



INDEPENDENT ELLSWORTH COUNTY REPORTER

We appreciate you!
See Page B10 for
criminal justice.



Volume 149, No. 34

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Thursday, April 1, 2021

\$1.25

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Ellsworth County no longer has a mask mandate, but it's still a good idea to practice caution.

FARM/CITY Page A6

Great Plains Manufacturing celebrates 45 years of business and community success.

• State climatologist Mary Knapp says the region is no longer in drought.

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Ellsworth's Logan Erichsen wins a full scholarship to Fort Hays State University.

• Photos of Hansen Scholarship winners also are on Page A9.

SPORTS Pages B1/B3

Spring sports are here. We have photos of the Wilson and Central Plains teams.

NEWS Page B4

The Kansas Attorney General's office continues to review an open records complaint filed against Ellsworth from former city administrator Scott Moore.

Deaths

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(1930-2021)

Audrey "Audie" B. Magaña

Doris M. Podlena
(1933-2021)

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COVID-19

by the numbers

As of Tuesday, Ellsworth County had one active case of COVID-19. On a scale with blue as the lowest and red the highest, Ellsworth County is in the blue zone, according to the local health department.

Ross Janssen's Weather

March 31 to April 6

WEDNESDAY 59/29
Sunny

THURSDAY 65/32
Mostly sunny

FRIDAY 71/45
Mostly sunny; breezy

SATURDAY 75/48
Sunny

SUNDAY 77/53
Sunny; breezy

MONDAY 75/55
Mostly sunny; breezy

TUESDAY 80/57
Mostly sunny

Power costs headed up

Utilities move to ease bills from series of below-zero days

BY THE I-R STAFF

Ellsworth residents can expect an \$11.60 a month increase in their electric bills starting in July and continuing for 24 months, thanks to a string of days and nights in February that sent temperatures plunging to below zero.

The WaKeeney-based Western Cooperative Electric, which provides power to Ellsworth, approved a deferred expense recovery rider at the March 22 board of trustees

"It pains us to have to pass these costs on to communities and businesses we serve, but as a not-for-profit cooperative, we must recover the fuel costs incurred during the storm."

Tom Ruth

Western Cooperative Electric

meeting. The action will allow the cooperative to spread the costs associated with Winter Storm Uri, instead of hitting consumers with the additional cost in a single month.

Without the rider, the average residential customer would have seen an additional \$278 on their March utility bill over their nor-

mal usage charge, said Nolan Numrich, manager of customer services.

During Uri, the price of natural gas rose astronomically from \$3.35 MM/Btu to spikes between \$300-\$999 MM/Btu due to sustained freezing temperatures in Texas and Oklahoma, which caused gas

wells to freeze and damaged pipelines and infrastructure, Western said in a news release.

In addition, the demand for natural gas to heat homes and businesses and to fuel generating assets far outpaced supply, which caused a rise in market prices.

This forced Sunflower Electric Power Corporation of Hays, to purchase natural gas at the increased market price to maintain grid reliability and keep homes and businesses powered. Sunflower is a transmission and power generator that provides wholesale power to Western and several other cooperatives in western Kansas.

See POWER, Page A5

EASTER READY



ALAN RUSCH/Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter

The Easter Bunny poses for a photograph at the Kanopolis Rec Department's Easter Egg Hunt Saturday in Kanopolis City Park with from left, Lakyn Beckman, Ashlynn Beckman and Brantley Beckman.

EHS produces 10 Hansen recipients

Ten students from Ellsworth and another from Wilson are recipients of scholarships from the Logan-based Dane G. Hansen Foundation.

Leading the scholarship winners is Rachel Sebesta, who was one of seven students from north-west Kansas to receive a Leader of Tomorrow scholarship for \$10,000. The scholarship is renewable for three years.

Renewal of all the scholarships is based on continued regard for the principles, which guided the success of the late Dane G. Hansen, a 3.0 or better grade point average at the college level and a letter describing progress towards educational goals.

Awards also went to: Adam Vehring, Jonathan Spachek and Logan Erichsen were among 35 students to receive Hansen Scholarships of \$6,500, an amount renewable for another three years.

Jaycee Cunningham, Kelsey Ashbaugh

and Shaylee Leiker joined 67 other students as \$4,000 scholarship winners, also renewable for another three years.

Also receiving \$4,000 — renewable for an additional year — were Hannah Brown, Jasmine Conley and Teagon Nienke. They received career and technical education scholarships.

Wilson's Cooper Weinhold received a career and technical education scholarship; however, after he took the test for the scholarship early in the academic year, he decided to attend Fort Hays State University to study criminal justice. As a result, he plans to refuse the scholarship.

Go to Page A9 for photographs of the other Hansen Scholarship winners. There also is a story on Hansen winner Logan Erichsen receiving a Rudd Scholarship to attend Fort Hays State University.

In all, the Hansen Foundation named 223 high school seniors from 59 north-west Kansas schools as winners in its 46th annual scholarship competition.

In selecting award winners, the Scholarship Committee considered proficiency in verbal and writing skills. Other important factors are academic records, test scores, and community service in which the student may have participated.

Virtual diploma benefits budget

BY ALAN RUSCH

Ellsworth County I-R

HOLYROOD — Greg Clark, superintendent of the Holyrood-based Central Plains USD 112, has a good reason for republishing the district's 2020-21 budget — the unexpected success of a virtual high school diploma program partnership with Graduation Alliance. "That has gone over smashingly well," Clark said.

The partnership between USD 112 and Graduation Alliance, which began in July, provides young adults, 20 and older, with a chance to get their high school diploma through virtual learning. It also provides USD 112 with a source of additional revenue.

"They have met and exceeded their expectations," Clark said of Graduation Alliance. "As of today, we're approaching 80 graduates, and by the end of the year we figure there will be about 1,500 credits earned."

For each credit earned, the State of Kansas pays \$709. Of that, USD 112 gets \$70. Graduation Alliance receives about 90 percent because the company provides the curriculum and the teachers and recruit the students.

"There will be no extra burden on the local taxpayer," Clark emphasized.

Clark said he can't say enough good things about Graduation Alliance. "It's a great program," he said. "We feel like we are impacting young adults' lives all across the state of Kansas."

Clark said when he and his board clerk, Diane Ney, were working on the 2020-21 budget, Graduation Alliance told them to plan for 1,200 credits.

"Diane and I were just too scared to do so, because we thought it would inflate our budget and look really crazy," he said. "So I believe we chose 1,000 (credits)."

Clark told Graduation Alliance representatives that if they got more than that, the school district would republish its budget.

"They hit 800 credits by January, and are moving along towards that 1,500 credits earned," he added. "So we're going to have to republish the budget so we can get that money from the state. This is all state tax money."

Clark said as of Friday, USD 112 had earned 1,400 credits with the expectation of 900 more, for a total of about 2,200.

A hearing on the budget is at 6 p.m. Monday, April 12, at Central Plains Junior-Senior School.

I-R Calendar

FRIDAY, APRIL 2

NO SCHOOL TODAY: There is no school today for students in either the Ellsworth-Kanopolis-Geneseo USD 327 school district or the Central Plains USD 112 school district due to Good Friday.

SATURDAY, APRIL 3

EASTER TRADITION: The Wilson Easter Egg Hunt is at 10 a.m. for children kindergarten and younger at Wilson Care & Rehabilitation Center and at 10:20 a.m. for children in grades 1-5 in the Lions Club Park. Organized by the Wilson Winners 4-H Club.

• **The Dorrance American Legion Auxiliary conducts the Dorrance Easter Egg Hunt at 1:30 p.m. at the Dorrance City Park and Lutheran Church. Pre-K through 4th grade.**

B-I-N-G-O: The Vesper Community Center hosts its monthly Bingo with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. and play beginning at 7 p.m. Hamburgers, sundaes and popcorn available. Information: (785) 524-2466.

MONDAY, APRIL 5

NO SCHOOL TODAY: There is no school today for students in the Ellsworth-Kanopolis-Geneseo USD 327 school district and the Central Plains USD 112 school district due to Easter Monday (USD 327) and Exchange Day (USD 112).

COUNTY BUSINESS: Ellsworth County commissioners meet at 9 a.m. in the courthouse meeting room. Info: (785) 472-4161.

CITY BUSINESS: The Wilson City Council meets at 6 p.m. at city hall.

MORE CITY BUSINESS: The Holyrood City Council meets at 6:30 p.m. at city hall to discuss revisions to the Floodplain Regulations in Ordinance 626. Information or to see flood maps: (785) 252-3652.

MONDAY, APRIL 12

COUNTY BUSINESS: Ellsworth County commissioners meet at 9 a.m. in the courthouse meeting room. Info: (785) 472-4161.

CITY BUSINESS: The Ellsworth City Council meets at 5:30 p.m. at city hall. Information: (785) 472-5566.

• **Holyrood city has a strategic planning session at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. Public invited.**

SCHOOL BUSINESS: The Ellsworth-Kanopolis-Geneseo USD 327 board of education meets at 7 p.m. in the Ellsworth Junior-Senior High School Commons and by Zoom.

• **The Central Plains USD 112 board of education meets at 6 p.m. at Central Plains Junior-Senior High School in Claflin and by Zoom.**

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

ELLSWORTH VFW MEETING: The Ellsworth Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6485 meets at 7 p.m. at the post home in Ellsworth. New members welcome.

FRIDAY, APRIL 16

SAVE A LIFE: The Ellsworth community Red Cross blood drive is from noon to 6 pm. at the St. Bernard's Catholic Church. Appointments only. Call (800) RED-CROSS or www.redcross.org.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

HELP A NEIGHBOR: A benefit for 13-year-old Rylan Gier is from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Vesper Community Center. Smoked meat dinner for free will donation. Raffle and silent auction. See story on Page A8.

MONDAY, APRIL 19

COUNTY BUSINESS: Ellsworth County commissioners meet at 9 a.m. in the courthouse meeting room. Info: (785) 472-4161.

CITY BUSINESS: The Wilson City Council meets at 7 p.m. at city hall.

INDEPENDENT REPORTER

(USPS 461-680)

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I-R Obituaries

Dee Richard Holecek
(1930-2021)

Dee Richard Holecek, 91, of Russell, Kan. and formerly of Ellsworth, Kan., passed away Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at the Homestead Assisted Living in Russell.

Richard's surviving family include his wife of 70 years, Virginia of the home; daughters, Debbie Kaupp (Lynn) of Barboursville, W.Va and Dawn Spiker (Bill) of Suffolk, Va.; sons, Doug Holecek (Roxanne) of St. Marys, Kan. and Darin Holecek (Cindy) of Ellsworth, Kan.; daughter-in-law, Marsha Bouker of Hays, Kan.; brother, Harold Holecek of Greenboro, N.C.; 16 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents and son, Dan Holecek.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Cremation has taken place.

Condolences may be sent to Pohlman-Varner-Peeler Mortuary of Russell, who is in charge of these arrangements.

Audrey "Audie" B. Magaña

Audrey "Audie" B. Magaña, 64, of Junction City, Kan., passed away March 16, 2021.

Audie was born in Ellsworth, Kan., to Jesús "Jesse" and Diana Magaña. He grew up in rural Ellsworth County and helped with the family farm and ranching operations. From his early education, beginning in a one-room country schoolhouse, he proceeded to graduate from the University of Kansas School of Law and began his professional career with the State of Kansas. As the Court Trustee for the 8th Judicial District, he was instrumental in expanding that office, ensuring its success. He founded his own successful law office which he operated for many years with office locations across Kansas. Most recently, he served as project manager of child support enforcement for the national law firm, Young Williams.



Mr. Magaña

Audie called Junction City home since 1984. He had many interests and hobbies, which included music, in particular blues and rock. He was a devoted fan of KU and KSU sports, as well as an avid fan of the Chiefs and Royals. He also enjoyed working outdoors and taking care of his cars. Audie loved spending time with family and friends and enthusiastically attended the school or sporting activities of his children and later grandchildren whenever possible. He had a great sense of humor that he shared with friends and family. He enjoyed being well dressed and had a fondness for wearing hats. Above all, Audie was a devoted husband, caring father, loving grandfather, cherished brother and son, and loyal friend.

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Audie was a member of the Geary County Bar Association, Saline County Bar Association, Kansas Bar Association, Kansas Child Support Enforcement Association, and past member of the University of Kansas Law School Alumni Association Board of Governors.

As a young man, he met the love of his life, Sue Anne "Susie". They married in Ellsworth, Kan. in 1978.

Audie is survived by his loving family: wife, Susie of Junction City, Kan.; his three daughters, Maia (Vaughn) DeGuzman of Junction City, Kan., Siena (Ryan) McCue of Manchester, U.K., and Alivia Magaña of Taos, N.M.; three grandchildren, Xavier, Alex, and Ava; mother, Diana; and four siblings, Famia Magaña (John Quattlebaum), Clay (Terry) Magaña, Velinda Magaña, and Jesse (Lori) Magaña, many nieces and nephews, in addition to a host of beloved family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Jesús "Jesse" Magaña.

Johnson Funeral Home is assisting the family with cremation arrangements.

A celebration of life will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, April 3, at the Geary County Convention Center.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Geary Community Hospital — Emergency Department, in care of the Geary County Healthcare Foundation, P.O. Box 3015, Junction City, Kan. 66441.

Doloris M. Podlena
(1933-2021)

Doloris M. Podlena, 90, passed away Wednesday, March 24, 2021, in Ellsworth, Kan. She was born April 9, 1930 in Ellsworth to Herman and Frieda (Frohreich) Voeltz.

Doloris was a longtime resident of Ellsworth County where she graduated from Kanopolis High School then worked as a nurse's aide at Ellsworth Memorial Hospital and was a member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church, and the Kanopolis American Legion Auxiliary and Civic Club.

She married James J. Podlena Dec. 27, 1947. James preceded her in death in 2003.

Doloris is survived by her sons, Darrell Podlena of Kanopolis, Roger Podlena (Gwenna) of Kanopolis, and Robert Podlena of Lake Tapawingo, Mo.; nine grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband; brother, Ernard Voeltz; and son, Michael Podlena.

Visitation was Sunday, March 28, at Parsons Funeral Home, Ellsworth.

Funeral service was at 2 p.m. Monday, March 29, at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Burial followed in the Kanopolis Cemetery.

Memorials contributions can be made to the Immanuel Lutheran Church, in care of Parsons Funeral Home, PO Box 45, Ellsworth, Kan. 67439.

Condolences may be left at www.parsonsfh.com.

CNA courses offered with scholarship

Those seeking a credential as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) have the chance to enroll in a course at no charge thanks to a generous anonymous donor and a collaboration between Barton Community College, Ellsworth County Medical Center (ECMC) and Good Samaritan Retirement Center.

The two 2021 CNA classes are set for June 7-23 and July 6-22. The classes are 90 hours in length and held over two weeks. Presentations will be held

at ECMC and clinical experiences at the Good Samaritan Retirement Center in Ellsworth.

Ten students will be selected for each class, with additional students added to a waitlist. Applications are available at www.ewmed.com and will be accepted until both classes are filled.

After selection, applicants must still apply to Barton Community College and successfully pass a reading test prior to enrolling in the CNA class.

Students must be 16 years of age by the first day of class. High School students must have written permission from a guardian and their high school principal to receive college credit.

Students must also pass a background check, provide immunization records, proof of current health insurance and other requirements that will be communicated to students.

Registered Nurse Tami Birkholz is a staff nurse and Education Coordinator at Ellsworth County Medical Center (ECMC) and an adjunct professor at Barton Community College.

"I am thrilled to be teaching the 2021 CNA classes and am hopeful that this year's students will become active in the Ellsworth Medical community."

For more information, please contact Sara Hoff at hoffsa@bartonccc.edu or (620) 792-9298.

NEED A RIDE?
Ellsworth County Public Transportation can help
First Come – First Serve

Our bus hours are:
Monday - Friday – 8 am to 2 pm
unless other arrangements are made 24 hours in advance and that includes out of town trips.

For information call us at:
(785) 472-3032

This project funded in part by the KDOT Public Transit Program and The City of Ellsworth

PANZER WOOD CRAFT

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Bob Panzer
Custom Mowing

902 Colorado St. • Ellsworth, Kansas • 785-531-0165
robert_panzer@gmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/panzerwoodcraft/
* Ad designed by Ellsworth County I/R

Vesper Community Center

BINGO

SATURDAY, Apr 3rd
DOORS OPEN @ 5:30pm
BINGO STARTS @ 7:00pm

Play for as little as \$6
CASH PRIZES

Grilled Hamburgers & popcorn

Wholesome Family Fun!
785-524-2466 www.vespercc.org
1247 N 120th Rd Lincoln KS 67455
Concessions are sold by volunteers to fundraise solely for community purposes

General Public Transportation for all residents of Ellsworth Co.

