwin moved to increase the dumpster rental fee to \$20.00 per day, and Schoendaler seconded. Motion carried 3-0

Schoendaler made a motion to accept the quote from Municipal Supply in the amount of \$9,129.86 to replace the fire hydrant at the Courthouse and to purchase a fire hydrant repair kit for \$418.94. Mayor Elliott seconded the motion. 3-0

Mayor Elliott moved, seconded by Erwin, to purchase a new maximum permitted height sign for \$399.80 plus shipping. Motion carried 3-0.

Armknrecht reported that Jeremy Farber, Beau Mishler, and Kaden Tremblay will attend Water Certification class on June 2, and that he will attend Competent Person Trenching class on June 3, and Confined Spaces class on June 4. He also reported that they have been reshingling and repainting the pavilion at the pool park.

With no further business, Schoendaler made a motion to adjourn. Erwin seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0

Janet Bainter, City Clerk

Dawn Elliott, Mayor
Jim Erwin, Street Commissioner

Kevin Schoendaler, Water Commissioner

Commission Minutes
5/5/26

Now on this 5th day of May 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.

Hirsch advised briefly; talked with the Board about the upcoming tax sale on May 26. The Board and Hirsch discussed pack rats and various ways to get rid of them.

Joe Herskowitz, Road & Bridge Supervisor, came to the table. Herskowitz gave an update on the bridge work in the southeast part of the county.

The mowers are still not in yet.

The BoMag hose is fixed but it is barely starting, the alternator light is on. Herskowitz will do some research on the cost for an alternator.

The landfill/C&D pit was discussed. The last time the C&D pit was reviewed was 2003. There is training coming up in Hays on July 30. Herskowitz will ask Tim Williams and Rodrigo Hernandez if they will go. Information from Hoxie Implement was distributed on the two pieces of equipment to be purchased using the 75/25 grant available from Kansas Department of Revenue. Total cost for the 2026 bobcat hydraulic pallet fork and 2024 bobcat 80" root grapple is \$8,700. The County's share is \$2,175.

The Board and Herskowitz discussed trucks. Herskowitz will check with Ritchie Brothers and Scott Foote and see what they might have available. Stithem suggested Big Iron and stated there are a couple of trucks in Grinnell for sale. Herskowitz distributed information from Wilkens Truck & Trailer on used trucks. There was discussion about equipment and roads.

The April 28, 2026 Minutes were approved as presented on a motion by Mader and second from Emigh. Carried 3-0

The Board and Hirsch discussed the budget needs for the County Attorney. They ask that he come with information at the next meeting. There was a brief discussion about emergency preparedness and public health.

At 9:47 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, May 12, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Room.

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

OBITUARY

Gary Baalman

June 12, 1937 ~ May 8, 2026



Gerhart (Gary) E. Baalman was born June 12, 1937, in Sheridan County, KS, to E.A. Baalman and Leoba (Robben) Baalman. He graduated from Sheridan County High School with the Class of 1955 and married Janice Cass in Oakley, KS, on January 11, 1958.

Gary was a phenomenal husband, father, papa, brother, and friend whose family always came first. He and Janice shared a deep, lifelong romance, and they celebrated 64 years of marriage. Their home was centered on family traditions, deep, long-lasting friendships, card games, and faith. Gary especially

loved playing and watching golf. He was an avid reader. Gary and Janice spent a great deal of time traveling, often to be with their children and grandchildren who were out of state.

A lifelong farmer and innovator, Gary was widely respected for his intelligence, work ethic, and forward-thinking approach to agriculture. Long before modern conservation practices became common, the Baalman operation was implementing ridge-till, no-till, and strip-till farming methods to conserve water and topsoil and reduce erosion. Gary won recognition for exceptional crop yields, including producing 262 bushels of corn per acre.

Gary had the mind of an engineer. If something broke, he fixed it. If the equipment could work better, he redesigned it. He routinely purchased new machinery only to dismantle, improve, and rebuild it for greater efficiency. He engineered and fabricated countless innovations for the family farm, including a self-propelled grain cart and sprayer, planters, strip-till rigs, feedlot systems, Quonset trusses and structures, and even two of the first water-driven irrigation pivots powered by water pressure. A manure spreader he built as a high school project remains in use.

The Baalman brothers were known throughout northwest Kansas for being ahead of their time. Gary freely shared his knowledge with neighbors and major implement manufacturers alike, helping influence improvements. He believed in fixing rather than replacing and approached every challenge with determination and ingenuity. His creativity, mechanical ability, and systematic thinking left a lasting mark on modern farming, cattle, and ranching practices.

