

The Sheridan Sentinel

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

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Thursday, January 1, 2026

\$1.00 Single Copy

Record-Breaking November Match Month

Hoxie - The Sheridan County Community Foundation (SCCF) is pleased to announce the successful conclusion of its 2025 November Match Month campaign, which raised \$119,259.78 from more than 130 generous donors across Sheridan County and beyond.

Thanks to this strong community support, SCCF unlocked the full matching opportunities provided by the Dane G. Hansen Foundation and the Patterson Family Foundation, resulting in a total campaign impact of \$319,259.78.

Local donations raised during Match Month will be added to the Cultivate Sheridan County Fund, the Foundation's largest unrestricted grant fund. This fund provides flexible, responsive grant funding to support local nonprofits, community projects, and initiatives that improve quality of life and advance the betterment of Sheridan County.

"The success of this year's Match Month is a powerful reminder of what's possible when our community comes together," said SCCF Executive Director Karl Pratt. "Every gift, large or small, helps strengthen our ability to respond to local needs both now and in the future."

Matching funds received through the Hansen and Patterson Family Foundations will be strategically allocated to further strengthen SCCF's long-term sustainability. Portions of the matching funds will be added to the Cultivate Sheridan County Fund, while others will be directed to the Foundation's Operating Endowment Fund to support both immediate and future general operating needs.

This balanced approach ensures SCCF can continue providing meaningful grantmaking today while building long-term charitable resources that will serve Sheridan County for generations to come.



SHERIDAN COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

SCCF extends its sincere gratitude to every donor, business, and partner who contributed to the 2025 November Match Month campaign and to the Dane G. Hansen Foundation and Patterson Family Foundation for their continued investment in rural Kansas philanthropy.

In the new year, SCCF will implement several grantmaking revisions and new application opportunities designed to make the process more accessible, responsive, and aligned with community needs. These updates will include streamlined application forms, clearer funding categories, and expanded opportunities for smaller, impact-driven requests, while continuing to support larger community projects. Together, these enhancements will allow SCCF to be more nimble in its grantmaking, better serve local nonprofits and organizations, and maximize the impact of charitable dollars invested throughout Sheridan County. Stay tuned for more information.

Furthermore, the new year will offer donors and organizations the opportunity to receive matching funds toward the creation of up to ten new grant funds in 2026. Matching support of \$3,000 per fund will be available thanks to the generosity of the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, which contributes \$2,000 per fund, along with an additional \$1,000 per fund provided by SCCF. To learn more, visit www.growsheridancounty.org/new-fund-match.

"As we close out an incredibly successful year, I want to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who supported the Sheridan County Community Foundation throughout 2025," said Pratt. "The generosity of our donors, partners, and community members has been truly inspiring and has strengthened our ability to serve Sheridan County in meaningful ways. We are deeply grateful for your trust and partnership, and we wish everyone a wonderful, healthy, and prosperous New Year."

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/sheridancfcf.

A Singing Career Cut Short

By Don Pickinpaugh

As incoming freshmen, we faced the unique challenge of navigating our new high school environment, and carefully planning our class schedules was essential. Although we didn't openly discuss it among ourselves, there was a shared, unspoken desire to avoid any junior or senior boy who might humiliate us in class. To do this, we needed to be mindful of the classes upperclassmen typically took and choose the less popular ones they were likely to avoid. This approach worked well for a freshman at the bottom of the social hierarchy.

One class that particularly caught my attention was choir. It would have fewer upperclassmen, making this class a more appealing option. Additionally, I had a fair amount of confidence in my singing abilities—or at least, I liked to think I did. The idea of expressing myself through music, without taking any written exams, offered a comforting escape from the regular classes.

From the very first day of class, it became clear that my initial prediction had been correct. The bleachers were filled with only six freshman and sophomore boys. The tenors, including myself, were situated by three bass singers. Completing the ensemble were two dozen girls who sang alto and soprano.

The first week of choir was dedicated to acclimating ourselves to our vocal capabilities and exploring the full range of notes we could produce. With each warm-up exercise, my confidence bubbled. This could be my time, I thought.