TRANSPORTATION

Call to schedule a ride:
(855) 577-4337

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

First come, first served basis
All trips have equal priority
Funded in part by KDOT Public Transit Dept.

www.salinacitygo.com

Note to Readers — The Passages page has been suspended this week, but will return in the April 9 edition to its usual home on Page B4.

April 1, 2021 COVID Resource Page

As of 3/26/21, Ellsworth County has administered over 1,900 vaccines (prime & booster)



STATE OF KANSAS



CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 241 SOUTH
TOPEKA, KS 66612

PHONE: (785) 296-3232
GOVERNOR.KANSAS.GOV

GOVERNOR LAURA KELLY

Governor Laura Kelly Announces Kansas to Move to Phase 5 ~~Starting Monday, March 29 all Kansans Eligible for COVID-19 Vaccine~~

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly today announced that starting next Monday, March 29, 2021 the State of Kansas will make COVID-19 vaccine available to all Kansans (16+), entering the final Phase 5 of the [Vaccine Prioritization](#).

“We are moving to Phase 5 to make sure rapid vaccinations continue in every county and no vaccine goes to waste,” **Governor Kelly said.** “With the anticipated increase in supply from the federal government, we must get every dose of vaccine into arms quickly. I strongly encourage every Kansan to get the COVID-19 vaccine so we can get back to school, back to work, and back to normal.”

Kansas will become the 8th state to make vaccine available to all adults, joining Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Utah, and West Virginia.

As of March 26, 35.1% of the adult (18+) population had received at least one dose of the vaccine.

In the early part of the vaccination program (December 2020 – February 2021), limited federal supply led to demand for vaccine consistently outstripping supply. However, the supply increases of recent weeks have reversed this situation. Local Health Departments (LHDs) and providers have started reporting a decline in demand despite the state opening to Phases 3 and 4 populations. To ensure no vaccine goes to waste, the Kelly administration decided to open eligibility to all Kansans.

Kansans are encouraged to use the [Vaccine Finder](#) tool to find the nearest location with available vaccine. If Kansans have questions, they can call their local health department or the KDHE Public Information Hotline at 1-866-534-3463 (1-866-KDHE-INF) or email covid-19@ks.gov.

About the COVID-19 vaccines:

- **COVID-19 Vaccines work:** *New England Journal of Medicine* published a study on Feb. 24 that found researchers in Israel and the U.S. report that the vaccine made by Pfizer-BioNTech was highly effective in protecting against infection with the COVID-19 virus, lowering people’s chances of getting sick with the disease—especially severe disease—and dropping COVID-19 hospitalization rates.
- Scientists have been researching [mRNA](#) technology, which makes it possible to create a vaccine faster, for years to prepare for potential infectious viruses. This research and the high supply of volunteers for clinical trials led to the relatively [quick](#) development of the COVID-19 vaccines.
- COVID-19 vaccines must meet [rigorous](#) standards and have undergone the most [intensive](#) safety monitoring in U.S. history. The three COVID-19 vaccines had to meet safety and effectiveness standards to be approved for Emergency Use Authorization and have been evaluated in [tens of thousands](#) of participants in clinical trials.



1604 Aylward Ave. • Ellsworth, KS 67439
Main # 785-472-3111 | Clinic # 785-810-1177
www.ewmed.com



ELLSWORTH CO. HEALTH DEPARTMENT
1603 Aylward Ave. • Ellsworth, KS • 785-472-4488

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COVID-19 RESOURCE LIST

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Kansas Works
785-827-9383 • <https://kansasworks.com/ada/>

CHILDREN & YOUTH SUPPORT

JH Robbins Memorial Library
219 N. Lincoln Ave., Ellsworth, Ks. 785-472-3969

Lang Memorial Library
2405 Avenue F, Wilson, Ks. 785-658-3648

FOOD, CLOTHING & HOME GOODS

USDA Commodities Food Distribution
(income limits set by USDA)
• For information on Ellsworth County distribution contact Anita Hoffhines at 785-531-0160

Ellsworth County Food Bank
(no income limits)
Located at the Harvest Bible Church, 907 Evans, Ellsworth, Ks.
• Set up Food Bank appointments from 8 a.m. • 5 p.m. on Tues. & Fri.
• Call the Ellsworth County Health Department at 785-472-4488 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Wilson Food Bank
Call Theresa Heinrich at 785-658-6252 for information

Holyrood Food Bank
Located at St. Paul’s United Church of Christ, 301 E. Nassau, Holyrood, Ks. Call 785-252-3410 for information

Catholic Charities Mobile Outreach Program
The Catholic Charities Mobile Outreach Program is available in Ellsworth on the first Wednesday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The van will be located in the parking lot of St. Bernard Catholic Church, 911 N. Kansas Ave. Services available include: seasonally appropriate clothing, food, diapers, hygiene items, emergency assistance applications, Kansas Loan Pool Project applications, and information on other services available through Catholic Charities. If you, or someone you know, needs assistance, stop by the mobile outreach van. If you need more information of immediate help, contact Catholic Charities at 785-825-0208. A person or family does not have to be Catholic to utilize this program.

Caring Families
785-531-2616
• Caring Families is a nonprofit organization created to assist families in need in Ellsworth and surrounding areas. Donated items are made available to anyone who can use them.
• Ewco.caringfamilies@gmail.com or message Caring Families on Facebook or Messenger

Shiney Hineys
785-472-9300
• Free diapers, wipes, infant ointments & laundry soaps. Call Pastor Mary Somrak or Susan at 785-472-9300.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE

Ellsworth County Health Department
Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.,
1603 Aylward, Ellsworth, Ks., 785-472-4488
• Accurate Covid-19 information
• Health services including injections, laboratory services, physical exams, school physicals, develop mental screening, child hood and seasonal immunizations, home health services, off-site health screening clinics, women’s health, family planning services, the maternal and infant program and the WIC special supplemental nutritional program for women, infants and children, and more.
• Many health services on a sliding scale
• Information on USDA Commodities Food Distribution (income limits set by USDA)

Central Kansas Mental Health Center
1602 Aylward, inside Ellsworth Medical Center
785-823-6322 or 800-794-8281
www.ckmhc.org
• Therapy for all ages, medication management, crisis services, public education and more. Always accepting new patients!

Ellsworth County Medical Center
1604 Aylward Ave, Ellsworth, KS • (785) 472-3111 • www.ewmed.com
• **Rural Health Clinics** in Wilson, Lucas, Ellsworth and Holyrood

UTILITIES AND RENT

Ellsworth Ministerial Alliance
• Assistance with gaps in rent payments and utility bills. Call Exie Barber at 785-472-3232.

ELDERLY CARE & SUPPORT

Ellsworth Senior Center/Council on Aging
115 E. North Main, Ellsworth, Ks. 785-472-3032
• Ellsworth Senior Center is dedicated to serving the seniors of Ellsworth and the surrounding areas.

Wilson Senior Center
785-658-2388

Holyrood Senior Center
Temporary location is St. Paul’s United Church of Christ, 301 E. Nassau, Holyrood, Ks.
• Noon meals provided (pick-up only), call 785-252-3410 for information

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Ellsworth County Public Transportation
785-472-3032

Wilson City Bus
785-658-2272

OTHER SERVICES

Ellsworth County Economic Development
114 ½ N. Douglas Ave., Ellsworth, Ks. 785-472-9204
• Ellsworth County Economic Development is dedicated to improving the lives of citizens of Ellsworth County through recruitment, retention, and expansion of goods and services offered in Ellsworth County.

Older Kansans Employment Program
785-827-4857

Good Samaritan Home Health
1161 Hoeger Ln, Ellsworth, Ks.
785-472-3338

Angel’s Care Home Health
785-658-5681

Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas
785-827-5862
<https://www.dvack.org>

Salvation Army
785-823-2251
<https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/salina> Many services including energy assistance

American Red Cross of Central and Western Kansas
785-827-3644

Kansas Legal Services
888-353-5337

Veridian Behavioral Health
785-452-4930

Consumer Credit Counseling Service, Inc.
Salina, KS • 785-827-6731

National Suicide Prevention Hotline
800-794-8281

Lifeline Crisis Chat
www.contact-usa.org/chat.html

Kansas Rehabilitation Services:
Vocational Rehabilitation – 785-368-7471

Salina Regional Health Center: Infant/Child Development Center
785-792-1885

Family Crisis Center: Child Advocacy Center
785-827-9383

I-R Opinion

A4

INDEPENDENT ELLSWORTH COUNTY REPORTER

Linda Mowery-Denning
Editor/Publisher

MASKS IMPORTANT

We must continue to protect ourselves and others

Daughter Allie came home from Lawrence this past weekend and while I didn't keep track, I suspect we put more miles on her car in one day than she has in the past year. We drove to Lindsborg to visit one of our favorite shops, which had reopened a few days earlier, and then stopped a couple of stores down for lunch before we returned to Salina. That night we attended a movie at the Salina Arts Cinema before having dinner at a downtown restaurant.

We both felt a bit nervous about being around other people. It's been awhile, after all. But I've had my coronavirus vaccine and Allie and I were both careful. We continued to wear masks, despite a feeling that we are much closer to freedom from COVID-19 than we were several months ago. We also visited places we knew would not have crowds. We shared the movie house with four other spectators.

Put another way — we didn't want to get crazy before we're sure the pandemic that has claimed more than 525,000 Americans and upended the lives of countless others is under control.

Graphic designer Bill Beckmeyer's cartoon elsewhere on this page puts it perfectly.

A week ago, with the approval of county health officials, Ellsworth County commissioners lifted a mask mandate that has been in effect for months.

The I-R's twice-monthly COVID-19 information page on A3 contains the information that 1,900 local residents have been vaccinated. Kansas ranks 46th among the states where coronavirus is spreading the fastest on a per-person basis. That's good news.

But it's far from being the whole story.

Officials with the Centers for Disease Control said this week that much of America's recent progress against COVID-19 has been erased as new infections jump nationwide.

"What we've seen over the last week or so is a steady rise of cases," Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky told CNN.

"I know that travel is up, and I just worry that we will see the surges that we saw over the summer and over the winter again."

We hope our friends and family members will continue to wear masks to protect others and themselves. And wash their hands often and practice social distancing, especially in crowds.

These all have been proven effective in slowing the spread of COVID-19. Isn't that what we all want?

Editor's Notebook

Several weeks ago, we had a story on the sports page about Avery Haxton reaching 1,000 points in his basketball career at Ellsworth High School.

At the time, we heard he was only the second EHS player to hit the 1,000-point mark. Athletic director Ron Davis Jr. provided us with the rest of the story.

Joining Haxton in the 1,000-point club are Darren Webber, Sherri Hart and Kolby Davis.

LMD

March is one of my favorite times of the year because of basketball. Sitting in a small-school gymnasium prior to consolidation and every so often watching your school defeat a much larger town was worth the price of admission and then some.

I grew up in Indiana and we went crazy for several weeks a year as every high school team in the state competed in the same tournament. No classes prior to consolidation. It was survival of the fittest and sometimes the team that didn't have enough students to fill the bench was the fittest.

A friend recently sent me a photograph of our high school gymnasium filled with spectators during regional, the first round of competition. The bleachers were so close to the playing floor, cheer leaders from each school were sometimes forced to dodge basketball players as they yelled encouragement. My junior year, a fight broke out between almost everyone. Players. Coaches. Spectators. Fortunately, several members of the police department were in attendance — as they were at many Indiana high school games in those days — and stepped in before anyone was hurt. Ok. It shouldn't have happened. But what a night. We still talk about it at class reunions.

LMD

Go to this week's Page A9 and if you encounter one of the students pictured there, congratulate them on their success.

Ellsworth High School had 10 students win Hansen Foundation Scholarships this year. One of those students, Logan Erichsen, also received a four-year scholarship from the Rudd Foundation to Fort Hays.

Such success is a reflection of the students and the parents, teachers and others who supported them over the years. Congratulations to all.

Celebrating Prematurely



Bills address rural health

The Kansas Legislature has finished the last committee meetings for the general session. We will spend the next week on the floor debating those bills we have considered from the Senate and a few last bills that are coming out of the House committees. The following week we will work out the differences between House and Senate positions in conference committees.

The Rural Revitalization committee worked on bills that would help rural hospitals. Senate Bill 175 creates the Rural Healthcare Innovation Fund. It would match public dollars with contributions from private foundations and corporations to help rural hospitals. This could include implementing broadband access for telemedicine delivery or other initiatives.

The bill also implements the Rural Emergency Hospital des-



Rep. Steven Johnson

Capitol View

ignation in Kansas. This is part of a new federal initiative to allow smaller, targeted health care facilities in rural areas to be eligible for federal funding. This can help to ensure that smaller hospitals can continue to provide needed care. I voted "yes", and the bill passed the House with 119 "yes" to 3 "no" votes.

Mental health continues to be a growing need in Kansas. Senate Bill 238 expands the use of telehealth in mental health services. Most importantly, it creates a new type of mental health entity, the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic. This will allow our current Community Mental Health Centers to transition and expand the ser-

vices they are authorized to provide. I voted "yes" and the bill passed the House 121 "yes" to 1 "no" vote.

House Bill 2401 authorizes the Secretary of Corrections to enter into agreements for public-private partnership projects for the purpose of funding new or renovated buildings at correctional institutions for education, skills-building and spiritual needs programs. Improving these skills for inmates is an important part of helping them return to our communities and be productive members. The bill passed the House unanimously.

We finished amendments and passed the bills from the Insurance and Pension committee. Those bills are scheduled to be debated in the House on Monday. In our final meeting, KPERS staff gave us an update on the KPERS investment returns and the resulting dividend credits that are

paid to Tier 3 (cash balance plan) KPERS employees. The credit is based on a formula using a five-year rolling average. The upcoming credit for this year is estimated at 2.475 percent which will be added at the end of March. The 2020 calendar year return was just below 11.5 percent. Combined with the 2019 return of just over 17 percent, these numbers signal a good dividend for the next couple of years. The first five years were not as strong. We will continue to analyze how the formula is working.

I'm looking forward to getting several issues across the finish line with our Senate counterparts the next two weeks. Thanks for the calls and e-mails that Jan Kiehl, my committee assistant, and I have received. Continue to let us know your thoughts at (785) 296-7696 or steven.johnson@house.ks.gov. Have a great week!

Night of Terror



'Cowboy' Jim Gray
The Way West

An unusual outbreak of tornadoes developed the evening of March 31, 1892. A terrible night of terror reigned into the early morning hours of April 1 across the state of Kansas.

The storm began with a fierce wind blowing from south, to north, spawning tornadoes along a path from south central Kansas northeast through Wellington, Augusta and Towanda. From the same system a large tornado struck Wamego in north-central Kansas. Across the larger unstable system tornadoes were popping up seemingly everywhere on the map.

The Ottawa Independent-Journal reported on the widespread destruction. Writing on the devastation at Towanda, "The little town today presented the appearance of having been swept by the gigantic broom of some ferocious monster."

Rather than being covered with heaps of fallen

buildings the town of 80 buildings was swept clean, leaving only a half-dozen damaged homes standing. Five of the houses were turned into hospitals, all crowded with wounded people in beds and lying on blankets on the floor.

Among the patients lay a baby crying from the pain of a leg broken in two places. A doctor anxiously worked to relieve the anxiety of a little boy whose skull was cracked "into his brain." A woman suffered a hole through her lungs and another through her stomach. The list of the wounded included many piercings and bone fractures.

"The doctors say many cannot live."

Five bodies were laid out on weather-beaten planks in what was left

of a restaurant. A baby of six months was found decapitated. "Its head and body were found 300 yards apart. The guillotine never did a neater piece of work."

A mile west of the town of Augusta, every house on a path one-quarter mile wide was swept from its foundations. Two adults and a baby were killed while in northwest Sumner County at Bushnell, the schoolhouse and a farm house were completely demolished before moving north through the farming community.

Houses and outbuildings were swept away, producing several injuries. Horses and mules were killed, and numerous people injured. The story of death and devastation was told repeatedly across the state.

South of Wellington near the Oxford bridge all 13 members of the Showalter family were injured. Mrs. Showalter and two children were killed. North of

Showalter's, William Little and four children were killed instantly. Their stable was blown away, killing every horse on the place.

Far to the north, a house was blown into the Kansas River near the town of Wabaunsee. The "wild storm" passed from south to north about two miles east of Wamego killing five people. A young mother was found dead in a field holding her lifeless child to her breast. Another child's body was found a greater distance away. Another according to the Leavenworth Weekly Times, "will not live."

