



# INDEPENDENT ELLSWORTH COUNTY REPORTER

It's the age of the entrepreneur. We introduce you to several. See C section



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## JULY REMINDER

This week's paper is loaded with stories about Ellsworth County and its residents. Our annual review of the local economy is contained in the C Section, along with a look back at the year of COVID-19. You'll also find stories on farmers who are reaching beyond traditional crops in an effort to take their products directly to the consumer.

## Inside

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Everything you wanted to know about the Olympics — and then some.

**OPINION** Page A4  
Has technology finally delivered on its promise to rural Kansas?

Also, a reminder — the coronavirus pandemic is not yet in the history books. Get vaccinated.

**FARM/CITY** Page A6  
It's time for 4-Hers to highlight their talents.

**COMMUNITY** Page A7  
Milestones highlight this week's edition.

**NEWS** Page A8  
Ellsworth County has a new EMS director.

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**PASSAGES** Page B4  
Rosalie Panzer Slight was a widow with eight children to raise during the Depression. Dorothy Grothusen tells the story of this remarkable Ellsworth woman.

**PODIUM** Page B5  
God is bigger than the problem, greater than the pain, stronger than the pressure.

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## Deaths

**Delbert Siemsen**  
(1937-2021)

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## COVID-19

### by the numbers

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



**Ross Janssen's Weather**

July 14 to July 20

**WEDNESDAY 96/72**  
Mostly sunny; windy

**THURSDAY 85/73**  
Chance for storms

**FRIDAY 89/71**  
Partly cloudy

**SATURDAY 91/72**  
Partly cloudy

**SUNDAY 89/73**  
Partly cloudy; chance for storms

**MONDAY 87/69**  
Partly cloudy

**TUESDAY 86/65**  
Partly cloudy

# It takes two to fight a pandemic

Health crisis pushed local organizations to work as a team

BY ALAN RUSCH

Ellsworth County I-R

This is a story about something good that came from the coronavirus pandemic that disrupted lives and businesses for more than a year and isn't finished yet.

The benefit was on display in June at this year's Ellsworth County Cancer Fund Triathlon. For the first time, the Ellsworth County Health Department and the Ellsworth County Medical Center combined their teams under the banner of the "Mad Sanitizers".

They competed separately before.

"We've had to join forces in a lot of stuff over the past year," said Kerianne Ehrlich, who directs the health department. "I guess to me, it's two different partners trying to do the same thing. We've just decided it's easier to join together."

Ehrlich said she suspects the public sees the hospital and the health department as similar entities, and it is good for the public to see both organizations working together as a team.

Kate Schiermeyer, community outreach coordinator for ECMC, voiced similar thoughts.

*"It's just easy to pick up the phone and talk and share things without even giving it a second thought."*

**Lenora Henderson**

Ellsworth County Health Department

Bair left ECMC June 25 for a job in the Blue Ridge Mountains of West Virginia.

## Before COVID-19

Despite sitting across the street from each other and having the financial support of county taxpayers, there wasn't much back and forth between the two organizations

"We did our duties, they did their duties," Ehrlich said.

Before COVID-19, the health department really didn't know what the hospital was doing and vice versa, said longtime health department employee Lenora Henderson.

"And now, we've come together and we're really got a good relationship," she said. "The more the days go by, the closer we're getting and it's just easy to pick up the phone and talk and

See COOPERATE, Page A5



ALAN RUSCH/Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter

This team of youngsters pulls together during the Fort Harker Days wagon races Saturday afternoon.

# Fort Harker

*A weekend of fun and history*

BY ALAN RUSCH

Ellsworth County I-R

KANOPOLIS — The Kanopolis Beautification Committee received the Volunteer of the Year Award Saturday night in Kanopolis City Park to cap off Fort Harker Days.

"This year, we chose a very important group that has helped the community out a lot in the past three or four years," said Mayor Anthony Hopkins.

Hopkins said the committee helped secure grants to assist in beautification, a priority issue when he became mayor.

Accepting the award were committee members Russell "Rusty" Bunch and Greg Tripp.

"I think everybody put a lot of work into it," Bunch said. "It's been rewarding."

"It feels pretty good," Tripp said. "People pitched in — it took a lot of people

See HARKER, Page A7



ALAN RUSCH/ECI-R

**Owen Donley enjoys a piece of watermelon.**

# Wilson rejects goat plan

BY ALAN RUSCH

Ellsworth County I-R

WILSON — A request by Kansas Foods owner and Wilson City Council member David Criswell for a waiver to raise more than two Nigerian dwarf goats on his property in downtown Wilson was denied July 6 at a meeting of the city body.

City ordinance limits residents to two animals and Criswell said he hoped eventually to raise as many as 100 goats on his property, which extends from the north side of the railroad tracks near the grain silos across the street south of Wilson Foods westward.

In his request Criswell noted the goats would be kept on the far western part of that property, known as the 700 block of 26th Street — not on his property directly across the street from Wilson Foods, known as the 500 block of 26th Street.

Criswell considers his new agri-tourism business, Petti Goats Junction, something that would bring more people into Wilson. The goats would be raised for their milk and to sell.

The final vote came after council member Chuck Crawford's motion to allow the waiver died for lack of a second. Almost immediately afterwards, council member Dan Taylor

See GOATS, Page A9

# Old hospital on path to demolition



LINDA MOWERY-DENNING/ECI-R

The former Ellsworth County Hospital appears headed for demolition.

BY LINDA MOWERY-DENNING

Ellsworth County I-R

An Ellsworth landmark that has stood vacant for more than two decades was included Monday night on a list of four properties the city started down the road to condemnation.

Members of the Ellsworth City Council took action at their regular meeting to start condemnation proceedings against the former Ellsworth County Hospital. Council member Tyler Renard abstained from voting.

The multi-story brick building, which stands on a hill in east Ellsworth, can be seen from Kansas Highway 156. It has been vacant since the medical center

opened in 1999 on the north side of town. Windows are broken and the building has suffered other major damage over the years.

A public hearing is planned at 5:15 p.m. Monday, Aug. 23, for anyone who wants to comment on the council's plans.

Teresa Shute of the county landfill and Ellsworth County commissioner Greg Bender attended Monday's council meeting to express their concerns about debris from the old hospital going into the landfill, as has been suggested.

Shute said the county recently opened a new cell at a cost of about \$22,000

See CITY, Page A2



I-R

Calendar

**THURSDAY, JULY 15**  
**PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE:** Ellsworth County Strategic Vision and Marketing meets at 6 p.m. at the J.H. Robbins Memorial Library. This is second of three such meetings to discuss ripple effects mapping, asset mapping and strategic doing.  
**CITY BUSINESS:** The Lorraine City Council meets at 6 p.m. at city hall.

**FRIDAY, JULY 16**  
**SUMMER CELEBRATION:** Holyrood kicks of its Holyrood Jubilee with a community meal from 6 to 8 p.m. Free will donation. There also be a beer garden and street dance from 8 p.m. to midnight with Wes Cossman Band. \$10 admission.

**SATURDAY, JULY 17**  
**IT’S FAIR TIME AGAIN:** The Ellsworth County Fair kicks off at 8:30 a.m. with the 4-H Dog Show at the Armory south of Ellsworth, followed at 10 a.m. by the 4-H Pet Show also at the Armory. At 6 p.m., the 4-H Horse Show takes place at the Horse Arena. Fair events continue through Thursday, July 22.  
**SUMMER CELEBRATION:** The Holyrood Jubilee continues with a parade at 10 a.m., an open house from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Holyrood’s historic Santa Fe Depot Museum and a picnic in the park from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free will donation.  
**DAY OF ACTIVITY:** The Kids Ninja Warrior Obstacle Course takes place in Preisker Park. Pre-register by noon Friday, July 16, at Oak Creek Chiropractic, 519 Prairie Lane. Information: (785) 472-2625.

**SUNDAY, JULY 18**  
**PUTTING ON THE RITZ:** The Ellsworth County Fair continues at 2 p.m. with the Fashion Revue Judging at Ellsworth’s First Presbyterian Church, followed at 5 p.m. by the Public Fashion Revue, also at the church.

**MONDAY, JULY 19**  
**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.  
• **The Wilson City Council meets at 6 p.m. at city hall.**  
**SCHOOL BUSINESS:** The Ellsworth-Kanopolis-Geneseo School District board meets at 5:30 p.m. in special session at the district office for a budget preview and action on a negotiated agreement.

**TUESDAY, JULY 20**  
**USDA COMMODITIES:** USDA Commodities will be distributed beginning at 2 p.m. at the Ellsworth County Medical Center Administration Building. Stay in your car and pull into line. Must meet the income qualifications. Information: Anita Hoffhines (785) 531-0160.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 21**  
**HOSPITAL BUSINESS:** Members of the Ellsworth County Medical Center board of directors meet at 5:30 p.m. in the administration building conference room.  
**ELLSWORTH VFW MEETING:** Members of the Ellsworth VFW Post 6485 meet at 7 p.m. at the post home in Ellsworth. New members welcome.

**THURSDAY, JULY 22**  
**HELP AVAILABLE:** A VA representative is available from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Ellsworth American Legion building to answer veteran questions.  
**ELLSWORTH AMERICAN LEGION MEETING:** Members of the Ellsworth American Legion Post 174 meet at 7 p.m. at the post home in Ellsworth.

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ELLSWORTH COUNTY

REPORTER

(USPS 461-680)  
Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter  
Morris Newspaper Corporation


Linda Mowery-Denning  
Editor/Publisher

DEPARTMENTS  
Advertising – Alan Rusch, JoAnn Bohl, Orlita Dobkins  
Business Manager – Juanita Kepka  
Graphic Design – Bill Beckmeyer  
Photograph - Lori Farmer

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Phone – (785) 472-5085  
Toll-Free - 1-877-809-3432  
Mail – 304 N. Douglas, Ellsworth, KS 67439  
E-mail – news@indyrepnews.com

  
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I-R

Obituaries

**Delbert Siemsen**  
(1937-2021)

Delbert Siemsen, 84, Chico, Calif., passed away July 4, 2021 in Chico. He was born June 14, 1937 in Holyrood, Kan. to Albert and Nellie (Finke) Siemsen.

After studying at the University of Kansas and serving in the U.S. Army where he attained the rank of Sergeant in two years, Del received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wichita (the predecessor to Wichita State University) in 1963. After graduating, he moved to Milwaukee, Wis. where he worked as a computer programmer for AO Smith Corporation.

He married Margaret Gould July 1, 1967 in Saratoga, Wyo. Shortly after they married, he and Margaret moved to California, spending time in Sunnyvale and Santa Clara before moving to Oroville and finally to Durham where they resided for over 40 years. Two significant events marked the Bay Area years. The first was the birth of their daughter, Shannon (1971) and the second was Del earning a law degree from Santa Clara University School of Law. The move to Oroville was prompted by a job

offer from the County Counsel’s Office for Butte County. Del served several years as Assistant County Counsel and one term as County Counsel before moving on to private practice.

But Del discovered his true calling was farming. Over the years, he and Margaret farmed two orchards and were early adopters of the Chandler variety of walnuts. Del devoted increasing time to the orchards, beginning with evenings and weekends and eventually farming full-time, doing nearly all of the work himself.

Surviving Del are his wife, Margaret; daughter, Shannon Cross (Robert) of Short Hills, N.J.; two grandchildren, Tyler and Sidney of Short Hills, N.J.; two brothers, Donald (Carol) and Harold (Patsy) Siemsen of Holyrood, Kan., and his sister, Marilyn Smith (Dennis) of Colorado Springs, Colo.

He was predeceased by his parents; two brothers, Albert and Gerald; and an infant son.

A memorial service was July 9 at Chico, Calif. Interment will be at a later date at Durham, Calif. Brusie Funeral Home, Chico, Calif. was in charge of arrangements.



Mr. Siemsen

PROJECT UPDATE

Jon Halbgewachs with Kirkham Michael updated the Ellsworth City Council Monday night on projects the company is working on:

- **K-156/8th street turn lanes.** Final documentation is complete. Kirkham Michael will submit its final invoice to KDOT and then the project is ready for the final audit and billing from KDOT. There is not an exact date of when the city will receive its final bill from KDOT.
- **Detention basins at K-14/K-140 intersection.** Cahoj Earthmoving, Atwood, Kan., had the low bid at \$396,000. They plan to start work around Aug. 23.
- **K-156/K-140 turn lanes.** The office check plans were submitted to KDOT June 25. The next plans (PSE) are 99 percent complete and due Aug. 3. No new right of way is needed. Western Cooperative Electric will relocate a guy anchor prior to construction. Still waiting to hear from ATT. The project should be let for bid by KDOT in November.
- **Neighborhood Multi-Use Path.** Office check plans for this project were submitted to KDOT May 28. The letting is being moved to 2022 due to right of way acquisition challenges. At the city’s request, KM is evaluating alternatives to avoid right of way impacts with the property south of the creek. A meeting will be set with the KDOT area engineer to discuss potential alternative routes.
- **KDOT Cost Share funding application.** The application submitted for various sidewalk improvements was selected for funding by KDOT. KM is presenting an engineering agreement for survey, design, bidding, and part-time construction inspection/administration.
- **KDOT CCLIP funding application.** KM assisted the city with submitting this application to resurface Douglas Ave. from the river bridge to K-140. A project meeting was held April 27 with KDOT. An announcement should be made in July of the selected projects.

City

Continued from Page A1

and this could fill it, forcing the county to spend more money for another cell that she estimated would cost \$30,000 or more.

City administrator Rusty Varnado said it will be at least “six months before we even take a brick down.” The council is in the process of putting together costs and other details.

“It has to be a group effort to get rid of that thing because none of us can do it by ourselves,” Varnado said.

The property, which has a real estate sign with a sold label pasted on the front, is owned by 1883 Investments of Plattsmouth, Neb., according to records in the Ellsworth County Register of Deeds office.

Included in the condemnation vote were three other properties — 221 West St., 225 St. Louis and 1105 N. Park St.

In other business, the council extended the contract of city administrator Varnado through 2024 and appointed Callie Haxton as deputy city clerk. The actions came following a 10-minute executive session.

Varnado, who joined the city in June 2020, said his contract originally was set to expire in December.

“I didn’t want to go anywhere and they didn’t want me to go anywhere so it worked out,” Varnado told the I-R Tuesday morning.

On a more serious note, Varnado said he was humbled by the opportunity to serve Ellsworth and its citizens.

“Words cannot express my grati-

tude to them for the opportunity nor my excitement about what we can accomplish here over the next 3.5 years. There is no better city in the State of Kansas.”

The council also approved a contract with Kirkham Michael to design sidewalks the city has received cost share dollars to improve. The design work is not to exceed \$15,000.

Sunday liquor sale hours also were expanded — from 1 to 8 p.m. to 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Varnado said the change didn’t require stores to remain open those hours; however, the Kansas Legislature gave them the option during this past session. The ordinance goes into effect 61 days after it is published twice in the official city newspaper, the Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter.

FORT HARKER FUN



At right, A clown from DD Clown and Company, right, applies a glitter tattoo to the arm of Reece Castaneda of Salina Saturday in Kanopolis City Park. It was part of the fun of Fort Harker Days.

I-R photos by Alan Rusch

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Carol Sawyer, Ellsworth, Cowboy & Indians

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## Meet the Mascots of the Summer Olympic Games

This summer the world turns its eyes to Tokyo, Japan. Why? That's where the Summer Olympics will be held starting on Friday, July 23.



### Olympic Mascots

A mascot is any human, animal, or object used to represent a group such as a school, company or sports team. Each Olympics also has one or more mascots.



**Miraitowa** is the official mascot of the 2021 Summer Olympics. Miraitowa comes from two Japanese words, *mirai* meaning **future** and *towa* meaning **eternity**. Miraitowa has a personality inspired by the Japanese proverb, "learn from the past and develop new ideas." Miraitowa is cheerful, athletic, and has a special power.

### What is Miraitowa's superpower?

Circle every other letter to find out.

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

I T P Y N



**Someity** is the official mascot of the Summer Paralympic Games. Someity is named after *somiyeshino*, a type of cherry blossom. Its name also sounds like the English phrase, **so mighty**. Someity is calm, quiet, and has enormous mental and physical strength. Someity represents the Paralympic athletes who overcome obstacles and achieve things once thought impossible.

### What is Someity's superpower?

Circle every other letter to find out.

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

T Y T O T H S W

## Pictograms

It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. At the Olympic Games, a picture is worth a thousand words in hundreds of languages.

**Pictograms** are simplified pictures or symbols. There is one for each sport to help people from all over the world understand what is happening. For example, this pictogram represents the Olympic sport of judo.



Can you read these pictograms? Do the math to match each pictogram to the name of the Olympic event it represents.



$18 - 3 =$



$11 + 11 + 11 =$



$24 + 6 =$



$41 - 9 =$



$14 + 14 =$



$3 + 6 + 2 =$



$9 + 9 + 9 =$



$5 + 2 =$



$8 + 9 + 1 =$



$3 + 3 + 6 =$



$17 - 4 =$



$22 - 12 =$

- 12 = Rowing
- 11 = Swimming
- 13 = Triathlon
- 18 = Artistic Gymnastics
- 7 = Table Tennis
- 33 = Surfing
- 28 = Archery
- 30 = Football (Soccer)
- 27 = Equestrian Jumping
- 10 = Athletics
- 32 = Fencing
- 15 = Diving

Explore more at [olympics.com](https://olympics.com)

### Extra! Extra! The Great Symbol Search

Look for five symbols in today's newspaper. Show them to a friend to see if they can tell what the symbol represents.

**Standards Link:** Connect artistic representations to meaning.

## Hometown Mascot

### Chosen by Children

The Tokyo Games organizing committee invited people to submit designs for the mascots. A total of 2,042 mascot designs were sent in. The committee selected three pairs of mascot designs.

Nearly 206,000 Japanese elementary school students voted for the ones they liked best!

Imagine that the Olympic Games will be held in your town. Draw a mascot to represent where you live.

## ATHLETIC WORD SEARCH

GYMNASTICS  
WATER POLO  
BASEBALL  
SWIMMING  
SURFING  
SAILING  
KARATE  
TENNIS  
SOCCER  
TRACK  
CANOE  
GOLF  
JUDO

Find the words in the puzzle by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

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

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



**Kid Scoop Together:**

## Olympic Quiz

Read these questions to a family member. How many did they get right?

- What do the five rings of the Olympics mean?
  - ☐ Five Cities
  - ☐ Five Countries
  - ☐ Five Continents
- What does the Olympic Motto "Citius, Altius, Fortius" mean?
  - ☐ Smarter, Stronger, Faster
  - ☐ Swifter, Higher, Stronger
  - ☐ Better, Bigger, Bolder
- According to the Olympic Creed, the most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but ...
  - ☐ to play fair.
  - ☐ to win big.
  - ☐ to take part.
- Where is the Olympic torch first lit?
  - ☐ Athens
  - ☐ Greece
  - ☐ Olympia
- Women were first allowed to compete in the Olympics in what year?
  - ☐ 1800
  - ☐ 1900
  - ☐ 2000
- The 2022, Winter Olympic Games will be held in:
  - ☐ Paris
  - ☐ Beijing
  - ☐ Los Angeles
- Which of the following is NOT a color of one of the Olympic rings?
  - ☐ Blue
  - ☐ Purple
  - ☐ Black
- All the participating countries sent female athletes for the first time in which Olympics?
  - ☐ 1976 Montreal
  - ☐ 1984 Los Angeles
  - ☐ 2012 London

- 1. Five continents
- 2. Smarter, Stronger, Faster
- 3. To take part
- 4. Olympia
- 5. 1900
- 6. Beijing
- 7. Purple
- 8. 2012 London

### KID SCOOP'S MISSION

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For more information about our literacy non-profit, visit [kidscoopnews.org](https://kidscoopnews.org)

## Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **ETERNITY**

The noun **eternity** means a period of time that seems to be endless, often used when exaggerating.

It took an **eternity** to reach the front of the line.

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

## FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

### Sports Team Mascots

Sports team mascots give personality to their teams. Look through today's sports section. Select one team and make a list of characteristics you think that team wants to convey. Create a new mascot for that team.

**Standards Link:** Display meaning through a variety of artistic representations.



What is a banana's favorite gymnastics move?

ANSWER: The splits!

## Write On!

### My Favorite Olympic Event

What is your favorite event in the Summer Olympics and why?

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# Opinion

## INDEPENDENT ELLSWORTH COUNTY REPORTER

Linda Mowery-Denning

Editor/Publisher

### HOME AGAIN

*Did COVID-19 shift  
technology's promise to reality?*

Back in the day, we partnered each year with a photographer to explore an issue of special importance to rural Kansas. One time it was water. Another time we tracked the history and changing landscape along Old U.S. 40.

Of the many hundreds of words and photographs those projects produced, one photo still stands out. It appeared on the cover of a series of stories we did on technology and the impact it could have on places like Ellsworth County.

The photo showed a car driving through an isolated area of Smith County, a neighbor to the north along the Kansas-Nebraska border. It pulled a U-Haul.

We were never sure which direction the driver was headed, but for our purposes the scene represented the hope that technology would allow younger residents to work from anywhere — even rural Kansas — if the necessary resources were available. Put another way — technology held the promise of bringing home our children who had moved elsewhere to build successful careers.

Has that promise finally become reality?

Emily Benedick thinks the answer to that question may be yes and — if it is — rural Kansas will have the coronavirus pandemic to thank, at least in part.

Many, including workers in larger cities, were forced to sit at home with their computers and perform their jobs from there because of the pandemic. As tedious as that became, it also protected the workers from long drives to their offices, bumper-to-bumper traffic and other annoyances associated with city living.

Benedick, executive director of the Beloit-based North Central Regional Planning Commission, thinks the downtime created by COVID-19 has created a desire for a less hectic lifestyle, the kind found in rural Kansas. It's up to us to provide the kind of places these potential new residents seek.

If we're successful, we will know which direction that car in the photo from years ago was headed. It was headed home.

### THE PANDEMIC

*It may seem like it's over,  
but that not really the case*

Each week, the Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter sets aside space on Page A1 to give our readers the most recent information on COVID-19. It's something we've done since the pandemic started more than a year ago.

Since a vaccine was discovered and started flowing into the county on a relatively regular basis, the number of reported COVID-19 cases has plummeted. Now we come to this week.

The information box on Page A1 tells the story. Three new cases were reported his past week, putting the county back in the red. That is not good news.

That means on a scale with blue as the lowest and red as the highest, Ellsworth County is in the high zone, according to the local health department.