By the end of the first week, the atmosphere in the choir grew more serious. We transitioned from warm-up routines to the exhilarating challenge of singing our first songs. Our meticulous choir director listened intently, his discerning ear poised to catch any off-key notes, ensuring our voices blended seamlessly. Excitement spilled out of every participant.

One day, just as the class hour was about to end, we heard a voice shout, "Stop!" and saw our choir director's hands raised, palms facing us. Something was wrong; we could see it in our choir director's eyes. After taking a deep breath, he instructed, "Just the men sing." My heart began to race. I had a bad feeling about where this was going, but I had to go along with it. After finishing a few lines, we heard the command again: "Stop!" Our choir director twitched his nose, contemplating the next step. The men stood there, helpless, waiting for his next command. Then came, "Just the tenors sing."

Oh boy, I thought, a rush of panic rushing through me. This was way too close for comfort. There were just three of us tenors standing nervously on the stage, and our teacher was honing in on one of us who was clearly off-key.

With a forced grin stretching across my face, I sang with all the volume my lungs could muster, desperate to blend in with the other two tenors. My heart raced faster than I could control as I suddenly heard another sharp command cut through the music: "Stop!" The choir director's intense gaze was fixated on the three of us, and I could feel the weight of his scrutiny like a heavy blanket. A bead of sweat poured down from my brow. The room blurred around me, and I thought I might actually faint right then and there, teetering on the edge of the stage.

"You two tenors at the end, start singing," the choir instructed, his voice steady. Now sweat began to trickle down my forehead as we began to sing our part. I could feel the tension in the air, and it wasn't long before the outcome became clear.

"You come down here!" the choir director exclaimed, pointing directly at me as if I were in a spotlight. I instinctively pointed to my buddy, hoping to deflect the blame, but it was no use; I was the one he had singled out in front of the entire choir. The other singers adjusted their views to find out who the culprit was.

As I stepped down from the stage, a weight of despair and embarrassment settled on my shoulders, and I felt my head droop as if it were trying to disappear from life itself. My heart raced with anxiety as I contemplated what punishment awaited me for my blunder. To my surprise, our choir director, with a warm smile, announced, "I'm going to have you turn pages for the piano player."

In that moment, my mind reeled, spinning wildly out of control. My singing aspirations flickered and dimmed, but at least I wasn't being banished from the choir altogether.

I slumped into a chair beside the unassuming young lady at the piano, her fingers dancing gracefully as she brought the black and white keys to life. Soon, however, a sense of panic gripped me again; I realized, with a sinking feeling, that I couldn't read music at all and was utterly clueless about when to turn the pages. I felt I was about to get the spotlight on me again when the pianist caught my eye and quickly nodded, signaling when it was time for me to turn the page. This simple gesture saved me from further embarrassment.

I had an unsettling revelation that day—I didn't need the upperclassmen to embarrass me; I was more than capable of doing that all by myself.

2025 MATCH MONTH CAMPAIGN
\$119,259.78 - Raised Locally
\$100,000.00 - Hansen Match
\$100,000.00 - Patterson Match
\$319,259.78
CAMPAIGN TOTAL
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
**SHERIDAN COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**
AN AFFILIATE OF GREATER NORTHWEST KANSAS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
www.growsheridancounty.org/matchmonth2025



Red Cross Shelter Training Workshop to be Offered in Hays

Hays -- A workshop is coming up for those interested in volunteering to staff a Red Cross shelter in times of emergencies.

The free "American Red Cross Shelter Fundamentals Training" will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, at Hays First Baptist Church, 1111 Fort St. in Hays. Registration is due by midnight Wednesday, Jan. 7, at www.train.org/ks. Those registering will need to create an account and then enter course No. 1132663.

"Shelter Fundamentals is a basic level course that introduces the roles and responsibilities for opening, operating, and closing a shelter during a disaster," a news release said. "The course focuses on what new shelter workers need to know to work in a shelter."

The workshop is being presented by the American Red Cross of Kansas and Oklahoma and the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. It will be taught by trained Red Cross volunteers.