West of Salina Sam Burkholder's family fared better, having been warned in advance, the family sought shelter in the cellar and were not injured despite complete destruction of their home and barn. D. S. Bratton's family was carried from the supper table into the field. A

See GRAY, Page A5

Power

Continued from Page A1

The surge in natural gas prices made electricity more expensive to produce, a cost that will eventually be passed on to the consumer-members of Western and other Sunflower cooperatives. Sunflower took a \$92.1 million hit, which based on total kilowatt hours used by Western made the WaKeeney utility's share \$7.5 million.

The electric bill for Western's members has two components: the price per kilowatt-hour and the Energy Cost Adjustment (ECA). The ECA is a rate that electric utilities use to recover the fluctuating fuel costs associated with wholesale power. These fluctuations — which are determined by the market, not electric utilities like Western — are passed to consumer-members through the monthly ECA tariff and typically only vary by fractions of cents each month.

"It pains us to have to pass these costs on to communities and businesses we serve, but as a not-for-profit cooperative, we must recover the fuel costs incurred during the storm," said general manager Tom Ruth. "The board wanted to minimize the financial burden as much as possible by spreading costs over 24 months and waiting until July so members have an opportunity to prepare for the higher bills."

On Monday, Western members were mailed letters explaining the fuel costs associated with Winter Storm Uri.

"We remain steadfast in adhering to our fundamental principles of honesty, integrity, and commitment to our communities in both challenging times and good

times," Ruth said. "This is a difficult situation, but by being up front and transparent with our consumer-members, they can start to plan for the future."

Qualifying households are encouraged to apply for the Kansas Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP). The application deadline has been extended to May 28 due to the February winter storm. For more information on payment assistance, visit westerncoop.com/winter-storm-uri.

The view from other utilities

Midwest Energy
Mike Morley at Midwest Energy in Hays, said Midwest Energy incurred a total of \$12 million in natural gas costs during the winter storm. Normally, that would be \$1.5 million. Midwest provides natural gas to customers in the City of Wilson and rural western Ellsworth County.

He said Midwest plans to introduce as of July 1, an amortization schedule of no more than 36 months to spread out the additional cost to consumers. The average residential natural gas customer will see an increase of less than \$10 per month.

"We weren't hit quite as bad as some cooperatives were, but there was a hit," he said.

Morley said Midwest Energy is conducting two online meetings to discuss the treatment of excess energy costs and the proposed adjustments to gas delivery rates.

A virtual town hall meeting set for 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. April 8, will inform customers and answer questions about both issues. The meet-

ing can only be assessed on YouTube at https://youtube.com/SFks2k0_LCK.

Questions will be answered live during the meeting and may be submitted by e-mail to questions@mwenergy.com.

Approval of a cost-spreading plan and adjustments to rates will be discussed at an open meeting of the board of directors at 1 p.m. May 17.

Subject to board approval, Midwest Energy residential and commercial customers would pay up to an estimated 12.9¢ per therm addition to the Gas Supply Cost Adjustment. This will appear on bills as part of the "Cost of Gas Commodity per Therm" charge, effective no sooner than July 1.

Irrigation customers, which were not operating during Winter Storm Uri, are not included in the excess cost recovery proposal to be considered by the board.

At a special March 3 board meeting, the board froze new customer requests to transfer accounts to gas transport service, effective with any applications received after March 1. That decision will be reconsidered at the May meeting. Also considered will be adjustments to natural gas delivery rates in a matter originally scheduled for consideration in May 2020. That decision was suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The proposed delivery rate change would result in a net revenue increase of \$1.04 million to the company compared to current rates. The increase would support pipeline safety, reliability improvements and operating expenses. If adopted as proposed, the delivery rate changes would result in an average residential bill increasing by approximately

\$2.14 per month compared to currently effective rates based on actual 2020 gas usage. Proposed changes include increasing the monthly customer charge for residential customers from \$18 to \$19 and the delivery rate from 13.5¢ per therm to 18¢ per therm.

Proposed bill examples and other rate information can be found at: www.mwenergy.com/residential/gas_rate_changes_2021.

Customers may send comments regarding the proposed rate changes to Midwest Energy no later than May 7. Comments should be addressed to Bob Muirhead, VP for Customer Service, at bmuirhead@mwenergy.com, or by calling (785) 650-2502 with your comments.

Rolling Hills Electric

The Beloit-based Rolling Hills receives its power from the Kansas Electric Power Corporation. Catie Mellies, member service manager, said the total cost impact from Uri probably won't be known for several months. However, costs to date have been significant — more than double what was budgeted for February.

"However, the good news is that they believe we were more protected from market conditions than some other utilities and, importantly, because of KEPCo's cash position and access to low cost financing, they are able to assist members by spreading the costs of the extreme weather event over a 24-month period," Mellies said.

Mellies said this amortization not only includes the costs Rolling Hills have already deferred per capping KEPCo's power cost adjustment (PCA) at \$0.033 per kWh for February 2021 billing purposes, but also includes anticipated future costs.

"This decision helps mitigate the cost impacts to the nearly 300,000 rural Kansans KEPCo's members serve," she said. "It also demonstrates the value of nearly all seven of the cooperative principles. Being self-governed, focused on community, economically responsible, and cooperating among our cooperative Members to do the best we can to provide safe, economical, reliable power are valuable benefits of the cooperative model and never more so than now."

Mellies said the average Rolling Hills consumer mem-

ber using 1,000 kwh per billing cycle would experience a \$1.60 to \$1.95 increase to the typical Power Cost Adjustment on their bill, over the next 24 months. Normally, that has been a credit.

The local impact

At the City of Ellsworth, Rusty Varnado, city administrator, said he is waiting to see what the cost of Western Cooperative's deferred expense recovery rider will be.

"As of now, our bills are the same as before for both electric and natural gas," he said.

In Holyrood, which receives energy from the Kansas Power Pool in Wichita, Stephanie Petermann, city clerk, said energy bills were a little higher last month due to higher usage, not higher rates.

"They (the Kansas Power Pool) did a good job of protecting us from that," she said.

Petermann said utility bills are going to be a little higher in the coming months — emphasizing she was talking pennies.

Gray

Continued from Page A4

daughter suffered a broken leg and another a fractured spine.

In the city of Salina homes were damaged, the German Lutheran Church was wrecked, and the Western Star Mill was partially demolished. Policeman Zimmerman's house demolished; his wife fatally struck in the head by a stone as she rushed to the cellar. Southwest of Salina at Smolan, every house was demolished and according to reports one child was killed. Two villages north of Salina, Vine Creek and Oakville, were blown away, never to be rebuilt.

At Horton a wall from the High Street Theater fell on Charles Rickle's house. The spire from the Methodist church blew down and plate glass windows were broken. At Lawrence winds were clocked at 84 miles per hour. "Scores of roofs were damaged as well as losing the roof on the hospital at the Haskell Institute. The Mariner & Marvel general store at Olathe was wrecked and houses and sta-

bles lost roofs, but no one was reported injured. A tower was toppled at Ottawa.

The story was repeated all the way to Kansas City where "the great Peavey elevator was badly wrecked. In Missouri a "cupelo" was blown from a church at Warrensburg, and a church demolished at Chillicothe. The giant storm system reached as far as Chicago by the next day.

Damage was reported in Texas, Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska. A report from St. Louis on April 4 documented 42 deaths in Kansas with an additional eight deaths in the other states. Considering the widespread destruction, it is remarkable that so few were killed that terrible night of terror on the Way West.

"The Cowboy," Jim Gray is author of the book *Desperate Seed: Ellsworth Kansas on the Violent Frontier, Ellsworth, KS Contact Kansas Cowboy, 220 21st RD Geneseo, KS Phone 785-531-2058 or kansascowboy@kans.com.*

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be to God for ever and ever.
Christ is risen! Alleluia!*

Happy Easter from FUMC Ellsworth & Kanopolis UMC

*Ad designed by Ellsworth County I/R

*"Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in.
Aim at earth and you get neither."*

C. S. Lewis

Refreshed and Redeemed Church
Mary Somrak, pastor - Ellsworth

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*I Am the Resurrection and the Life;
Whoever Believes in Me will Live*

John 11:25-27

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Father Joshua Werth, Pastor

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*Christ is risen!
The Lord is risen indeed.
Glory and honor, dominion and power,
be to God for ever and ever.
Christ is risen! Alleluia!*

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Refreshed and Redeemed Church
Mary Somrak, pastor - Ellsworth

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*Because Christ is Risen, We Have HOPE!
HOPE = Have Only Positive Expectations!*

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Luke Brown, pastor
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Watch our services on our Youtube channel - Ellsworth Kansas Immanuel Lutheran Church

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I_R Farm & City

Great Plains celebrates 45 years of business success

BY TIM UNRUH
For Great Plains
Manufacturing

An intense gleam of growth and prosperity is clearly defined at Great Plains Manufacturing, as the huge employer eyes a firmer foothold in Salina and north-central Kansas.

The equipment maker turns 45 years old on April 1, and aims to fill escalating needs in the farming, dairy, construction and landscaping industries, feeding markets domestically and abroad.

"There is an amazing bright future for Great Plains," said Linda Salem, the company's CEO and President.

Started with the vision of founder Roy Applequist and the development of a folding box seeding drill in April 1976, the company grew and expanded through several decades until it was sold to Kubota Tractor Corporation in July 2016.

A major global brand, Kubota has sealed its commitment to the north-central Kansas region, encouraging Great Plains Manufacturing to continue to invest millions of dollars in a number of plants in Salina and vicinity.

The company sports a growing and diverse line of innovative products that envelope and embrace huge sectors of industry.

Stealing a line from Chris Lane's country music hit song Great Plains has "some Big, Big Plans," with exploding production and jobs in these parts.

"Kubota bought Great Plains to grow it," said David Disberger, GPM executive vice president.

"Georgia, Kansas City, Texas and Salina are the four strategic growth locations for the company," he said.

Headquartered at 1525 E. North St. in Salina, Great Plains has agreed to become the North American center for construction equipment manufacturing and the home for the worldwide research and development design

GREAT PLAINS, ELLSWORTH

- Great Plains has 122 full-time and part-time employees at its plant on the east side of Ellsworth.
- The building that houses the Ellsworth plant was built in 1969 to produce wiring harnesses for the Ford Pinto.
- Great Plains purchased the location Feb. 12, 2008.
- The Ellsworth plant covers 148,465 square feet. As comparisons, the Lucas plant is 142,264 square feet, the new Abilene West plant is 350,000 square feet; and the other Abilene Great Plains facility is 189,650 square feet.
- Companywide, Great Plains employs more than 1,500 workers and expects to add another 450 by 2025.

center for compact track loaders, (CTLs).

"There will be compact track loaders, and by phase three we'll be making other construction equipment as well," Linda Salem said.

"We're moving CTLs from the Asia-Pacific, localizing what was previously produced overseas."

Kubota demand for the CTL to be made in Salina, has exceeded its own original forecast by 25 percent, company officials said, and they're already in talks about production increases beyond that number.

Great Plains Manufacturing has entered into a contract to purchase a 750,000-square-foot building in Salina — the Signify Building on the south end of town — to house this production.

"This is a company to get behind," Disberger said, "and it's family centric with strong values. We respect family values."

Salem has coached many leaders on those core elements.

"Our employees' well-being is important to us," she said. "People are the cornerstone of our success and an extension of our family."

The company is a proud supporter of the local communities it serves, and an ever-expanding list of customers, she added.

However, Great Plains can't do it alone. The company that has opened markets all over the United States and many spots on the

globe, needs people to fill job openings beyond the 1,700 already employed, infrastructure and space to manufacture a growing portfolio of products.

The company desires a partnership with the communities it serves, where leaders are eager to add utilities, education, support housing expansions and prepare to welcome new workers now through 2030. Projections have GPM growing by 450 to 2,110 workers by 2025, with continued growth to 2,310 employees by 2030.

"That may even be low. It's impressive," Disberger said.

But planning for this expansion must go beyond the Great Plains conference rooms.

"Our local community leaders don't yet fully understand our vision," Disberger said. "Salina needs a call to action. We've got to take this growth more seriously, and really focus on housing needs to allow for growth."

Great Plains endeavors to "be a valuable partner with the communities we work in," Salem said — Salina, Tipton, Ellsworth, Assaria, Kipp, Abilene and Enterprise.

"We need to let people know that if you're looking for a job, and many will be available at all levels, these towns can be your home," Disberger said.

Great Plains/Kubota's future is hinged to "a well-balanced, diversified business model built on different indus-

tries with expectations of withstanding market cycles," Salem said.

For example, Land Pride's continuous growth, albeit with seasonal flows have fit nicely with Great Plains Ag Division's seasonal flows. Counterbalances are built in.

Each division has its product strengths and there are new product lines being added in each.

Great Plains Ag continues to manufacture implements for seed placements (drills and planters) and seedbed preparation and soil management. Now the Ag Division is into hay and forage products, such as round balers.

Land Pride persists in expanding attachments aligned with Kubota tractors and construction machines.

The company pursues "innovative products that exceeds the needs and expectations of customers," Disberger said.

The Land Pride division projects another record-breaking year in revenues. Great Plains Ag has escalating revenue levels as well. Historically, when one division slows, another picks up slack, Salem said, and thanks to the added product balance of power construction equipment, expectations for stable overall business are high.

Great Plains Manufacturing is committed to investing millions of dollars into remodeling and adding on to its regional facilities and equipment.

An average investment per year for the past few years exceeds \$14 million in the plants outside of Salina and \$9 million within Salina, not including the new construction equipment building, where plans are immense. But there are challenges.

"Success will be very dependent on attracting workers to our company and to our communities," Salem said.

"With the community working together with industry right here in the nation's midsection, big goals will come to fruition, and the next 45 years will be as successful as the first."

IN BRIEF

ON THE FARM AND IN THE CITY

Grain prices all down for the week

Prices paid for grain at the Ellsworth Co-op at the end of the business day, Monday, March 29, were:

- Wheat, bu. — \$5.40, down 8 cents from March 22.
- Milo, bu. — \$5.67, down 92 cents.
- Soybeans, bu. — \$13.08, down 24 cents.
- Corn, bu. — \$5.47, down 2 cents.

The co-op has locations in Ellsworth, Black Wolf, Farhman, Hitschmann, Holyrood and Kanopolis.

ECMC Auxiliary offers scholarships

The Ellsworth County Medical Center Hospital Auxiliary has long been supportive of students entering the medical field through its scholarships. The auxiliary's educational scholarship program is making scholarships available to Ellsworth County students seeking an initial certification or licensure for a career in the medical field. If currently enrolled or accepted into a school in order to obtain education for a career in healthcare and interested in applying for the Auxiliary scholarship, follow the steps below to obtain the appropriate forms. First, visit www.ewmed.com. Second, click "About ECMC." Third, choose "Auxiliary."

The deadline for returning this application with completed forms is May 1.

Taylor retires from Wilson State Bank

On Friday, March 26, employees of the Wilson State Bank said "see you later" to Lorie Taylor, on her retirement from the bank after over 13 years of service. Taylor has been very active in the community and has represented Wilson State Bank well. She served on the Wilson City Council, as an active member of the Wilson Chamber of Commerce, and was a board member of the Lang Memorial Library.

Drought ends in Ellsworth County

Mary Knapp, assistant state climatologist at Kansas State University in Manhattan, has both good and not-so-good news for Ellsworth County farmers and ranchers. First, the good. Ellsworth County has been cleared of drought. In addition, the county is ahead on rainfall for March.

Knapp said Kanopolis Lake, which sends in moisture reports regularly, had 3.25 inches of rain between March 12-21. Normally, it would be 1.52 inches.

"It's just about double for March," she said.

Looking ahead, however, Knapp said the outlook for April through June is a more-than-normal drier and warmer pattern. There will be rain, just not the normal amount, she said.

Ellsworth County's normal moisture for April is 2.49 inches, 4.3 inches in May and 4.16 inches in June.

Cancer Fund seeks Triathlon teams

The Ellsworth County Cancer Fund annual Triathlon will be from 6 p.m. Friday, June 11, until 12:30 a.m. Saturday, June 12, at Shanelc Football Stadium in Ellsworth. Proceeds from the triathlon will be used to help cancer patients in Ellsworth County.

The ECCF committee met on Monday, March 22, at Reliant Roofing, Ellsworth, to start planning this year's event. Team leader letters and corporate sponsor letters have been sent out and a committee person will be contacting you soon. The committee is looking for more businesses, organizations, churches or families to form teams for the event and help raise money for Ellsworth County residents battling cancer.