We suspect it also means more residents need to get a coronavirus shot to protect themselves — and others — from getting sick.

COVID is not done with us. There are still doctors to see, vaccines to get. The more we take precautions to stop the spread, the safer we all will be.

For information, call the Ellsworth County Health Department, (785) 472-4488.

### Student Stars

#### Barton County College publishes Dean's and President's Lists

Barton Community College has named 293 students to the Dean's List for the spring 2021 semester.

Ellsworth — **Scott Johnson, Tiffany Keller, Christopher Walker** and **Andraus Wesley.**

Bushton — **Taylor Musil.**

Claflin — **Katie Gunder** and **Jacob Oberle.**

To qualify, students must have been enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours and maintained a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.99 on a 4.0 or "A" letter scale.

Barton Community College has named 284 students to the President's List for the spring 2021 semester.

Ellsworth — **Jenny Curnutt, Alexa Hutchins-Talbott, Ricky Hyche, Jenna Sinnott** and **James Stout.**

Claflin — **Paxton Hammeke.**

Geneseo — **Hayley Chamberlain.**

To qualify, students must have maintained a grade point average of 4.0 on a 4.0 or "A" letter scale.

## Dreaded Words Kids Don't Want To Hear



## What is eco devo?

'What do you do in economic development?' is by far the top asked question I hear as I navigate my fourth year as director of Ellsworth County Economic Development.

Sometimes that question is asked directly, and other times it's an unspoken wondering in the community, so when I was asked to write an editorial for the Progress Edition, I was eager to have an opportunity to explain what economic development does.

In its simplest form, economic development's objective is to expand the tax base for the County of Ellsworth.

What does that mean?

The answer is a wide net and a broad scope of touching nearly everything that makes a community prosper and grow. While traditional economic development is business recruitment, it's much bigger than that. Here are a few things in



**Stacie Schmidt**

*Others Say*

broad categories that might help you understand what we do:

1. Business Retention and Expansion — keeping the businesses we have in EW County. Examples of services: solving production, solvency, or workforce challenges; assisting with positive cash flow by educating businesses on incentives; shop local campaigns; regular communication with businesses to better understand their needs, educational opportunities to strengthen businesses, and succession planning services.
2. Community Development — Creating networks to build stronger and more

resilient communities.

Examples of services: strategic planning, networking events, leadership courses, and grant writing services.

3. Population Retention and Growth — Back to the basics, we need people to live and work in Ellsworth County! This means meeting the needs of those prospective residents, which includes housing, employment, quality of life, broadband, and creating an environment which makes them want to stay here. On our website, we currently have a relocation guide, rental housing board, and we provide match services for employment opportunities. We are also proud to facilitate NexGen Ellsworth County, our networking initiative to connect new residents and build retention in the community.
4. New Business — Start-up businesses are a

great opportunity to expand our tax base and also generate new goods and services in the community. Vetting a new start-up can include services such as creating a business plan, financial forecasting, marketing, and financing. In 2021, we have submitted gap funding for businesses totaling over half a million dollars. Gap funding is the difference between what a start-up needs in order be solvent, and what a traditional lender is willing to loan, and is often critical to making a project happen.

Those are just a few of the things we do, but the truth is most of the work we do is in the background. We take confidentiality very seriously and will never publicly speak about a project without our client's permission. Some projects are vetted for years

**See ECO DEVO Page A5**

## Natural-born soldier

After war broke out between the North and South in April of 1861, John Arrell Johnson enlisted on July 21, 1861, as a private in the 4th Kansas Infantry, Company E.

Johnson had just celebrated his 20th birthday on July 15. Five years earlier Johnson had come from Indiana with his parents, Fielding and Mary (Veale) Johnson, to Quindaro, Wyandotte County, Kan.

Young Johnson was described as "a natural-born soldier" and was soon elected second lieutenant. His uncle, G. W. Veal, Sr., was captain of the company. Although not completely organized the 4th Kansas was converted to a cavalry force and pressed into Jim Lane's Kansas Brigade to repel Maj. Gen. Sterling Price's Confederate forces pressing into Missouri and threatening to invade Kansas.

Price's overwhelming force drove them back to Fort Scott, Kan. After Price moved north Lane



**'Cowboy' Jim Gray**  
*The Way West*

rallied with a campaign to "clear out" southern sympathizers across the border from Kansas. Burning and looting was the order of the day as they passed through scattered towns.

At Osceola, Mo., the bank was shelled, and the town overrun on Sept. 23, 1861. Three thousand citizens fled as the town was looted and burned. Two hundred slaves were liberated and over \$1 million in property was either destroyed or taken away by Lane and his now infamous Kansas Brigade.

In March of 1862 Johnson's Company E, under the command of Capt. Veal, was transferred to the 6th Kansas Cavalry. Johnson was promoted to 1st lieutenant in the newly designated Company A. The 6th Kansas deployed its

various companies along the Missouri and Indian Territory borders.

At the time small bands of bushwhackers operated out of the ravines, hills, and hollows of the Sni-a-bar Hills southwest of Independence, Mo. Federal troops dared not enter the bushwhacker stronghold, however Capt. Veal and Lt. Johnson were not deterred.

They divided Company A into two detachments and entered the "Sni Hills." When they returned Company A had struck eight camps, killed 37 bushwhackers, and wounded an equal number, capturing small arms and 60 head of horses with equipment.

In late July Lt. Johnson led a small reconnaissance party guided by three Indian guides into northwest Arkansas. From rebels captured during the operation Johnson learned of a plan to attack Fort Scott.

The information kept troops on the scout in

Western Missouri to discourage the rebel plan.

At Fort Scott in late August, Gen. James Blunt took command of two brigades that included the 6th Kansas. In September Lt. Johnson led 50 select men out of Fort Scott to the vicinity of Sarcoxieville, Mo., where the 4th Brigade of Missouri State Militia had encamped.

One half mile from the camp Johnson's troops ambushed rebel scouts on their return to camp. Five rebels were killed, several wounded men escaped on their horses and 10 rebels were taken captive.

The prisoners were taken away by a detachment of five troopers while Johnson led an attack, driving the rebel pickets into their camp. In the confusion of the unexpected attack Johnson retreated, returning to his camp without the loss of single man.

Blunt's forces followed

**See GRAY, Page A5**





ALAN RUSCH/Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter

**Kerianne Ehrlich, supervisor of the Ellsworth County Health Department, and Andrew Bair, chief executive officer of the Ellsworth County Medical Center, shake hands during the recent open house in Bair's honor in the hospital's administration building conference room. The hand shake is symbolic of the close bond the two organizations have formed during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

## Cooperation

Continued from Page A1

share things without even giving it a second thought." Schiermeyer credits Ehrlich's insight for bringing the two organizations together.

Schiermeyer said she didn't know whether other hospitals and health departments in Kansas worked as closely ECMC and the Ellsworth County Health Department during the COVID-19 pandemic, but for it was the best option for Ellsworth County and its residents.

### Making Priorities

When COVID-19 hit Ellsworth County, the priority for all health care providers was to keep the community and their employees as safe as possible. "There wasn't a lot that we knew," Bair said. "In fact, some of what we knew at the time we found to be not true. Things were changing rapidly."

Ehrlich was constantly receiving information from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and would keep the medical center administration informed.

"She'd give us an update and we would react to that at the hospital," Bair said. Meanwhile, ECMC was doing its own research.

"We were working with the Kansas Hospital Association and all the sub-departments," Bair added. "I can't imagine doing this without them. I know that some counties didn't do it this way and I can imagine it was a nightmare for both the hospital and the health department."

"I knew I had to have them on our team to keep our community safe and healthy," Ehrlich said. "We are a very small department, so we didn't really have an information person, and that was basically me. So it was nice to gain some of those additional support people like Kate, a public information officer. She would create a lot of the Facebook posts for us. We'd share them back and forth. Nobody during that time had time to duplicate ...

"So doing it together and sharing all of those priorities and tasks, I think, got the information out to the public quicker. From day one we decided — and we even brought the schools in on that — we wanted a very cohesive message. We had the hospital, the health department and the schools all on board, so we all knew the same information, so we didn't have parties working against one another."

er."

### Lessons Learned

Bair said coordination of information was paramount.

"Like Kerianne said, early on, we were not used to working together," he said. "Both of us had a message we wanted to get out. There may have been some early missteps, but I think we learned very quickly we needed to be on the same page. And I think that's something that will continue on going forward."

"I definitely can see us complementing each other in so many different ways," Schiermeyer said. "Even after the pandemic really does completely end. There are so many things that affect our county, but by us teaming up and partnering in that, it's always going to be strengthened."

"I just hope we continue to grow," Ehrlich added. "Just the number of friendships we've gained. We look forward to these kind of events that we can participate together in."

Bair encouraged the teamwork between the two organizations to continue.

"There is some overlap and some intersection of things that we do," he said. "And if we can coordinate those, we will serve the community so much better. There will be far less confusion. So I would just encourage both crews to continue to reach out to each other. As we slip back into maybe a 'normal' time, it would be a shame if we slip back into isolation from one another."

### Nothing But Positive Feedback

Ehrlich said public feedback was nothing but positive.

"We got tons of complements from people who said they enjoyed the two groups coming together. And not just our groups. We had the Ellsworth County EMS, Ellsworth County Emergency Manager Keith Haberer. I think to see a small county be able to come together and do the kinds of events that we've done together, maybe isn't the most normal for a county our size ..."

"COVID was a beast," Schiermeyer added. "But I think it made it manageable with us working together."

The team members of the "Mad Sanitizers" are Ehrlich, Bair, Schiermeyer, Henderson, Dannette Heinze, Wes Urbanek, Tina Heinze, Katie Ranker, Christa Bohnen, Steve Shepherd,

## Eco devo

Continued from Page A4

before they come to fruition, and some never come to fruition at all. It's part of the work, and part of successful progress.

Recently we were happy to announce a move to a new office location. The move was bittersweet, as we had shared space with the Ellsworth Area Chamber of Commerce for many years. The collaboration between economic development and the chamber is critical and we value the work the Chamber is doing in the community. However, the new location allows for greater confidentiality and more space to provide a growing menu of services.



You'll find us at our new location of 107 W. 2nd St.

Still wondering what we do?

Take a tour of our website at [www.ellsworthcountyeconomicdevelopment.com](http://www.ellsworthcountyeconomicdevelopment.com) or stop by the office!

## Gray

Continued from Page A4

the Confederates to Arkansas border. Upon learning in late November that a large force of Confederate cavalry had assembled in the Boston Mountains, Blunt moved into Arkansas. At Cane Hill on Nov. 28, a two-hour fight put the Confederates to flight. The 6th Kansas followed the retreat with a saber charge through a narrow valley and into a staggering artillery ambush. Johnson and others went down, turning the advance into a panicked retreat.

Blunt regrouped. As he prepared for a renewed attack, the Confederates called for a truce to remove the dead and wounded from the battlefield. Lt. Johnson was shot through the lung, tearing out bone from his spine. The truce undoubtedly saved his life. His surprising recovery allowed him to remain in the service, being promoted through the ranks to major and the position of inspector of Blunt's District of the Frontier.

On Dec. 23, 1863, at Fort Smith, Ark., the officers of Company A presented Maj. Johnson with a pair of

Remington revolvers. The revolvers sported silver-plated barrels, gold-plated cylinders, and ivory handles. Silver plates on the handles list his military promotions and the battles fought with the 6th Kansas. Company M presented a Damascus steel saber with a silver hilt and a gold-plated guard. The battles are listed on one side of the blade and the inscription "One Country, One Flag," on the other side. The revolvers and saber are in the collection at the Kansas Historical Museum in Topeka.

Johnson suffered from his wound the rest of his life. He passed away at 52 years of age, June 30, 1894. In the words of O. H. Coulter, editor of the Western Veteran, July 25, 1894, ... Should the flag of our country be again assailed, I hope Kansas will not be wanting in men to emulate the example of [Maj. John Arrell Johnson] who gave his all fighting rebels 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 Road, Geneseo, Kan. Phone: (785) 531-2058 or [kansascowboy@kans.com](mailto:kansascowboy@kans.com).

## USD 327 Ellsworth-Kanopolis-Geneseo

### 2021-2022

## School Year Registration Information

**Registration for the 2021-2022 school year will be July 19-30, 2021.**

- Parents of returning students will use their Infinite Campus Parent Portal to register their students.
- Parents of Kindergarten students will receive a registration link via email/text.
- If Kindergarten students have siblings returning to USD 327, parents may register the Kindergarten student with their other students.
- New students to USD 327 must register in-person at the District Office during office hours and must bring a copy of the student's birth certificate and Social Security Card.
- For individuals needing assistance may register in-person at the District Office during office hours.
- In-person registration at the District Office until 7:00 pm on July 28th.

**For more information, please visit our 2021-2022 Student Registration page at [usd327.org](http://usd327.org) or call the District Office, 785.472.5561, 7:00 am - 3:30 pm, Monday - Friday.**

### Notice of Nondiscrimination

USD 327 shall hire all employees on the bases of ability and the needs of the District. USD 327 is an equal opportunity employer. USD 327, Ellsworth County, State of Kansas does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to Boy Scouts, and other designated youth groups.

The following person is designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Mr. Josh Lanning, Superintendent, USD 327, 145 W. 15th Street, PO Box 306, Ellsworth, Kansas 67439, 785.472.5561.

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# Holyrood Jubilee

## July 16 & 17, 2021

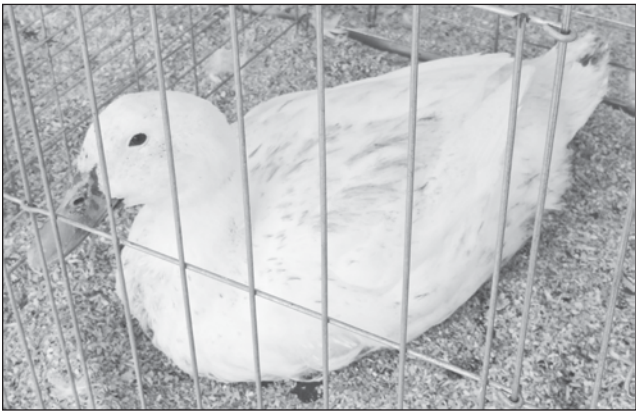
### Join us on Main Street

Find the Holyrood Jubilee schedule on our Facebook page!

\* Ad designed by Ellsworth County I/R



# I-R Farm & City



*File photos*  
The 2021 Ellsworth County Fair begins Saturday, July 17, with the 4-H Dog Show at 8:30 a.m. at the Armory south of Ellsworth, followed at 10 a.m. by the 4-H Pet Show, also at the Armory. At 6 p.m. Saturday, the 4-H Horse Show takes place at the horse arena. On Sunday, July 18, the Fashion Revue Judging takes place at 2 p.m. at Ellsworth's First Presbyterian Church, followed at 5 p.m. by the Public Fashion Revue, also at the church. Events continue through Thursday, July 22. Above and right, ducks and chickens are some of the animals to be judged at the fair. Below, Anita Schwerdtfeger, left, looks on as her granddaughter, Ashlyn, grooms a rabbit.



## 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, July 12, were:  
Wheat, bu. — \$5.77, down 11 cents from July 2.  
Milo, bu. — \$5.45, down 47 cents.  
Soybeans, bu. — \$13.74, down 29 cents.  
Corn, bu. — \$6.45, down 47 cents.  
The co-op has locations in Ellsworth, Black Wolf, Farhman, Hitschmann, Holyrood and Kanopolis.

### Murphey joins Cruise Planners

Cherity Kerns, owner of Wander More Travel, has announced that Janell Murphey has joined Cruise Planners, an American Express travel representative, and the nation's largest home based travel agent franchise network in the industry.  
Affiliation means Murphey now offers travelers exclusive pricing on a wide range of land and cruise vacation packages for individual and group travel, weddings and honeymoons, family gatherings and corporate incentive travel, as well as upgrades and special amenities such as excursions, ground transportation, discounted fares, travel gifts and more. As a Cruise Planners Travel Advisor, Murphey provides specialized vacation packages to the most sought-after destinations around the world.  
“Everyone travels, and it's important to use a trusted travel specialist to help get the most value out of a vacation,” Murphey said. “As a Cruise Planners travel expert, I take the stress and hassle out of planning a vacation for my clients. Through the resources available to me, I'm able to make educated recommendations based on value, destination, safety, seasonality, group size, and pandemic-related travel restrictions to customize the ultimate vacation experience. Since Cruise Planners has achieved top producer status with every major cruise line and many major travel partners, I am able to provide my customers with the best value along with my expertise and personalized service.”  
Murphey is a certified cruise counselor and an active member of the Cruise Lines International Association. (CLIA) CLIA is the world's largest cruise industry trade association, providing a unified voice and leading authority of the global cruise community. On behalf of its members, affiliates, and partners, the organization supports policies and practices that foster a secure, healthy, and sustainable cruise ship environment, promoting positive travel experiences as ocean and river cruises return to service this summer.

## 2021 ELLSWORTH COUNTY FAIR SCHEDULE



Date	Event	Location
<b>SATURDAY, July 17</b>		
8:30am	4-H Dog Show	Armory
10:00am	4-H Pet Show	Armory
6:00pm	4-H Horse Show	Horse Arena
<b>SUNDAY, July 18</b>		
2:00pm	Fashion Revue Judging	First Presbyterian Church
5:00pm	Public Fashion Revue	First Presbyterian Church
<b>MONDAY, July 19</b>		
9:00am	4-H Visual Arts Judging	Armory
	4-H Photography Judging	Armory
1:00pm	Open Class Set Up - All Committees Assist	Armory
6:00pm	4-H Livestock may be brought into barns	Livestock Barn
6:00pm-8:00pm	Sheep, Meat Goat & Dairy Goat Check-in & Weigh-in	Livestock Barn
6:30pm	Poultry Testing	Animal Tent
7:00pm-9:00pm	Open Class Exhibits Check-in	Armory
<b>TUESDAY, July 20</b>		
8:00am	4-H Superintendents Check-in Exhibits - All Divisions	Armory
8:00am-9:30am	Swine & Beef Weigh-in & Check-in	Livestock Barn
	Open Class Exhibits Check-in	Armory
9:00am	4-H Foods Judging	Armory
9:30am	All 4-H Exhibits to be in place	Armory and Barns
	4-H Entomology & Foods Exhibits can be brought in at time of consultation judging	
10:00am	Open Class Judging	Armory
	4-H Plant Science Judging	Armory
11:00am	4-H Food Preservation Judging	Armory
12:00pm	4-H Fiber Arts Judging/ Clothing Construction Judging	Armory
1:00pm	4-H Woodworking, Forestry, Electric, Entomology, Notebooks, Project Exhibits, Home Environment, Banners, Geology & Rocket Judging	Armory
1:30pm	4-H Rabbit Show	Animal Tent
2:00pm	4-H Ag Mechanics Judging	Armory
2:30pm	4-H Poultry Show	Animal Tent
3:00pm-9:00pm	4-H / Open Class Exhibits on Display	Armory
4:00pm	Dairy Goat Show	Livestock Barn Show Arena
5:00pm	4-H Food Sale	Armory
5:30pm	4-H Sheep, Goats & Shepherd's Lead following Open Class	Livestock Barn Show Arena
Conclusion	4-H Rocket Launch	Baseball Diamond
<b>WEDNESDAY, July 21</b>		
8:00am	4-H Swine Show following 5-6yr old Open Class	Livestock Barn Show Arena
8:00am-9:00pm	4-H / Open Class Exhibits on Display	Armory
5:00pm	4-H Beef Show following 5-6yr old Open Class	Livestock Barn Show Arena
10:00pm	4-H Premium Auction Information Due	Armory
11:00pm	Barn Curfew	Livestock Barn
<b>THURSDAY, July 22</b>		
8:00am-7:00pm	4-H / Open Class Exhibits on Display	Armory
9:00am	Open Class Tag Along Show	Livestock Barn
10:00am	Bucket Calf Show	Livestock Barn
1:00pm	4-H Livestock Judging Contest	Livestock Barn
1:00pm-3:00pm	4-H Life Skills Judging Contest	Armory
5:00pm	Community BBQ	
5:15pm	4-H Round Robin	Livestock Barn
7:00pm	4-H Parade of Champions	Livestock Barn
	Release of 4-H / Open Class Exhibits from Armory	Livestock Barn
8:00pm	4-H Premium Auction	Livestock Barn Show Arena
	Open Class Clean Up	Armory

\* Ad designed by Ellsworth County I/R





## Birthday

### Lois Weber celebrating 90th birthday

Lois Weber, Holyrood, Kan., will celebrate her 90th birthday July 27, 2021.

She loves to receive mail, so a card shower is planned for this special occasion. Send cards to Lois at Good Samaritan Society-Ellsworth Village, 1156 Highway 14, Ellsworth, Kan. 67439.



Mrs. Weber

### Card shower for Carl Hoelscher's 95th birthday

Carl Hoelscher, Bushton, will celebrate his 95th birthday July 21.

He was born in 1926 to Homer and Lydia Mehl Hoelscher in rural Chase, graduated from Bushton Rural High School, and served in the U.S. Army during World War II in the Pacific Theater.

On Nov. 12, 1950, he married Velma Cruth. She died July 26, 1981. He married Helene Appel Nov. 23, 1985. She died Aug. 10, 1998. On Aug. 14, 1999, he married Lois Behnke. She died July 29, 2010.

He is a lifetime member of Salem United Methodist Church and a member of Gideons International. He has farmed in the Bushton area since 1951.

His children are Margie John (Robert), Don



Mr. Hoelscher

Hoelscher (Joy), and the late Patti Rolfs (Scott), all of the Bushton area. He has eight grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, seven step-children, and numerous step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren.

He enjoys receiving mail. Help him celebrate by sending cards to 530 Ave. B, Bushton, Kan. 67427.

## Harker

Continued from Page A1

to get things cleaned up. This goes out to everybody in Kanopolis that helped."

### Starting small

The event was canceled last year due to COVID-19 concerns, this year's Fort Harker Festival — as with those in year's past — was a success, organizers said.

Friday night kicked off with Ellsworth County Historical Society members serving the annual hamburger feed at the Fort Harker Commanding Officer's Quarters.

Guests included longtime Kanopolis resident Ellen Russell.

In an interview with the Independent-Reporter, she reminisced about the origins of Fort Harker Days.

In 1976, during the country's Bicentennial, former mayor Cherie Sauer's father, Marvin Schneider, donated four hogs which Charlie Roehrman of the Kanopolis Lions Club barbecued for a hog feed in the city park.