"Participants will learn the fundamentals of operating a Red Cross shelter and will participate in a hands-on simulation to support the learning objectives," the news release said.

"This course will enable our partners to help us carry out our mission of alleviating human suffering in the face of disaster in their communities."

More information is available from Lyle Pantle, Ellis County Assistant Fire Chief and Emergency Manager, at (785) 621-1780 or lpantle@elliscount.net.

Smoky Hills PBS Presents New Documentary The Moccasin Speaks

Bunker Hill, KS – Smoky Hills PBS is proud to present *The Moccasin Speaks*, a powerful new documentary that reexamines one of the most enduring and misunderstood stories of the High Plains: The German Family Massacre.

For more than a century, the events surrounding the attack on the German family and the capture of four young sisters have been retold through legend. *The Moccasin Speaks* moves beyond myth to uncover a story that is tragic, poignant, and far more complex than history has often portrayed.

Directed by author and historian Deb Goodrich, with assistance from Ed Lowry, producer of Cottonwood Connections, the film presents the nuanced story of the pioneering German family alongside the Cheyenne who were being forced from their land. Based on the book *The Moccasin Speaks: Living as Captives of the Dog Soldier Warriors, Red River War, 1874-1875* by Arlene Feldmann Jauken, the documentary offers an honest and balanced examination of the killing of the settlers, the capture and eventual rescue of the daughters, and the Cheyenne perspective often absent from earlier accounts.

"Ultimately, the story of the German Family is one of humanity's triumph over tragedy," said Deb Goodrich, Writer of *The Moccasin Speaks*. "It reminds us that we can call upon the better angels of ourselves no matter what circumstances we find ourselves in. It is a story that needs to be heard now more than ever."

Through careful historical research and thoughtful storytelling, the film also explores how, over time, descendants of both the captives and the captors have come together in reconciliation, acknowledging the tragedy and complexity of their shared history.

The Moccasin Speaks will air on Smoky Hills PBS on January 8 at 9 PM and an encore presentation will air January 17 at 8 PM.

For more information on broadcast times and additional coverage details, please visit our website at SmokyHillsPBS.org.




Love to read deeper into the stories you see on screen?

Viewers are encouraged to explore the books connected to this documentary, *Girl Captives of the Cheyenne* and *Captured: The True Account of Sarah White and the Cheyenne*, available at local libraries and bookstores. These works offer additional perspectives and insight into this documentary.

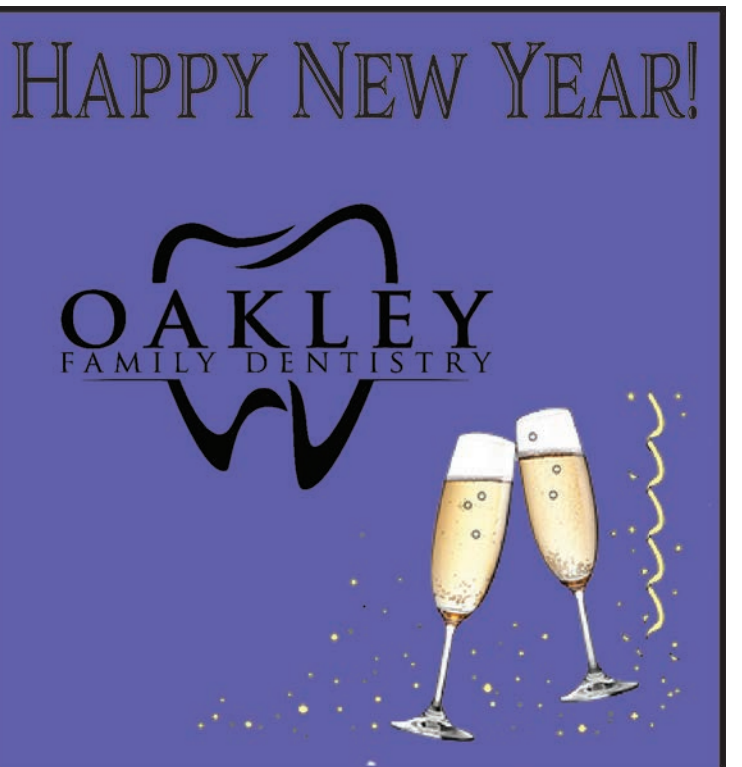
Moccasin Speaks was made possible with the support of Fort Wallace County Museum and their Memorial Association and these current sponsors:

Northwest Kansas Travel Council, Smoky Hill Museum, Russell Specialty Books and Gifts, The Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Hodgden House Museum Complex and Fort Harker Guardhouse Museum, Coronado Quivira Museum.

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

Words of Faith	Grain Report	Weather Report				Contents				Words of Wisdom			
<i>May your New Year surround you with Luck, Love, and Prosperity</i>	Reported on: Tuesday, Dec. 30	Date	High	Low	Moisture								
	Corn 3.90	12/21	48	27	--					Community News	2	Fun Page	6
	Milo 3.21	12/22	70	32	--					Happy New Year	3	Classifieds & Pub. Notices	7
		12/23	59	38	--					Now & Then	4	Business Directory	8
		12/24	66	35	--					Happy New Year	5		
		12/25	64	34	--								
		12/26	65	37	--								
	Beans 9.36	12/27	64	39	--								
Wheat 4.39													
													

Have a Very Happy New Year!



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Compiled by Rachel Farber, Archive Director

The Indians, now 4-3 on the season, will resume action on Jan. 5 when they host St. Francis.

Heim Body Shop

**HAPPY
New Year**

HVS
HOXIE VETERINARY SERVICE, P.A.

**Happy
New Year!**

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR!**

Wishing you and your family
a safe and joyful season.

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new
YEAR!**

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Michael Abbott
Noah Hahs

**Jim Myers
CPA**

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

**GREAT
PLAINS**
AUTO & HARDWARE

**Happy
New Year!**

The Sheridan
Sentinel

**Happy
New Year!**

**HARVEST
Market**
The Community Comes Together...at Harvest.

**Happy
New Year!**

**HARVEST
Spirit**
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**HAPPY
NEW YEAR!**

FLOWER BARN
Floral • Gifts • Decor

**Happy
new year**

Steve's Body Shop

**HAPPY
new
YEAR!**

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

 **SHERIDAN COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

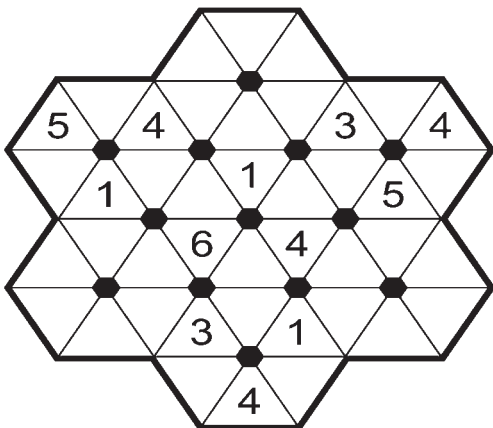
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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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