The committee will conduct its next meeting at 5 p.m., Monday, April 12, followed by the team captain meeting at 6 p.m. at High Jinks Rec Club, Ellsworth. Anyone interested in becoming a committee member, wishes to form a team or be part of a team, should attend either of these meetings or call Season or Deb at Reliant Roofing at (785) 472-3900.



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Commission Varnado appointed to advisory board

BY ALAN RUSCH
Ellsworth County I-R

Ellsworth County commissioners appointed Rusty Varnado Monday as Ellsworth County's representative to the Central Kansas Community Corrections Advisory Board.

Varnado, Ellsworth city administrator, expressed an interest in the non-paying position while visiting with commissioners about the future use of the office and other buildings owned by Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative directly south of the Ellsworth County courthouse.

Commissioners learned that former county commissioner Terry Kueser, who was the county's representative to the advisory board for many years, was not renewing his term on the board.

In other business:

• Varnado said the city could use the storage space available in the Rolling Hills buildings but when he raised the issue at a meeting of the Ellsworth City Council several months ago, the council didn't seem interested in spending the funds to purchase the buildings and pay for rehabilitation.

Varnado said he will ask the council again about its interest in purchasing the buildings.

At a previous meeting, county clerk Shelly Vopat said several departments, including the county clerk, treasurer and register of deeds, are in need of additional storage space and she asked whether the county could investigate the purchase of the office building.

It was noted at Monday's meeting that the Ellsworth Coop also is interested in purchasing the buildings.

Varnado invited commissioners to take a tour of the buildings. He said he would explore whether the city could purchase a portion of the available space in a team effort with the county.

• Paul J. Kasper, county attorney, discussed proposed modifications to the county burn permit. He said the simplest way would be to rescind the current annual permit and replace it with a lifetime permit that would be valid until revoked. Kasper said those who have burn permits would be responsible for updates to the permit. The permit would be non transferable.

Kasper said to avoid confusion, the new lifetime burn permit would become effective Jan. 1, 2022. The current annual burn permits would still be good until that date.

Commissioners will talk with the area fire chiefs and Sheriff Murray Marston to get their views of the plan.

• Kasper said the county may have to opt out again from Gov. Laura Kelly's mask mandate that expires March 31. Kasper said he isn't sure if Kelly's order after that date will be a continuation of the old order or if it will be a new executive order. Commissioners opted out of Kelly's current mask mandate this past week after rescinding Ellsworth County's mask mandate.

• No action was taken after a 10-minute executive session with Kasper to discuss matters pertaining to attorney-client privilege (a legal question).

• Keith Haberer, emergency management director for Ellsworth and Russell counties, will arrange a conference call May 3 between county commissions to discuss the annual renewal of his contract. Haberer said his budget for 2021 was \$82,500 and the Russell County commissioners may ask Ellsworth County for additional funds.

SENIOR MENUS

April 5-9

ELLSWORTH

Lunches for people age 60 or older are a suggested donation of \$3.50 and under 60 are \$5.25. Reservations may be made by calling by 2 p.m. the day before the meal. Call Ellsworth at (785) 472-5185. Beverage includes milk.

MONDAY — Mashed potato/gravy, corn, peaches and pears, roll and beverage.

TUESDAY — Meatloaf, baked potato/sour cream, peas, strawberries, cake, bread and beverage.

WEDNESDAY — Smothered chicken, tritators, creamed spinach, peach crisp, garlic bread and beverage.

THURSDAY — Liver/onions (alt. beef patty), glazed carrots, scalloped potatoes, fruited gelatin, bread and beverage.

FRIDAY — Oven-baked chicken, boiled potato, creamed peas, caramel pear pudding and beverage.

WILSON and HOLYROOD

Lunches for people age 60 or older are a suggested donation of \$3.50 and under 60 are \$5.25. The center offers free rolls and coffee at 9 a.m. on Fridays. Call the Wilson Senior Center at (785) 658-2388, or Holyrood at (785) 252-3640. Beverage includes milk.

MONDAY — Goulash, corn, roll, cottage cheese, fresh fruit and beverage.

TUESDAY — Smothered steak/mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes, carrots, roll, fruited gelatin and beverage.

WEDNESDAY — Smothered chicken, hash brown casserole, green beans, roll, cake, apricots and beverage.

THURSDAY — Pizza, marinated vegetable salad, fruit, cookie and beverage.

FRIDAY — Beef pot roast, potatoes/carrots/onions, roll, pie and beverage.

Marquette main street prepares for the bulls

BY LINDA MOWERY-DENNING
Marquette Tribune

Ryan Barta figures he is selling more than the 40 head of cattle he plans to display April 6 on Marquette's main street.

He also is selling the town to visitors who might not see it otherwise.

It didn't start that way. A year ago, Barta Farms canceled its annual bull sale because of the coronavirus pandemic.

This year, the sale became homeless when Barta learned the venue he had planned on had accidentally forgotten to write down his reservation and rented to another user.

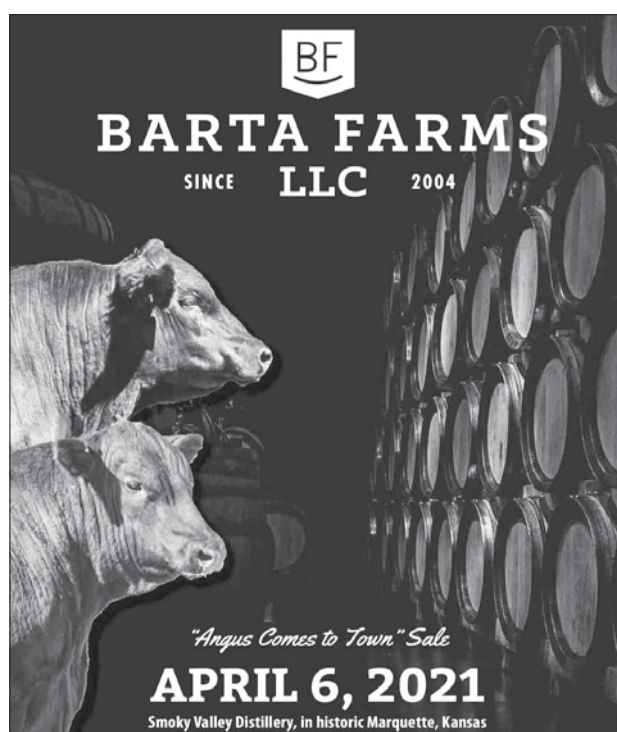
That was a little more than a month ago.

"We got to scrambling and started talking about communities and community involvement," Barta said.

The sale on Marquette's main street is a result of those discussions. The town had everything Barta needed — a good-size meeting room at Smoky Valley Distillery, places to eat at Tom's Ranch House and City Sundries and the Kansas Motorcycle Museum and other attractions for those who enjoy exploring.

And Barta had worked with distillery owner Stan VonStrohe before.

In January, Barta Farms took 28 head of cattle to the Cattleman's Congress in Oklahoma City. As part of the presentation, the farm set up a Bloody Mary bar featuring vodka from the Marquette distillery owned by VonStrohe and his wife, Michelle. Barta said the pro-



The cover of the Barta Farms, LLC sale program at right features cattle and barrels of vodka from the Smoky Valley Distillery. Ryan Barta thinks his farm's "Angus Comes to Town" sale may be unique in Kansas.

motion was successful.

"I'd say we went through quite a few gallons of vodka," he added.

Barta, who lives three miles northeast of Little River, said his grandfather raised commercial cattle. Four or five years ago, registered Angus were added.

Barta said quality is the goal of the farm, which includes his family and a friend who is part of the cattle operation.

"We want them to look good. We want them to be functional. We want them to last," Barta said.

The sale will feature 34 bulls, eight registered females and 10 commercial females.

Four corrals will be set up in front of the distillery on main street.

Included will be an animal Barta Farms donated to the Little River High School FFA.

The cattle will be available for viewing from noon to 4 p.m. Tom's Ranch House will serve a family-style dinner from 4 to 6 p.m. There will be no charge for visitors with buyer numbers. The sale starts at 6:15 p.m. Bids will be accepted in person, over the phone or on cci.live.

Barta is not aware of any other sale in Kansas similar to the one planned for Marquette. He expects potential buyers from Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas and other states, plus onlookers who will be in town just to see cattle on main street.

HE IS RISEN



COURTESY PHOTO

Crosses were built and put up Saturday, March 20, by members of the Smoky Hill Baptist and Redeemed Churches of Ellsworth. The crosses are in the field behind the Smoky Hill Baptist Church at 1007 Evans St. The Ministerial Alliance is hosting the Community Sunrise Service beginning at 7 a.m. Easter Sunday, April 4, in this field. Everyone is welcome to attend but bring your blanket and chair. Coffee, homemade cinnamon rolls and donuts will be served. Pictured above after setting the crosses are Glenn Vessey and Bea Ramsey with Smoky Hill Baptist Church and Pastor Mary Somrak with Refreshed and Redeemed Church.

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Senior Smiles

Dental Tips for Seniors

Visit a Dentist Regularly

Get regular dental checkups at least once a year — please do not wait until you have pain. Why? As you age, the nerves inside your teeth become smaller and less sensitive. By the time you feel pain from a cavity, it may be too late and you may lose your tooth.

There are also more serious conditions that your dentist will look for, like oral cancer and gum disease, which do not always cause pain until the advanced stages of the disease. By then, it's more difficult and costly to treat.

We hope this information is helpful in keeping your mouth healthy.

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*Information courtesy of the American Dental Association.
*Ad designed by Ellsworth County I/R

A benefit for 13-year-old Rylan Gier will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 17 at the Vesper Community Center.

Rylan and his brother and sisters lived in the Wilson area and a couple of the Gier children attended Wilson schools. Rylan's grandmother works at Wilson schools. Wilson residents have been among those who have organized past benefits for Rylan.

Courtesy Photo



Benefit set for Rylan Gier

SPECIAL TO THE I-R

For many the year 2020 will be remembered as the year of Covid-19. However, for Rylan Gier and his family — Ryan, Sara, Kaden and Allie — this past year has brought even more unexpected challenges.

A little over a year ago on March 11, Rylan, 13, became ill and was diagnosed with Influenza B Symptoms included vomiting, a low grade fever and leg pains. Eventually spots covered Rylan's entire body and he became incoherent and unable to walk.

Upon arrival to the emergency room at Hays Medical Clinic his temperature was 103 degrees and his blood pressure and kidney function were low. After a blood test indicated Rylan might have leukemia he was transferred to Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City.

Upon arrival in Kansas City, Rylan was admitted into the Oncology Unit and then transferred to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. After the first four days Rylan's condition deteriorated and he was placed on a ventilator, antibiotics, and three different blood pressure medications. Rylan underwent a bone marrow aspiration and was put on dialysis.

Rylan was finally diagnosed with B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Throughout the next few weeks Rylan began occupational, physical and chemotherapy, the doctors inserted a PICC line and a lumbar puncture with his chemo. A chest tube was also inserted.

About six weeks after Rylan became ill he was placed on another treatment called Blinatumomab. Within a day of starting the treat-

ment Rylan showed no leukemia in his blood. Rylan had three surgeries to flush out infection in his left hip.

After the 28-day protocol for the Blinatumomab treatment, Rylan returned home May 15. In July Rylan underwent cell depleting chemotherapy and had a bone marrow aspiration before he was released Aug. 12.

On Aug. 14 Rylan's oncologist called the Giers to report Rylan was in remission. However, only two months later on Oct. 1 Rylan had petechial on his legs and lab work the next day confirmed Rylan had relapsed with the same type of leukemia.

Throughout the month of October Rylan again had a bone marrow aspiration, lumbar puncture/port insertion and started Blinatumomab in Kansas City. By the middle of the month Rylan was released from the hospital but the family made weekly trips back to Kansas City.

By the start of November results showed the Blinatumomab had not worked adequately and Rylan had leukemia in 3 percent of his bone marrow and now in his spinal fluid. Throughout the rest of November Rylan began weekly infusion of Inotuzumab and lumbar puncture with intrathecal chemo however results were not positive.

At the beginning of December another bone marrow aspiration and lumbar puncture with chemo was tried again. No leukemia was found in the spinal fluid but now his bone marrow cells was up to 17 percent.

As a result, doctors changed course trying chemo and ventoclast

pills for a month. But a few days later Rylan tested positive for Covid-19. The next day Rylan was diagnosed with Tumor Lysis Syndrome but by Dec. 15 he returned home and by the New Year he had started to recover.

By the middle of January Rylan's bone marrow was at .02 percent leukemia but for a transplant lumbar it had to be at .01 percent. On Jan. 19 Rylan was admitted to the hospital for monitoring and received his second Kymrian Infusion Jan. 25.

An x-ray Feb. 1 showed something in Rylan's lungs and the next day he was on a ventilator and had a bronchoalveolar lavage to see what was in his lungs. By Feb. 4 he was still on a ventilator and there was still fluid in his lungs. Rylan also developed a 105 degree fever and blood vessels to the liver were blocked. Rylan began to have vision problems and he had hemorrhaging behind his eyes due to low platelet counts. His vision could take five to six months to return.

By now the Kymrian cells have exhausted themselves and the doctors decided to come up with a new plan. Rylan's liver enzymes continued to decrease but towards the end of February, they started to improve. On Feb. 22 doctors began a new chemo regimen.

The family continues to update everyone

almost daily on Facebook. Rylan has continued to battle throughout the month of March.

Meanwhile, family and friends have organized the Rylan Gier Benefit from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 17, at the Vesper Community Center. A smoked meat dinner including sides will be available throughout the evening by free will donation.

Several area businesses, organizations, and individuals have donated items of all sizes for either the raffle or on the silent auction.

Items include: Bad Boy MZ 42" zero turn mower; Mossberg 27838 Patriot .243 Winchester St. 1 22" Barrel Matte Blued Black Bolt Action; 2 Horsepower-10 Gallon-110 Watt New Holland Air Compressor; 42# Pork Bundle (Processed & Packaged); 2 Split Sides Beef (Processed); 36" Stor Smart Tool Box; Stihl Trimmer FS40 CE; Louisiana 450 Smoker Grill; Midea 7.0 cu ft white freezer (32.1x21.7x33.5); Two CVA Gas Cards.

Raffle tickets are \$10 each and the drawing will take place during the dinner. You do not need to be present to win. For more information or to donate items for the raffle and/or silent auction, or if you would like to help with the dinner call Ray Keller at (785) 488-8005 or Tyler Gier at (785) 534-0673.

10-digit phone number needed starting April 24 in Ellsworth County

Beginning April 24, Kansas residents with area codes 620 and 785 will be asked to dial the complete 10 digit phone number to make a call. The 10-digit number will be required to make any phone calls that previously could be dialed with seven digits.

Residents are encouraged to begin dialing the 10 numbers starting April 24. However, calls will still go through with seven digits until Oct. 24, at which time the area code for local calls will be mandatory. After Oct. 24, 2021, callers who do not dial the 10 digit number will not be able to complete the call.

The changes are being made to accommodate the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline which will be 988.

Some areas codes, like 620 and 785 in Kansas, have 988 as the first 3 digits of their 7-digit phone numbers. Once 988 becomes the suicide hotline, if someone tries to dial 988 as part of a regular call, they will reach the hotline instead of the person they are trying to reach.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will be using the new three-digit number, 988, to immediately connect callers to suicide prevention hotlines.

To use the 988 number, it will be necessary to adopt 10 digit phone numbers. On July 16, 2022, dialing "988" will put you through to the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline.

FARM SAFETY



ALAN RUSCH/Ellsworth County I-R

Heath Ehrlich of Ellsworth's KanEquip shows area teens how to be safe using grain carts Saturday during a Farm Safety Day hosted by the Midway Extension District in Ellsworth.

Tourism to move to commerce

Gov. Laura Kelly has announced the Kansas Tourism Division will officially be part of the Kansas Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Executive Reorganization Order Gov. Kelly submitted Jan. 25 to the Kansas Legislature. The 60 calendar day period has expired without action by either the Kansas House or Senate, therefore the reorganization will occur starting July 1.

"Moving the tourism division into the Department of Commerce sends a clear message to our industry partners and prospective companies that my administration will use every tool at our disposal to spur new economic growth," Gov. Kelly said. "This realignment will support our businesses, our tourism industry, and will play a significant role in our COVID-19 recovery efforts."