"We sold tickets to it and had a street dance," Russell said. "They had so much fun, that we decided to keep it on and after the Bicentennial one we called it the July Fest."

Russell said the third year of the event in 1978 included a carnival, tug-of-war and other activities.

"It just kept getting bigger and bigger," she said.

Russell said the reason the name was changed from July Fest to Fort Harker Days was because of the history of the community.

"We thought July Fest is an awful lot like Wilson's After Harvest Czech Fest," she said. "I don't remember who came up with it, but it became Fort Harker Days."

Russell said she brought up the idea for



ALAN RUSCH/ECI-R

**Mayor Anthony Hopkins, center, with two members of the Kanopolis Beautification Committee, Greg Tripp, left, and Rusty Bunch, after the committee was awarded Volunteer of the Year Saturday evening.**

the annual celebration at a meeting of the Kanopolis Ladies Civic Club.

"Nancy Lamia, Vickie Wacker and Jan Andrews all said they would work on it," she said. "That was the very first group."

Russell said her favorite part of the celebration is the food in the city park and all of the families who come home for the fun.

"I've got five kids and they almost all make it," she said. "It's a good time. Everybody looks forward to it."

### Building on tradition

"There's a group of young kids, with the help of Meredith Vargo, that stepped up when some of us decided it was time to get some new blood," Sauers said. "They've got some great ideas."

They included a corn hole tournament, a softball tournament in addition to the annual volleyball competition, washer board and dodge ball tournaments, wagon races and kids bouncy houses. In addition, Kendra Ploutz (aka DD Clown) and a group of girls provided kid tattoos.

"I think we gave them a good foundation of things that work and they've kind of ran with it," Sauers said.

Sauers said members of the Kanopolis Fire Department helped the Ellsworth County

daughter, Sarah Arensman.

Arensman pushed her grandmother in a wheelchair.

In memory of Tripp, Arensman ran the race Saturday while pushing her grandmother's wheelchair.

"Her grandmother always said, 'Sarah you can never beat me,'" Orozco noted. "That's because Sarah was pushing the chair."

First down the street during Saturday's Fort Harker parade were grand marshals Justin and Todd Wacker of Hi-Plains Sand, Inc. of Kanopolis.

"It's quite an honor," Todd said. "We're both glad to be here on behalf of our dads (Bob and Gary Wacker), who started the company."

"We're very proud to be a part of this and continue on from what our dads started," Justin said.

Joye Neuman, member of the Fort Harker Days planning committee, said several teams from the Salina corn hole league came to Kanopolis for Saturday's tournament.

"That was really very nice," she said. "We played from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. when we had our championship game. We had a good turnout this year."

Neuman was pleased with the 34 entries in the Fort Harker Days parade.

"The Legion Riders really surprised us," she said. "We had some Riders come down from Salina that no one was expecting. They showed up at the start of the parade, so it was great to have that support."

Neuman said it was good for things to get back to normal in Kanopolis.

"We missed it so much last year," she said. "We wish we could have done something, but we wanted to be on the safe side. We're glad we're back."

## Anniversary

### 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration



**Jerry and Sandi Shirley**  
July 24th, 2021

Social Hour 5-6 p.m.

Supper at 6:00 p.m. and then there will be a dance to follow.

Kanopolis Community Center.

Everyone is invited to come help these two celebrate!

\*Ad designed by Ellsworth County I/R

### SENIOR MENUS

July 19-21

#### 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 — Ham/cheese sandwich, pea salad, baked potato, fruit and beverage.

TUESDAY — Fish sticks (alt. chicken nuggets), macaroni and cheese, peas/carrots, roll, whole apple, brownie/sprinkles and beverage.

WEDNESDAY — Chicken-fried steak, mashed potatoes/gravy, green beans, strawberries, roll and beverage.

THURSDAY — Salisbury steak, scalloped potatoes, carrots, fruit, bread and beverage.

FRIDAY — Spaghetti/meat sauce, peas, tossed salad, orange pineapple cup, garlic bread 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. Call the Wilson Senior Center at (785) 658-2388, or Holyrood at (785) 252-3640. Beverage includes milk.

MONDAY — Polish sausage/kraut, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll, peach cup, brownies and beverage.

TUESDAY — Smothered hamburger, mashed potatoes, carrots, roll, gelatin/fruit and beverage.

WEDNESDAY — Baked fish, macaroni and cheese, coleslaw, roll, fruit and beverage.

THURSDAY — Hot turkey sandwich, mashed potatoes/gravy, carrot raisin salad, strawberries and beverage.

FRIDAY — Ham, sweet potatoes, Brussels sprouts, roll, fruit pie and beverage.

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# Florian accepts county EMS job

BY ALAN RUSCH

Ellsworth County I-R

Nicholas Florian of Ellsworth has accepted the Ellsworth County Commission's offer to be the next director of the county EMS.

That announcement came at Monday's meeting of the county commissioners.

Florian will begin his duties Aug. 2. He is currently a captain in the Great Bend Fire Department.

In other business

• Sheriff Murray Marston dropped off copies of his office's 2022 budget request. He plans to discuss the budget proposal during the July 19 commission meeting.

• No action was taken after a five-minute executive session to discuss non-elected personnel with EMS employees Alex Winters and Jenny Curnutt (unresolved issues at EMS).

• No action was taken after a 10-minute executive session with county attorney Paul J.

Kasper to discuss matters relating to attorney-client privilege (questions regarding policies).

• A request from Tim Korbe, interim EMS director, was approved to expend up to \$4,000 from the county building fund for electrical work on the new classroom at the EMS.

• No action was taken after a 10-minute executive session with Korbe to discuss non-elected personnel (the assistant director position).

• Ellsworth City Administrator Rusty Varnado said the council plans to condemn the old Ellsworth County hospital at their council meeting later on Monday. He noted a man from Manhattan has expressed interest in the rehab of the old hospital building. Varnado said he invited the man to visit Ellsworth personally and take a look at the condition of the structure.

• No action was taken after a 15-minute executive session with Kasper to discuss matters pertaining to attorney-client privilege (litigation).

• Larry Sharp of KCAMP, the county's liability insurance coverage provider, made his annual visit to update commissioners on the services his company provides. He noted Ellsworth County has been a customer of KCAMP for over 20 years.

From the July 6 meeting:

• Brent Goss and Troy Soukup of the Ellsworth County Fair Association requested a 2022 budget of \$18,000 — a 28.6 percent (\$4,000) increase from last year.

• Stacie Schmidt, director of the Ellsworth County Economic Development, discussed the best use of American Rescue Act funds. She said the funds must be tied to COVID and well documented. She is giving the public 45 days to comment on how the funds could be used. Schmidt will then develop a form for the public request and they will be asked to present that request to the commissioners. At the end of 45 days, commissioners will come up with a budget for the

ARPA funds.

• Dave Cox, plant manager for Maico Industries in Ellsworth, visited with commissioners about assistance in paying the \$100,000 natural gas bill the company received during the three-day frigid cold snap in February. Cox has been in contact with U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran's office and was told the ARPA funds could be used for utility bills for businesses. Schmidt said there were other reasons she believed Cox qualified for ARPA funds but cautioned that the utility bill in question was not related to COVID. Commissioners said they are still working on a plan for the funds and would get Cox information as soon as it became available.

• Korbe presented the 2022 EMS budget request totalling \$561,132. The budget increased four percent (\$21,592) from last year due to building maintenance and payroll.

• No action was taken after a 10-minute executive session

with Winters and EMS employee Gaye Woods to discuss non-elected personnel (current issues at EMS).

• Teresa Shute, supervisor of the county landfill, discussed the need for a new pit at the landfill. She has had several individuals ask if the brick from the old hospital could be recycled. Commissioner Dennis Rolfs said hopefully somebody could be found to at least take the brick. The landfill must have a letter of proof from the state saying there is no asbestos before they can accept debris from the old hospital.

• Commissioners told Florian that if he was interested in the EMS director job, they were interested in him.

No action was taken after a 15-minute executive session with Florian to discuss non-elected personnel (new employee information).

The next meeting of the Ellsworth County commissioners will be at 9 a.m. Monday, July 19, at the county courthouse.

## USD 112 board declines to pay invoice

BY ALAN RUSCH

Ellsworth County I-R

HOLYROOD — Along with the annual approval of appointments and policies and procedures, Monday's meeting of the Central Plains USD 112 board of education was marked by the refusal to pay an invoice.

After two, 20-minute executive sessions to discuss matters pertaining to attorney-client privilege (a potential legal claim against the district), the board approved a motion by six to one directing John Sherman, board attorney, to draft a letter to Pro-Bound Sports LLC of Dorrance advising that its invoice in the amount of \$3,500 will not be paid and that Sherman draft a letter in such form as he deems appropriate.

No further comment

was given by either the board or Sherman.

In other business:

• Superintendent Greg Clark said the KJUMP class action lawsuit against Symetry should be settled within 14 days and USD 112 should only have to pay only 50 percent of the \$13,000 total natural gas bill it received from Symetry from a extremely cold period in February.

Clark said the USD 112 board, unlike other school boards across Kansas, will not have to call a special meeting to approve final payment of their natural gas bill for that period. He said several school boards will since their total due will still be over the \$20,000 limit requiring board approval even after being cut in half by the legal settlement with Symetry.

"Hopefully, within the next week or so we'll have

a dollar amount, I'm thinking in that \$6,000 to \$7,000 range, that we can settle on," he said.

"Basically, Symetry got caught without having the gas supply they needed and had to go out on the open market. And then they tried to pass that on to us."

• Clark said the material for the new 583 seat bleacher at the Central Plains Junior-Senior High School football field in Claflin is being currently fabricated by DGJD. The \$156,500 purchase was approved by the board in June and will be paid from 2021-22 budget funds.

"I will suspect they will get out there and do some grading, then start pouring the concrete before the end of the month," he said. "We're moving forward."

Estimated installation date of the bleacher is

Sept. 1.

• The donation of beef from Mike and Patty Hipp was approved.

• Approval was given to a resolution not to exceed the revenue neutral rate.

Clark said the intention of the law, which was passed by the state legislature, was to hold taxing entities accountable if they raise taxes.

"It was supposed to exclude schools, but they did not," he said.

Clark said barring an odd year, everybody's valuation will increase.

"So every year we will exceed our revenue neutral rate, where we will raise more revenue," he said.

"The interesting thing is it's state statute that everybody is taxed 20 mills for public education," he said. "We have no control over that."

Clark said that 20 mills

goes to the state, which then provides school districts state aid.

The next meeting of the

Central Plains USD 112 board of education will be at 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 9, at CPES in Holyrood.



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# Goats

Continued from Page A1

motioned to deny the wavier request. His motion was seconded by council president Cindy Heinze, with the vote being two for and one against. (Council member Darcy Hubka-Vopat abstained.)

During open discussion before the vote, Jeff Keith said the goats would not be a good for the community because they stink, they take maintenance and they will take away from the beautification the city is trying to do to bring people into Wilson.

“We elect you guys to the city council to work in our best interests,” Keith said. “I hope you guys will take that into account because the community depends on you to do what is right for us as a people — not do right by your personal wishes — it’s about the community.”

Jeremy Hlad was concerned that no educational material has been presented to the public on Criswell’s plan for the goats.

“It’s all been heresay,” he said. Hlad said if the council were to approve the waiver request, that decision could negatively affect Wilson Foods.

“The grocery store brought in a lot of people over the Fourth of July weekend,” he said. “I am not saying the impact will be negative, but it runs that risk.”

Rick Weigel, owner of Wilson Foods, said he visited with Melinda Merrill, owner of the nearby Midland Railroad Hotel, about the goats. Weigel said both he and Merrill agreed that keeping them in downtown Wilson would not be good for either business.

“Let’s face it, I’ve never met an animal or a human where poop and urine don’t stink,”

Weigel said. “And the wind comes out of the south. So I can imagine on a 100-degree day and that wind coming out of there, that we would get the smell.”

Weigel said he told Criswell he was all for him putting the goats in other places in town with the exception of Main Street.

“I think it would affect some of your main businesses,” he said.

“My concern is once you open the door, you cannot discriminate a wavier,” said Lori Taylor. “If someone comes and wants a wavier and they meet all the guidelines you can’t say to them, ‘no you can’t have them.’”

City attorney Theresa Staudinger said liability concerns would be low for the city, because the responsibility would be on the owner of the goats and the property, not the city.

She wondered that even if the council allows the wavier, would the railroad allow it as well? She also raised concerns about the goats escaping from their pen and getting injured on the nearby track.

Criswell said he hasn’t talked to the railroad about the goats.

“I’ve talked to them many times in the past and they really don’t care what you are doing with the land as long as you pay your lease,” he said.

“I would hate to think that we allowed something to occur on railroad property — even though it’s really not our business, it’s yours — that down the road had a negative impact,” Peschka said.

Criswell said he appreciated the comments.

“This will be the fifth business I’ve started,” he said.

“They’ve all been successful and all four of those have helped Wilson.”

Heinze said she has been on the council a long time and animals are a big issue every year.

“We have worked very hard on coming up with a solution to the problem,” she said. “And Dave, I have nothing against your goats. I just don’t think that’s the spot for them.”

Heinze said the key question was if it was anybody else besides a council member asking for the waiver, would the council even consider it?

“Let’s be honest with ourselves,” she said.

Criswell said he didn’t agree with Heinze’s statement.

“I just happen to be a city council member,” he said. “I also happen to be a business person and an entrepreneur.”

“I’m not against the goats as a whole. If they’re outside of town, I have no problem with

that,” responded Heinze, who also pointed to the council’s past refusal to waive the ordinance for 4-H members.

“I’m just asking for some open minded consideration,” Criswell said.

Criswell said he has spent time and money trying to develop his property into something positive for the community.

“We do 99 percent of our shopping at your store,” Criswell told Weigel. “We are the last people in the world that are going to harm your store. I will absolutely not allow that to happen.”

Criswell noted none of his goats will have horns. He also promised the animals would be managed in such a way as to eliminate odor and flies.

“I feel with every fiber in my being that this will be the most successful business I’ve done,” he said. “I’m asking you to give it a chance.”

In a telephone interview with the Independent-Reporter after the meeting, Criswell said he still plans to raise goats in some form, whatever the law allows.

“There has been a lot of misinformation about the goats and the negative impact to the community,” he said.

As such, Criswell said he plans to continue to educate Wilson residents on what he is trying to do and the benefits his planned business will bring to the community.

Once again he said the goats will not be directly across the street from Wilson Foods, but

much farther west.

“It’s a good place for them,” he said.

In other business:

• Property owner Dan Erdman questioned Peschka about the two vehicles deemed a nuisance by the city board of health.

Erdman said the city ordinance says that a lack of current license tags and insurance is a presumption of a nuisance.

“I had to get rid of my cars then I heard that somebody else had five cars, no tags, no insurance, and you said it was okay,” Erdman told Peschka. “Are you picking on me?”

Peschka said the night Erdman was at the council meeting, he asked Erdman numerous times to show the council they were operable and the matter would be done. He refused.

“I gave you the opportunity,” Peschka said.

Peschka said the issue of tags and registration was a concern he talked to attorney Staudinger about. She plans to review the ordinance.

• Approval was given to the housing and demolition plan developed by the North Central Regional Planning Commission in Beloit to provide property owners in the area from 27th Street north to Old 40 Highway the opportunity to apply for up to \$25,000 in rehabilitation or demolition to their property. The funds were provided by a \$300,000 grant from the Kansas Department of Commerce.

• Approval was given to an engineering agreement with Wilson and Company as a first step in eventually building another detention pond at the city sewer pond due to changing state regulations.



ALAN RUSCH/Ellsworth County I-R

David Criswell was accompanied to the Wilson City County meeting by two of the goats he plans to raise.

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2021 LINCOLN COUNTY FAIR

July 14 - 17 - Sylvan Grove, KS

	<b>WEDNESDAY, JULY 14TH</b>		
	8:30 am.....	4-H Foods Judging at St. Patrick's Catholic Parish Hall in Lincoln	
	8:30 am.....	4-H Photography Judging at St. Patrick's Catholic Parish Hall in Lincoln	
	2 – 6 pm.....	4-H Building Open/Optional Exhibit Drop-Off	
	3 – 4 pm.....	Bake Sale at Fairgrounds Open Class Building	
	4 – 6 pm.....	Animal Vet Inspection, Check-in and Weigh-in	
	5 pm.....	Legion Stand Open	
	6 – 8 pm.....	Enter Open Class Exhibits	
	7 pm.....	4-H and Open Class Horse Show	
	9 pm.....	Tie Out Livestock	
	<b>THURSDAY, JULY 15TH</b>		
	7 am.....	4-H Building Open for Check-in	
	8:30 am.....	4-H Posters, Notebooks, Booths, Banners, and Visual Arts Judging, Open Class Horticulture and Foods Judging	
	9 am.....	4-H Woodworking, Electric, Space Tech and FFA Judging	
	9:30 am.....	4-H and Open Class Pet Show at American Legion Pavilion	
	10 am.....	4-H Horticulture, Entomology/Geology (4-H Building)	
	10 am.....	Poultry and Rabbit/Guinea Pig Judging (Fairgrounds)	
	11 am.....	Open Class Photography, Clothing, Arts and Crafts and Fine Arts Judging	
	4:30 pm.....	Bucket Calf Judging and Showmanship, 2nd Year Bucket Calf, Market Steer/Heifers and Breeding Heifers Judging	
	5 pm.....	Legion Stand Open	
	5:30 – 7 pm.....	Cattlemen's BBQ Supper	
	8 pm.....	Swine Judging following Beef Show	
	7 pm.....	Post Rock Dance Academy Performance – Grandstand	
	7 pm.....	Blacksmith Demonstration by Isaak Jordan	
	9 pm.....	Tie Out Livestock	
	9 pm.....	Bingo	
	<b>FRIDAY, JULY 16TH</b>		
	7 am.....	Breakfast at Little White Stand	
	8 am.....	Sheep and Goat Judging	
	9 am.....	View Exhibits	
	12 noon.....	LUNCH at American Legion Stand	
	2 pm.....	Livestock Judging Contest	
	4 – 7 pm.....	Blacksmith Demonstration by Isaak Jordan	
	5 pm.....	Legion Stand Open	
	5 – 7 pm.....	Children's Games and Bake Walk	
	6 pm.....	Youth Pedal Pull Check In - Grandstand	
	7 pm.....	Youth Pedal Pull - Grandstand	
	7 pm.....	Ranch Rodeo	
	9 pm.....	Tie Out Livestock	
	9 pm.....	Bingo	
	<b>SATURDAY, JULY 17TH.</b>		
	9 am.....	View Exhibits	
	9 am.....	Round Robin	
	8 – 9 am.....	Youth Archery Registration	
	9 am.....	Youth Archery Shoot	
	10 – 11 am.....	Adult Archery Registration	
	11 am.....	Adult Archery Shoot	
	12 noon.....	LUNCH at American Legion Stand	
	1 pm.....	4-H Project Sale in Livestock Show Ring	
	2:30 – 4 pm.....	ALL Exhibits and Animals Released (ALL livestock and fair exhibits must be out by 4 pm)	
	4 – 7 pm.....	Blacksmith Demonstration by Isaak Jordan	
	5 pm.....	Legion Stand Open	
	7:30 pm.....	Demolition Derby	
	9 pm.....	Bingo	
	Firework Show.....	After consolation and before feature of demo derby	

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Members of the Ellsworth Lightning baseball team are: back row, from left — Coach Aaron Laas, Callen Parsons, Stephen Montoy, Kody Muchow, Cam Thomasson, Trevor Laas, William Genta, Coach Scott Thomasson; Front row left to right: Coach Ryan Parsons, Jack Kelley, Jacob Muchow, Ryker Homolka, Jackson Sheridan, Leyton Vague.

Each summer, the Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter publishes photos of the summer recreation ball teams. This page is the second featuring Ellsworth teams.

# Girls and Boys of Summer



Members of the 10 to 12 Ellsworth baseball team are: back row, from left — Justin Mcqueary, Bryson Ohl, Sam Martin, Lane Howard, Jace Thomasson, John Svaty, Liam Stone; Front row, from left — Drake Totten, Christian Hall, Carson Jacobs, Jayden Naegel, Gage Laas. Not pictured Luke Axtell, Lance Muchow. Coaches Stacey Young and Willis Ohl.



Members of the Ellsworth Dynamite 12 and under girls' softball team are: front row, from left — Miley Rolfs, Lakyn Beckman, Hadleigh Hicks, Kari Place, Addy Ehrlich, Molly Ehrlich. Back row, left to right: Coach Abby Harmon, Reygan Coonrod, Sophie Homolka, Kinly Place, Addie Harmon, Keelie Deines, Keira Hoffman, Paisley Salyers, Coach Eric Coonrod.



## Ellsworth 225 S. Louis Dangerous Structure

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent/Reporter, July 15, 2021)

## RESOLUTION NO. #2021-R-0712b

**A RESOLUTION FIXING A TIME AND PLACE AND PROVIDING FOR NOTICE OF A HEARING BEFORE THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF ELLSWORTH, KANSAS AT WHICH THE OWNER, HIS OR HER AGENT, LIENHOLDERS OF RECORD, OCCUPANTS AND OTHER PARTIES IN INTEREST OF STRUCTURES LOCATED WITHIN SAID CITY AND DESCRIBED HEREIN MAY APPEAR AND SHOW CAUSE WHY SUCH STRUCTURE SHOULD NOT BE CONDEMNED AND ORDERED REPAIRED OR DEMOLISHED AS AN UNSAFE OR DANGEROUS STRUCTURES.**

WHEREAS, the enforcing officer of the City of Ellsworth, Kansas, did on the 6th day of May 2021, file with the governing body of said city, a statement in writing that the structures, hereinafter described, is unsafe and dangerous.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF ELLSWORTH, KANSAS:

That a hearing will be held on the 23rd day of August 2021 before the governing body of the city at 5:15 o'clock p.m., at 121 W. First Street, Ellsworth, Kansas, at which the owner, his or her agent, any lienholders of record, any occupant and any other parties in interest, as that term is defined by law, of the structure located at:

A tract commencing at a point on the West line of the North Half of Block Forty-eight (48) in the City of Ellsworth, 75 feet north from the Southwest Corner of said half block, thence northerly to the South line of Eighth Street, 75 feet, more or less, thence south parallel with the West line of Block 48 (extended) 150 feet, more or less to the center line of said half block; thence west to the point of beginning, being a fractional part of Block 48, and a fractional part of vacated street between block 47 and 48, Ellsworth County, Kansas

Also known as 225 St. Louis, Ellsworth, Kansas

may appear and show cause why such structure should

not be condemned as an unsafe or dangerous structure and ordered repaired or demolished.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk shall cause this resolution to be published and shall give notice of the aforesaid hearing in the manner provided by law.