Gary's farm shop, residential garages, closet, and bathroom drawers reflected his remarkable organizational skills and attention to detail. Every tool and everything had its place, and he could locate anything within seconds. And if something was missing, it was always his brother, Howard, jokingly. Gary shared an especially close bond with his brother Howard, his best friend and constant companion in innovation and conversation, often over a bourbon.

Though quiet by nature, Gary commanded tremendous respect in his community. When he spoke, people listened. He was opinionated, direct, competitive, and driven, yet deeply generous and committed to helping others. If a project benefited the community, Gary often volunteered his time, labor, or resources without hesitation, and often in secrecy. Gary had a special twinkle in his eye, often paired with a sharp wit, a legendary sense of humor, and practical jokes.

He served in numerous leadership roles throughout his life, including several years on the Midwest Energy Board of Directors, as a Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus, and as a lifetime member of the Hoxie Elks Lodge, the Kansas Livestock Association, and the Kansas Corn Growers Association. He was instrumental in starting Western Plains Energy. He also devoted countless hours caring for the local golf course and Catholic cemetery.

He strongly believed in hard work, discipline, and teaching others to think for themselves. His family remembers his toughness, high expectations, and unwavering commitment to passing down the work ethic and values that built the family farm and legacy.

A man of strong Catholic faith, Gary remained devoted to God throughout his life. He and Janice were lifelong members of either St. Martin's or St. Frances Cabrini Catholic parishes. Even while battling laryngeal cancer, which eventually took away his natural voice and required a voice prosthetic, Gary faced life with determination, resilience, and courage.

Gary is survived by his children: Brian and wife Sheri of Menlo, Kansas; Gwen and husband Todd Dobbs of Flagstaff, Arizona; and Andrea Taylor and Michael Berger of Denver, Colorado. He is also survived by eight grandchildren: Cass (Alicia) Baalman, Coby Baalman, Hannah Dobbs, Tyler (Courtney) Dobbs, Kate Ostmeyer (Ryan Sargent), Will Taylor, Luke Taylor, and Nora Taylor; and eleven great-grandchildren: Arabella, Laken, Anne, Harper, Daisy, Bonnie, Eli, Ava, Ryder, and Navy.

"Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."
Matt. 11:28

Visitation was Thursday May 14, 2026, at Mickey-Leopold Funeral Home with a Vigil and Rosary following. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Friday, May 15, 2026, at 10:30am at St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church in Hoxie. Private family inurnment at a later date.

Kansas Crop Progress and Condition

Manhattan - For the week ending May 10, 2026, there were 5.9 days suitable for fieldwork, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Topsoil moisture supplies rated 27% very short, 38% short, 34% adequate, and 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies rated 27% very short, 37% short, 35% adequate, and 1% surplus.

Field Crops Report: Winter wheat condition rated 21% very poor, 30% poor, 32% fair, 16% good, and 1% excellent. Winter wheat headed was 86%, ahead of 67% last year, and well ahead of 49% for the five-year average.

Corn planted was 52%, behind 59% last year, and near 55% average. Emerged was 32%, behind 39% last year, but near 30% average.

Soybeans planted was 36%, near 33% last year, and ahead of 30% average. Emerged was 11%, near 9% last year and 8% average.

Sorghum planted was 6%, near 5% last year and 4% average.

Cotton planted was 12%, ahead of 4% last year, but near 14% average.

Sunflowers planted was 1%, equal to average.

Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range conditions rated 12% very poor, 18% poor, 31% fair, 34% good, and 5% excellent.

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Spring into Health

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The upcoming annual Bicycle Rodeo, which will be held Friday, May 15, is primarily structured for participating students rather than as a public event. Community members are welcome to observe from the fence line, but we don't formally open it up for general walk-through traffic. This helps us keep the environment controlled and safe for the kids as they rotate through the stations.