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Central Plains High School & USD 112's
Student Of The Week

Matthew Donecker

Matthew Donecker, a senior at Central Plains High School, is this week's Student of the Week. He is the son of Elaine and Kevin Donecker. Matthew's siblings are Julie and Melissa Donecker. Matthew's activities include football, powerlifting, track, FFA, National Honor Society, Scholar's Bowl, hunting, fishing, welding, and drawing.

What Matthew likes best about school are the friendships built over the years and the memories made in sports.

Matthew's future plans are to attend North Central Kansas Technical College and major in Automotive Technology.

"Matthew Donecker is a senior at Central Plains Jr/Sr High and this week's Student of the Week because of his exceptional work ethic and positive attitude. He goes above and beyond without being prompted and is always respectful to peers and adults. Matthew has maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout high school and will soon graduate at the top of his class! Congratulations Matthew for being a student of character and academic success!"

Theresa Strobel - Counselor

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Our Rising Stars

Erichsen receives four-year grant to FHSU

Ellsworth High School senior Logan Erichsen is among 30 Rudd Foundation scholars to receive a four-year college scholarship to attend Emporia State, Fort Hays State, or Wichita State universities.

The Rudd Scholarship covers all remaining tuition and fees, books and sup-

plies, and on-campus room and board, after other aid, grants, and scholarships are applied to a student's account. The expected value for the 30 new recipients over four years is approximately \$1.1 million.

With the additional 30 scholars, there are expected to be 103 Rudd Scholars in total this fall. This repre-

sents about a \$4 million financial commitment to date since the program's inception in 2018.

"We are privileged to announce the exceptionally high-caliber, well-rounded students that were selected as Rudd Scholars this year," said Darrell Swank, foundation president. "By removing the financial bur-

den associated with a college education, it is our hope that these individuals will be actively involved on campus, maintain good grades, graduate in four years debt-free, and thus be well-positioned to pursue their passions and dreams in whatever vocations they desire."

Of the 30 new scholars,

19 plan to attend Wichita State, seven — including Erichsen — at Fort Hays State, and four at Emporia State. The scholarship is earned through a competitive selection process that includes the applicant's grades, test scores, essays, letters of recommendation, and for the 50 finalists, a personal interview.



Logan Erichsen

Hansen Scholarship winners



Jasmine Conley



Hannah Brown



Adam Vehring



Jonathan Spachek



Jaycee Cunningham



Logan Erichsen



Teagon Nienke



Kelsey Ashbaugh



Shaylee Leiker



Cooper Weinhold

Kansas Community Bank Week

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April 4 - 10 is Community Bank Week. Community Bankers Association of Kansas and the Independent Community Bankers of America take this opportunity to remind consumers their local community bank is a safe haven from impersonal bank practices that can leave many banking customers feeling overwhelmed. As local small businesses themselves, community banks only thrive when their customers and communities do the same.

Community bank customers are rewarded with lifelong financial relationships by people who care about them and look out for the best interest of their community. It's just the way they do business.

* Information provided by the Community Bankers Association of Kansas and the Independent Community Bankers of America.



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Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



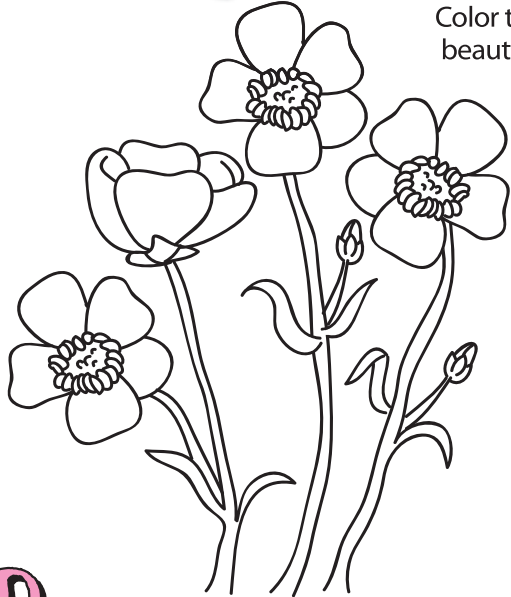
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April showers bring...

WILDFLOWERS

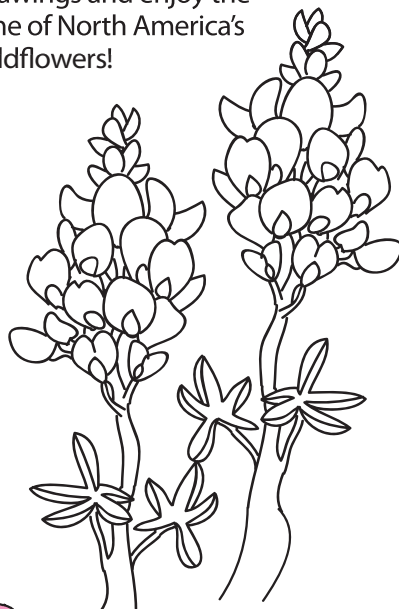
Take a walk outside and look around! Chances are you will see flowers starting to bloom. April is a month to celebrate the colorful display of flowers in our community. Even pesky weeds bloom this time of year!

Color these drawings and enjoy the beauty of some of North America's wildflowers!



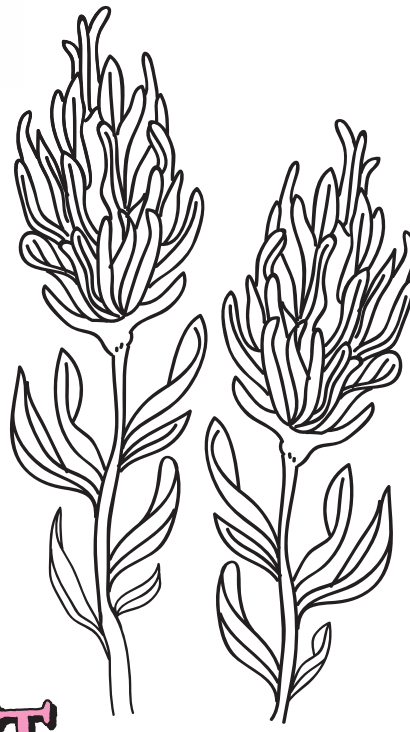
Buttercups have cup-shaped flowers made up of five petals. People used to believe that the rich yellow color of butter originated from a high content of buttercups in the cows' diet. This belief is false. Cows avoid buttercups because they are poisonous!

FLOWER: **YELLOW**
STEM AND LEAVES: **GREEN**



Bluebonnets are the Texas state flower. Some grow to be three feet high! The bluebonnet comes from the legume (bean) family.

FLOWER: **PURPLE/DARK BLUE**
STEM AND LEAVES: **GRAY-GREEN**



The Indian Paint Brush is Wyoming's state flower. It has been used to make dyes. The main pollinators of this wildflower are hummingbirds.

FLOWER: **RED-ORANGE**
STEM AND LEAVES: **GREEN**

Look closely: Can you find the two identical bouquets of flowers?



Poppies are the California state flower. They can be found blooming throughout the state in spring.

FLOWER: **ORANGE**
STEM AND LEAVES: **GREEN**

Extra! Extra! Circle It!

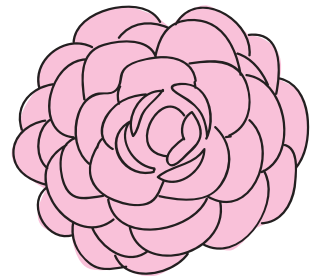
On one page of the newspaper, find and circle the letters that spell each of the flowers on this page. Connect the circled letters to spell each word.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Follow simple written directions.

Kid Scoop Together: State Flower Scramble

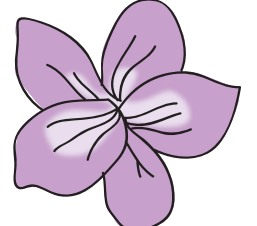
Which flower belongs to which state? Unscramble the letters underneath each flower to find out!

camellia



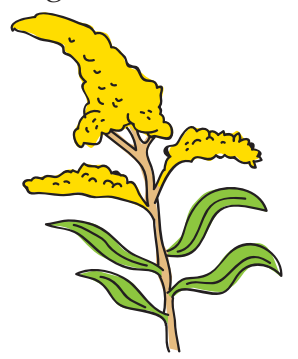
ABAALAM

violet



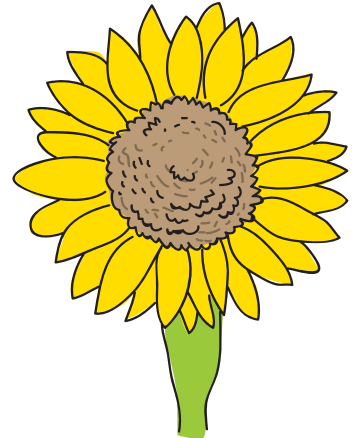
NOSILILI

goldenrod



EKBRANAS

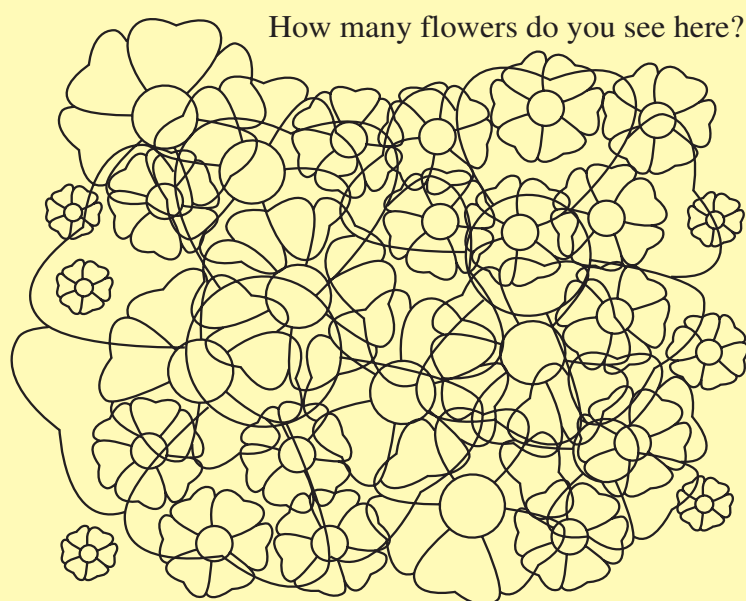
sunflower



SASANK

Kid Scoop Puzzler

How many flowers do you see here?



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

- BLUEBONNET
- BUTTERCUP
- LEGUME
- INDIAN
- FAMILY
- TEXAS
- BLOOM
- BRUSH
- SEEDS
- AVOID
- PODS
- DYES
- STEM
- COWS
- RICH

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

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

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **ORIGINATE**
The verb **originate** means to bring into being.

The annual holiday custom **originated** in ancient times.

Try to use the word **originate** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family.

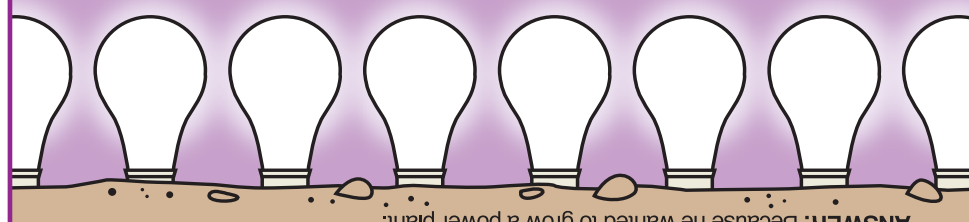
FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

What's missing?

Show a friend pictures from the newspaper with a piece of the picture missing. Then have them ask questions that can only be answered "YES" or "NO" to determine what is missing.

Standards Link: Understand meaning from context clues.

Why did the farmer plant light bulbs?



ANSWER: Because he wanted to grow a power plant.

Write On!

Spring Poems

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Spring sports teams - Central Plains



LORI FARMER/Ellsworth County I-R

Members of the Central Plains tennis team are, from left — left to right Jacob Togersen, Hunter Green, Karter Beck, Gus Menges and Isiah Jensen. Not pictured is Peyton Ryan. Head Coach is Gary Bittner, assistant coach is Joan Klug.



LORI FARMER/Ellsworth County I-R

Members of the Central Plains High School golf team are, from left — Coach Jeff Potter Krystal Weeks, Melissa Donecker, Kailynn Depperschmidt, JoAnna Donecker, Kristi Weeks and Jakeb Cauthon.

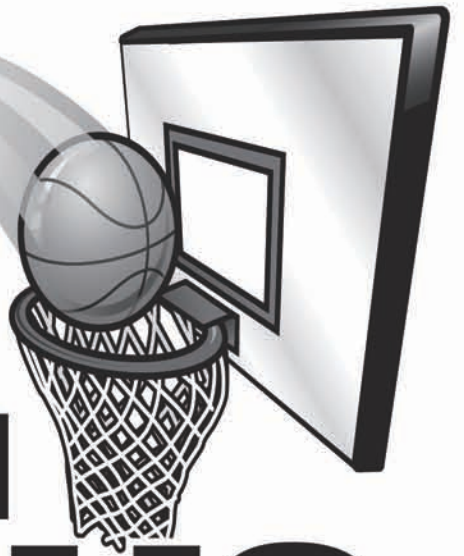


Courtesy Photo

Members of the Central Plains track team left to right are: front row, from left — Kyla Metro, Riley Thompson, Callie Zink, Dawson McNeal, Cole Lamatsch, Tyler Holmes, Denver Crenshaw, and Brian Whiterock; middle row, from left — Jennah Jeffery, Brynna Hammeke, Nora VanScyoc, Jacob Oberle, Joseph Bunch, Evan Stratmann, Michael Laymon, and Jake Sturn; back row, from left — Cassandra Stout, Adrienne Togerson, Taylor Sheehy, Lauren Oeser, Kerrick Benavidez, Mathew Donecker, Ben Gibson, and Hunter Klima. Not Pictured: Elizeia Knapp-Blehm, Connor Freis, and Blaine Hickel.

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Spring sports teams - Wilson



LORI FARMER/Ellsworth County I-R

Members of the Wilson track team are, back row, from left — Blake Mermis, Zach Corpus, Aiden Watts, Cooper Weinhold, Henry Kingsbury and front row, from left — Raina Garrard, Kylee Larsen, Cara Criswell, Kami Thrasher and Anna Thielen. Not pictured are Cameryn Eberhart and Avery Anderson.

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Wilson

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Wilson

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Attorney general continues open records review

BY JENNIFER MCDANIEL
Ellsworth County I-R

The validity of a formal complaint accusing Ellsworth city officials of violating the Kansas Open Records Act is still being examined by the Kansas Attorney General's Office, officials confirmed late last week.

The complaint, which was filed in mid-January by Sean McGivern, a Wichita attorney representing former Ellsworth City Administrator Scott Moore, stems from an original request filed last year. Specifically, McGivern asked the city to provide what he described as "electronic communications from 25 individuals sent and received through city-issued electronic devices and/or email addresses from June 1, 2018, through June 30, 2020."

Those 25 individuals are named in the request and include former and current city officials and staff.

The city had until March 1 to respond and provide additional information to the state. Once received, the response would be reviewed to determine if more information was needed, and what action, if any, was required to resolve the matter.

"The complaint remains under review," John Milburn, a spokesperson for the Kansas Attorney General's Office, said, adding no additional information would be available.

In his request, McGivern also asked for additional items, including certain bills, salary records, audio recordings of specific 2019 and 2020 city council meetings, policies, documents and other information.

Under KORA, public entities

are required to act on records requests as soon as possible, or no later than the end of the third business day following the date received. However, if access is delayed, the law requires an explanation not only detailing why, but the earliest time and date available. But if the request is denied, the law requires a written explanation why.

McGivern also asked the statement to be provided to him no later than the third business day following the date received.

McGivern's original records request was dated Sept. 19, 2020.

In his complaint to the state's attorney general, McGivern alleges the "City refused to search mobile devices, including phones and tablets, even though (the) City pays for (the) data plan on the tablets, and respondents use phones and tablets to

conduct business ..." "electronic communications from 25 individuals sent and received through city-issued electronic devices and/or email addresses from June 1, 2018, through June 30, 2020."

McGivern indicated the matter would be resolved if the requested records were received, state officials said.

Ellsworth City Attorney Patrick Hoffman has insisted the city searched its emails and databases for the requested records, but because text messages are not stored, no searches were conducted. He also previously said the city may not have the authority to search cell phones — an issue that will be determined by the state attorney general's office.

Hoffman has been adamant none of the requested documents were withheld, and the

city would comply with the attorney general's findings.

Investigations can take three to four weeks or several months depending on the nature and number of alleged violations, according to the attorney general's office.