Adopted this 12th day of July 2021

Mark C. Kennedy  
Mayor

ATTEST:

Brittany Rohr,  
City Clerk

2t 7/22

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(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent/Reporter, July 15, 2021)

2022

**NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING**

The governing body of  
**Green Garden  
Ellsworth**

will meet on August 4, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. at Lorraine City Office for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at Ellsworth County Clerk's Office and will be available at this hearing.

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

Proposed Budget 2022 Expenditures and Amount of 2021 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2022 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

Fund	Prior Year Actual 2020		Current Year Estimate 2021		Proposed Budget 2022		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2021 Ad Valorem Tax	Est. Tax Rate*
General							
Debt Service							
Library							
Road	120,640	48.10,000	120,406	4.973	120,400	116,187	5.032
Special Machinery							
Totals	120,640	48.10,000	120,406	4.973	120,400	116,187	5.032
Revenue Neutral Rate**							5.119
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditure	120,640		120,406		120,400		
Total Tax Levied	116,006		118,168		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
Assessed Valuation:							
Township	24,121,721		23,765,311		23,087,761		
Outstanding Indebtedness,							
Jan 1	2019		2020		2021		
G.O. Bonds	0		0		20,523		
Other	0		0		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	0		0		0		
Total	0		0		20,523		

\*Tax rates are expressed in mills.  
\*\*Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by 2021 Kansas Senate Bill 13.

Dustin Perkins  
Treasurer

11/7/15

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent/Reporter, July 15, 2021)

2022

**NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING**

The governing body of  
**Langley  
Ellsworth**

will meet on August 12, 2021 at 8:00 p.m. at Gail Lindstedt for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at Ellsworth County Clerk's Office and will be available at this hearing.

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

Proposed Budget 2022 Expenditures and Amount of 2021 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2022 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

Fund	Prior Year Actual 2020		Current Year Estimate 2021		Proposed Budget 2022		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2021 Ad Valorem Tax	Est. Tax Rate*
General	25,233	5.184	20,718	5.303	21,348	18,344	5.235
Debt Service							
Library							
Road							
Special Machinery							
Totals	25,233	5.184	20,718	5.303	21,348	18,344	5.235
Revenue Neutral Rate**							5.235
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditure	25,233		20,718		21,348		
Total Tax Levied	17,963		18,337		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
Assessed Valuation:							
Township	3,465,387		3,458,840		3,503,936		
Outstanding Indebtedness,							
Jan 1	2019		2020		2021		
G.O. Bonds	0		0		0		
Other	0		0		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	0		0		0		
Total	0		0		0		

\*Tax rates are expressed in mills.  
\*\*Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by 2021 Kansas Senate Bill 13.

Jeffrey Cunningham  
Treasurer

11/7/15

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent/Reporter, July 15, 2021)

2022

**NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING**

The governing body of  
**Mulberry  
Ellsworth**

will meet on August 14, 2021 at 6:00 a.m. at Dan Schulz Residence for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at Ellsworth County Clerk's Office and will be available at this hearing.

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

Proposed Budget 2022 Expenditures and Amount of 2021 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2022 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

Fund	Prior Year Actual 2020		Current Year Estimate 2021		Proposed Budget 2022		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2021 Ad Valorem Tax	Est. Tax Rate*
General	48,545	13.081	48,755	13.121	49,575	47,335	13.014
Debt Service							
Library							
Road							
Special Machinery							
Totals	48,545	13.081	48,755	13.121	49,575	47,335	13.014
Revenue Neutral Rate**							13.014
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditure	48,545		48,755		49,575		
Total Tax Levied	46,160		47,331		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
Assessed Valuation:							
Township	3,528,871		3,607,486		3,637,173		
Outstanding Indebtedness,							
Jan 1	2019		2020		2021		
G.O. Bonds	0		0		0		
Other	0		0		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	0		0		0		
Total	0		0		0		

\*Tax rates are expressed in mills.  
\*\*Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by 2021 Kansas Senate Bill 13.

Dan O. Schulz  
Treasurer

11/7/15

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent/Reporter, July 15, 2021)

2022

**NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING**

The governing body of  
**Lincoln Township  
Ellsworth**

will meet on July 30, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at Julie Nienke Residence for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at Ellsworth County Clerk's Office and will be available at this hearing.

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

Proposed Budget 2022 Expenditures and Amount of 2021 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2022 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

Fund	Prior Year Actual 2020		Current Year Estimate 2021		Proposed Budget 2022		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2021 Ad Valorem Tax	Est. Tax Rate*
General	34,023	16.377	36,914	16.389	37,439	31,522	15.903
Debt Service							
Library							
Road							
Special Machinery							
Totals	34,023	16.377	36,914	16.389	37,439	31,522	15.903
Revenue Neutral Rate**							15.903
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditure	34,023		36,914		37,439		
Total Tax Levied	30,832		31,521		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
Assessed Valuation:							
Township	1,882,674		1,923,371		1,982,113		
Outstanding Indebtedness,							
Jan 1	2019		2020		2021		
G.O. Bonds	0		0		0		
Other	0		0		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	0		0		0		
Total	0		0		0		

\*Tax rates are expressed in mills.  
\*\*Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by 2021 Kansas Senate Bill 13.

Julie Nienke  
Treasurer

11/7/15

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent/Reporter, July 15, 2021)

2022

**NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING**

The governing body of  
**Thomas  
Ellsworth**

will meet on August 2, 2021 at 8:00 p.m. at Jr. Kratzer Residence for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at Ellsworth County Clerk's Office and will be available at this hearing.

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

Proposed Budget 2022 Expenditures and Amount of 2021 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2022 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

Fund	Prior Year Actual 2020		Current Year Estimate 2021		Proposed Budget 2022		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2021 Ad Valorem Tax	Est. Tax Rate*
General	65,631	18.249	57,883	21.061	59,007	53,886	20.046
Debt Service							
Library							
Road							
Special Machinery							
Totals	65,631	18.249	57,883	21.061	59,007	53,886	20.046
Revenue Neutral Rate**							20.046
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditure	65,631		57,883		59,007		
Total Tax Levied	52,847		53,883		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
Assessed Valuation:							
Township	2,895,943		2,558,501		2,688,056		
Outstanding Indebtedness,							
Jan 1	2019		2020		2021		
G.O. Bonds	0		0		0		
Other	0		0		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	0		0		0		
Total	0		0		0		

\*Tax rates are expressed in mills.  
\*\*Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by 2021 Kansas Senate Bill 13.

Tim Kratzer  
Treasurer

11/7/15

## Money Matters to Your Business; So Should the Right Advertising.



According to research by Google, as reported by the Newspaper Association of America (NAA), 56 percent of consumers researched or purchased products they saw in a newspaper. NAA also reports that 59 percent of adults cite newspapers as the medium they use for planning, shopping and purchase decisions, rendering **newspapers the top advertising medium identified by consumers** for these activities.

If you are in the business of offering customers a solid value, the Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter is the smart place to advertise. With targeted distribution to an audience of more than 7,000 local households, the I-R is a highly effective vehicle for promoting your products and services.

Don't waste your money! Call Alan or Linda at 785-472-5085 to talk about the value of advertising in the I-R today!



aforesaid hearing in the manner provided by law.  
Adopted this 12th day of July 2021

Mark C. Kennedy  
Mayor

Brittany Rohr,  
City Clerk

2t 7/22

# PUBLIC NOTICE

[illegible]

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.

**Resolution No. 21-0712**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ELLSWORTH,  
KANSAS REGARDING THE GOVERNING BODY'S  
INTENT TO LEVY A PROPERTY TAX EXCEEDING  
THE REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE;**

WHEREAS, the Revenue Neutral Rate for the City of Ellsworth was calculated as 76.637 mills by the Ellsworth County Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the budget proposed by the Governing Body of the City of Ellsworth will require the levy of a property tax rate exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body intends to hold a hearing and hear testimony from all interested taxpayers desiring to be heard as required by state law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF:

Section 1. The Governing Body of the City of Ellsworth hereby sets a public hearing regarding its intention to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate for September 13, 2021, at 5:25 p.m. to be held at Ellsworth City Hall, 121 W. 1st Street, Ellsworth, KS and directs that notice of the public hearing be given as required by state law.

Section 2. The Governing Body of the City of Ellsworth expresses its intention to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate with a maximum mill levy of 89.953 mills.

Section 3. The Governing Body of the City of Ellsworth directs the City Clerk to provide this resolution to the Ellsworth County Clerk as notice of the City's proposed intent to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate.

This resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and shall remain in effect until future action is taken by the Governing Body.

ADOPTED this 12th day of July, 2021 and SIGNED by the Mayor.

Mark C. Kennedy, Mayor

Attested:

Brittany D. Rohr, City Clerk

1t 7/15

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent/Reporter, July 15, 2021)

2022

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of

Ellsworth

will meet on July 29, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at Kendall Rathbun Residence for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at Ellsworth County Clerk's Office and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2022 Expenditures and Amount of 2021 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2022 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

Fund	Prior Year Actual 2020		Current Year Estimate 2021		Proposed Budget 2022		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2021 Ad Valorem Tax	Est. Tax Rate*
General	25,867	6.989	27,435	6.825	26,422	21,992	6.228
Debt Service							
Library							
Road							
Special Machinery							
Totals	25,867	6.989	27,435	6.825	26,422	21,992	6.228
Revenue Neutral Rate**							6.228
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditure	25,867		27,435		26,422		
Total Tax Levied	21,420		21,989		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
Assessed Valuation:							
Township	3,064,953		3,222,184		3,530,916		
Outstanding Indebtedness,							
Jan 1	2019		2020		2021		
G.O. Bonds	0		0		0		
Other	0		0		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	0		0		0		
Total	0		0		0		

\*Tax rates are expressed in mills.

\*\*Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by 2021 Kansas Senate Bill 13.

Kendall Rathbun  
Treasurer

11/7/15

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent/Reporter, July 15, 2021)

### NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of  
**Ellsworth Fire #1**  
**Ellsworth**

will meet on July 26, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at 316 S Illinois, Kanopolis, KS 67454 for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to levied. Detailed budget information is available at Ellsworth County Clerk's office and will be available at this hearing.

#### BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2022 Expenditures and Amount of 2021 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2022 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUND	Prior Year Actual 2020		Current Year Estimate for 2021		Proposed Budget Year for 2022		
	Expenditures	Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Tax Rate*	Budget Authority Amount of 2021	Estimated Expenditures	Estimated Tax Rate*
General	10,000	1.662	10,500	1.559	10,502	9,059	1.517
Debt Service							
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>1.662</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>1.559</b>	<b>10,502</b>	<b>9,059</b>	<b>1.517</b>
<i>Revenue Neutral Rate**</i>							<i>1.517</i>
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditures	10,000		10,500		10,502		
Total Tax Levied	9,690		9,059		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
Assessed Valuation	5,831,172		5,811,220		5,970,782		

Outstanding Indebtedness,

	2019	2020	2021
G.O. Bonds	0	0	0
Revenue Bonds	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Lease Pur. Princ.	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

\*Tax rates are expressed in mills.  
 \*\*Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by 2021 Kansas Senate Bill 113.

David Hand  
Treasurer

IT 7/15

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent Reporter, July 15, 2021)

**NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING**

The governing body of  
**Empire Fire**  
**Ellsworth**

will meet on July 26, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at Keith Anderson Residence for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to be levied. Detailed budget information is available at Ellsworth County Clerk's Office and will be available at this hearing.

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

Proposed Budget 2022 Expenditures and Amount of 2021 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2022 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUND	Prior Year Actual 2020		Current Year Estimate for 2021		Proposed Budget Year for 2022		
	Expenditures	Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2021 Ad Valorem Tax	Estimated Tax Rate*
General	2,500	1.028	2,525	0.956	2,597	2,316	0.916
Debt Service							
Totals	2,500	1.028	2,525	0.956	2,597	2,316	0.916
Revenue Neutral Rate**							0.916
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditures	2,500		2,525		2,597		
Total Tax Levied	2,406		2,315		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
Assessed Valuation	2,341,392		2,422,964		2,528,495		

Outstanding Indebtedness,

Jan 1,	2019	2020	2021
G.O. Bonds	0	0	0
Revenue Bonds	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Lease Pur. Prince.	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

\*Tax rates are expressed in mills.  
\*\*Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by 2021 Kansas Senate Bill 13.

Keith Anderson  
 Treasurer

It 7/15

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent/Reporter, July 15, 2021)

2022

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of

**Carnegie**

**Ellsworth**

will meet on August 7, 2021 at 7:00 a.m. at Webster Hall for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at Ellsworth County Clerk's Office and will be available at this hearing.

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

Proposed Budget 2022 Expenditures and Amount of 2021 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2022 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

Fund	Prior Year Actual 2020	Actual Tax Rate*	Current Year Estimate 2021	Actual Tax Rate*	Proposed Budget 2022		
	Expenditures		Expenditures		Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2021 Ad Valorem Tax	Est. Tax Rate*
<b>General</b>							
Dish Service							
Library							
Road	46,357	9.099	46,900	9.226	47,478	44,842	9.350
Special Machinery	5						
Totals	46,362	9.099	46,900	9.226	47,478	44,842	9.350
Revenue Neutral Rate**							9.350
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditure	46,362		46,900		47,478		
Total Tax Levied	44,013		44,837		XXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
Assessed Valuation:							
Township	4,837,104		4,860,254		4,795,868		
Outstanding Indebtedness,							
Jan 1	2019		2020		2021		
G.O. Bonds	0		0		41,760		
Other	0		0		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	0		0		0		
Total	0		0		41,760		

\*Tax rates are expressed in mills.

\*\*Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by 2021 Kansas Senate Bill 13.

Gail Bettenbrock

Treasurer

14/7/15

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent/Reporter, July 15, 2021)

2022

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of

**Empire  
Ellsworth**

will meet on July 26, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at Keith Anderson Residence for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at Ellsworth County Clerk's Office and will be available at this hearing.

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

Proposed Budget 2022 Expenditures and Amount of 2021 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2022 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

Fund	Prior Year Actual 2020	Current Year Estimate 2021	Proposed Budget 2022	Est. Tax Rate*
	Expenditures	Expenditures	Amount of 2021 Ad Valorem Tax	
General	47,584	53,606	50,898	4.951
Debt Service				
Library				
Road				
Special Machinery	52,135			
Totals	99,719	53,606	50,898	4.951
Revenue Neutral Rate**				
Less: Transfers	0	0	0	
Net Expenditure	99,719	53,606	50,898	
Total Tax Levied	56,885	38,775	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX	
Assessed Valuation:				
Township	7,482,708	7,718,235	7,833,299	
Outstanding Indebtedness,				
Jan 1	2019	2020	2021	
G.O. Bonds	0	0	0	
Other	0	0	0	
Lease Purchase Principal	0	0	0	
Total	0	0	0	

\*Tax rates are expressed in mills.

\*\*Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by 2021 Kansas Senate Bill 13.

Keith Anderson  
Treasurer

14 7/15

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent/Reporter, July 15, 2021)

2022

**NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING**

The governing body of  
**Ellsworth Township**

will meet on July 26, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., at 316 S Illinois, Kansasopolis, KS 67454 for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at Ellsworth County Clerk's Office and will be available at this hearing.

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

Proposed Budget 2022 Expenditures and Amount of 2021 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2022 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

Fund	Prior Year Actual 2020		Current Year Estimate 2021		Proposed Budget 2022		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2021 Ad Valorem Tax	Est. Tax Rate*
General	3,204	0.119	3,000	0.110	3,011	2,632	0.108
Debt Service							
Library							
Road	28,958	4.417	42,204	4.604	35,790	26,754	4.481
Special Road							
Noxious Weed							
Fire Protection							
Special Machinery							
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32,162</b>	<b>4.536</b>	<b>45,204</b>	<b>4.714</b>	<b>38,801</b>	<b>29,386</b>	<b>4.589</b>
<b>Revenue Neutral Rate (Includes Third Class City Funds)**</b>							
							<b>0.108</b>
Less: Transfers	0		0		38,801		
Net Expenditure	32,162	45.204					
Total Tax Levied	28,593	29.362			XXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
Total Assessed Valuation	23,969,409	23,897,925			24,384,295		
Township Assessed Valuation Only					5,970,782		

**Outstanding Indebtedness,**

Jan 1

G.O. Bonds

Other

Lease Purchase Principal

Total

\*Tax rates are expressed in mills.

\*\*Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by 2021 Kansas Senate Bill 13

David Hand  
Treasurer

11/7/15



# I-R Passages



This picture is from the September 19, 1985 edition of The Ellsworth Reporter. Rosalie Slaight displays one of six quilt tops she had embroidered in the last two years. She will celebrate her 90th birthday at an open house next Sunday afternoon at the Ellsworth VFW Hall. See her story below.

## From the files of The Ellsworth Reporter

From the files of the September 19, 1985 edition of The Ellsworth Reporter.

**The strength to overcome**  
**BY DOROTHY GROTHUSEN**

Sometimes nowadays she lays awake at night and wonders how she ever “made it” ... as a widow on the farm during the Drought and Depression ... with eight children to raise.

What's important is Rosalie Panzer Slaight had “what it took” and she “made it.” She is looking forward to celebrating her 90th birthday at an open house next Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m., at the VFW Hall, Ellsworth. She expects it to be a special time to be shared with relatives and friends.

Hosts for the occasion will be her six living children and their spouses: Adeline and Harry Stroede, Kanopolis; Viola and Charles Mog, Ellsworth; Gilbert and Colleen Panzer, Greensburg; Lavern Stroede, Kanopolis; Frank and Elsie Panzer, Rosalie and Harold Ranker, Ellsworth.

“You can see work

never hurt me,” said Rosalie who is thankful for her good eyesight, hearing and alert mind. She does all her own housework, prepares her own meals, and likes to read the newspapers. The Capper's Weekly and Grit are among her favorites.

Her hands, once calloused from heavy farm work, now make intricate embroidery stitches that won blue ribbons at the recent Ellsworth fair.

Rosalie was born September 21, 1895 to Ador and Bertha Bohl in Sherman Township.

“Since I was the oldest of 10 children (9 girls and 1 boy), I worked in the field from the time I was 10 or 12 years old. I harnessed the horses and everything,” Rosalie recalled. “My father ruled with a heavy hand. We kids all had to work.”

As Rosalie reviews her life back to her childhood, she believes the firm discipline and Christian upbringing gave her the fortitude to withstand the sadnesses and hardships she would endure later.

Rosalie was 18 years old when she married Frank Panzer January 28, 1914. They had 10 chil-

dren. Adeline was born in 1916; Mable, born in 1918, died soon after birth; Frank was born in 1924; Mae, born in 1926, died at age 49; Rosalie was born in 1928; and Edith, born in 1930, died at age 6.

The Panzers, tired of living on rented farms, bought a 240 acre farm northeast of Ellsworth in 1920 for \$16,000.

It was on April 17, 1930, that Rosalie's husband died of a heart attack at age 42. “We had been to Lenten services and he died that night,” Rosalie remembered.

She'll also never forget at the time of her husband's untimely death she “was in her fourth month of pregnancy, had seven children to take care of and still owed \$48,000 on the farm.

“I tried to borrow money to make payments but loan companies wouldn't let me have anything. At that time women didn't have much to say ... so I lost the farm ... and I will always believe if my husband would have lived ... that wouldn't have happened. They (Loan companies) probably would've loaned him money.”

Rosalie resisted the

urging of family and friends to let some of her children out for adoption or to move to town.

“That's the last thing I could have done ... let the children go ... I would've died! I brought them into the world ... I was supposed to take care of them,” she said.

“It was the same way about moving. No way would I move to town with that bunch of kids and have them getting into trouble. By then I had eight children to take care of ... Edith was born September 26, 1930. Besides, the people who took over the farm were good enough to let us stay there and farm and I had a place to plant potatoes and a large garden.”

She learned to drive the family's 1917 Model T Ford sedan because she had to ... they were about seven and one-half miles from Ellsworth.

“I remember that first time I drove down the Elkhorn Road. Then it (the road) had all those curves. Gilbert laid in the back seat because he didn't want to see me make all those crooked tracks,” she said.

Life on the farm for Rosalie in those days meant coal oil lamps,

washing clothes on the wash board, and working in the fields with horses while the older children took care of the younger ones.

Rosalie shrugged in her chair as she said “But then, oh those years of dust storms! I remember how I scooped the dirt out of the house with a shovel ... the ceiling fell in on me when so much dirt blew into the attic. We had milk until our cows died of dust pneumonia. Then we didn't have milk cows again until our calves grew up. We'd wait until the neighbors separated their milk, then we'd go over and get their skim milk. Then we'd have gravy to pour on the bread I baked.”

“We had a struggle, there was no welfare in those days, no social security, but we never went hungry, always had enough to fill our stomachs. We made out on what was there ... and there was a lot of corn meal mush,” she remembered. “There just wasn't any money. When we had any eggs to sell they only brought five cents a dozen and cream brought but \$1.95 for a five gallon can. I sold cattle for \$15 a head and weanling pigs

for 15 cents apiece. The one year we had a pretty nice crop of wheat the price went down to 25 cents (per bushel).”

Rosalie's children all attended Walnut Grove country school through eighth grade. None had the opportunity to go to high school because they got jobs outside the home to assist in buying necessities for the younger ones, or stayed home to help on the farm.

When most of the children were out “on their own,” in 1945, Rosalie married Ray Slaight.

“But I still milked 10 to 12 cows for years, until I was in the hospital in Wichita for major surgery on my legs (varicose ulcers). Then he sold the cows,” she said.

Her second husband died in February 1966, and she moved to Ellsworth the following August. She enjoys the security of living near all but one of her children.

She will tell anyone “the farm is what kept us together.”

The historic items on this page appear as they did in the original publication.

## 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@eaglecom.net](mailto:indy@eaglecom.net)



# IR Religion

B5

## Getting through what you're going through

Dying is not something we get good at since it is not something we typically get to do more than once. Once we reach maturity about 25 years of age, the body begins a slow decline until it dies.

I have been watching this slow decline in my wife, Beth. Our main measurement of her viability was her lung function. When her lung capacity shrunk to 22 percent, we knew the end of her life was likely drawing near. (Normal lung capacity ranges from 80-85 percent.) Watching the life of the person I love most on earth ebb away was alarming. Being unable to change the circumstances or reverse her condition left me feeling helpless. At times, I felt truly alone.