PEOPLE OF THE PAST

- ACROSS**
- 1 Ousts
7 Fig. on a new car sticker
11 Isle of Minos
16 Pro music providers
19 Lost lady in "The Raven"
20 "That clarifies it"
21 Saabs, say
22 Use scissors
23 Enron scandal figure was inactive?
26 Suffix of fruit drinks
27 — Pie (cold treat)
28 Sternward
29 Lucas of film
31 By way of, briefly
33 "Three's Company" actor started dozing?
38 See 82-Across
40 Money owed
41 Floral wreath
42 Puppies
43 Lyric writer
44 Gershwin
45 Lyric work
47 Toe part
49 "Lulu" composer Berg
- 52 Watergate whistleblower had anxiety?
59 Island near Molokai
60 — for "apple"
61 Charles of CBS News
62 "CSI" actress Elisabeth
65 Solar system members
69 Ending for pent- or hex-
70 Citi Field stat
71 Reds great met a tough challenge?
76 Santa — (hot desert wind)
77 Unveil, in poetry
78 Swiss resort lake
79 Greek mountain
80 "Is there an echo —?"
82 With 38-Across, they have film bloopers
83 "This —!" (fighting words)
86 Teen sleuth noted the subtle difference?
94 "Gladiator" actor Davis
- 95 Mrs. Addams, to Gomez
96 Bygone flight inits.
97 "Aquarius" network
98 Chilly
101 Hereditary helices
103 Small needle case
105 Have one's cake and eat —
107 "The Ward" actress hallucinated auditorily?
113 Te — (giggles)
114 Blueswoman
115 Fuzz figure
116 Machine for sowing
118 Become old
119 "The Great Ziegfeld" figure caused a road jam?
126 UNLV part
127 Valuable store
128 River of Pisa
129 Not coastal
130 Pack carrier
131 Targeted
132 In order
133 States of change
- DOWN**
- 1 Bugling beast
2 Winning sign
3 Cochlea site
4 Relative of an attaché
5 Trying trip
6 Take effect
7 What to call an English nobleman
8 Retirees' fund org.
9 Marina del —
10 Like a smug know-it-all
11 OPEC, e.g.
12 Mai tai liquor
13 Sked guess
14 Pacific island nation
15 Actor Will
16 U.S. capital and environs
17 Deemed
18 Infuses
24 Wellness gp.
25 Awry
30 Horse-track has-been
31 Slim and fit
32 Greek Juno
34 Eatery card
35 Impose — on (forbid)
36 Pages (through)
37 "— & Stitch"
39 Long couch
45 Room with a 39-Down
46 Pass
48 Hate
50 Horse to bust
51 All mixed up
53 Abstract
54 Scrabble pick
55 Tight-fisted type
56 Karloff of film
57 Timber wolves
58 City near Minneapolis
62 Seville locale
63 Hair dye
64 Fan of the Jazz, usually
66 Attorney or heir follower
67 Nutty candy artist
68 Misc. abbr.
69 Nails the test
72 Actors Culklin and Calhoun
73 Pages for think pieces
74 Handling the matter
75 Kind
81 Schools, to the French
82 "Hero" co-star Davis
84 NYC-to-Seattle dir.
85 Berry from Brazil
87 Bike, e.g.
- 88 Weight-loss strategy
89 Narrow strip of land: Abbr.
90 Feng —
91 Russian news agency
92 Penetrating woodwind
93 Sarges, say
98 Jewish mystical tradition
99 Last letters
100 Dwell (on)
102 Like insteps and rainbows
104 Hip place
106 Winter bug
108 Gaucho rope
109 "The Dance" artist
110 Female goat
111 Fetch
112 Sans — (font style)
117 Pioneer Boone, to townsfolk
120 — de plume
121 Hail, to Ovid
122 Rap's Dr. —
123 A, in Italy
124 Opal ending
125 LPs' successors

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

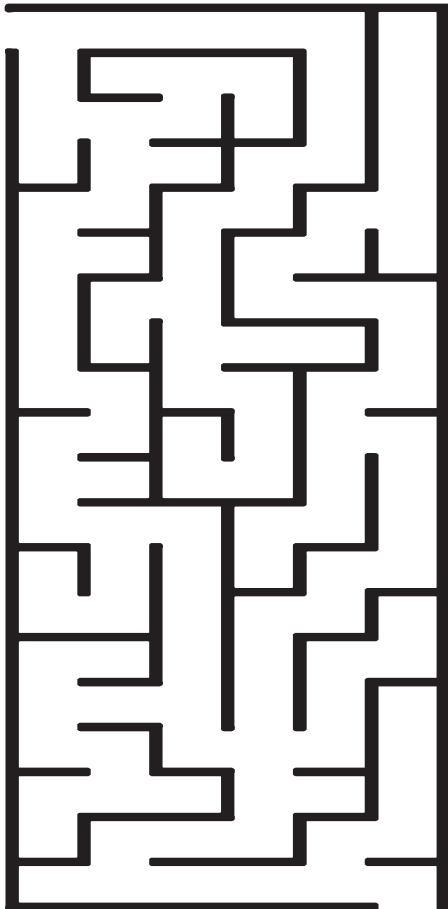


Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Kids' Maze



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: I equals P

ILIEGDS LGM TDODVVDZ BEZQ

DRLEB NVZEXWEGQ LSZDNQZBX

BTDB DSQ XTLOJ DZM WTQDI:

"BVZJ RDERGQX."