Moore served as Ellsworth city administrator from June 1997 through June 2005. He later returned to Ellsworth after he was rehired by the city council in July 2015, replacing former city administrator Tim Vandall, who accepted a job in Lansing.

Moore abruptly left City Hall in November 2019 after the Ellsworth City Council unanimously voted during a special meeting to immediately terminate his employment. Today, he serves as the assistant city manager for administration in Port Arthur, Texas.



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IR Religion

Have Only Positive Expectations — HOPE

A submarine sank off the coast of Massachusetts. One diver trying to rescue people heard someone tapping out a message in Morse Code inside the hull. What was that message? What would you ask if you were trapped in a submarine a mile under water? The message was, "Is there any hope?"

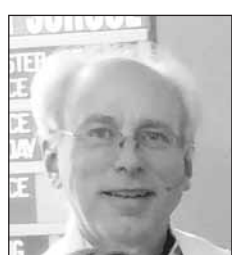
That's all we want to know in life, is there any hope? So many people today, especially after so much uncertainty and anxiety and unending bad news are asking — Is there any hope? Or are we just sunk? You know what Jesus says? Oh, that's his hope. There's great hope. Why's that?

Here's the key to our Christian life. God does big things with small stuff. If I believe that, I have hope. If you don't have hope, you've got nothing.

So what is hope? Here's a helpful acronym. Have Only Positive Expectations. HOPE. So many times I have negative expectations, but that's not how you spell hope. Faith looks back and trusts what Jesus has done. Faith looks forward and trusts what Jesus will do.

Why do we have hope in the future? Because God does big things with small stuff. That's what the parable from Matthew 13 is all about. It gives us great hope because we have a great God.

It's a short parable, only three verses. It starts with a small seed. "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds."



Pastor Luke Brown

Pastor's Podium

The kingdom of heaven is one of the most misunderstood terms in the Bible. The Kingdom of Heaven isn't a place like Disneyland's Magic Kingdom but a movement with a king whose name is Jesus. If you're going to start a movement to transform the universe, how would you start? You'd get a boatload of money and PR experts and perhaps weapons.

Jesus says, you start with a mustard seed. Ever seen a mustard seed? How would you describe it? Teensy, tiny, meager? And this is how you're going to transform the universe? Are you kidding?

God does big things with small stuff. The man is Jesus sowing the Kingdom of Heaven and bringing people into this movement of radical grace and transformation. You say, is that all we've got? Is there any hope?

Hope. Have only positive expectations. The Bible is filled with stories of God doing big things with mustard seeds!

But what is the tree? The tree provides stability and beauty and growth. Of the four Gospels, Matthew talks most about the church. Matthew 16:18, Jesus says "on this rock I will build my church, and the

gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

The church isn't a place, it's a movement. This movement can look so vulnerable and modest — the gates of hell are going to do everything they can to destroy it. But it ain't gonna happen!

God mocks Satan, that stooge. Satan tries to shut the church down by not allowing services, but the word is proclaimed through other means and spreads even further. The small seed grows into a tremendous tree that attracts boundless birds. The birds are people of all nations, who flock to the church which isn't a building but a movement and they find safety and life and protection and stability and hope

That's why people flock to the church and the Gospel message. Thinking people, hopeful people, repentant people understand that apart from this movement of Jesus Christ they have absolutely nothing. They also know that with this movement they have absolutely everything. And that's the message of the rest of the New Testament.

On a cross, all his friends ran away, his garments were gambled away, his Father turned away, and his life was ebbing away, for six God-forsaken hours. It looked pretty dark and bleak that Good Friday.

End of story, right? Can't get much smaller than that! But remember, God does big things with small stuff. Jesus walks out of that tomb on Easter morning. Christ is risen! Death is dead. There is heavenly hope! That's our Easter hope!

This has been a tough year. Is there any hope? Yes. But don't trust me, trust Jesus. There's more to life than social distancing and isolation and quarantines.

The heart of our Christian hope is that God still does big things with small stuff. We have hope — have only positive expectations!

Look at the mustard seed. That's what it's all about. God takes this seed and creates a world changing movement that has stood up to plagues and persecution and challenges for centuries.

God takes a mustard seed and transforms my life and yours. A mustard size seed faith is enough. God still does amazingly big things with amazingly small stuff.

Pastor's Podium

The Pastor's Podium column is offered each week by a different pastor or lay person representing an Ellsworth County church.

The week's columnist is Luke Brown, pastor at the Immanuel Lutheran Church, Ellsworth.



Church Services In Ellsworth County

BROOKVILLE
United Methodist
Bill Gies, pastor
114 W. Anderson, (785) 225-6875

St. Joseph's Catholic
Msgr. James E. Hake
West Third

BUSHTON
Holy Name Catholic
Fr. Rick Kotrba
296 Third Rd., (620) 562-3427

United Methodist
Diana Webster, pastor
213 Third, (620) 562-3393

Salem United Methodist
Tom Reazin, pastor
517 Ave. E, (620) 562-3334

CARNEIRO
United Methodist
Phone: (785) 472-3856

DORRANCE
First Lutheran – ELCA
Brenda Rodger PMA,
417 Coleman
Sunday service: 8:30 a.m.
Jan.-June; 11 a.m. July-Dec.

St. Joseph's Catholic
Fr. Tony Kulandajesu

ELLSWORTH
Harvest Bible Church
Marc Compton, pastor
907 Evans, (620) 562-0168.
Sunday service: 10:30 a.m.

Assembly of God
Exie Barber, pastor,
108 W. Eighth, (785) 472-

3232
Basic Sunday morning
services from 10:45 a.m. to 12
p.m. with careful social
distancing.

Holy Apostles Episcopal
George Martin, pastor,
104 W. Fourth
Service information not
provided.

First Presbyterian
Amy Jo Hawley, pastor
405 N. Lincoln, (785) 472-
5557.
9-9:45 a.m. Sunday, First
service.
9:50-10:20 Sunday School.
10:30-11:15 a.m. Sunday,
Second Service including live
on Facebook at Ellsworth
First.

Immanuel Lutheran LC – MS
Luke Brown, pastor
905 Stanberry, Church: (785)
472-4045
Bible Study: 9 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service: 10
a.m.
TV ministry: Sun. 4 p.m. and
Thurs. 7 p.m.

DiVine Hope Nazarene
Hoeger Chapel,
300 Bickerdyke Blvd.
(785) 472-1744
Sunday service: 10 a.m.

St. Bernard's Catholic
Fr. Joshua Werth
10th and Kansas, (785) 472-
3136
Sunday Mass: 10 a.m.
Visitors welcome, must

contact church by Friday to
attend.

**St. Paul's Evangelical
Lutheran LC – MS**
Keith Emshoff, pastor
(713) 906-8003
Sunday school: 8:30 a.m.
Adult Bible Class: 8:30 a.m.
Church service: 9:30 a.m.

Smoky Hill Baptist
1007 Evans. Contact Gary
Oller, (785) 252-3263.
9:45 a.m. Sunday school
10:45 a.m. Sunday Church
service
6 p.m. Wednesday Bible study

First United Methodist
Dennis Carter, pastor
322 N. Douglas, (785) 472-
3870
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Sunday service
TV ministry: 10:30 a.m. and
12:45 p.m. Sunday

**Refreshed and Redeemed
Church**
Mary Somrak, pastor
Church: 307 Webb St., (785)
472-9300
Sunday service at 10:30 a.m.
live @rarnaz on Facebook

GENESEO
Geneseo United Methodist
Guy Rendoff, pastor
407 8th, (620) 824-6498
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
UMW: 3rd Thursday - 7 p.m.

HOLYROOD
St. Paul United Church of

Christ
Debby Rains, pastor
301 E. Nassau, (785) 252-3410

St. Peter Lutheran
Dan Harders, pastor
209 S. County Rd., (785) 252-
3275
Sunday Service: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School follows.

St. Mary's Catholic
Fr. Tony Kulandajesu
Concord Street
Masses broadcast on
Facebook Live under St.
Wenceslaus Church —
morning masses at 7:30 a.m.
Tuesday-Friday, 6 p.m.
Monday, 10 a.m. Sunday.

KANOPOLIS
United Methodist
Dennis Carter, pastor
103 S. Missouri, (785) 472-4984
9:15 a.m. Sunday service
10:30 a.m. Sunday school

St. Ignatius Catholic
Fr. Joshua Werth
127 N. Missouri, Rectory (785)
472-4874
Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m.
Guests welcome, must call
(785) 472-3136 by Friday to
attend.

LORRAINE
First Baptist Church
Zach Ullom, pastor
320 W. Wichita, (785) 472-
5334
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Children's Bible Club: 6 p.m.

WILSON
Excelsior Lutheran – ELCA
Angie Sundell, pastor
(785) 452-1959
Nine miles NE of Wilson at
888 Ave. C
Sunday service: 8:30 a.m.

First Baptist
Brett Denham, pastor
Old Highway 40,
(785) 658-2499
Sunday service: 10:30 a.m. at
the church and on Facebook
page. Wednesday evening: 7
p.m. on Facebook Live.

**First Presbyterian &
United Methodist**
Mike Trow, pastor
319 24th St. or 2424 Ave. F
Church: (785) 658-2191
Facebook Live at 9 a.m.
Sundays, Wilson 1st
Presbyterian and United
Methodist Churches.

Immanuel Lutheran – ELCA
Vicar Jacqueline Thornton,
interim
2819 Ave. F
Church: (785) 658-2252
9 a.m. Sunday service
10:15 a.m. Sunday School

**St. Wenceslaus Catholic
Church**
Fr. Tony Kulandajesu
2807 Ave. D, (785) 658-3361
Masses broadcast on
Facebook Live under St.
Wenceslaus Church —
morning masses at 7:30 a.m.
Tuesday-Friday, 6 p.m.
Monday, 10 a.m. Sunday.

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Courthouse Notes, Etc.

Traffic

(Note: Traffic cases resolved between March 15, 2021 to March 22, 2021. Fines include a \$108 docket fee.)

JUDGMENT ON PLEA OF GUILTY

- Adno E. Aflegn, speeding, \$153.
 - Saeed Ali Ahmed, speeding, \$195.
 - Shaylah Marie Beauchman, speeding, \$153.
 - Joseph Michael Black, speeding, \$171.
 - Reagan Edward Bradford, speeding, \$183.
 - Dale Brownlee, speeding, \$222.
 - Julie Kristen Butler, speeding, \$153.
 - Miguel Angel Cabrera Torres, speeding, \$171.
 - Thomas E. Carter, speeding, \$213.
 - Justin A. Dick, speeding, \$153.
 - Jayden Psalm Dillon, speeding, \$159.
 - Katelin Delores Euler, speeding, \$153.
 - Jeremy R. Gentry, speeding, \$159.
 - Ciarra T. Hairston, speeding, \$165.
 - Shantae Ranae Haye, speeding, \$195.
 - Del Monte Ildegrades Hernandez, speeding, \$195.
 - Donald Francis Hornung, speeding, \$195.
 - William Asher Horwitz, speeding, \$201.
 - Tausha Kaye Humphrey, speeding, \$240.
 - Justin D. Ickes, speeding, \$153.
 - Dustin Fredrick Imdieke, speeding, \$159.
 - Ronald Culver Johnson, speeding, \$159.
 - Samuel R. Jones, speeding, \$249.
 - Casey L. Koenig, speeding, \$231.
 - Troy Lee, speeding, \$189.
 - Cole M. Lemmon, speeding, \$183.
 - Brian Lopez, speeding, \$195.
 - John Joseph Markel, speeding, \$153.
 - Kenneth D. McHenry, failure to keep right to pass oncoming vehicle, \$183.
 - Raymond E. Nelson Jr., speeding, \$183.
 - Dennis H. Ochoa Lara, speeding, \$231.
 - Jc A. Ochoa, speeding, \$231.
 - Michael Eric Odell, speeding, \$222; vehicles, unlawful acts, registration, \$75; vehicle liability insurance required, \$300.
 - Catrina Maria Ortiz, speeding, \$305.
 - Samantha Ann Pedigo, speeding, \$153.
 - Jared Allen Pitts, speeding, \$183.
 - Therese Tiongson Serrano, speeding, \$189.
 - Jeffrey Kevin Stumm, speeding, \$183.
 - Keyona Racheal Antionette Tinker, speeding, \$240.
 - Hnak Van, speeding, \$189.
 - Paul M. Wagner, speeding, \$183.
 - Meredith Ann Warrino, speeding, \$153.
 - Sheila Maureen Wiese, speeding, \$201.
 - Tresha D. Wilson, speeding, \$177.
- DEFERRED ADJUDICATION** — Colton Alan Wood, speeding, \$258.

Ellsworth Police

NON-INJURY ACCIDENTS — At 3:16 p.m. March 17, officers responded to a non-injury accident at Fourth Street and Court Avenue. Larry Pacey, 81, Ellsworth, was driving a 2015 GMC pickup truck when he backed into a parked 1995 Oldsmobile Cutlass owned by Daniel Magie of Ellsworth.

At 11:57 a.m. March 18, officers responded to a non-injury accident at K-156 Highway and K-140 Highway. Mason May, 84, Ellsworth, was driving a 2010 Ford pickup truck when he hit a 2010 Ford pickup truck driven by Zane McClure, 28, of Tescott.

At 5:23 p.m. March 18, officers responded to a non-injury accident in the parking lot at 745 O'Donnell Drive. Rita Gwinner, 61, Ellsworth, was driving a 2015 Lincoln MKC when she hit the bale lift on a parked 2019 Ford truck owned by Gary Bruning of Ellsworth.

Sheriff Office

NON-INJURY ACCIDENTS — At 1:21 p.m. March 12, Samuel W. Paull, 63, Kanopolis, was driving east on K-140 Highway in a 2004 Chevrolet pickup truck. As he crested the hill at milepost

1.2, Paull noticed Kenneth R. McHenry, 79, Ellsworth, driving a 2009 Ford Ranger pickup truck west in the east-bound lane on K-140 Highway. Both drivers took evasive actions, but the vehicles collided, damaging the driver's side mirrors of both. No injuries were reported. McHenry was cited for failing to drive on the right side of the road.

At 10:37 a.m. March 14, Jewell L. Radke, 63, Wilson, was driving north on First Road in a 2017 Kia. Just north of Ave. S, Radke hit a deer. Neither Radke nor her passengers, Blaze Little, 14, Great Bend; and Noel Hood, 12, Great Bend, were injured.

THEFT/CRIMINAL TRESPASS — Between Feb. 7 and March 10, Kristofer B. Ritchie of Salina was the victim of theft and criminal trespass at 256 Highway 232 in Wilson. Taken were four tires and a tail lamp. Total loss was \$250. There are no suspects and no arrests have been made.

On March 6, David A. Alexander of Holyrood was the victim in a case involving the duty of a driver to report upon damaging an unattended vehicle/property. There are no suspects and no arrests have been made.

FELONY THEFT — Between March 2 and March 3, Christina K. Goding-Kline and Rebel K. Klein of Ellsworth were the victims of theft at 1897 Ave. H in Ellsworth. Taken were two Longhorn cows. Total loss was \$2,000. There are no suspects in the case and no arrests have been made.

AGENCY ASSIST — On March 14, deputies were asked to assist the Kansas Highway Patrol at milepost 224, west-bound on Interstate 70. The victim was Brayden O. Smith of Germantown, Tenn. No other information was available.

Deeds

The Gilbert G. Smischny Family Trust and the Elizabeth E. Smischny Family Trust grant and convey to Sarah Ann Compton all of the southeast and southwest quarters of Section 25-15-10, and two portion of ground in the northwest quarter of Section 30-15-9 all in Ellsworth County, Kan.

Ronnie L. Tenbrink and Britney L. Tenbrink grant and convey to Gregg K. Clarke and Kayla N. Jones a portion of Lots 3-4 in Block 2 of Burler's Addition to the City of Ellsworth.

Coronado 15, LLC grants and conveys to Wilson Property, LLC Block 18 in Walmer's Addition to the City of Wilson.

ROI Group, LLC grants and conveys to Wilson RV Park, LLC Lots 1-13 in Block 3 in Walmer's Addition to the City of Wilson.

Enrique Carrasco Jr. and Annette M. Carrasco grant and convey to Enrique Carrasco Jr. and Annette M. Carrasco Lots 11-12 and the north half of Lot 13 in Block 70 in the Original City of Kanopolis.

The Worl Land Company, LLC grants and conveys to Worl Land and Cattle LLC, a fraction of the southwest quarter of Section 30-17-7, a fraction of the northwest quarter of Section 28-17-7, all of the southwest quarter of Section 28-17-7, a fraction of the southeast quarter of Section 25-17-8, a fraction of the northwest quarter of Section 33-17-7 and all of the southeast quarter of Section 31-17-7 all in Ellsworth County, Kan.