Thankfully, our friends and family surrounded us with love. They prayed for us, cheered us on, even contributed financially to our needs. (In fact, the Ellsworth community and beyond have been assisting us. Beth and I have appreciated your kindnesses so much!)

At night as we lay down to sleep, Beth would struggle to catch her breath. Just getting into bed would leave her exhausted. I'd throw my arm around her and pray. I'd acknowledge that God can do all things. Nothing is too hard for Him. Then, I'd ask God to heal her through a miracle or medicine. Preferably a miracle! Next, I would ask God to do what He knows is best. Often, I'd sense God comforting me.



**Chaplain  
Dan Vallier**

*Pastor's  
Podium*

He assured me that He has a plan. I'd fall asleep secure. I knew that whatever came next, I could face it with the assurance that God's got this! He is bigger than the problem, greater than the pain, stronger than the pressure. I knew that even if Beth died, she would be with Jesus and I'd be okay.

Paul wrote about his own suffering in 2 Corinthians 1:7: "OUR HOPE for you IS FIRM, BECAUSE WE KNOW that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you will share in our comfort."

What you KNOW is what gets you through. Life is a long series of storms. If you don't know the truth, when the rogue winds blow and the tsunamis of life crash into your life, you're going to collapse. You're going to crumble. Losses and tragedies are inevitable. If you are going to stand strong through the storms of life, you build your life on the truth. What you know is what gets you through.

People ask why did this happen? I don't know why or how Beth contracted an extremely rare lung disease. But, we had prayer. We had healing. We

have a loving family and faithful friends. Life doesn't make sense, but we can have peace because of God's promises. I have been praying through several of them each day. I cling to God's promises like a drowning man clings to a life preserver. One of my favorite promises is this:

Hebrews 13:5 AMP: "I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. I will not, I will not, I will not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let you down or relax my hold on you. Assuredly not!"

Another promise is Psalm 91:14-16 "Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."

Sometimes I'd awaken during the night, quote this verse from memory and ask God to do for me what He promised. I can assure you that God responded to my prayers and is responding to your prayers; maybe not in the way we desire, but He does respond.

We are so grateful for your praying for us. God didn't keep us from going through difficult times. But because of your prayers, He kept us in the hard times. God promises, "When you go

through deep waters, I will be with you. When you pass through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned up. It will not consume you." Isaiah 43:2 (NIV).

Beth received a life-giving double lung transplant May 22, 2021 — just four weeks prior to her predicted heavenly homegoing.

When facing trouble, even life-threatening trouble, place your life in the hands of Jesus Christ. Cry out to Him to rescue you, to forgive your sin and to give you eternal life. He is willing to forgive you and walk with you forever; to get you through what you are going through.

### 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 Dan Vallier, chaplain at the Ellsworth Correctional Facility's Spiritual Life Center.**



## 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

#### Carneiro Fellowship Center

Sunday worship: 9:30 a.m.  
Bill Bristow, speaker

### 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 Kulandaijesu

### GENESEO

#### Geneseo United Methodist

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

### ELLSWORTH

#### Harvest Bible Church

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

#### Assembly of God

Exie Barber, pastor,  
106 W. Eighth, (785) 531-0067  
Discipleship Develop.: 9:45-10:30 a.m.  
Worship: 10:45 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Evening: 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Children/youth: 7-8 p.m.

#### Holy Apostles Episcopal

Father Harvey Hillin, pastor  
104 W. Fourth  
Sunday service: 10 a.m.

#### 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

### 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.

### 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 Kulandaijesu  
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.



### 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 Kulandaijesu  
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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# Just the Facts

## St. Francis girls face possible attempted murder charge

FROM WIRE AND STAFF REPORTS

Local authorities assisted Monday night in the capture of two residents of St. Francis Ministries west of Salina. The two face possible charges that include attempted second-degree murder.

Saline County Undersheriff Brent Melander told the Salina Post Tuesday morning that a 17-year-old girl and a 14-year-old girl grabbed a bag of personal items and clothing and ran out the door of one of the St. Francis buildings. The incident occurred shortly before 6:40 p.m. Monday.

In the bag, the girls located keys to a 2016 Chevrolet Trax belonging to a female employee of Saint Francis Ministries. After the girls were in the SUV and had started it, the owner of the SUV saw them and jumped on the hood of the SUV while telling the girls to get out of her vehicle, Melander said.

Instead, the girls drove off the Saint Francis property and headed west on W. Cloud Street with the owner of the vehicle hanging onto the hood, pleading with the girls to stop, he said.

At some point, the driver slammed on the brakes and the SUV owner fell off.

The driver then accelerated, running over the woman, Melander said.

The SUV continued westbound — with at least two Kansas Highway Patrol cars behind them with lights flashing and sirens sounding — and was later located by an Ellsworth County deputy in the 1400 block of Foster Drive in Ellsworth. The girls were taken into custody without incident, Melander said.

The owner of the SUV was transported by EMS to Salina Regional Health Center with substantial but non-life-threatening injuries, Melander said.

The two girls were arrested on the following requested charges before being transported to the North Central Kansas Regional Juvenile Detention Facility in Junction City, he added.

- Attempted murder in the second degree
  - Theft of a motor vehicle
  - Conspiracy
  - Criminal solicitation
  - Operating a motor vehicle without a valid license
- Melander said the girls took turns driving the SUV.

The Trax, valued at \$17,000, was returned to Saline County by the Saline County Sheriff's Office.

## Courthouse Notes, Etc.

Traffic

(Note: Traffic cases resolved between June 28, 2021 to July 2, 2021. Fines include a \$108 docket fee.)

JUDGMENT ON PLEA OF GUILTY — Emily R. Albright, speeding, \$183.

David Warren Andrews, speeding, \$171.

Santiago Arcila Ramirez, speeding, \$207; failure to drive in the right lane on a four-lane highway, \$75.

Luis R. Arguelles Loya, speeding, \$213.

Jeremy Michael Ashford, speeding, \$189.

Bharath Ashwath, speeding, \$207.

Megan Elizabeth Augustine, speeding, \$153.

Andrew Melvin Bosaw Bailey, speeding, \$171.

John C. Bennett, speeding, \$189.

Richard Robert Bertz Jr., speeding, \$159.

John Arthur Black, speeding, \$159.

William J. Boatman III, speeding, \$183.

Joshua A. Bowes, speeding, \$183.

Timothy J. Breda Jr., speeding, \$276.

Jason Paul Cagle, failure to yield to an emergency vehicle, \$303.

Dana M. Conlin, speeding, \$207.

Tierra A. Cooper, speeding, \$183.

Luke Jonah Cottrill, failure to yield to an emergency vehicle, \$303.

Grant Michael Deck, speeding, \$153.

James Michael Degrado, speeding, \$165.

Charles N. Dixon, failure to yield to a stop or yield sign, \$183.

Tina Marie Doyle, speeding, \$159.

Kale David Dreiling, speeding, \$165.

Samantha Breeann Duran, speeding, \$159.

Hugo Espana, speeding, \$159.

Timothy Daniel Evans, speeding, \$183.

Justin M. Eversole, speeding, \$177.

Jacob William Fulton, unsafe turning or stopping, failure to give proper signal, \$183.

Curtis Graeme Glaser, speeding, \$153.

Omar David Gomez Jr., speeding, \$171.

Uriel Armando Granados Castabeda, \$165.

Amanda C. Haley, speeding, \$213.

Roshon Hamal, speeding, \$177; child passenger safety, restraining systems and seat belts, \$60.

Adam Mitchell Hanks, speeding, \$240.

Luke Gregory Heinsch, speeding, \$165.

Mor Her, speeding, \$207.

Scott Allen Holcomb, speeding, \$183.

Jacek Jaskolski, speeding, \$201.

Kevin Michael Johnson, speeding, \$165.

Terrance B. Johnson, speeding, \$195.

Jordan Noel Kennison, speeding, \$207; failure to drive in the right lane on a four-lane highway, \$75.

Aidan Joel Kitchen, speeding, \$222.

Summer L. Kragel, speeding, \$207.

Richard Duane Miller, motor carrier safety rules and regulations, \$108.

Allan Arnold Mills, improper driving on a laned roadway, \$183.

John H. Minnick, speeding, \$153.

Giovanni Joab Montanez, speeding, \$183.

Blake Allen Moore, speeding, \$159.

Penny S. Moore, speeding, \$183.

Sara Marie Mott, speeding, \$153.

Cortney Anne Murry, speeding, \$165; vehicles, unlawful acts, registration, \$75.

Stephanie D. Oetken, speeding, \$275.

Laura Camille Ogden, speeding, \$240.

Luis R. Orozco, speeding, \$169.

Santiago Ortiz Avila, speeding, \$231.

Darshan Sanjiv Patel, speeding, \$240.

Joseph Perez, speeding, \$222.

Joeron N. Pierce, speeding, \$258.

Leighann Lynn Prothro, speeding, \$171.

Patrick M. Quinn, speeding, \$171.

Owen Patrick Reed, speeding, \$207.

Corey Walter Robertson, speeding, \$153.

Michael D. Rodriguez, improper backing, \$153; vehicles, unlawful acts, registration, \$75.

Marc Edward Ronan, speeding, \$201.

Amanda Leigh Ronquillo, speeding, \$153.

Flor Victoria Sanchez, speeding, \$153.

Amanda Rachel Gentile Spencer, speeding, \$183.

Jocelyn Stowell, speeding, \$165.

Gerald Wayne Swanson, speeding, \$201.

Dowell J. Walker, parking, standing or stopping in a prohibited area, \$234.

Nicholas J. Wells, speeding, \$165.

Xavier Caprice Wilkins, speeding, \$177.

Sonya M. Yancey, speeding, \$165.

DEFERRED ADJUDICATION — Christopher B. Benningfield, speeding, \$258.

Bobbi S. Bischoff, speeding, \$258.

Cristofer J. Davilla Cardoza, speeding, \$108; operating a motor vehicle without a valid license, \$250.

Nicholas Taylor Frasco, speeding, \$258.

Lorna Lavonne Kennedy, speeding, \$108; vehicles, unlawful acts, registration, \$150.

Jessica M. Lindsey, speeding, \$258.

Valarie Elaine McFatter, speeding, \$258.

Doris Quiros, speeding, \$258.

Christopher John Springer, speeding, \$258.

District Court

FELONY POSSESSION OF METHAMPHETAMINE — State of Kansas vs. Hannah Troutner. She pleaded guilty to the charge. She was ordered to serve 11 months in the custody of the Kansas Department of Corrections with a 12 month period of probation imposed under the supervision of court services. Troutner was also ordered to pay a \$193 docket fee, a \$45 booking fee, a \$200 DNA database fee, a correctional supervision fee of \$120, a \$100 BIDS (Bureau of Indigent Services) application fee and a \$775 BIDS attorney fee.

Ellsworth Police

June 27-July 3 Response Log — The department responded to or initiated a total of 91 incidents, resulting in four cases, two arrests and four citations.

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B8

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**Material Handler** – The material handler moves inventory throughout the plant and assists various other positions as needed. Successful applicants will need to obtain forklift certification if not already acquired.

**Shipping Clerk** – The shipping clerk is responsible for preparing, packing, and shipping products to both domestic and international locations. Basic computer skills and clerical knowledge are essential to properly perform these duties. *Extended hours are required in this position.*

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View descriptions online at [www.cashco.com/careers](http://www.cashco.com/careers). Applications can be submitted online or stop by our office at 607 W 15th St., in Ellsworth, KS. Contact Ellen Kempke at 785-380-7035 or [ellenk@cashco.com](mailto:ellenk@cashco.com) for more information.

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For job description and qualification information contact the Wilson City Hall at 2407 Ave E, PO Box J, Wilson, KS 67490, or call 785-658-2272.

**Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.**

Resume with references will be required. KLET Certification is preferred. Wage will be based on experience. Successful candidate will be required to reside in the City limits.

Information about the City of Wilson can be found at [www.wilsonkansas.com](http://www.wilsonkansas.com)

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Adam Pulaski is the attorney responsible for the content of this advertisement.

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# I-R Public Notices

Holyrood Ordinance for Open Burning

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent/Reporter, July 15, 2021)

ORDINANCE NO. 627

BEING AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF HOLYROOD, KANSAS, TITLE 7 FIRE, ARTICLE 2 FIRE PREVENTION, CHAPTER 7-204 OPEN BURNING.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF HOLYROOD, KANSAS:

SECTION 1. That Title 7, Article 2, Chapter 7-204 be amended as follows:

7-204 OPEN BURNING. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to burn any leaves, grass or other combustible materials in the city limits of Holyrood. Persons having a fire pit inside the city limits shall NOT be required to call the local Fire Chief prior to starting the fire if,

- A) The pit is no larger than 3 feet in diameter, has a screen, and the pit is made of either metal or rock. Any fire larger than this will be considered a control burn.
- B) The only thing allowed in the pit is timber.
- C) The wind shall be forecasted to be less than 15 mph, or wind gusts less than 20 mph forecasted by the National Weather Service using the town of your fire district and;
- D) Rangeland Fire Index using the town of your fire district shall not be in the very high or extreme range.

A hand sprayer with a minimum of two (2) gallons of water, ten (10) lbs ABC fire extinguisher, or ¾" garden hose hooked to a hydrant capable of deliver 5 gpm must be on hand. If Ellsworth County Commissioners put a burn ban in effect, fire pits will not be allowed until such time as the burn ban has been lifted.

Any other burning is prohibited in city limits without express permission of an official of the City Fire Department, including a Chief, Assistant Chief, or a Captain.

This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage, approval and publication once in the official City newspaper of the City of Holyrood, Kansas.

This ordinance passed by the Governing Body of the City of Holyrood, Kansas, this 6th day of July, 2021.

Brandon Koch, Mayor

Attest:

Stephanie Petermann, City Clerk

1t 7/15

Virginia Lucile Davis Estate

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent/Reporter, July 8, 2021)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF ELLSWORTH COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of Case No. 2021-PR-000021 Virginia Lucile Davis, Deceased

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on June 28, 2021, a Petition was filed in this Court by Roger R. Eaton, Executor of the Estate of Virginia Lucile Davis, deceased, requesting that the foreign will of Virginia Lucile Davis, deceased, dated June 21, 1994, be admitted to probate and record in this Court; no administration of the Estate is necessary; the will be construed, and the following Kansas real estate owned by the decedent, situated in Ellsworth County, Kansas:

All interest in and to the South One Third (1/3rd) of the North Half (N/2) of the Northeast Quarter (NE/4) of Section One (1), Township Fourteen (14) South, Range Ten (10) West of the 6th P.M., less Right of Way, Wilson Township, containing 80 acres, more or less,

be assigned in accordance with the terms of the Will.

You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before August 10, 2021, at 10:00 A.M. in the District Court, in the city of Ellsworth, in Ellsworth County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

Roger R. Eaton, Petitioner

Sherman, Hoffman & Hoffman, LC  
126 N. Douglas Ave., P.O. Box 83  
Ellsworth, KS 67439  
(785) 472-3186  
Attorneys for Petitioner

3t 7/22

Sherry Sue Ford Estate

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent/Reporter, July 15, 2021)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF ELLSWORTH COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of Case No. 2021-PR-000004 Sherry Sue Ford, Deceased

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in this court by Steven Ford, the duly appointed, qualified and acting Executor of the Estate of Sherry Sue Ford, Deceased, praying Petitioner's acts be approved; that the account be settled and allowed; that the heirs, devisees and legatees be determined; that the will be construed and the estate be assigned to the persons entitled thereto; that the Court approve the payment of the attorney fees and expenses; that the costs be determined and ordered paid; that the administration of the estate be closed; that the Petitioner be finally discharged as the Executor of the Estate of Sherry Sue Ford, Deceased, and that Petitioner be released from any and all further liability.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before August 10, 2021, at 10:30 A.M. in the Ellsworth County District Court, Ellsworth County Courthouse, 210 N. Kansas, Ellsworth, KS 67439, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

THERESA L. STAUDINGER #24373  
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3t 7/29

Ellsworth 221 West St. Dangerous Structure

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent/Reporter, July 15, 2021)

RESOLUTION NO. #2021-R-0712a

A RESOLUTION FIXING A TIME AND PLACE AND PROVIDING FOR NOTICE OF A HEARING BEFORE THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF ELLSWORTH, KANSAS AT WHICH THE OWNER, HIS OR HER AGENT, LIENHOLDERS OF RECORD, OCCUPANTS AND OTHER PARTIES IN INTEREST OF STRUCTURES LOCATED WITHIN SAID CITY AND DESCRIBED HEREIN MAY APPEAR AND SHOW CAUSE WHY SUCH STRUCTURE SHOULD NOT BE CONDEMNED AND ORDERED REPAIRED OR DEMOLISHED AS AN UNSAFE OR DANGEROUS STRUCTURES.

WHEREAS, the enforcing officer of the City of Ellsworth, Kansas, did on the 22nd day of May 2021, file with the governing body of said city, a statement in writing that the structures, hereinafter described, is unsafe and dangerous.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF ELLSWORTH, KANSAS:

That a hearing will be held on the 23rd day of August 2021 before the governing body of the city at 5:15 o'clock p.m., at 121 W. First Street, Ellsworth, Kansas, at which the owner, his or her agent, any lienholders of record, any occupant and any other parties in interest, as that term is defined by law, of the structure located at:

The Northwest Quarter (NW/4) of Block Three (3), Rice Addition to the City of Ellsworth, Ellsworth County, Kansas

Also known as 221 West St, Ellsworth, Kansas

may appear and show cause why such structure should not be condemned as an unsafe or dangerous structure and ordered repaired or demolished.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk shall cause this resolution to be published and shall give notice of the aforesaid hearing in the manner provided by law.

Adopted this 12th day of July 2021

Mark C. Kennedy  
Mayor

ATTEST:

Brittany Rohr,  
City Clerk

2t 7/22

Ellsworth 1105 N. Park St. Dangerous Structure

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent/Reporter, July 15, 2021)

RESOLUTION NO. #2021-R-0712c

A RESOLUTION FIXING A TIME AND PLACE AND PROVIDING FOR NOTICE OF A HEARING BEFORE THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF ELLSWORTH, KANSAS AT WHICH THE OWNER, HIS OR HER AGENT, LIENHOLDERS OF RECORD, OCCUPANTS AND OTHER PARTIES IN INTEREST OF STRUCTURES LOCATED WITHIN SAID CITY AND DESCRIBED HEREIN MAY APPEAR AND SHOW CAUSE WHY SUCH STRUCTURE SHOULD NOT BE CONDEMNED AND ORDERED REPAIRED OR DEMOLISHED AS AN UNSAFE OR DANGEROUS STRUCTURES.

WHEREAS, the enforcing officer of the City of Ellsworth, Kansas, did on the 30th day of December 2020, file with the governing body of said city, a statement in writing that the structures, hereinafter described, is unsafe and dangerous.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF ELLSWORTH, KANSAS:

That a hearing will be held on the 23rd day of August 2021 before the governing body of the city at 5:15 o'clock p.m., at 121 W. First Street, Ellsworth, Kansas, at which the owner, his or her agent, any lienholders of record, any occupant and any other parties in interest, as that term is defined by law, of the structure located at:

Lot Two (2) in Block Twenty-eight (28), of the New World Subdivision of Minnick's 2nd Addition to the City of Ellsworth, Ellsworth County, Kansas

Also known as 1105 N. Park Street,  
Ellsworth, Kansas

may appear and show cause why such structure should not be condemned as an unsafe or dangerous structure and ordered repaired or demolished.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk shall cause this resolution to be published and shall give notice of the aforesaid hearing in the manner provided by law.

Adopted this 12th day of July 2021

Mark C. Kennedy  
Mayor

ATTEST:

Brittany Rohr,  
City Clerk

2t 7/22

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Like other businesses, The Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter survives on revenue — in our case from subscriptions and advertising. Those two sources determine how many employees we have and the events we cover. Advertising determines how many pages are in the newspaper each week.

Have an event you think we should feature in the paper or take photos at? Are you a subscriber? Do you advertise? We thank everyone who can answer yes to those questions. We appreciate your support.

For those who don't subscribe or advertise, please consider doing so. That's the only way we can add to our staff and, therefore, increase our coverage of your events.

## How important is a newspaper to its community?

A newspaper is a one-stop place to find information without having to search multiple websites or 'Like' multiple Facebook pages trying to keep up with events, sales and the community in general. Plus, the I-R is in Ellsworth County 24/7 (unlike TV or radio).

### At the I-R, we:

- Attend **county commission meetings** and report on them each week in the paper.
- Attend **city council meetings** or, if we can't be there, follow up after the meeting and report on them each week in the paper.
- **Sports and more sports.** We cover the county's three high school's sporting events, allowing all articles to be cut out and put into that important scrapbook of your child's high school career. Trust us, they will show their prospective spouse and children how awesome they were in high school.
- We print **obituaries** of your loved ones and friends.
- We print **important family milestones** such as anniversaries, birthdays, birth announcements, engagements and weddings — all ready to cut out and put into a scrapbook to show generations to come.
- We print **Courthouse News** informing you of who may have been speeding, arrested or even sold property — all important information in a community.
- **Public Notices** — we print Ordinances and other notices your elected officials pass, keeping you up to date on the laws in your area.
- **Sales tax.** The I-R pays sales and property taxes. (Does Facebook?)
- **Community support.** Like other businesses in the county, the I-R gives thousands and thousands of dollars back to the community in the form of donations, sponsorships and dues. And we shop and live in our community. (Do you ever wonder how much Facebook gives back to Ellsworth County?)

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B10

# I-R News

## Parade, street dance to highlight Jubilee

BY ALAN RUSCH  
Ellsworth County I-R

**H**OLYROOD — A street dance, community meal, bouncy house, parade, high school reunion and a picnic in the park are just part of the fun planned for the Holyrood Jubilee this Friday and Saturday, July 15-16, on Main Street in Holyrood.

“We’re excited to do it for the community,” said Tanner Dahlke, a member of the Jubilee planning committee. “Another member said we want to have a good crowd. But regardless, it’s to get people out of their houses, get the new people in town together and celebrate Holyrood.”

Dahlke said due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been a long year with not many events in Holyrood.

“I think they (the public) are excited,” he said. “There’s been talk around town about the event.”

Dahlke said Holyrood is celebrating its Jubilee because this year is the 100th anniversary of Holyrood High School.