Sheridan County does not currently conduct bicycle registration or identity marking. Our focus is on hands-on safety, education, and skill-building. Students are guided through multiple stations where we work on:

- Hand signals and basic traffic awareness
- Navigating stop signs and intersections
- Obstacle courses to simulate real-world riding situations

With the increasing popularity of e-bikes and e-scooters, we will be incorporating safety education specific to them, as well. As they are becoming very common, and they're fun and convenient, they also introduce higher speeds and new risks. The Bicycle Rodeo will be emphasizing:

- Obeying stop signs and traffic laws
- Slowing down in residential areas
- Wearing helmets, even on e-bikes and scooters
- Staying alert and avoiding distractions

Kansas Bike Safety Reminders & Laws:

- Bicycles are considered vehicles and must follow the same traffic laws as cars
- Riders must stop at stop signs and obey traffic signals
- Ride on the right side of the roadway, with traffic
- Use proper hand signals when turning or stopping
- Lights and reflectors are required when riding at night
- Local ordinances may regulate sidewalk riding and e-bike use—parents should check city rules

Health Benefits of Biking

This event also ties directly into overall health and wellness.

Biking:

- Improves cardiovascular fitness and endurance
- Builds strength, coordination, and balance
- Encourages outdoor activity and reduces screen time
- Supports mental health by reducing stress and improving mood

We share your concern regarding kids on e-bikes and scooters; education and awareness are key, and that is exactly the aim of this event.

The Sheridan County Sheriff's Office appreciates the continued support of local residents and businesses for the safety of the youth in our community.

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Are Local Health Departments the Linchpin for Rebuilding Trust in Public Health?

Apr 28, 2026

By Kevin Kovach, Dr. P.H., M.Sc.

A trusting community member shaking hands with a local health department official

Transforming Public Health for the 21st Century: Bridging Theory to Practice is a blog series that will explore the challenges and opportunities faced by the public health sector and will introduce innovative ideas and unique voices to support transformation. Sign up here to receive these summaries and more, and also follow KHI on Facebook, X, LinkedIn, and Instagram. Learn more about the series on our blog page. Please feel free to share your feedback or suggestions with us by emailing info@khi.org.

An Epidemic of Mistrust

The growing mistrust in public health might be the most important epidemic facing the field today. Trust in public health dropped during the COVID-19 pandemic, but it had already been eroding for decades. This erosion is part of a much broader decline in Americans' confidence in institutions of all kinds. Public opinion data show that in 1958, nearly three-quarters of Americans trusted the federal government to do what is right most of the time. By 1980, that figure had fallen to 25 percent. Since then, trust has remained low, with only about one in five U.S. adults holding that confidence now.¹

This issue is not unique to public health. The same downward trend shows up in other institutions, such as banking, education, organized religion and the media. But public health is being carried along in that current. Distrust of public health is deeply entangled with distrust of government and distrust of scientists. When Americans distrust public health institutions, they are often expressing something broader: a skepticism of authority and expert credibility, as well as a feeling that these institutions are not solving the problems they find most important.¹

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated and deepened these trends. A national survey showed that confidence in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) dropped from 82 percent to 56 percent between February 2020 and June 2022 — a decline of 26 percentage points.² Confidence in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) fell by 25 percentage points over the same period, while trust in professional medical organizations fell by 26 points. Confidence in state and local health departments declined by 16 and 13 points, respectively. Even physicians were not spared, with public trust in them declining by 11 points. The causes cited are familiar: rapidly changing and sometimes conflicting recommendations, perceived political influence and broader concerns about transparency.³

These findings are not unique to this survey and are reflected in other polls, such as KFF's Poll on Health Information and Trust, which found Americans' trust in the CDC to provide reliable information about COVID-19 vaccines, other vaccines and the coronavirus declined from 83 percent in March 2020 to 47 percent in January 2026.⁴ This information confirms what we already know, that public health leaders need to make rebuilding trust with their communities and the American people a strategic priority.⁵

Local Health Departments as a Bright Spot

Confidence in all public health institutions declined by the peak of the pandemic but had begun to rebound by 2024. Still, trust in almost all public health institutions remained lower than in early 2020.² The exception was local health departments, which saw a significant increase in high confidence from 67 percent in February 2020 to 73 percent by October 2024. By that point, local health departments were the public health entity Americans trusted most, reaching levels of confidence equal to those people had in their own doctor (Figure 1).²

Figure 1: Change in Confidence in Public Health Entities Among U.S. Adults: 2020 to 2024

Table listing health insurance and stand-alone dental plans available in Kansas for 2025, categorized by company, type, county availability, and plan level (e.g., catastrophic, bronze, silver). Includes a total of 81 health plans and 16 dental plans, with variations in availability across counties.