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	×		+		23
+		÷		×	
	—		×		15
×		×		—	
	+		+		18
27		18		29	

2 3 4 5 6 7 7 8 9

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Fun Page Solutions

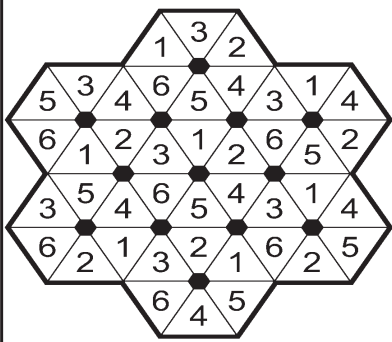
Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

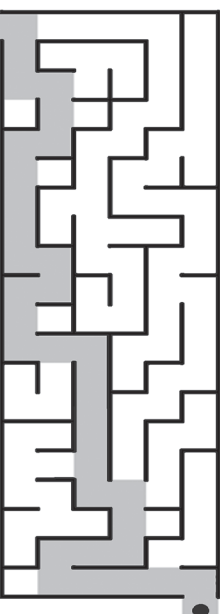
2	8	5	1	7	4	3	9	6
3	1	7	8	6	9	5	4	2
4	6	9	2	5	3	7	8	1
9	4	1	6	3	5	8	2	7
8	5	3	7	9	2	1	6	4
7	2	6	4	1	8	9	3	5
1	3	4	9	2	7	6	5	8
5	7	2	3	8	6	4	1	9
6	9	8	5	4	1	2	7	3

SNOWFLAKES

solution



Kids' Maze Solution



Go Figure!

answers

2	×	8	+	7	23
+		÷		×	
7	—	4	×	5	15
×		×		—	
3	+	9	+	6	18
27		18		29	

CryptoQuip

answer

Popular old Hawaiian tune about minuscule ornaments that are showy and cheap: "Tiny Baubles."

Super Crossword

Answers

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

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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED: The Sheridan County Road & Bridge Department is accepting applications for an equipment operator. Experience and CDL preferred. This is a full-time position. Applications may be picked up at the Road & Bridge Office, Monday through Friday from 7:30am-4:30pm. Sheridan County offers competitive wages, retirement, and health insurance. For questions and to request an application by mail, **contact Joe Herskowitz at 785-675-3621**. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. EOE

---42/TFN---

HELP WANTED: The Sheridan County Noxious Weed Department is accepting applications for part-time Weed Department/part-time Road & Bridge Department (combined position). Experience and CDL preferred. This is a full-time position. Applications may be picked up at the Road & Bridge Office, Monday through Friday from 7:30am-4:30pm. Sheridan County offers competitive wages, retirement, and health insurance. For questions and to request an application by mail, **contact Joe Herskowitz at 785-675-3621**. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. EOE

---42/TFN---

HELP WANTED: The Sheridan Sentinel is looking for writers/reporters to help expand our news coverage. We would like to cover topics such as school sports, local area activities & events, health & wellness, spiritual, politics, as well as opinion editorials (stand up and start a conversation, instead of complaining on social media while hiding behind your internet screen). Articles & photos are paid by the published column inch, and due by noon Tuesday. Paid quarterly, depending on number of articles and column inches published (maximum 500 words/article). For more information, email: editor@sheridansentinel.com or come into the office at 716 Main Street, Hoxie.

---7/TFN---

HELP WANTED: Hoxie Feedyard & PSI are always interested in visiting with good people about a good job. We offer competitive pay and great benefits. Please call Scott Foote 785-386-4519.