“The community wanted to put something together for the alumni that are coming back to give them something to do around town — a place to gather,” he said.

Arlen Schultz, Jubilee parade director, said the all-school reunion dinner is planned for 5 p.m. Saturday, at the Event Center on 10th Street in Great Bend.

The Jubilee schedule of events kicks off Friday evening with a community meal for a free will donation from 6-8 p.m. on Main Street in front of H&B Communications.

• From 4-8 p.m. there will be a bouncy house that is free for the kids. Be sure to bring a towel, because there will be water.

• From 7 p.m. to midnight, a beer



ALAN RUSCH/ECI-R

**Tanner Dahlke visits the office of the Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter to talk about the Holyrood Jubilee.**

garden will be open on Main Street.

• From 8 p.m. to midnight, a Street Dance featuring the Wes Cossman Band will take place on Main Street. There is a \$10 admission.

### Saturday events

Saturday events kick off at 9:45 a.m. with a kids parade on Main Street, followed at 10 a.m. with the Jubilee parade.

Schultz said there will be more than 30 entries. Those interested in entering the parade can do so by calling Schultz at (785) 252-7258.

• From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Holyrood’s historic Santa Fe Depot Museum will be open.

• From 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., a picnic in the park by the United Church of Christ will be served by free will donation.

According to Dahlke, Holyrood is definitely the place to be this Friday and Saturday, so get out of the house, come to Holyrood and have some fun with your friends and neighbors.

## New superintendent arrives in Ellsworth

BY LINDA MOWERY-DENNING  
Ellsworth County I-R

**T**here wasn’t a lot on the agenda of the Ellsworth-Kanopolis-Geneseo School District board when members met Tuesday, July 6, to begin a new year.

But the less-than-hour-long meeting at district headquarters in Ellsworth was still significant. It was the first meeting for the district’s new superintendent, Josh Lanning, who came here from Smith Center.

Lanning replaces long-time district employee Dale Brungardt, who accepted a job with the Kansas State Board of Education in Topeka.

Also at the reorganizational meeting, the board’s vice president, Cynthia Edgerle, moved into the president’s chair, replacing David Hand, and Gina McGowan was named vice president.

In other business:

• Board members took no action on a

request from Patrick Hoffman of the Ellsworth Child Care and Learning Center for a district bus to transport 20 children in the after-school program.

“We would have a bus, but no one to drive it,” Lanning said.

The district continues to advertise for bus drivers for the 2021-22 school year.

• County appraiser Carl Miller and Stacie Schmidt, executive director of Ellsworth County Economic Development, appeared before the board to discuss the renewal of a Neighborhood Revitalization Plan that encourages new construction through temporary property tax rebates on the value it adds to a property.

Miller said the plan is to discuss the program’s renewal and possible changes in August and September, with county commissioners putting together an agreement between participating taxing entities in October. A final resolution will be acted upon by the county in November and published in the Independent-Reporter.

**2021 American Rescue Funds**  
Ellsworth County

**Public/Stakeholder Input Period: 7/6 - 8/23**

**Ellsworth County Commissioners are currently seeking information, public and stakeholder input, and formal requests for funding for the usage of Rescue funds**

### Rescue fund uses:

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|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support Public Health Response | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replace Public Sector Revenue Loss |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water & Sewer Infrastructure   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Address Negative Economic Impacts  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Premium Pay for Essential Work | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Broadband Infrastructure           |

**Interested parties should contact the Ellsworth County Clerk 785-472-4161 to be placed on the agenda and complete formal written request for funding consideration available at <https://www.ellsworthcountyeconomicdevelopment.com/rescuefunds>**

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## Snapshots



LINDA MOWERY-DENNING/ECI-R

**Georgina Bates manages the Classy Lady clothing store in downtown Ellsworth.**

### Classy Lady survives year of COVID-19

Ellsworth's downtown Classy Lady Boutique celebrates its fifth anniversary this year at its original location of 220 N. Douglas Ave.

But the store, opened by a group of about a dozen local investors, has not come without challenges.

Perhaps the biggest came in 2020, when "non-essential" businesses were ordered to close to slow the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

"We were really fortunate we could hang in there. We were fortunate our suppliers were in the same boat," said Georgina Bates, who manages the store that caters to all ages and sizes.

The store offered gift certificates by phone. Curb side service wasn't always an option because if a piece of clothing didn't fit, it couldn't be returned because of COVID.

The store was allowed to reopen for business after about three months.

Bates said she would like to see more local residents in the store; however, customers come from Salina and Great Bend, many of them for a day outing that takes them to other businesses in Ellsworth County.

Classy Lady is open from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Closed Sunday.



BILL BECKMEYER/ECI-R

**The pandemic forced Aaron Johnson to take stock of his business.**

### Pandemic taught Paden's owner business lessons

As financially harmful as the coronavirus pandemic was in 2020, Aaron Johnson learned several lessons he expects will carry his Ellsworth restaurant and bar into the future.

The new walk-in freezer he was forced to build from the ground up is larger and more energy efficient, thus allowing for savings in the long-run. Same with the new LED lights in Paden's Restaurant and Paden's Place bar next door. Staffing also changed.

"It made me sit down and look at pennies — where we could save, where we could gain," Johnson said of the pandemic that closed his doors to everything but take out orders for three months.

Johnson said business dropped by \$100,000 compared to years past. The bulk of that loss came from the bar side, which was closed. The restaurant, because of the take out orders, managed to hold its own.

"I was surprised by the amount of take out orders we had," he said.

The support of the community and dollars from federal and state programs aimed at the replacement of income lost to the pandemic carried Paden's through the year of crisis.

"We're baby-stepping our way back into it," Johnson said.

One of those steps involves the offer of a \$500 sign on bonus over six months to new employees. He already has hired one new staffer for the job of night manager. A couple of slots remain open.

Johnson said he lost employees during the pandemic and, even by making more efficient use of workers, he still has jobs to fill.

*One word will define the year 2020 — COVID-19. However, other trends continued despite the times. This special section remembers a year of disruption, plus a movement that seeks to limit the distance between growers and consumers. It's all about local meats and produce that are ...*

## Homegrown



LORI FARMER/Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter

**Summer's weekly Farmers Market on Cowtown Plaza in Ellsworth has two, four-generation vendors. In the insert are, from left, Marge Koralek, Lacy Minear, Brylie Minear and Tammy Kruse. The main photo features, Connie Terry, Micah Galvan, Aria Goode and Shawnka Goode. Connie Terry said she sold items at Ellsworth's original Farmers Market 35 years ago.**

## Svatys define entrepreneur spirit

BY LINDA MOWERY-DENNING  
Ellsworth County I-R

It's Wednesday afternoon, a little after 5 o'clock, and Dave and Connie Svaty are at their usual spot in the parking lot of Ellsworth's Orcheln Farm & Home.

A nearby message board lists the items they have for sale this week — several varieties of potatoes, carrots, cucumbers and lamb and other meats in a portable freezer.

They're not overwhelmed with customers, but business is steady. And they know almost everyone by name — or at least recognize their face.

This world is not much different from the one Dave Svaty knew as a boy growing up on the family farm

near Ellsworth. With son Caleb, and other family members he sells a variety of meat and produce, much like his father did more than 50 years ago, when farms were smaller but more diversified. Dave's father sold eggs and chickens and raised milking cows, along with other crops. He later managed a large garden.

"I guess you could say I'm going back to my roots," Dave Svaty said.

The Svats are far from alone in their spirit of entrepreneurship as they work to close the gap between grower and consumer.

This same week, Stacie Schmidt of Ellsworth County Economic Development, set five appointments with potential entrepreneurs in search of advice and funding. They

include both current residents and people looking to move to Ellsworth County.

"There are things happening, a lot of things," Schmidt said. "Not all will work out, but some will."

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Each year, with the exception of the year of COVID-19 in 2020, the Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter has done a special section on a segment of the Ellsworth County economy. The 2021 version is two-fold. We wanted to highlight local entrepreneurs — thus the name HOMEGROWN — and also look back on possible changes 2020 brought to our communities.

In this special edition, you will find stories on entrepreneurs, who like the Svats,

are approaching agriculture from another perspective. As this story was being written, many Ellsworth County farmers were in the fields harvesting their wheat crops.

Because of the variety of meats and vegetables they produce, Dave Svaty said almost every day is harvest time at his farm. His only field crop is the alfalfa the family grows to feed its main livestock — 160 ewes.

You'll also find snapshots of businesses as they recover from 2020. And, on Page A1, the I-R's Alan Rusch writes about the cooperation that developed between the Ellsworth County Medical Center and the Ellsworth County Health Department during the 2020 pandemic.

In fact, many organiza-

See LOCAL, Page C2

## What's Inside

**Page C3** — Simply Produce offers consumers a healthy mix of fruits and vegetables each month from the local grocery store.

**Pages C4-C6** — Josh and Jessica Homolka came home to help his parents. They have since expanded their farm beyond the traditional.

**Pages C7-C8** — Former photographer Jeff Cooper mapped his own way back to



**Workers sort fruits and vegetables as part of the monthly Simply Produce program — 15 pounds for \$15.**

Courtesy Photo

agriculture — with the help of Ellsworth County rancher Jack Lill.



# I-R Homegrown

## Local

Continued from Page C1

tions and businesses came together through Thursday video meetings to help support Ellsworth County and its residents through a difficult and unique time.

"Generally speaking, I think we broke down some silos," said Schmidt, a founder of the group, Ellsworth County Cares.

Since the number of new COVID cases have slowed, members continue to meet, but on a less regular basis.

\*\*\*

Emily Benedick, executive director of the Beloit-based North Central Regional Planning Commission, hasn't done a survey. But as she looks around the 13 counties represented by her organization, she sees younger residents everywhere.

She suspects the predictions about technology allowing young professionals to move to places like Ellsworth County are beginning to materialize. The pandemic, when many offices were shuttered, proved it was possible to work remotely from home and still do the job.

Benedick also thinks residents in larger cities discovered how much they enjoyed the lack of a daily commute and other benefits that have created an appreciation of rural Kansas and its often slower approach to life.

Benedick said the appeal is being felt by former residents and others in search of a place to raise their families. They long for the quality of life many rural places offer and are willing to find a career path to make it happen.

The most recent U.S. Census information on county populations won't be available until fall; however, Benedick said most economic development representatives think the numbers will



LORI FARMER/Ellsworth County I-R

**The Kepka family shops at Svaty Produce during a recent Saturday morning at the local Farmers Market. The Svats also sell their meat and produce at Salina, Hays and Ness City.**

show a stabilization after decades of decline.

Between 2017 and 2018, the population of Ellsworth County declined from 6,331 to 6,293, a .6 percent decrease.

By comparison, Mitchell County went from 6,230 to 6,222, a .128 percent decline over the same period.

Access to high speed internet is an issue in parts of rural Kansas; however, the biggest obstacle to growth is the lack of affordable housing almost everywhere, Benedick said.

Wilson Mayor Mike Peschka has told the I-R that hardly a week goes by he doesn't receive a call from someone interested in moving there. As a result, the city has taken a more aggressive approach to unkept properties. It also is in search of developers willing to invest in Wilson.

Ellsworth County's Schmidt said the construction of several rental homes in south Ellsworth

was one of the few economic development highlights in a year dominated by COVID-19.

\*\*\*

Business retention is always an important goal of economic development; however, 2020 was especially challenging. Well over \$1 million was distributed to Ellsworth County businesses to ease the economic pain caused by the pandemic.

2021 has been a better year in terms of small, independent businesses opening their doors. Benedick said that is true across the region, although she admits Ellsworth County has been especially successful in attracting a coffee house and other services potential residents have on their quality of life lists.

Meanwhile, the Svats have taken their business on the road. While Caleb oversees the Saturday morning farmers mar-

ket in Ellsworth, Dave is in Hays selling directly from their farm to consumers.

They are in Salina Tuesday nights and most recently in Ness City on Thursdays, where Dave and Connie Svaty have a new grandson.

Connie's t-shirt is emblazoned with "Support your local farmer." Like Dave, she thinks consumers are becoming more aware of what they eat and where their food comes from.

"I think more and more they are," Dave said.

The work never ends for the Svats. Nor does the search for new products. This month, Caleb added peaches from Tennessee to the family's inventory of produce.

Still, working for yourself offers benefits unavailable elsewhere, Dave said.

"I like it because you have a one-on-one with your customers. There is no one in the middle taking the money."

### FARMERS MARKETS

- **Ellsworth** — Ellsworth Farmers Market from 8 to 11 a.m. Saturdays on Cowtown Plaza.
- **Hays** — Downtown Hays Market from 7:30 to 11 a.m. Saturdays at 110 E. 10th.
- **Salina** — Harvest Farmers Market from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays on the Emanuel Church parking lot, 1325 E. Cloud, behind the new Dillons store off Ohio Street.
- **Ellsworth** — 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays in Orscheln's parking lot.
- **Ness City** — 4:30 to 7 p.m. Thursdays outside Kitchen Full of Art.

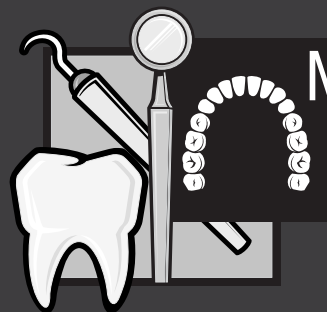


**Phung's Pantry, above, is a regular at Ellsworth's Saturday morning Farmers Market. So is Aria Goode, below.**



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# I-R Homegrown

C3

## Program delivers healthy produce



The above photos shows a basket of food from Simply Produce.

BY LINDA MOWERY-DENNING  
Ellsworth County I-R

Is there anything quite as good in the summer as a sweet strawberry? Or a rich, hearty vegetable stew in the winter?

Jessica Kootz and her team of Simply Produce volunteers have you covered.

Once a month since this past September, they have offered anyone who places an order 15 pounds of fruits and vegetables for \$15 plus tax from Gene's Heartland Foods.

That's about half the price a shoppers would normally pay if the items were priced individually.

From noon to 12:30 p.m. the third Friday of the month, shoppers pick up baskets at the Ellsworth County Medical Center Administration Building, north of the hospital.

The goals — to encourage consumers to shop local and “to make the healthy choice the easy choice,” said Kootz, of the Midway Extension District of Ellsworth and Russell counties.

So far, program organizers estimate they have provided fruits and vegetables to about 500 people. That includes about 10 new customers each month from Ellsworth County and other nearby communities.

Kootz received a call from Salina earlier this month.

“It's been phenomenal,” she said.

Simply Produce dates back to 2015, when several residents of Leoti started to participate in a produce basket purchasing program that supplied out-of-state items. The program ended after a few months, but several residents, including the owner of the local grocery store and a Kansas State Extension agent, got together and decided to bring the idea of simple shopping home to consumers.

“This produce is delivered in the morning and is in the consumer's hands by noon,” Jerad Gooch, owner of Leoti Foods, told Kansas writer Ron Wilson in 2019. “To get fresh produce in the hands of people that quickly in western Kansas is remarkable.”

The program spread from there and continues to grow. The week before this interview, Kootz was visited by representatives from Smith County about starting a program there. There also has been talk of tak-

ing the program statewide, but Kootz thinks it is better suited to rural areas.

Different places already have made the program unique to their counties through the addition of beef baskets and other features.

So far, organizers have resisted additions to the local program, but that could change at some point.

“We don't want to take on too much at once and have it flop,” Kootz said.

An exception was during the holidays, when Simply Produce accepted donations of two baskets, which were given to residents not involved with the project. One of the recipients was an elderly woman, who was “beyond excited” when Kootz delivered her basket.

The produce in the Ellsworth baskets come from Gene's supplier. As the local program was being developed, organizers talked to farmers about participation, but they were concerned about always having enough fruits and vegetables to supply the demand. Weather can be an unpredictable partner.

During a recent distribution, the baskets included peppers, green beans, onions, carrots, limes, lemons, bananas, cantaloupe and more.

Each basket also contains a recipe for pineapple salsa, chicken fajitas and other dishes that fit the produce in that month's basket.

Kootz said the amount of fruits and vegetables in a basket can overwhelm a person living alone. If that is the case, Kootz encourages residents to share with their families and friends.

“You don't have to eat it all yourself,” she said.

Kootz said organizers plan to continue Simply Produce through the summer to gauge demand beyond private gardens and the farmers market Saturday mornings in Ellsworth.

The next pickup will be from noon to 12:45 p.m. July 16 at the ECMC Admin Building.

Orders can be placed at Gene's. Sponsors of the program, in addition to the Midway Extension District, are Ellsworth County Economic Development, Ellsworth County Medical Center and Gene's Heartland Foods.

### PINEAPPLE SALSA

#### Ingredients

- 7 servings
- 2 cups chopped fresh pineapple
- 1 cup chopped red and/or green bell pepper
- 1/2 cup sweet onion slivers
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 3 tablespoons chopped cilantro
- 1 to 2 fresh jalapeno peppers, seeded and finely chopped (optional)

#### Instructions

- Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Chop pineapple, bell pepper, onion, cilantro and jalapeno pepper.
- Add all chopped ingredients to a medium bowl and add lemon juice.
- Mix ingredients together.
- For a richer taste, refrigerate, covered for 4 to 24 hours, stirring occasionally.
- Quickly refrigerate leftovers within 2 hours.
- Serve with grilled chicken or seafood or as an appetizer with chips.
- Recipe courtesy of Produce for Better Health Foundation.

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# I-R Homegrown



Pictured are: back row, from left — Josh and Jessica Homolka and Katie and Jim Homolka and front: Johnnie and Ryker Homolka and Bosley.

## Homolkas find their niche in farm country

BY JENNIFER MCDANIEL  
For the Ellsworth I-R

Nearly five years ago, Josh Homolka was miles away in Illinois, but his thoughts were back in Kansas. While researching cattle breeds on the Internet, he stumbled onto an article about Wagyu beef. Believing so strongly in the emerging breed, Josh and his wife, Jessica,

bought five Wagyu-cross cows and had them sent to his parents' farm in Holyrood. Six months later, Josh and Jessica moved home to join his parents, Katie and Jim Homolka, hoping the beef could help them find their niche in a tough farm economy. "I was just trying to find a way for dad and mom when Jess and I weren't here, (and) maybe we could start something unique like this," Josh said.

At the time, Josh was a safeties coach at Northern Illinois University, but after his dad had an accident on the farm, Josh and Jessica decided to return to Ellsworth County and form a partnership with his parents and his siblings. "Six months later, we moved back, and even then we knew the farm economy wasn't ... It was just a struggle, and we were just trying to find a way to alleviate some of that pain," he

said. Started in the late 1880s, Scorched Stone Farm began with a limestone barn, which was built at the turn of the century. A house, chicken house, blacksmith shop and a smokehouse would follow, but not all in that order. Each of the structures were built with limestone quarried by Josh's great-grandfather, James Homolka. But in 1931, a fire burned down the barn. It was later rebuilt. But

around 2014, fire burned another building. And again, the structure was restored. Despite restoration efforts, evidence of the fire still remains. Left behind were the stones scorched by the fiery flames. "You can see how the fire went up on the stone," Josh said. "... When limestone burns, it leaves a red tinge behind," he

See HOMOLKA, Page C5



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# Our Homegrown Homolka

Continued from Page C4

said. “There’s a hayloft, and you can see the door must’ve been open because there’s a big square that’s not burnt.”

Jim and Katie have lived on the family farm for years. Traditionally, the farm has been a mix of grain crops and beef cattle. In the beginning, wheat was the primary crop, Josh said. Later on, milo and alfalfa were added, and in the last 25 years, soybeans were the latest addition to the mix.

Despite the family’s efforts to diversify the farm, there’s still a portion, Josh said, that remains traditional.

“When Jessica and I moved back, we were trying to maximize every avenue ... everybody’s got to make their farm payments, and so we were trying to find avenues to ease some of the burden,” Josh said.

That’s where flowers entered the picture. Unlike traditional ag revenue streams involving livestock or row crops, Josh knew he didn’t have to dedicate much acreage to growing flowers that could be cut and sold directly to consumers.

“I thought, ‘Maybe that’s something,’” he said.

Though early, the family was already pursuing Wagyu beef production in the hopes of finding a niche market instead of one driven by the commodities market.

“We wanted to do more farm-to-table service where we’re cutting out the middleman,” Josh said. “We were trying to get more bang for our buck, I guess. If you look at the state of beef right now, if you’re a commodity farmer, you’ve got four beef packers owning 85 percent of the market.”

“For fat cattle, you’re not getting paid what their value actually is, so we’re trying to find ways to supply a really good product without charging an arm and a leg. I think we have a fair price, and it’s a really good product.”

Josh admits it’s been a learning experience working with a new breed.

“It took us every bit of five years just to figure out how to feed them,” he said. “I’m not saying we didn’t know how to feed out a steer, but it takes time. On a Wagyu, it takes 24 to 36 months, depending on how much Wagyu they are. And in the last year especially, I think we’ve added better genetics and kind of evolved that part of it.”

Wagyu, pronounced “wah-goo,” is a Japanese cattle breed. According to the American Wagyu Association, Wagyu refers to all Japanese beef cattle, while “wa” means Japanese and “gyu” means cow. Originally used as draft animals, they were chosen for their physical endurance.

Two types of Wagyu are bred in the United States, according to the AWA, including Japanese Black and Japanese Brown or Red, with the black variety most widely bred with Angus and other popular American breeds. But for beef lovers, the breed is known for its marbling, which evenly distributes generous amounts of fat throughout the beef, giving it a rich, buttery

*“We wanted to do more farm-to-table service where we’re cutting out the middleman. We were trying to get more bang for our buck, I guess.”*

**Josh Homolka**  
Scorched Stone Farm

texture. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, university studies show the fat found in Wagyu beef is considerably lower in saturated fat and cholesterol and higher in omega monounsaturated fatty acid or “good” fats.

“It’s really not all that easy to find great marbling,” Josh said. “You buy this one bull, and then you’re going to have a higher price. You have to cultivate a market. If you look at Wagyu prices per cut, I would say we’re probably on the lower end — not on quality — but on price.”

Forage-based grazers, the cattle are hand-fed with local grain and need more than 300 days to finish. Beef is sold in full, half and quarter sizes and by the cut.

Customers can purchase and pre-order beef online. Beef can also be purchased at the Ellsworth Farmers Market from 8-11 a.m. Saturdays during the season. Orders can be picked up at Krehbiels Specialty Meats, Inc., in McPherson or delivered within a 30-mile radius of the farm. They can also be picked up at the farm or at a designated location. Recent sales have been to customers in Colorado and even Louisiana.