Home State Bank, a part of the Citizens State Bank, grants and conveys to R&B Family Ventures, LLC Lots 65-66 in Block 2 of Smoky Hill Village at Kanopolis Lake.

Darrell L. Choitz and Karla K. Choitz grant and convey to the Darrell Choitz Living Trust and the Karla Choitz Living Trust a portion of Lots 20-26 in Block 38 in the original city of Ellsworth.

The Eugene C. Jaris Revocable Trust grants and conveys to the Stonebraker Family Trust an unlimited one-half interest in a portion of the northeast quarter and a portion of the northwest quarter of Section 31-14-7 in Ellsworth County, Kan.

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
*Ad designed by the Ellsworth County I/R.

40'x8' storage container to rent, by month. First Street Storage. (785) 531-0553. 31-4c

Plum Creek Apartments leasing now. See www.plumcreek156.com for more information. (785) 252-3800. 2-tfc-c

Nice two bedroom mobile home in Brookville for rent. Has carport, in-ground storm shelter, two storage sheds, appliances included. Can be seen at 115 E. 3rd, Brookville. (785) 822-4606. 34-2p

FOR RENT

Three, two and one bedroom apartments available.

We are accepting pets, restrictions apply.

BENDER APARTMENTS
Call 785-476-5471, after 3:00 p.m.
*Ad designed by Ellsworth County I/R

Notices

Ellsworth AA, 8 p.m. Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday, United Methodist Church ofice, 402 N. Douglas, use west entrance. (785) 531-0685 or 531-1845. (Updated 1/20/21)

Wanted

Wanted to buy coin and currency collections, gold and silver jewelry, any shape, pocket watches, guns and war memorabilia. Call Steve (785) 472-1340. 27-8c

FINCH THEATRE
122 E. Lincoln Ave., Lincoln, KS ~ 785-524-4350 ~ www.finchtheatre.com

April 2-4; 9-11
Godzilla Vs. Kong

PG-13 (1 hr 53 min) Fri 7 pm; Sat 7 pm; Sun 3 pm

Please consider coming early, we are ready 30 minutes before show time.

Tickets: 2 & Under Free; Adults \$5; Children 3-12/Seniors \$4.00; Add \$1.00 per ticket for 3D Movies

Livestock

Sylvan Sales Commission L.L.C.

Bulls - 90-98.00
Cows Hy - 70-77.50
Cows Ly - 60-70
Thin Cows - 50-60

20 Str.....705.....142.50
134 Str.....869.....137.35
27 Hrs.....772.....131.00
79 Hrs Plain...653.....129.50

Next Week - 900 Calves and Feeders

Regular Sales Every Monday
To Consign Cattle Contact
Toby Meyer - 785-658-5772 • Brad Zorn - 785-658-7124 • Ryan Obermuller - 785-658-5858
John Perry - 785-826-0377 • Cody Murray - 785-738-8055 Sale Barn - 785-526-7123

FARMERS & RANCHERS LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO.
Salina, KS

STEERS		HEIFERS	
300-400		300-400	\$173 - \$183.00
400-500	\$170 - \$180.00	400-500	
500-600	\$165 - \$175.00	500-600	\$146 - \$156.00
600-700	\$166 - \$176.00	600-700	\$137 - \$147.00
700-800	\$136 - \$146.50	700-800	\$126 - \$136.00
800-900	\$125 - \$137.00	800-900	\$118 - \$128.25
900-1000	\$117 - \$127.50	900-1000	\$113 - \$123.00
Total for the Week - Cattle - 3550 Hogs - 159			

Early Consignments for Thursday April 1st, 2021
130 blk&red S&H 600-850 HR/LTW/vacc/open; 80 blk S&H 400-450 HR/45 days weaned/2rd; 400 blk S&H 450-600 HR/fall vacc; 150 blk&red S&H 500-600 HR/vacc; 117 mostly blk hrs 550-575 vacc/LTW/open; 82 blk/wt/bwf hrs 650-800 HR/LTW/fall vacc; 36 S&H 550-750 HR/LTW/vacc/open/red&blk; 8 S&H 500-700 HR/LTW/vacc/open; 60 str 750-800 HR/LTW/vacc; 30 blk S&H 550-750 HR/LTW/No Implants; 62 str 850-900; 21 S&H blk/bwf 400-600 vacc/weaned; 141 S&H red&blk 550-850 HR/2rd/LTW/open

April 20th, 2021 Special Cow Sale
Bred Cows/Cow pairs
70 blk&red angus 3-5 yr olds bred swanson balancer bulls
65 blk&bwf 3-5 yr bred char calves aug&sept
100 3-5 yr olds red/bk fall bred Mccurry angus blk/ few red ang or char bulls
50 blk angus cows bred to swanson balancer bull
150 blk cows 3-5yrs bred sim/ang nov 1st-Jan 5th
85 blk/red 3-6yr olds bred char/G-G-A
10+10 blk pairs 5-older
30+30 charx pairs 3-5yrs all worked
1 running age pairs blk cows char calves
15+15 older pairs worked
10 fall bred blk/bwf bred Sunrise & Momentum Sun
15+15 2-3 yr olds bred Sunrise & Momentum Sun
30 3 in 1 package 3-6 yr olds
10 bred 4-8 yr olds
5+5 running age
6 solid mouth blk cows spring calvers

Heifer Pairs
75+75 blk hfr pairs worked
80+80 pairs
25+25 1st calf hfr pairs sired by momentum sun & Sunrise
6 hfr pairs
50+50 blk hfrs
40+40 blk&rwf pairs

Replacement Heifers
20 red angus OCHV pelvic exam

Bred Heifers
20 red angus OCHV pelvic exam
120 blk hfr OCHV pelvic exam
15 red angus hfrs preg checked HR OCHV all pre breeding shots
25 blk ang hfrs preg checked HR OCHV all pre breeding shots

Upcoming Special Sales 2021
Cow sales
April 20th
May 4th

In stock today

- Heavy Duty Round Bale Feeders
- 42' ROUND BALE DUMP TRAILERS
- Heavy Duty 5000# Grain Tote

For a complete list of cattle for all sales check out our website at: www.fandrive.com
Sale Manager - Mike Samples - 785-825-0211 Ofc. • 785-826-7884 Cell
Salina, Kansas

Listen to our markets on KSAL Salina at 6:45 a.m. on Monday thru Friday.
For more information or to consign cattle call sale barn or:
Fieldman Representatives: Kenny Briscoe • Lincoln, KS • 785-524-4048
Lisa Long • Ellsworth, KS • 420-553-2351
Austin Rothbaum • Ellsworth, KS • 785-531-0042
Cody Schofer • 620-381-1050
*Ad designed by Ellsworth County I/R

Need Help?

Looking for help?

DIAL211
Ellsworth County Resources
#BecauseWeCare

Appreciation

Although this "thank you" can only tell in part.
How much your thoughtfulness means to me, it comes straight from my heart.

I enjoyed each and every card and letter I received for my 85th birthday.
You all helped make it special!

Blessings to all,
love, Dora Maze
*Ad designed by Ellsworth County I/R

Moving Sale

ANTIQUES & MORE! MOVING SALE

April 8th - 4 - 7 pm
April 9th - 9 am - 7 pm
April 10th - 9 am - 3 pm
415 E 4th • Ellsworth, KS

A lifetime collection of antiques is for sale as we prepare to move. Many fun items as well as collectibles. Call Robert and Tracy Hudson at 785-472-5155 with questions prior to the sale. Here is a list of some of the items that you'll find at this fabulous sale.
Terms: Cash or Venmo.

- Redwing Pottery; • 85 pieces of Dryden Pottery; • Over 100 pieces of Franciscan Ivy Pottery;
 - Lincoln Library Card Catalogue; • China cabinet; • Grandfather clock; • Victrola; • Green trunk; • Spool cabinet; • Hall tree; • 7 foot couch with 2 side chairs; • Square carved oak table; • Oak side board China cabinet; • 4 foot roll top desk;
 - Drop front secretary book case; • Children's high chair-potty chair; • Humidor; • John Deere gas pump; • Wing back chair; • Nun's pew;
 - Marble-burl walnut dresser with hidden drawer; • Oak wardrobe; • 2 piece bedroom set;
 - Fainting couch; • Hi-Boy dresser; • Collection of hand planes; • Several hundred sewing items; • Collectible spoons; • Kitchen utensils;
 - Inlaid Mother of Pearl music box/scrapbook; • Enamelware and 6 crocks of assorted sizes
- *Ad designed by Ellsworth County I/R

Movie

Preserve Your Memories!
The special events in your life go by so quickly, why not preserve those memories by putting them in the I/R.

The Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter will run stories and photographs from readers celebrating an anniversary of 50 years or more, a wedding, an engagement, a birth or a birthday of 80 years or older.

You can send them to 304 N. Douglas Ave., Ellsworth, KS, or email to indy@eagle.com.net

Classified

B8

Help Wanted

Wanted: Cleaning person for hunting lodge in Wilson, Kan. Call (724) 679-5514.

33-4p



KanEquip Inc.

KanEquip is now hiring a fulltime **Parts Specialist** for our Ellsworth, Kansas location. The Parts Specialist is responsible for servicing the parts needs of both customers at KanEquip parts counters, as well as Service Technicians for their repair needs. The counter sales require good salesmanship and customer service skills. Excellent people skills and efficient parts lookup and retrieval are required for both groups. Competitive hourly pay. Fulltime benefits include: 401K, Health Insurance, Flexible Spending Account, Vision Coverage, Disability Insurance, Life Insurance, Uniforms, 96 hours of Personal Time Off, Six Paid Holidays, Wellness Plan.

Apply at <https://www.kanequip.com/careers/>

City Maintenance Worker Assistant Maintenance Superintendent

The City of Wilson, KS is seeking a City worker or Assistant Maintenance Superintendent. The position may be filled at either level based on experience. This is a full-time position and requires maintenance of city properties and systems, including water, wastewater, streets, parks, cemetery, etc. Certification as water and wastewater operator will be required as soon as possible after start date. This position requires a valid driver's license with no driving restrictions, ability to lift at least 50 pounds, and a high school diploma or GED.

Benefits available following a successful 60 day probation period include vacation, sick leave, holiday pay, KPERs retirement, and single medical & dental insurance.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and a resident of the City of Wilson or willing to relocate within six months of start date. Ability to operate heavy equipment preferred. Applications must be received by 3 pm of Friday, April 9, 2021. Applications are available at the Wilson City Hall 2407 Ave E PO Box J Wilson, KS 67490; wilsoncity@wtciweb.com; 785.658.2272; or website www.wilsonkansas.com. EOE

*Ad designed by Ellsworth County I/R

Salina • Abilene • Assaria • Enterprise • Ellsworth • Kipp • Lucas • Tipton

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Receive a signing bonus for production positions throughout our company. Apply Today!

JOIN OUR PRODUCTION TEAM & EARN A SIGNING BONUS!

Earn a minimum of \$15/hour with increases for experience!

Full-Time Benefits Include:

- Bi-monthly pay increases up to Top Rate
- 2nd Shift pay premium
- Parental leave policy
- Generous earned time off / Vacation plan
- Paid holidays
- Health / Dental / Rx Insurance
- 401K Plan with 4.5% company match

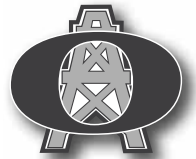


Apply online today at www.WorkForGPM.com

Looking for a job?



Search the I_R Classifieds first!



USD 112 Central Plains is currently taking applications for a cook at Central Plains Elementary School – Holyrood, effective immediately. This position consists of an 8-hour day, 6:00 am to 2:00 pm, Monday thru Friday, during the school year. Benefits include BC/BS health insurance, KPERs retirement, life insurance, 10 days of sick leave per year, accumulative to 80 days, and 3 days of personal leave.

Interested applicants may secure an application and job description by e-mailing dneym@usd112.org or calling 785-252-3695. Applications are also available on-line at www.usd112.org and clicking on "career opportunities", the non-certified application. Accepting applications until filled.

*Ad designed by Ellsworth County I/R

HELP WANTED!



Looking to add an employee to our staff. The successful candidate should be interested in what's going on in our communities, enjoy writing and be a self-starter.

We offer paid time off, health, dental, vision and other insurances, 401K. Salary based on experience.

Send resumes to ldemming@indyrepnews.com

No phone calls or visits. Our office is currently closed to the public.

Resumes accepted until position is filled. EOE

INDEPENDENT ELLSWORTH COUNTY REPORTER 304 N. Douglas Ellsworth, KS 785-472-5085 www.indyrepnews.com

*Ad designed by Ellsworth County I/R

DO YOU ENJOY SALES?



We are adding to our advertising staff. The successful candidate must enjoy working with the public, be a self-starter and be able to multi-task.

We offer paid time off, health, dental, vision and other insurances, 401K. Salary based on experience.

Send resumes to ldemming@indyrepnews.com

No phone calls or visits. Our office is currently closed to the public.

Resumes accepted until position is filled. EOE

INDEPENDENT ELLSWORTH COUNTY REPORTER 304 N. Douglas Ellsworth, KS 785-472-5085 www.indyrepnews.com

*Ad designed by Ellsworth County I/R

Riverview Estates

MARQUETTE, KANSAS

We are now hiring for a Maintenance Director. Please apply in person at 202 S. Washington in Marquette, or download an application at riverviewestatesks.com. Call 785-546-2211 to inquire!

*Ad designed by Ellsworth County I/R.

Riverview Estates

MARQUETTE, KANSAS

We are now hiring for a full time CNA and Nurse, bonus offered. Please apply in person at 202 S. Washington in Marquette, or download an application at riverviewestatesks.com. Call 785-546-2211 to inquire!

*Ad designed by Ellsworth County I/R.

Place your ad in more than 135 Kansas newspapers for one low price!

Call the I-R for more information! (785) 472-5085

Antiques/Collectibles
Wanted Wanted Wanted Porsches & Exotic cars. Vintage cars 70's and older, Motorcycles 80's and older. Guns & collections. Fair prices paid. Glen 801.361.4022 or nilsonglenn@yahoo.com

For Sale
HOP into SAVINGS at Mid-America Piano! Receive \$1000 off grand pianos and 20% off vertical pianos. Sale begins April 1st-30th! Mid-America Piano, Manhattan, 800-950-3774, www.piano4u.com.

Misc.
BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 844-980-0025

ARE YOU BEHIND \$10k OR MORE ON YOUR TAXES? Stop wage & bank levies, liens & audits, unfiled tax returns, payroll issues, & resolve tax debt FAST. Call 855-462-2769

DONATE YOUR CAR TO CHARITY. Receive maximum value of write off for your taxes. Running or not! All conditions accepted. Free pickup. Call for details. 844-268-9386

Lowest Prices on Health Insurance. We have the best rates from top companies! Call Now! 855-656-6792.

ATTENTION MEDICARE RECIPIENTS! Save your money on your Medicare supplement plan. FREE QUOTES from top providers. Excellent coverage. Call for a no obliga-

tion quote to see how much you can save! 855-587-1299

BEST SATELLITE TV with 2 Year Price Guarantee! \$59.99/mo with 190 channels and 3 months free premium movie channels! Free next day installation! Call 316-223-4415

Get A-Rated Dental Insurance starting at around \$1 PER DAY! Save 25% on Enrollment Now! No Waiting Periods. 200k+ Providers Nationwide. Everyone is Accepted! Call 785-329-9747 (M-F 9-5 ET)

BATHROOM RENOVATIONS. EASY, ONE DAY updates! We specialize in safe bathing. Grab bars, no slip flooring & seated showers. Call for a free in-home consultation: 855-382-1221

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Recently diagnosed with LUNG CANCER and 60+ years old? Call now! You and your family may be entitled to a SIGNIFICANT CASH AWARD. Call 866-327-2721 today. Free Consultation. No Risk.

NEW AUTHORS WANTED! Page Publishing will help you self-publish your own book. FREE author submission kit! Limited offer! Why wait? Call now: 855-939-2090

Sporting Goods
WORLD'S LARGEST GUN SHOW - April 10 & 11 - Tulsa, OK Fairgrounds. Saturday 8-6, Sunday 8-4. WANENMACHER'S TULSA ARMS SHOW. Free appraisals. Bring your guns! www.TulsaArmsShow.com

KANSAS EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Every Kansan deserves safe, affordable housing

Up to **12 MONTHS** of rental assistance and utility payments for tenants affected by the COVID-19 pandemic

To determine eligibility and to apply, visit kshousingcorp.org/emergency-rental-assistance

KANSAS HOUSING

This project is supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number ERAA0032 awarded to Kansas Housing Resources Corporation by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

What's the best way to keep up with what's happening in Ellsworth County?