---40/TFN---

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Crooked Creek Angus Registered 2-year-old bulls located in St. Francis, 785-332-6206, www.crooked-creekangus.com.

---7/TFN---

FOR SALE: Sheridan County Area on Aging is accepting sealed bids for a 2000 Chevy Express, 11/12 passenger van with 58,000+ miles. Bids must be submitted in writing to Stephanie Schippers, 941 4th St, Hoxie, KS 67740, no later than January 1, 2026.

---13/16---

Register for Kansas Farm Bureau's Day at the Statehouse

Join Farm Bureau members from across Kansas January 20-21, in Topeka for the 2026 Day at the Statehouse — your opportunity to connect directly with state legislators and make a lasting impact on the issues that matter to agriculture.

The event kicks off Tuesday afternoon with updates from Kansas Farm Bureau's lobby team, deep dives into key policy priorities and a dinner reception with legislators. On Wednesday, attendees will head to the Capitol for breakfast, committee meetings and one-on-one conversations with lawmakers.

The registration deadline is January 6. For more about the event, hotel information and the most up-to-date agenda, please visit the Day at the Statehouse website.

Registration is through the KFB Membership System. Please contact your county coordinator to register.

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Commission Minutes
12/16/25

Now on this 16th day of December 2025, the Board of Commissioners, Sheridan County, Kansas, met in regular session with Chairman Mike "Buck" Mader presiding. Other members present were Kyle Emigh, David Stithem, Steve Hirsch, County Attorney, and County Clerk, Heather Bracht.

At 8:00 a.m. Mader called the meeting to order. Those in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Joe Herskowitz, Road & Bridge Supervisor, came to the table. Herskowitz stated he is still waiting on numbers for seeding Sheridan Ave./10W. He will also find out the cost of mulch rolls and seed.

After discussion, Emigh made a motion to purchase the Snap-On Scanner, which hooks up to pickups and can help diagnose problems. Cost of the scanner is \$1,999.01. Stithem seconded the motion. Carried 3-0

Everyone is still blading. Senator Rick Billinger entered the meeting along with Sheriff Brandon Carver. Billinger was there to discuss with the Board the next steps in asking the legislature to approve the county increasing the sales tax by one-quarter percent to help pay for the law enforcement building. Billinger sent an email to Bracht, who printed it and then answered the four questions and returned the document to Billinger. Billinger will get it to the appropriate person to have it ready to present to the legislature in January. Billinger discussed a grant program, "Build", which could help with the infrastructure for the building. The Board thanked Billinger for coming and he exited the meeting.

At 8:43 Mader made a motion to enter into executive session for a period of 5 minutes for the discussion of non-elected personnel. Stithem seconded. Carried 3-0. Present were the Board, Bracht, Hirsch, and Carver. The door opened at 8:48.

The Board and Carver discussed some land that has been made available as a possible location for the law enforcement building.

Hirsch advised the Board he is working on the tax foreclosure sale to be held in 2026. Hirsch plans to file the documents on January 1. There was a discussion about adding a transfer to the 2027 Budget, transferring money from the General Fund to a Law Enforcement Building Fund. Hirsch

will work on the Resolution for this.

Resolution No 25-49, 25-88 and 25-112 pertaining to transferring of funds in the General Fund and Road & Bridge Fund to Special Ambulance, Land-fill Capital Outlay and Special Machinery were approved on a motion by Stithem and second from Emigh. Carried 3-0

Resolution No 26-02, 26-03 and 26-04 pertaining to wages for employees were approved on a motion by Stithem and second from Emigh. Carried 3-0

Multiple treasurer abatements were approved on a motion by Stithem and second from Emigh. Carried 3-0. The abatements were due to the tax sale on severed minerals that were purchased by the landowner.

The Board, by consensus, agreed to stay in Western Prairie RC&D for 2026, but will not remain in KNRC.

Emergency Management was briefly discussed. The KDOT Agreement pertaining to the signage project was signed in multiple spots by the Board. Bracht will forward to KDOT.