“People are willing to drive to pick up good stuff,” Jessica said. “And our customers are extend-

ed family. They’re bringing more people in the mix, so it’s a good problem to have. But I don’t think it’s not just the product, but it’s the

people. We try to take care of the people we work with, and it’s not just a sale. We ask for their feedback, what can we do better. And that goes from the farmers market to beef to flow-ers. It’s the relationship, I think.”

“Much of our marketing has been word-of-mouth,” Josh said. “Jess has been cultivating stuff on Facebook and Instagram, and it’s really taken off. She just sold a half beef to someone in Louisiana, and sold to someone in Colorado.”

“People like our social media sites and our website because we’re just us,” she said. “We’re a little bit ridiculous. We try to have fun. We share that we fail a lot — but we learn from those mistakes — and try to do better and increase the quality in the products we have.”

Another part of the farm includes flowers, a dream of Katie’s, who’s created floral arrangements for more than 30 years.

A full-service floral business, Scorched Stone Farm grows, harvests and sells flowers directly to the customer. The business offers everything from fresh-cut flowers that can be wrapped and taken home to custom floral designs for funerals and weddings. Dried and silk arrangements are also available. Katie also hosts Ladies

Day Out workshops as well as public and private events.

“We’re really more of a cut-flower farm,” Jessica said. “I think there’s a belief out there that we’re a nursery, so we’re still trying to educate people on what we do.”

A plentiful supply of fresh vegetables are also grown on the farm. High tunnels and hoop houses are also used to grow even more vegetables and extend the growing season. While tomatoes are the primary crop, the Homolkas also offer butternut squash, jalapeños, cantaloupes, zucchini and sweet corn.

Cooler, wet weather in late-spring made it hard for young tomato plants to grow, which has slightly delayed this summer’s crop. However, a hoop house on the property has 500 tomato plants happily growing inside.


“The more Jess and I have been around the more I think we believe that really an ag economy has to be locally and regionally driven for a farmer to get a fair price,” Josh said.

“Moving back here, it seems so much smaller than it was 20 years ago when I graduated. There’s a depopulation of western Kansas. I think a local and regional food system can potentially regenerate that.”

“Another thing too, is that so many people are leaving farming,” Jessica said. “You’ve got to get creative. You can’t make it work on traditional farming alone ... the stress level and everything added to it financially. And in order to entice younger folks to either come back, help or start their own businesses you’ve got to find

See HOMOLKA, Page C6

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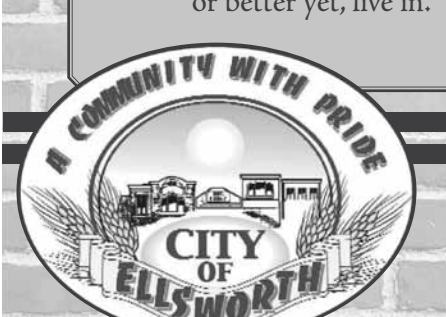
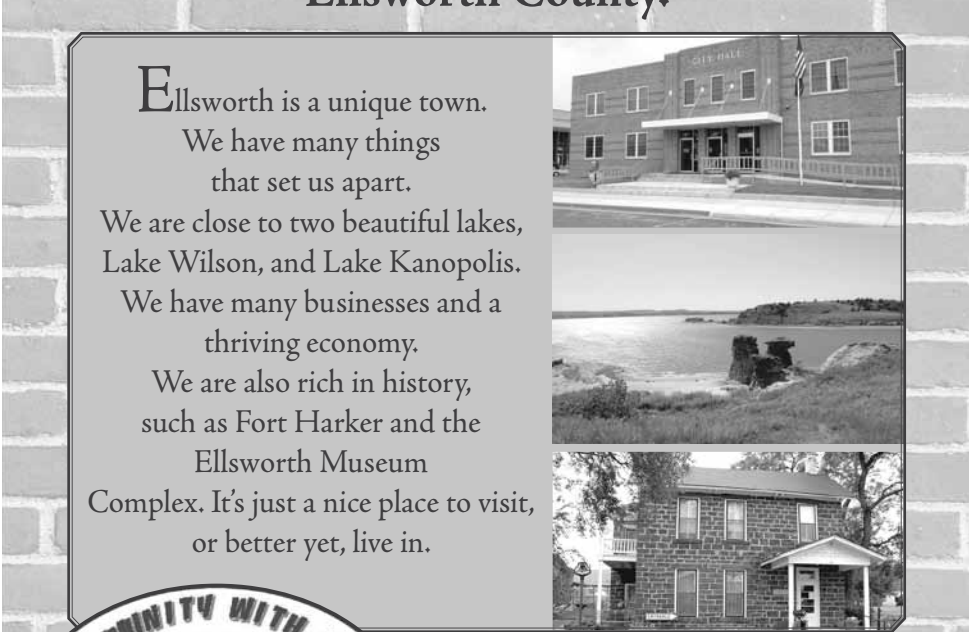
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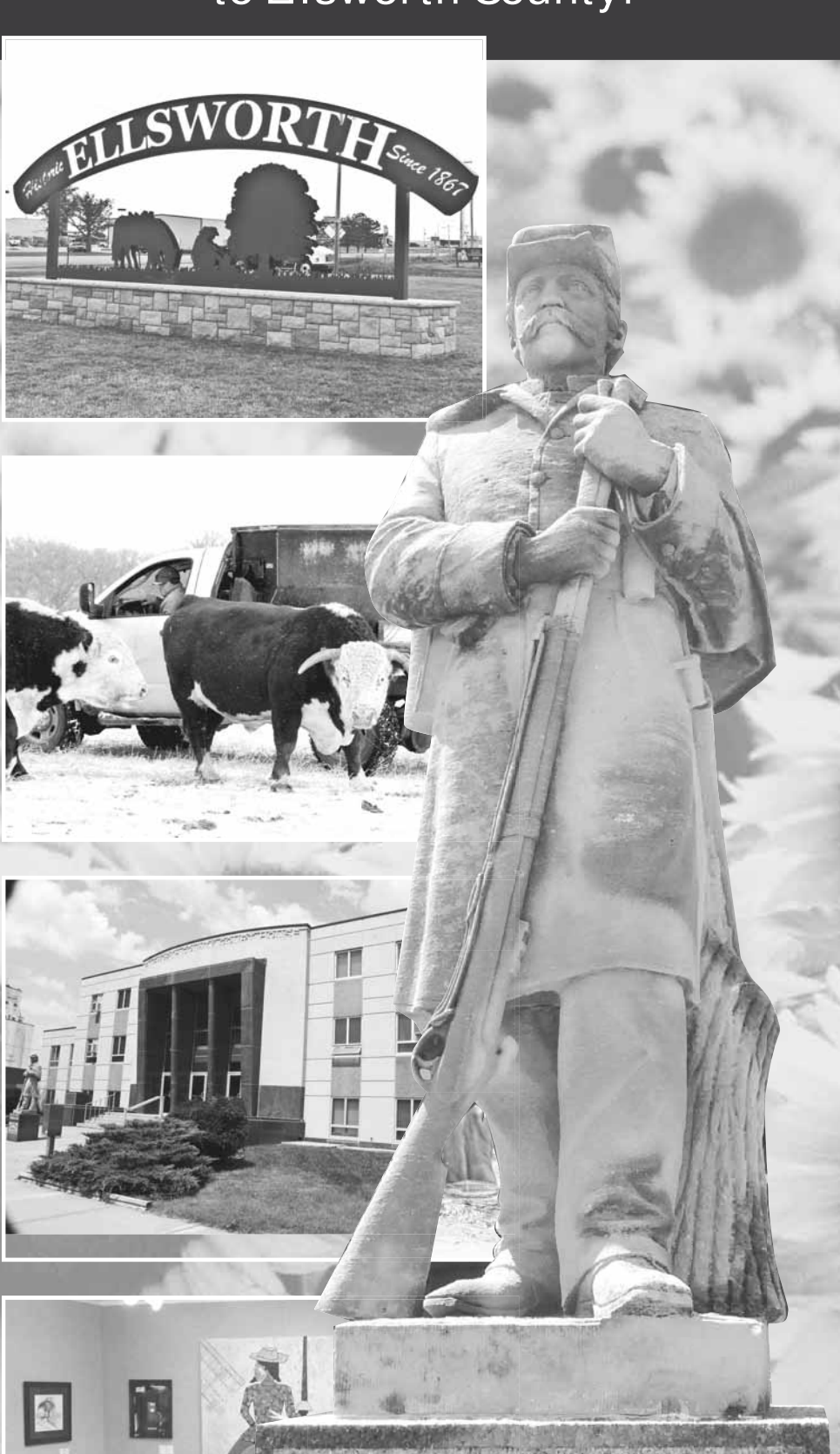
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# I-R Homegrown

The photos on this page are scenes from the Homolka family's Scorched Stone Farm along the Barton-Ellsworth County line. The sign at right welcomes guests to a farm that offers Wagyu beef, a Japanese breed, specialty cut flowers and vegetables. The Homolkas can be found Saturday mornings at the Ellsworth Farmers Market on Cowtown Plaza.

I-R photos by Lori Farmer



## Homolka

Continued from Page C5

some unique niche markets to show, 'Hey we can diversify.' There are other ways you can move forward, make quality products and add something special to the area that will bring even more people to come and check it out to see what you have going on in small communities like ours."

Working on a farm can be a full-time job in itself, still, the Homolkas each have full-time jobs of their own. Josh teaches at Ellsworth High School, where he serves as the head football coach, while Jessica is employed as a leadership and supervisory trainer for the Kansas Department of Corrections. Katie, a retired teacher, now works as a full-time real estate agent while Jim works as a maintenance supervisor at Ellsworth Correctional Facility.

Along with Josh, Jessica, Jim and Katie, other Homolkas working on the farm include Josh's sister, Megan, and brother, Seth, and his wife, Stephanie. Despite living hours away in Lawrence, Seth and Stephanie return to the farm to help with larger projects or wherever they're needed.

Jamie Liebl and Debbie Metro are at the farm one day a week to help with the chores.

"It's definitely a family affair," Jessica said.

Though Josh admits the farm has grown and evolved in the past five years, the family isn't done. There's more plans for the future. While the family does sell some replacement heifers, they'd like to eventually get into seed stock, which, Josh said, was at least a year or two away. There's also talk of creating a wedding venue on the farm.

For the Homolkas, it's all about creating those niches and supporting the local economy.

"I think the other big thing we're really passionate about is doing what we can to build up and support other businesses locally, and doing what we can to bring people back or help people to see what's in their backyard," Jessica said. "Covid ... pushed people to shop locally and support their local folks. And now as things are going somewhat back to normal, people are forgetting. They're going back to the big box stores and forgetting about all the folks that they have locally that they can help raise their tax-base by supporting these local folks."

"I think that's the important thing for us to help lift people up around us because if we're in competition with our local businesses, that really doesn't help anybody out. We've got to figure out how to support each other and work together and make progress. That way, we can keep our communities going."

For more information on Scorched Stone Farm, check out the farm's Facebook page or go to the website: [www.scorchedstonefarm.com](http://www.scorchedstonefarm.com)

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# Cooper finds his way back to the farm

BY JENNIFER MCDANIEL  
For the Ellsworth I-R

As a farm kid growing up near Moran, a small community in south-eastern Kansas, Jeff Cooper loved growing up in the country.

For the Coopers, the farm was a family affair. His dad, uncle and grandparents worked together, harvesting acres of wheat, milo and soybeans as well as producing several head of fat cattle and hogs.

But when the 1980s farm crisis crippled farmers, forcing many into foreclosure, and others to sell century-old family farms to pay down high-interest debt, Cooper's dad had no choice but to quit farming and move his family to Wichita in 1988.

Years later, Cooper, who spent years working as a photo-journalist at the Salina Journal, was faced with his own life-changing decision.

Newspapers were already starting to decline in the early 2000s as major dailies across the country were shuttered. Traditional print media outlets — even smaller regional papers — were struggling financially amid sharp declines in advertising and circulation, increased printing costs and the popularity of the Internet and social media.

With the industry's woes worsening, Cooper knew he needed to find a way out.

"Ever since I left the farm in 1988, I wanted to get back to farming," he said. "But I didn't know how. I thought I had to farm conventionally and needed a lot of capital. I guess I was stuck."

During high school and early into college, Cooper earned money mowing lawns. Since he knew his way around the business, Cooper decided to develop a landscaping business.

"I thought this was a way I could grow the landscape business and then sell it for capital for a farm," he said. "But then I discovered I didn't need a lot of capital. I just needed to find a way to sell directly to the consumer."

So when Cooper and his wife and business partner, Agnes Zadina, had the chance to buy a few acres of land on the edge of Salina, they jumped at the chance. And in 2015, North End Farm was born.

Early on, the couple started slowly, growing garlic and raising 50 pastured broiler chickens for purchase. Six years later, the couple produces pastured chickens and Hereford beef, selling poultry meat directly to consumers in whole, half and basic cuts and beef by the



Jeff Cooper and one of his breeders.

LORI FARMER/Ellsworth County I-R

whole, half and quarter varieties.

"We've grown every year," Cooper said. "A lot of opportunities have come our way, and we've tried to take advantage of those opportunities. We've tried to serve our customers and tried to grow to it."

With help from Ellsworth County rancher Jack Lill,

Cooper and Zadina were able to slowly grow their Hereford herd. They fed their first two Herefords during the winter/spring of 2016. Today, the couple purchases cattle from Lill as yearlings and finishes them with grain.

"Jack brought the idea to me, and asked if I wanted to raise cattle," Jeff said. "I really couldn't pass it up."

"Jeff has an affliction," Agnes said. "He just can't say no."

"Jack's been a great mentor and partner," Cooper said. "He's also been a great friend."

North End Farm practices regenerative agriculture, using grazing methods that boost the soil rather than depleting it.

On the farm, livestock play a vital role in rotational grazing methods, which keeps animals on the move, Cooper said. Cattle graze on pasture, and are later replaced by chickens, which fertilize the ground.

Once the chickens are moved out, the pasture is allowed to rest and recover until the cattle return. The cycle repeats itself over and over.

"It really increases growth," he said. "Even right now, our chickens are down the road at the neighbors."

"These methods build the soil, which is part of our farm's mission," she said. "We grow food to build the soil to build the community."

And as beef producers, the couple is just as careful raising cattle, ensuring that an attention to detail goes a long way in developing a high-quality product on the plate.

"There is a lot of misinformation about beef: How it's resource-heavy. That it's bad for the environment," Zadina said. "... One of the many benefits of rotational grazing is that it grows the health of the soil. It improves the soil, and in turn, helps us produce higher-quality beef that tastes better."

While the price point on locally produced beef is often higher than other beef cuts found at the grocery store, the difference, she said, is in the quality.

"(This beef) is more nutrient-dense, so you don't need as much so you feel satiated," Zadina said. "People assume it's the same product you find at the grocery store, but it's just not."

"I think for me, directly marketing to the consumer is one of the most rewarding parts of doing this," Cooper said. "It's our ability to sell our product at a price that it's actually worth, and don't have to go

See COOPER Page C8

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# I-R Homegrown



Jeff Cooper has 800 broiler chickens — Cornish Cross and Freedom Rangers — in his pastured broiler operation. The cornish chickens are used for the cuts of boneless and skinless breast, thighs and legs. Freedom Rangers red broilers are a slow-growing chicken used for whole and half birds. They take their diet off the range making a better-tasting bird. The cows graze the pasture first and then the chickens eat the shorter grass and fertilize it with the manure. The chickens are moved two times a day so they get fresh grass and fresh picking and the manure stays behind, which helps to give plenty of time for rest, recovery, and fertilization on the pasture. Another aspect of what they do is custom growing for a breeder. The breeder will come out and weigh and measure and look over the birds and choose the ones he wants for breeders. Cooper uses ground that is part of Dave and Beth Morrison’s farm.

I-R photos by Lori Farmer

## Cooper

Continued from Page C7

through the monopolistic business practices of the big four packers.

“We need more competition, and I welcome it because it helps us build a more resilient food system.”

In the years since the couple established North End Farm, Cooper said he’s seen a marked increase in demand for locally sourced foods, whether it’s beef or vegetables.

“We’ve definitely seen direct-to-consumer demand grow without a doubt,” he said. “I don’t think it’s because of increased exposure ... I think there’s a definite move toward it.”

“Hopefully the trend shifts to the norm,” she said.

To help meet that demand, the couple co-founded the Harvest Farmers Market which takes place on Tuesday evenings in the parking lot of the Emmanuel Foursquare Church in Salina.

The idea to establish a farmers market on Salina’s south side was hatched after the couple was approached one morning at their booth at the Downtown Farmers Market of Manhattan. The local farmers market usually took place on Saturday mornings, which wasn’t always convenient for customers.

“We asked customers what they were wanting, and we found Saturday mornings didn’t work for people who worked, or maybe just didn’t want to get up so early on a Saturday,” Zadina said. “So, we thought this might work better during the evening on a week-night. So, basically, we’re meeting customers where they are.”

“There had always been talk of establishing a market on the south side of town,” he said. “There’s always been that talk of a need.”

The couple scouted out a few locations as potential sites, but because they all had astronomical rental fees, Zadina said, the church’s parking lot was chosen.

“The church has been very generous, and have even allowed us to use the gymnasium inside during the winter,” she said. “Now the market is year-round.”

Cooper’s heart is full. His hands are dirty, and so are his clothes. His neck is tan and sweaty. But even as a hot summer sun beats down, there’s no place he’d rather be than back on the farm.

“The most rewarding part of this is the opportunity to work with other farms,” he said. “Working with our neighbors of like mind. Working together and sharing knowledge and sharing customers. But more than that, (promoting) and helping each other. That’s the community, and the producer community is really amazing.”

For more information on North End Farm, check out the business’ Facebook page, North End Farm, or the Harvest Farmers Market page. In its third season, the farmers market is open from 4-7 p.m. Tuesdays and usually features a dozen or more vendors. The market opens the first week of May.

North End Farm is also a regular on Saturdays at the Downtown Farmers Market of Manhattan. The market, which is open from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. from April-October, is located at Third and Leavenworth in the Dillard’s west parking lot.

North End Farm is also available through select retailers across the state and at Prairieland Market in Salina.

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The I-R Remembers 2020

January

Center proposal puts ECMC on 'hot seat'

Andrew Bair, chief executive officer of the Ellsworth County Medical Center, finds himself in a conundrum regarding the hospital's continued participation in the proposed Ellsworth American Legion community building project.

White smoke? It may just be bad plumbing

Ellsworth residents shouldn't be surprised to see white smoke coming from their sewer system in the months ahead, thanks to the purchase of a smoke blower machine by the City of Ellsworth.

Joe Travnichuk, utilities superintendent, said the Kansas Department of Health and Environment recommended purchasing the Machine, which will allow city crews to find groundwater infiltration and bad plumbing in the sewer infrastructure.

City prepares to move on Ellsworth Mayor Mark Kennedy describes recent months as a "tough scenario".

Kennedy, former Ellsworth City Council president, moved into the mayor's job following the sudden resignation of Alan Stefek. A short time later, the council voted to terminate the services of city administrator Scott More in the face of opposition from a number of citizens.

City and Moore sign agreement

The City of Ellsworth and former city administrator Scott Moore will part ways without the possibility of legal action

after officials agreed to pay Moore \$48,644, per his employment contract.

The lump sum cash payment is equal to six months of Moore's salary during his final year at City Hall.

Ellsworth to have car wash

Clint and Sarah Freeman told members of the Ellsworth City Council Monday night they plan to build a car wash north of Freeman's Body Shop along Evans Street.

USD 112 members get KOMA training

Holyrood — Members of the Central Plains USD 112 board of education gathered Jan. 9 at Central Plains Elementary School in Holyrood to learn more about the Kansas Open Meetings Act.

The training was required as part of a settlement with the Kansas Attorney General's office in Topeka to resolve a violation by the board of the KOMA.

Inside of Ellsworth's Drovers building on track for restoration

The sounds of construction could fill downtown Ellsworth by spring if all goes as planned. Concordia architect Eric Johnson was in town this past week with design plans for the inside of downtown Ellsworth's signature Insurance Building.

Community center estimate comes in at \$545,000

At the Jan. 15 meeting of the Ellsworth County Medical Center board of directors, chief executive officer Andrew Bair offered preliminary estimates of the cost of a proposed 8,000 square foot "Physical Medicine

Outpatient Gym", which could be used by the community as a wellness center.

Citizen of the Year

John and Judy Sherman display John's "Citizen of the Year" certificate from the Ellsworth Area Chamber of Commerce. He was recognized Saturday night at the organization's annual meeting.

Old 40 closed until August

When state inspectors looked at the 86-year old bridge, four miles west of Ellsworth on Old Highway 40, they noticed the concrete was breaking down and decaying.

Getting that bridge repaired is in the works.

Construction was set to start Friday, Jan. 17; however, demolition and construction have been slowed by damp weather. Still — even with the weather being uncooperative — the bridge is set to be done by Aug. 15.

Conservation 2019

Award Winners — Soil, Jason Stansbury; Grassland, Kendall and Christina Rathbun; Windbreak, Dru and Candy Richard.

February

Iconic Ellsworth store has new owners

Customer service and variety could be the two traits that define the kind of store Angie and Brett Rolfs plan to maintain in downtown Ellsworth.

The pair purchased Petal Place at the end of 2019 from Kelvi and Karlton Place. Angie worked at the flower and gift shop for more than two years before she took the leap to

ownership.

Ellsworth's Stover recognized for FFA work

Karl Dawn Stover walked away from the 2020 Kansas Association of Agricultural Educators Ag Ed Symposium Jan. 25 in Salina with a binder full of awards.

Stover, who teaches agricultural education at Ellsworth Junior/Senior High School, was named the Kansas Association of Agricultural Educators Outstanding Teacher and the Kansas Association of Career and Technical Educators Outstanding Teacher in Community Service.

ECMC slows participation in legion project

Anyone who expected directors of the Ellsworth County Medical Center to make a final decision at their Feb. 7 special meeting on whether to participate in the proposed Ellsworth American Legion community center project came away disappointed.

Falcons find a home in Ellsworth

New Ellsworth resident Don McKnight brought something special with him in August when he moved from Colorado. McKnight is a master falconer who shares his home with six falcons.

Zvolanek named 'Historian of the Year'

Every piece of Dryden pottery Pauline Zvolanek removes from the display case at Ellsworth's Hodgden House Museum to dust and catalog, she wonders — Did I have a hand in making this?