Note. Values represent the weighted percentage of U.S. adults reporting "high confidence" (rating of 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale). Surveys were conducted online using census-matched samples weighted by age, gender and race to the 2022 American Community Survey. Survey dates and sample sizes: February 4-7, 2020 (n=718); May 6-7, 2020 (n=672); June 8-13, 2022 (n=856); and October 20-27, 2024 (n=828).

Source: Melchinger H, Omer SB, Malik AA. Change in confidence in public health entities among U.S. adults between 2020-2024. PLOS Glob Public Health. 2025;5(6):e0004747. doi:10.1371/journal.pgph.0004747

These patterns are reflected in other data as well. In Missouri, local health departments rank as the second most trusted institution (60 percent), behind only fire departments (88 percent) and slightly ahead of police departments (59 percent).⁶ In North Carolina, trust in local health departments grew substantially following Hurricane Helene, rising from 43 percent to 68 percent among residents in affected counties.⁷ Nationally, KFF polling shows that local health departments are trusted to provide reliable vaccine information by more people (62 percent) than the CDC (47 percent), the Food and Drug Administration (57 percent) or state government officials (45 percent).⁴

Why have local health departments been more successful at rebuilding trust than state or federal agencies? The answer may lie in differences in their foundations. A 2022 national survey by SteelFisher and colleagues found that the CDC was trusted more for its adherence to scientific principles and access to experts. In contrast, local health departments were trusted more for working hard under difficult circumstances, demonstrating genuine care for people and providing direct services to communities.³

This relationship-based foundation matters. Data from Missouri show that trust is 26 percentage points higher among people who use local health department services than those that do not.⁶ Data from North Carolina show that trust grew by 25 percentage points as local health departments responded to Hurricane Helene.⁷ Qualitative data also reinforce these findings. Participants in focus groups held by Schuh and colleagues said they trusted local health departments more than national organizations because they are embedded in the community, have a stake in its success, and understand local context better than national organizations, which participants viewed as influenced by politics. They also valued seeing frontline workers, as opposed to "officials, policymakers or the CDC."⁸

These findings suggest that local health departments have been recognized for the human and relationship-centered dimensions of public health: compassion, hard work and direct care. These are assets that state and federal agencies cannot easily replicate.

The Role Local Health Departments Could Play in Rebuilding Trust

The data suggest that local health departments hold a distinctive trust advantage grounded in relationship-based credibility rather than scientific prestige. But holding an advantage is not the same as using it. Translating that goodwill into something durable will require strategic action and coordination across the nation at all levels of the public health enterprise. Below are three strategic moves that may help translate that advantage into tangible action.

Strategic Move 1: Demonstrate Competence by Solving Problems That People Care About

One dimension of trust is based on competence — can public health solve the problems people care about.⁹ This is reflected in the data. Blendon and Benson showed that Americans feel that public health and health care institutions aren't doing enough to solve the problems they care about.¹ To accomplish this, local health departments will need to know their community's pulse and be able to connect their desires to the health department's work in a meaningful way.¹⁰ Making community health assessment and community health improvement planning a core function of the health department's work, as opposed to something they do every couple of years, will be essential. Engaging communities, not just organizations, as co-creators and decision makers will be required.¹¹ The vision of public health accreditation was to develop a national network of high performing health departments.¹² This goal is still essential and will be necessary to rebuild the trust needed for effective public health action. However, we must remember that there are other paths and indicators of high performance, while also recognizing that accreditation should be viewed as a floor, not a ceiling, for public health performance.

Strategic Move 2: Foster Integrity Through Ethical Stewardship and Public Value

The second dimension of trust, and arguably the more important one, is whether people believe institutions are acting with integrity.⁹ Integrity in public health is the community's belief that an institution will manage power and resources fairly. Local health departments can exercise these dimensions through ethical decision-making and efficient stewardship of public dollars. Ethical decision-making requires considering alternative viewpoints and unintended consequences, as well as providing alternatives that provide different options for different levels of risk.¹³ Public health interventions should aim for the minimum effective dose — the smallest intervention needed to achieve the desired outcome.