Bracht discussed the Blue Cross/Blue Shield 2026 renewal. Rates increased by 35%. The BCBS representative along with the Freedom Claims representative agreed that moving to an age-based plan would be more beneficial financially to the County. Changing to this type of plan and increasing the deductible makes the increase less than 2%. Stithem made a motion to approve the 2026 Blue Cross/Blue Shield insurance renewal, changing to an age-based plan and increasing the deductible to \$7,100/\$14,200. Emigh seconded. Carried 3-0

The December 9, 2025 Minutes were approved as amended on a motion by Stithem and second from Emigh. Carried 3-0

Stithem made a motion to approve the December 16, 2025 Warrant as presented. Emigh seconded. Carried 3-0

The following Warrant was approved and signed by the Board:

Spec Hwy \$35,443.00

At 11:04 with no further business, Stithem made a motion to adjourn. Emigh seconded. Carried 3-0. The last regular meeting of the year will be Monday, December 29, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Room.

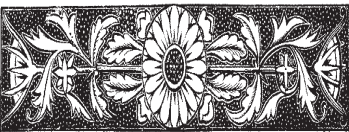
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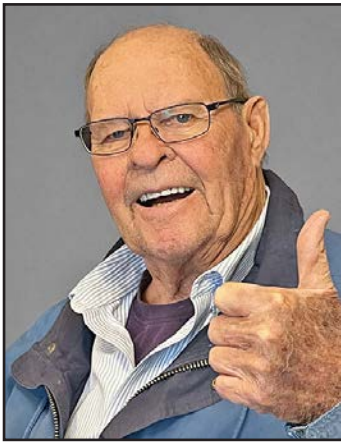
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OBITUARY

Dr. Fred Moss, DVM

December 19, 1948 ~ December 24, 2025



Dr. Fred Leslie Moss DVM, age 77, of Hoxie, Kansas, passed away peacefully on December 24, 2025, with his loving family by his side.

Fred was born on December 19, 1948, in Sheridan County, to Robert and Mildred (Conard) Moss. He was raised in Hoxie, where he met the love of his life, Kristine (Baalman). They were married July 11, 1969, in Hoxie and shared 56 years of marriage, building a life rooted in faith, family, and community.

Fred was a proud Kansas State University Alumnus, earning his Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine there. His career led him to serve as a Captain in the United States Air Force, a role that took him and his family to Altus, OK. Upon honorable discharge from the Air Force, he practiced veterinary medicine in Steele, ND and Hoxie, alongside his true passion in farming.

Throughout his life, Fred had many accomplishments. He was a skilled basketball player, an avid outdoorsman, a devoted farmer, and a trusted friend to many. Of all his roles, his greatest pride was being a "girl dad" to his three daughters—Lesley, Robin, and Adriane—whom he loved fiercely. Fred often referred to himself as a proud High Plains person and took his role seriously as a steward of the land.

Fred was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Mildred Moss and his brother, Kirt Moss.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Kristine Moss; his three daughters: Lesley (Jeff) Walden; Robin (Steve) Walden; and Adriane, (Ryan) Falco; and his six cherished grandchildren: Olivia, Madeline, Maggie, Henry, Jack, and Gunnar; brothers Thomas (Dolores) Moss and Max (Penny) Moss and a host of nieces and nephews.

Visitation was held Monday, December 29, at Mickey Leopold Funeral Home with family receiving guests. Funeral Services were held on Tuesday, December 30, at the Hoxie Christian Church. Burial was at the Hoxie City Cemetery immediately following the funeral service.

Fred was a generous man who preferred to give quietly and without recognition. In that same spirit, the family will honor his legacy by establishing a scholarship in his memory to support a Hoxie High School graduate. Memorial contributions may be made out to Sheridan County Community Foundation for the creation of Fred L. Moss Memorial Scholarship. Memorials may be sent to Sheridan County Community Foundation, PO Box 445, Hoxie, KS 67740 or online at <https://tinyurl.com/sdcofund> or Mickey-Leopold Funeral Home, PO Box 987, Hoxie, KS 67740. Please indicate the memorial is for the Fred L. Moss Memorial Scholarship.

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