SUBSCRIBE to the I-R!

In county \$44.25 • Elsewhere in KS \$48.75
Out of state \$49.75 • Digital only \$39

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

INDEPENDENT ELLSWORTH COUNTY REPORTER
304 N. Douglas • Ellsworth, KS
785-472-5085
www.indyrepnews.com

2021 SPRING SPECIAL

30x50x12 for \$27,750

Features:
2- 10x10 Ins. Overhead Doors
1- 3' 9 Lite Entry Door
1- 3x3 Vinyl Window
1- 30x10 Inset Porch
12" Boxed Overhangs
4' Wainscot
(Concrete Optional \$6,300)



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- Pre-Engineered
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A better choice with more lumber and a higher grade of lumber used in our standard design.

If you want the finest in post-frame structures, JUST SAY Y.E.S.!

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YODER ENGINEERED STRUCTURES

Custom Sized Buildings to Fit Your Needs!
CALL Logan Miller 620-960-8133

CALL 1-844-YES-BARN www.yoderstructures.com

Public Notices

USD 112 General Election

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent/Reporter, April 1, 2021)

**NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 112
STATE OF KANSAS
ELLSWORTH COUNTY
NOVEMBER 2, 2021**

Pursuant to Section 25-2018(d) Kansas Statutes Annotated, notice is hereby given that a General Election for Unified School District 112 will be held on the 2nd day of November 2021. Polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.

Notice is hereby given that the following is a list of the positions that will appear on the General Ballot:

POSITION 2, POSITION 4, POSITION 6

A Primary Election will be held August 3, 2021 if more than three persons file for any one position.

Filing deadline is at Noon on June 1, 2021 in the County Clerk's Office, 210 N Kansas Ave, Ellsworth, KS 67439.

Signed this 25th day of March 2021.
Shelly D. Vopat, Ellsworth County Election Officer

1t 4/1

Wilson Health Nuisance at 715 29th

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent/Reporter, March 25, 2021)

State of Kansas, Ellsworth County, City of Wilson:

RESOLUTION NO. 3-2021

Being a resolution Adopted by the Governing Body of the City of Wilson, Declaring as a Health Nuisance Conditions Existing on Private Property located within the City of Wilson, Ellsworth County, Kansas.

Whereas, The Board of Health inspected the following described tracts, to wit:

Lots Four (4), Five (5), and Six (6), in Block Ten (10) in Walmer's Addition to the City of Wilson, Ellsworth County, Kansas, commonly referred to as 715 29th, and currently owned by Colton R. Morgan; **and**

Whereas, that said Board of Health declared the above described property contained:

- (1) Large wood shed- missing windows, debris inside, falling apart
- (2) Small wood shed- missing door, debris inside, falling apart
- (3) Miscellaneous debris around the property

that are a public nuisance pursuant to Ordinance No. 638 of the City of Wilson, Ellsworth County Kansas; **and**

Whereas, a letter was mailed with the described public health nuisances on the hereinbefore described property to the property owner Colton R. Morgan on February 2, 2021 to correct the condition of the property with thirty (30) days; **and**

Whereas, the property owner failed to request a hearing with the Governing Body of the City of Wilson, Ellsworth County, Kansas:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body of the City of Wilson, Ellsworth County, Kansas, declares since there has not been sufficient progress to abate the nuisances that if the nuisances as previously declared by the Board of Health, in their original list of items to be abated are not abated, then 30 days after personal service of this resolution upon the owner, the governing body of the City of Wilson, Ellsworth County, Kansas, through its Board of Health, shall hire and contract that the nuisances will be removed from the premises, and that the cost incurred by the City of Wilson shall be charged against the lot or parcels of ground upon which the nuisance is located as provided in Ordinance No. 638 of the City of Wilson, Ellsworth County Kansas; **and**

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be served upon the owner in violation by personal service upon the person in violation; or certified mail return receipt requested; or in the event the whereabouts of such person is unknown and the same cannot be ascertained in the exercise of reasonable diligence, an affidavit to that effect shall be made by the Board of Health and filed with the City Clerk, and the serving of the resolution shall be made by publishing the same once each week for two (2) consecutive weeks in the Ellsworth County Independent/Reporter, the official City newspaper, and by posting a copy of this Resolution on the premises where such condition exists; **and**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is adopted in its entirety by the governing body of the City of Wilson, Ellsworth County, Kansas, this 15th day of March, 2021.

Michael J. Peschka
Mayor

Attested:

Susan R. Kriley
City Clerk

1t 4/1

Wilson Health Nuisance at 2104 Ave E

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent/Reporter, March 25, 2021)

State of Kansas, Ellsworth County, City of Wilson:

RESOLUTION NO. 5-2021

Being a resolution Adopted by the Governing Body of the City of Wilson, Declaring as a Health Nuisance Conditions Existing on Private Property located within the City of Wilson, Ellsworth County, Kansas.

Whereas, The Board of Health inspected the following described tracts, to wit:

Lot Four (4), Block Sixteen (16), in Tyler's Second Addition to the City of Wilson, Ellsworth County, Kansas, commonly referred to as 2104 Ave E, and currently owned by Jared Steinle; **and**

Whereas, that said Board of Health declared the above described property contained:

- (1) Garage door falling off
- (2) Structure falling apart
- (3) Structure parts missing (wall boards)

that are a public nuisance pursuant to Ordinance No. 638 of the City of Wilson, Ellsworth County Kansas; **and**

Whereas, a letter was mailed with the described public health nuisances on the hereinbefore described property to the property owner Jared Steinle on February 2, 2021 to correct the condition of the property with thirty (30) days; **and**

Whereas, the property owner failed to request a hearing with the Governing Body of the City of Wilson, Ellsworth County, Kansas:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body of the City of Wilson, Ellsworth County, Kansas, declares since there has not been sufficient progress to abate the nuisances that if the nuisances as previously declared by the Board of Health, in their original list of items to be abated are not abated, then 30 days after personal service of this resolution upon the owner, the governing body of the City of Wilson, Ellsworth County, Kansas, through its Board of Health, shall hire and contract that the nuisances will be removed from the premises, and that the cost incurred by the City of Wilson shall be charged against the lot or parcels of ground upon which the nuisance is located as provided in Ordinance No. 638 of the City of Wilson, Ellsworth County Kansas; **and**

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be served upon the owner in violation by personal service upon the person in violation; or certified mail return receipt requested; or in the event the whereabouts of such person is unknown and the same cannot be ascertained in the exercise of reasonable diligence, an affidavit to that effect shall be made by the Board of Health and filed with the City Clerk, and the serving of the resolution shall be made by publishing the same once each week for two (2) consecutive weeks in the Ellsworth County Independent/Reporter, the official City newspaper, and by posting a copy of this Resolution on the premises where such condition exists; **and**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is adopted in its entirety by the governing body of the City of Wilson, Ellsworth County, Kansas, this 15th day of March, 2021.

Michael J. Peschka
Mayor

Attested:

Susan R. Kriley
City Clerk

2t 4/1

KHP vs. \$3,940 et. al

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent/Reporter, March 18, 2021)

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF ELLSWORTH COUNTY, KANSAS
CIVIL DIVISION**

**STATE OF KANSAS, ex rel.
KANSAS HIGHWAY PATROL,
Plaintiff,
v. Case No. 2020 CV 35
\$3,940.00 in U.S. CURRENCY, m/l;
2 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA;
AND
226 GRAMS OF EDIBLES,
Defendants.**

Pursuant to the Kansas Standard Asset Seizure and Forfeiture Act, K.S.A. 60-4101 et seq

**NOTICE OF PENDING FORFEITURE
Pursuant to K.S.A. 60-4109**

STATE OF KANSAS TO ANY PERSON WHO HAS AN INTEREST IN THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT(S).

You are hereby notified that civil asset forfeiture proceedings have been filed in the District Court of Ellsworth County by the State of Kansas, ex rel. the Kansas Highway Patrol, praying for a decree forfeiting the above named defendant property to the Kansas Highway patrol as items that were used or intended to be used to facilitate a violation of the Controlled Substances Act, were the fruits of such a violation, or are contraband in and of themselves. You are required to send your claim or petition for recognition of exemption to both the below attorney and the Kansas Highway Patrol no later than 41 days after the 18th day of March 2021. Should you fail to file a sufficient claim pursuant to K.S.A. 60-4111 or a Petition for Recognition of Exemption pursuant to K.S.A. 60-4110, a decree forfeiting any interest in the above defendant property, \$3,940.00 in US Currency, m/l, will be entered in due course thus granting the Plaintiff's request.

Sarah E. Washburn #24687
Legal Counsel / Special Assistant Attorney General
Kansas Highway Patrol
122 S.W. 7th Street
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3847
(785) 296-6800
(785) 296-1790 Fax
Sarah.washburn@ks.gov
3t 4/1

Wilson Health Nuisance at 416 29th

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent/Reporter, March 25, 2021)

State of Kansas, Ellsworth County, City of Wilson:

RESOLUTION NO. 4-2021

Being a resolution Adopted by the Governing Body of the City of Wilson, Declaring as a Health Nuisance Conditions Existing on Private Property located within the City of Wilson, Ellsworth County, Kansas.

Whereas, The Board of Health inspected the following described tracts, to wit:

Lot Eleven (11), Block Thirteen (13), in the original City of Wilson, Ellsworth County, Kansas, commonly referred to as 416 29th, and currently owned by Brian Fuller; **and**

Whereas, that said Board of Health declared the above described property contained:

- (1) Bathtub on porch
- (2) Shower stall in yard
- (3) Stove in yard
- (4) Miscellaneous debris in yard
- (5) Electrical box falling off house
- (6) Walls falling down or missing
- (7) Old truck camper/shell with wood and debris inside in yard

that are a public nuisance pursuant to Ordinance No. 638 of the City of Wilson, Ellsworth County Kansas; **and**

Whereas, a letter was mailed with the described public health nuisances on the hereinbefore described property to the property owner Brian Fuller on February 2, 2021 to correct the condition of the property with thirty (30) days; **and**

Whereas, the property owner failed to request a hearing with the Governing Body of the City of Wilson, Ellsworth County, Kansas:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body of the City of Wilson, Ellsworth County, Kansas, declares since there has not been sufficient progress to abate the nuisances that if the nuisances as previously declared by the Board of Health, in their original list of items to be abated are not abated, then 30 days after personal service of this resolution upon the owner, the governing body of the City of Wilson, Ellsworth County, Kansas, through its Board of Health, shall hire and contract that the nuisances will be removed from the premises, and that the cost incurred by the City of Wilson shall be charged against the lot or parcels of ground upon which the nuisance is located as provided in Ordinance No. 638 of the City of Wilson, Ellsworth County Kansas; **and**

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be served upon the owner in violation by personal service upon the person in violation; or certified mail return receipt requested; or in the event the whereabouts of such person is unknown and the same cannot be ascertained in the exercise of reasonable diligence, an affidavit to that effect shall be made by the Board of Health and filed with the City Clerk, and the serving of the resolution shall be made by publishing the same once each week for two (2) consecutive weeks in the Ellsworth County Independent/Reporter, the official City newspaper, and by posting a copy of this Resolution on the premises where such condition exists; **and**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is adopted in its entirety by the governing body of the City of Wilson, Ellsworth County, Kansas, this 15th day of March, 2021.

Michael J. Peschka
Mayor

Attested:

Susan R. Kriley
City Clerk

2t 4/1

PUBLIC NOTICE

*If it's not in the newspaper,
how will you know?*



Zoning changes in your neighborhood. A proposal to increase your property taxes. Information on how public officials are spending your tax dollars. These are just a few of the topics — topics that affect your family and your community — local government officials are required to publish in the local newspaper.

Your local newspaper fulfills an essential role in serving your right to know. After all, it shouldn't be your responsibility to know how to look ... where to look ... when to look ... and even what to look for in order to be informed about public information. It is the government's responsibility to notify you of public information, and your local newspaper is the most accessible place to find it.



PUBLIC NOTICES IN NEWSPAPERS.
Where public information is accessible to the public.

• You're on time for work
• You're on time for your favorite sporting events
• You're on time to pick up your kids
Please be on time for our deadlines!

Community page*: THURSDAYS AT 5 p.m.
News: FRIDAYS AT 5 p.m.
Ads: MONDAYS AT NOON

*Deadline for Community page items (birthdays, anniversaries, engagements, weddings etc. is 5 p.m. THURSDAY. If information is received after the deadline and you require item to run that week, a charge of \$25 will occur (prepayment required).

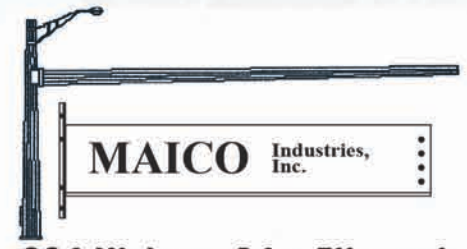
**INDEPENDENT
ELLSWORTH COUNTY
REPORTER**
304 N. Douglas • Ellsworth, KS • 785-472-5085

We support CRIMINAL JUSTICE



Celebrating Criminal Justice Month

We're an example of the private sector working with the public sector. We're proud of our partnership which benefits our community.



936 Highway 14 • Ellsworth
Ph: 785/472-5390 • Fax: 785/472-3729

*Ad designed by Ellsworth County I/R

Guns - Ammo - Suppressors - Accessories - Safes - Optics - Archery

LE Gun Programs: Glock, Smith & Wesson, & Sig Sauer



255 W. Barton County Road - Great Bend

620-796-2133 www.psecurity.net

Proudly supporting those dedicated to
the future of criminal justice



CITY OF WILSON
2407 Ave E • Wilson, KS • 785-658-2272

*Ad designed by Ellsworth County I/R

**THANK YOU
OFFICERS!**

Ellsworth County Sheriff's Office
212 N. Kansas Ellsworth, KS 67439

*Ad designed by Ellsworth County I/R

A special thank you to all those
who keep us safe!



CITY OF KANOPOLIS
KANOPOLIS, KANSAS

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Proudly Supporting Criminal Justice Month



Join our team of corrections professionals at the
Ellsworth Correctional Facility (ECF)

NOW HIRING

Corrections Officer I and II
(multiple vacancies)
Library Assistant

- Evening and Night Shift differential.
- Interested persons are encouraged to complete an online application (and to stay current with all future career opportunities) by visiting: www.jobs.ks.gov.
- Applicants will also need to apply for a State of Kansas Tax Clearance Certificate at: <http://www.ksrevenue.org/taxclearance.html>.

COMPETITIVE BENEFITS

- **Vacation Leave**
Earn up to 12 vacation days within the first year.
- **Sick Leave**
Earn up to 12 sick days within the first year for employee/family illness or medical appointments.
- **Paid Holidays**
Traditionally, 8 days each year.
- **Military, Jury, and Funeral Leave**
Military Activation Payment Incentive (\$1,500 for first-time deployment through Adjutant General's Office), GI Bill On-The-Job Training and Apprenticeship Program Incentives.
- **Retirement**
The Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERs) is a defined benefit program.
- **Deferred Compensation**
Voluntary defined contribution retirement plan. Contributions made on a pre-tax basis.
- **Health Insurance**
Medical, dental, prescription, and vision coverage options.
- **Group Term Life Insurance**
Coverage equal to 150% of annual salary with a purchase option of additional \$400,000 coverage.
- **Flexible Spending Accounts**
Health and dependent care accounts. Employees make annual elections pre-tax.
- **STAR Discount Program**
Product and service discounts.
- **Employee Assistance Program (EAP).**

CORRECTIONS OFFICER QUALIFICATIONS

- At least 18 years old;
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent;
- Free of felony convictions and misdemeanor or felony domestic violence crime;
- Has not been convicted, adjudicated, or completed a diversion agreement, probation, or other court supervision for a misdemeanor involving unlawful possession of a controlled substance or unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia in the past 60 months;
- Free of DUI convictions within the past 24 months;
- Possess a valid driver's license;
- Pass a Corrections Officer written test; and
- Pass background investigation, medical exam, TB testing, and drug screen.

Transforming Lives
for the
Safety of All

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

<http://www.doc.ks.gov>
<https://twitter.com/KDOCJobs>
<https://www.facebook.com/Ellsworth-Correctional-Facility-977646465666454>



Ellsworth Correctional Facility - Established 1988
Remembering our past, honoring our present,
and looking to our future