Efficient stewardship requires showing communities the return on their investment. The majority of Americans believe their taxes are too high.¹⁴ While acknowledging that local health departments are already asked to do more with less, they can better demonstrate their value by communicating outcomes, showing how their work benefits various stakeholder groups — including some who may not recognize they are benefiting — and improving efficiency, possibly by applying Lean principles to reduce waste and bureaucracy, aligning internal operations with community priorities, and communicating benefits in terms the public understands.¹⁵

Strategic Move 3: Measure Trust and Build it Through Quality Improvement

Public health is a data driven profession, and local health departments are building skills in quality improvement methods. Both could be applied to rebuilding trust. Vangen and Huxham show that trust can be built iteratively through a cyclical process of forming expectations, taking action, fulfilling the expectations, and using that to build trust for more ambitious expectations.¹⁶ This same process could be used to support a plan-do-study-act process by local health departments focused on rebuilding trust. However, this process requires data, and that data is thin now. Data to support trust in public health could be built by incorporating measures in ongoing surveillance systems, such as the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. In the absence of a more formal, coordinated system like this, local health departments could build measures of community trust into their community health assessments. Since trust in public health is linked to compliance with numerous health behaviors, it would not be too much of a stretch to incorporate these measures into these systems.¹⁷

The Linchpin Question

Are local health departments the linchpin for rebuilding trust in public health? Maybe. The data suggest that they occupy a unique position that state and federal agencies do not. They gained trust when nearly every other institution lost it, and that trust is rooted in different, more human dimensions that may withstand political headwinds better than scientific prestige alone.

But a linchpin only works if it fits into a connected system. For local health departments to rebuild trust in overall public health, the public must see local health departments as part of a connected enterprise — a vital piece of a system working together. That means federal and state agencies treating local health departments not just as a delivery arm, but as the relational foundation of a trusted public health enterprise. Investing in that capacity, protecting their authority and standing alongside them is essential.

The next crisis will test whatever trust we have rebuilt. Local health departments have a unique role to play in rebuilding trust and could be the linchpin for success.

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About Kansas Health Institute

The Kansas Health Institute supports effective policymaking through nonpartisan research, education and engagement. KHI believes evidence-based information, objective analysis and civil dialogue enable policy leaders to be champions for a healthier Kansas. Established in 1995 with a multiyear grant from the Kansas Health Foundation, KHI is a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational organization based in Topeka.

National Law Enforcement Appreciation Week

The 2026 National Law Enforcement Appreciation Week is May 11-16.

In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15 falls, as National Police Week. Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

Locally, if you see a member of the Hoxie Police Department or Sheridan County Sheriff's Office, you can thank them for their service to the community.

National Law Enforcement Week is a collaborative effort of many organizations dedicated to honoring America's law enforcement community.



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You may be wondering why you should be donating blood approximately every 56 days. What does that really do for the people of Sheridan County?

Although the blood we donate in Sheridan County gets taken to Wichita when our local drive is over, that doesn't mean that it all stays in Wichita. Our local rural hospitals depend on units of blood being shipped out to have on-hand in case someone in our area ends up in a serious situation where several units of blood may need to be used immediately. None of us know how often a local person needs to receive a unit of blood. But thankfully, through a Statewide system, we can depend on having live-saving blood available locally when it is desperately needed.

You have the opportunity to help keep our blood supply stocked by donating blood every 56 days.

For 10 months, Sheridan County was in kind of a blood donation "funk". We did not make our goal a single time during those 10 months. And then, as if a light switched on, our last two blood drives have been fantastic! In February, we exceeded our goal of 42 units by 12, collecting 54 usable units! Woohoo! Then in April, even though our goal had been raised to 48, we surpassed our goal by 4 units for a total of 52 units! We have been blessed with new donors coming to the local drive to donate for the first time. In February and April combined, we had nine new donors, and seven of those nine agreed to come back and donate again.

If you have never given before, and you are over the age of 16, we encourage you to come and give it a try. It is a great feeling to know that your blood might actually save someone's life!

If you used to give consistently, but for some reason have gotten lax about donating, won't you consider getting back into a routine of donating blood to save lives? You are important, your blood is needed, and you never know when you or someone you love may suddenly need to be given a unit or more of blood!

Our next drive in Hoxie is Tuesday, June 9. You can sign up by going to www.redcrossblood.org, or you can text Marty Cressler at 785-675-8765 to get registered. We'd love to see you join the dozens of people in our community who give a blood donation on a regular basis!



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 FAMILY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP \$175
 INDIVIDUAL MONTHLY \$20
 INDIVIDUAL WEEKLY \$10

Cardio Equipment
 Plate Loaded Machine's
 Selectorized Set Machine's
 Dumbbell's, EZ Bar's
 Free Weight's

RhinoFit Hub App
 allows access and member management.

MESSAGE US ON FACEBOOK OR EMAIL FOR HELP JOINING, OR QUESTIONS
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