There is probably no answer

to that question, but one thing is certain. The work Zvolanek is doing today goes a long way in helping to preserve Ellsworth County's colorful past for tomorrow.

It's one of the reasons she was named "Historian of the Year" Sunday afternoon at the 59th annual meeting of the Ellsworth County Historical Society at the Ellsworth Senior Center.

Bearcat wrestlers head to state

Four members of the Ellsworth High School wrestling team qualified for the Class 3-2-1A State Tournament this weekend at Hays.

Senior Brendan Tripp, 220 lbs., received 1st place leaving him with a record of 28-7.

Senior Tyler Walford, 285 lbs. brought home a 2nd place title making his record 27-8.

At 106 pounds, Junior Teagon Nienke placed 3rd in the tournament. Nienke's record is 21-16.

Junior Tyler Romero, 195 pounds landed in 4th place. His record is 23-14.

March

Suicide rates climb across rural Kansas

The number of suicides in northwest Kansas increased by more than half in recent years.

Twenty counties in the region saw suicides climb by 57 percent from 2014 to 2018.

Terry Kepka is named to ECMC board

A retired Ellsworth pharmacist has been selected to serve on the Ellsworth County

See 2020, Page C10

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# The I-R Remembers 2020

**Continued from Page C9**

Medical Center board of directors.

Terry Kepka, former owner/operator of Seitz Drug Company Inc. in downtown Ellsworth was approved to serve on the hospital board during Monday's regular meeting of Ellsworth County commissioners. Kepka succeeds Tammy Moore, who resigned recently.

## Plan being designed for Corona

The Corona virus is a major topic of discussion in the United States and elsewhere. Not surprisingly, that topic drifted down to the local level Monday during the weekly meeting of Ellsworth County commissioners.

## Local sports field project moves ahead

Members of the Ellsworth City Council took another step Monday night in the development of a sports complex field on the west side of Kansas Highway 156, north of the city cemetery.

## Lady Oilers dominate Wheatland

State competition is next The Lady Oilers played Wheatland/Grinnell at Russell for the sub-state championship game and won solidly by a shopping 82-22 score.

## Home & Garden Show canceled

This past week, organizers of the annual Kiwanis Club Home and Garden Show decided to follow the lead of the Ellsworth County Medical Center and Auxiliary and cancel the March 21 event as a health precaution.

## Local officials respond to coronavirus threat

Ellsworth County is beginning to feel the squeeze as reaction to the coronavirus continues to spread. At Gene's Heartland Foods, the shelves which ordinarily are home to a supply of toilet paper are bare, and sanitary wipes and other sanitary supplies are in short supply.

"I've never seen anything like this," said Andrew Bair, ECMC chief executive officer with 42 years service in the healthcare industry. "I remember the H1N1 and we were careful then, but I don't remember it being quite like this.

## It took a global health crisis to deny Lady Oilers a title

After 136 consecutive wins, it took a worldwide pandemic to slow down the Lady Oilers. Central Plains was well on its way toward a seventh-straight state championship after its 93-47 win over Ingalls Thursday evening in round of the Class 1A State Basketball Championships in Dodge City. Less than 90 minutes later, with the final teams still on the court, the Kansas State High School Activities Association announced the tournament and season would end at the conclusion of the quarterfinal round.

## Ellsworth County — Rising to the challenge of Covid-19

As of Monday, 82 Kansans had tested positive for the virus. So far, the illness has not been reported in Ellsworth County or surrounding counties. The two tests taken here came back negative, Kerianne Ehrlich, supervisor of the Ellsworth County Health Department told participants in a community conference call late this past week.

## Schools prepare for digital delivery

Central Plains USD 112 Superintendent Greg Clark had encouraging news for the district's parents and students March 20, during a special

board meeting at Central Plains Elementary School in Holyrood.

Academic instruction — although in a different form — will begin again Monday, March 30.

"It's going to be something that's evolving," Clark said. "It will not be perfect when we first roll it out. It will be something we will tweak.

## Commissioners lock down courthouse

Ellsworth County commissioners have locked the doors of the courthouse to the public as a precaution against the spread of Covid-19. Monday, they dealt with the unintended consequences of their decision.

## Local law officers to deliver food, medicine to vulnerable

The Ellsworth County Sheriff's Office along with the Ellsworth, Holyrood, Kanopolis, and Wilson Police Departments, are gearing up to help those most vulnerable to the Covid-19 virus.

Sheriff Marston said that all the law enforcement agencies in the county will be offering to do grocery or prescription deliveries for those that are in the high-risk category for this virus.

## April

## Order means what it says

Stay-At-Home! It's important. It may even save your life — or the life of someone else. That is the message Kerianne Ehrlich, Ellsworth County Health Department supervisor, had delivered time and again since the spread of the coronavirus was declared a pandemic earlier this year.

## Lunch is Served

The effort is similar to the Ellsworth County summer lunch program — only it's mobile.

Two day a week, those in charge of the Ellsworth-Kanopolis-Geneseo School District's free Grab N Go breakfast and lunch deliver meals to Geneseo, Kanopolis and Ellsworth.

## Grocery store workers move to front lines of pandemic

For Ignatius Rodriguez and his staff of more than three dozen at Gene's Heartland Foods, the past three weeks have been like nothing they have ever experienced.

Business has increased — along with the number of work hours — and conditions change daily, forcing Rodriguez and his crew to find yet another way to serve the store's customers. Change has become a business constant.

## ECMC to offer curbside doctor visits

Andrew Bair, chief executive officer at the Ellsworth County Medical Center, had some good news during the April 9 meeting of the county's local emergency planning committee.

He said two new things are beginning to be started at the hospital. First, televisits between patients and physicians will be available using Face Time. Second, curbside visits will soon be available between patients and physicians.

## Loan will allow for retention of local medical jobs

The financial roller coaster ride of recent weeks has ended for the Ellsworth Medical Center, chief executive officer Andrew Bair announced April 16 at the weekly meeting of the county's Local Emergency Planning Committee.

The hospital has once again qualified for — and received — a \$1.9 million loan from the Small Business Administration through the federal Cares Act.

## Council takes action on temporary notes for Kanopolis

## water project

The Kanopolis City Council adopted a resolution at its April 14 meeting authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds to pay the temporary funding for the city's water project.

## County prepares for reopening when Kansas stay-at-home order ends

Ellsworth County Health Department supervisor Kerianne Ehrlich and Keith Haberer, emergency management director for Ellsworth and Russell counties, will work on a plan this week to reopen Ellsworth County.

## It's business not-as-usual at med center

Andrew Bair, chief executive officer of the Ellsworth County Medical Center, gave an overview April 22 of actions taken by the hospital to prepare for COVID-19.

Bair said each week day, the hospital's incident command team meets to review a list of issues and situations with the goals of assuring the community the hospital is ready for COVID-19, and that it continues to provide safe and compassionate care while reducing employee risk and maintaining the viability of the organization.

## May

## Ellsworth County districts work to provide recognition to seniors

If you're wondering why the lights shine for 20 minutes and 20 seconds Friday nights at the Ellsworth Junior-Senior High School tennis courts and football field, think of the Class of 2020.

And their unusual senior year — thanks to a coronavirus pandemic that shut down Kansas schools and forced a stay-at-home order that scrambled plans for sports, graduation and other activities.

## ELLSWORTH COUNTY — 1

Ellsworth County reported its first cast of COVID-19 — a man over the age of 50 who works at the Ellsworth Correctional Facility. No other information was released in order to protect the identity of ECF employee.

## Local officials react to state pandemic plan

The overall reaction was positive this past week as several government officials and first responders sat in a darkened bay at EMS headquarters and watched via television to Gov. Laura Kelly explain her four-phase plan to reopen Kansas.

## Ellsworth taps new principals for EES, KMS

The administrative team of the Ellsworth-Kanopolis-Geneseo School District will have two new members starting Aug. 1. Both are veteran educators with a variety of experience that starts at the elementary level and continues through university.

Tammi Graff of Hutchinson, a fifth grade teacher in the Buhler School District, has accepted the principal's job at Ellsworth Elementary School.

Kristy Rodriguez, director of education at Kansas Wesleyan University, Salina, is the new principal at Kanopolis Middle School.

## Local students named 2020 Kansas Governor's Scholars

Three local and area students have been named Kansas Governor's Scholars.

Jordyn Coonrod is a senior at Ellsworth High School. She is joined on the scholar's list by Brandalyn Grace Thyfault, Wilson High School, and Jerred Bieberle, Central Plains High School, Claflin.

## Forget the Frogs

The frogs won't jump this summer in Kanopolis. The volleyball court will be empty. In short, don't look for the crowd that normally packs the city park the second weekend in July as part of the Fort Harker Days celebration.

The celebration won't happen this year, thanks to concerns over the coronavirus pandemic that also has organizers of Wilson's annual After-Harvest Czech Festival and Cowtown Days at Ellsworth exploring their options.

## Tempers flare over virus order

A discussion during Monday's meeting of the Ellsworth County commissioners on a county travel quarantine order morphed into a heated exchange between commissioner Dennis Rolfs and Keith Haberer, emergency management director for both Ellsworth and Russell counties.

The exchange started by Rolfs asking Haberer and Kerianne Ehrlich, supervisor of the county health department, who was responsible for the order — county commissioners or county health officer D. Ronald Whitmer. The order maintains a travel quarantine for Ellsworth County residents traveling to Wyandotte, Johnson, Finney and Ford counties.

## Uncertainty hangs over summer 2020

Owners of Ellsworth County barber shops and hair and nail salons can welcome customers again, according to a new executive order signed by Gov. Laura Kelly; however the way is less clear for summer activities.

## ECMC moves toward full COVID-19 testing

Ellsworth County Medical Center is one step closer to in-house testing for COVID-19.

At the May 20 virtual meeting of the hospital's board of directors, Danette Heinze, director of operations, said ECMC has received a \$25,000 grant from the Kansas Healthcare Foundation to purchase two testing modules. The modules have enough testing supplies to allow the hospital to validate COVID-19 testing.

## June

## Ellsworth names new administrator

Russell Varnado wasn't looking for another job when he joined a virtual Zoom meeting organized by the Ellsworth City Council as a precaution against the spread of COVID-19.

Instead, he wanted to see whether the remote meeting was something he could make available to Kiowa officials in his job as city administrator.

That's when Varnado discovered Ellsworth was looking for a city administrator of its own.

The rest, as they say, is history.

As of June 15, Varnado will be in Ellsworth, overseeing the operations of the community that is about three times the size of Kiowa, a south-central Kansas town of fewer than 1,000 that is know for its wheat production.

## Play Ball

The Ellsworth Swimming Pool will open sometime during the week of June 15 and practice for softball and baseball will start June 15, with games beginning at the end of June or the first of July. This is all subject to change, of course, depending upon what happens locally with COVID-19.

## Ellsworth County District Court has new clerk

The Ellsworth County District Court has a new clerk. Kristy Battershell of Lyons introduced herself at Monday's meeting of the county commis-

sioners. Battershell, who plans to commute to Ellsworth from Lyons, worked 17 years for the Rice County District Court clerk's office and three years for the Barton County District Court clerk's office.

## Passion for rural health care drives Bair

With a passion for rural health care and putting people first, Ellsworth County Medical Center CEO Andrew Bair has helped ECMC uphold its commitment to improving lives since he took the helm a little more than a year ago.

## Pruitt signs to play baseball

Ellsworth High School's Brenna Pruitt signs with Southeast Community College in Beatrice, Neb. to play softball next year. Her plans are to transfer after two years and study speech and language pathology at the University of Kansas.

## Ryan named Athlete of the Year

Google Emily Ryan's name and the headlines say it all: "Emily Ryan becomes third Kansas high school athlete to score 3000."

"Ryan 'steals' the show."

"All-State Basketball 2020: Central Plains' Ryan leaves own hoop legacy."

Ryan added another line to her resume this past week when she was named Overall Female Athlete of the Year. Ryan was a standout in basketball, tennis, golf and track during her years at Central Plains.

## Triathlon canceled due to COVID-19

To say the last few months presented unprecedented challenges for Debbie Mog would be a complete understatement.

The months leading up to the Ellsworth County Cancer Fund's annual triathlon are normally a critical time as board members work out every detail, preparing for the organization's biggest fundraiser. But in mid-March, organizers face something no one ever expected.

A COVID-19 pandemic was declared, forcing a statewide stay-home order, closing schools and only allowing essential businesses to remain open.

## July

## USD 112 talks graduation

Superintendent Greg Clark offered a brief update Tuesday on graduation plans for the Central Plains Junior-Senior High Class of 2020, during a year-end meeting at Central Plains Elementary in Holyrood.

## Czech Fest is a go — sorta

With COVID-19 still an ever present concern, a summertime staple in Ellsworth County, the Wilson After Harvest Czech Festival, will take place this year — albeit in a much scaled down version.

## COVID-19 cases on the rise in county

Kerianne Ehrlich, supervisor of the Ellsworth County Health Department, had some stunning news for county commissioners Monday during their weekly meeting.

Ehrlich said over the July 4 holiday weekend, seven cases of the coronavirus were confirmed in Ellsworth County.

## Sunday grad plans set

Ellsworth High School will finally be able to celebrate the Class of 2020 with a graduation ceremony at 2 p.m. Sunday, July 12, in the Ellsworth Junior-Senior High School gym. It will, however be different that in years past.

Each senior will be allowed five guests with everyone required to wear masks and maintain a social distance.



# I-R Homegrown

C11

## The I-R Remembers 2020

Continued from Page C10

### 4-H Fair opens in the summer to remember

Ellsworth County's 4-H Fair opens Friday with an addition — a list of changes made as a concession to the COVID-19 crisis.

One of the major changes is — no open class fair.

### Judicial spot sparks primary election race

Republicans Rita Suderland and Peggy Svaty are on the Aug. 4 primary ballot for the position of magistrate judge to replace the retiring Verle Willey. The winner is expected to fill the seat since no Democrat has filed for the general election.

### Safety is priority

Ellsworth County commissioners received a briefing Monday on what the 2020-21 school year could look like for students, teachers and staff in the Ellsworth-Kanopolis-Geneseo USD 327 school district.

Superintendent Dale Brungardt said his main goal is the safety of student and staff.

### School board agrees to 'gift of time'

After more than an hour of review and discussion, board members of the Ellsworth-Kanopolis-Geneseo School District voted unanimously Friday to delay the start of the 2020-21 school year until Sept. 3.

### Student produces positive virus test

An Ellsworth USD 327 student-athlete has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus, forcing district officials to temporarily suspend a portion of the junior-senior high school summer conditioning program until August.

### And the annual Czech Fest rolls on

In spite of all the unique challenges in terms of planning and coordination posed by COVID-19, this year's greatly diminished After Harvest Czech Festival Friday and Saturday in Wilson was deemed a success.

### August

### Local COVID numbers rest at 18

It's August and Ellsworth County hasn't recorded a case of coronavirus since July 29, when two inmates at the Ellsworth Correctional Facility tested positive for COVID-19.

As of July 29, the most recent report Ellsworth County had 18 total cases, three of which were active. Recovered cases numbered 15.

### Dr. Kepka retires from ECF after three decades

When Dr. Dennis Kepka was first approached with the idea of providing medical care to offenders at Ellsworth Correctional Facility, he wasn't so sure.

On June 30, Kepka said goodbye to ECF, retiring after more than 30 years of providing medical care to multi-custody offenders.

### School district moves forward

Monday's discussion at the regular meeting of the Ellsworth-Kanopolis-Geneseo School board seemed to illustrate the challenges the district faces in reopening for the 2020-21 school year.

For more than an hour, school board members, administrators and staff debated details of a draft copy of a reopening process document designed by district representatives over the summer.

### To mask or not to mask?

Ellsworth County commissioners took no action Monday on a petition asking them to implement a mask mandate for the county.

The request was presented by Dr. Ronald Whitmer, the county health officer. It contained the signatures of 20 health care providers.

### Denning inducted into HOF

As Linda Denning was inducted into the Kansas Press

Association's Hall of Fame Thursday night, she became only the fifth woman in its history to receive the honor.

Denning, longtime editor and publisher of the Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter, was recognized during the first half of the KPA's 2020 virtual convention Aug. 13-14.

### Staying Connected

Two family-owned businesses — H&B Communications of Holyrood and Wilson Communications of Wilson — have been working hard to keep parts of Central Kansas connected with high-speed fiber-optic Internet service. Now those services are expanding into the City of Ellsworth.

### Student tests positive

Football practice for the 2020-21 school year at Ellsworth Junior/Senior High School has been pushed back to at least Wednesday, Aug. 26, after a student athlete tested positive for COVID-19.

### Wilson's new GM settles in

Wilson Communications recently welcomed a new general manager to its operations. Craig Freeman, an Illinois native with more than 25 years in the rural communications business, said he had been looking for something that would bring him back to his "roots" of working in community-based telecommunications.

### Old 40 expected to reopen

The bridge on Old Highway 40 between Ellsworth and Wilson may be reopened by the end of next week — depending, of course on Mother Nature.

### September

### Year without Equal

The administration and staff at Ellsworth County's two school districts — Ellsworth-Kanopolis-Geneseo USD 327 and Central Plains USD 112 — are either getting ready to have students return to the classroom (USD 327) or currently have students back in the classroom (USD 112).

By all accounts, everyone involved is working hard at each school in both districts to make sure everyone stays healthy and safe and has a productive school year of learning.

### Ellsworth County struggles with housing issues

When Mike Peschka looks into his crystal ball to predict the condition of his community in a decade or more, he sees a vital school district with more students than today and new businesses inside Wilson's historic buildings and enough affordable housing to satisfy demand.

Since Peschka became Wilson mayor in January, the latter two issues have been on the council table at almost every meeting.

### For Sale: Former Central Plains Middle School

Holyrood — The former Central Plains Middle School building in Bushton will be put up for sale by sealed bids. That was the unanimous decision members of the Central Plains USD 112 board of education approved during an Aug. 25 special meeting in Holyrood.

### Insurance Building prepared for another round of updates

Downtown Ellsworth's signature Insurance Building is back on track for renovation.

Construction is expected to start Nov. 1 on the interior of a local landmark that dates back to a time when large ranches dotted the countryside.

### Drive thru flu clinics planned for this fall

Ellsworth County Health Department Supervision Kieranne Ehrlich has come up with an unusual plan for her flu clinics this year to help prevent the spread of possible illnesses. Drive thru flu clinics.

### Seniors in the Spotlight

Even though the Ellsworth

Bearcats lost their home football opener Friday against Republic County, the night was still a special one on Shanelec Football Field.

Seniors participating in this year's fall sports programs — football, Lady Cat's tennis, cross country, volleyball and cheerleading — were recognized before the game during senior night.

### Sunday liquor sales approved

Starting in a little more than two months, liquor will be available in Ellsworth for purchase on Sundays.

### Candidate forum is planned

This is a presidential election year and Ellsworth County has one local race that is attracting attention.

Democrat Patrick Hoffman and Republican Greg Bender are candidates for the seat now occupied by Kermit Rush. Rush who has represented the City of Ellsworth on the commission for many years, plans to retire in January.

To help voters with their decision, Ellsworth County Economic Development and the Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter plan a virtual candidate forum at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10.

### October

### Add mental health to the Year of Blues

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health and a proper community response were the major topics of discussion at the Sept. 23 meeting of the Ellsworth County Medical Center board of directors.

### Ghosts and Goblins

Local youngsters are in for a treat on Halloween in spite of all the restrictions posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ellsworth Police Chief Emil Halhill received approval Monday by the Ellsworth City council to conduct a First Responders Trunk Or Treat event from 4-6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 30, in the 200 Block of North Kansas in Ellsworth.

### Prison works to control COVID cases

In recent weeks, the number of reported positive COVID-19 cases has increased in Ellsworth county.

While county health officials attribute many of those to the Ellsworth Correctional Facility, the Kansas Department of Corrections says there are currently no active cases at ECF.

### Moran talks rural health care

The status of rural health care in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic was the topic of conversation Oct. 6, when U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran of Kansas paid a brief visit to the Ellsworth County Medical Center.

### Ellsworth tennis takes first at Regional

The Ellsworth and Central Plains High School tennis teams excelled at the KSHSAA 3-2-1A Girls Regional Tennis Tournament Oct. 9 and 10 in Phillipsburg.

Ellsworth placed first overall with eight points, while Central Plains came in second overall, with seven points. The victory earned Ellsworth the right to compete at the upcoming state tournament.

### Health department limits gatherings to 20

As of midnight Tuesday, gatherings in Ellsworth County were limited to 20 people for at least the next two weeks, according to an order from the Ellsworth County Health Department.

### Helping their neighbors

For first responders, training is just part of the job.

And for firefighters, it isn't any different. But in this line of work, opportunities to train are vital to a profession made up of dedicated individuals with a calling to save lives at the risk of losing their own.

And thanks to a grant from the Dane G. Hansen foundation,

members of the Ellsworth Volunteer Fire Department will be better equipped to help their neighbors when the next alarm sounds.

### Ellsworth Tennis makes history at State

The Ellsworth High School Lady Bearcats Tennis Team took third overall Oct. 16-17, at the Kansas State High School Athletics Association State Tennis Tournament in Wichita.

Two Lady 'Cats doubles teams made the trip to state. The team of Nicole Haase and Maggie Windholz took fourth, and the team of Jaycee Cunningham and Stephanie Soukup took sixth in the scoring column for Ellsworth.

### Commissioners at home after exposure to coronavirus

As of Monday, there had been 209 cases of COVID-19 in Ellsworth County since the pandemic was declared early this year, according to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

That includes 30 active community cases (which does not count possible cases for the Ellsworth Correctional Facility).

### Coping with COVID

Andrew Bair, chief executive officer at the Ellsworth County Medical Center offered a condition status Oct. 21 on how the hospital is coping with COVID-19.

"We have significant COVID in the county," he said in remarks at the monthly meeting of the center's board of directors.

"We've had it at the hospital. We've had it with some of our staff. And some of our staff have had families ... it's just growing in the community significantly, so that has kind of got us on extra high alert again."

### A fall harvest to remember

With freezing temperatures and a slight change of snow in the forecast, Ellsworth County farmers were trying to beat the weather, harvesting their last few acres of milo and bringing the fall 2020 harvest to a close.

### Proposed mask mandate crushed

Citing a wave of opposition from business owners and other citizens to a mandatory mask resolution, Ellsworth County commissioners doubled down on their current policy and voted Tuesday morning to continue "strongly encouraging" the wearing of masks in public.

### November

### Mask up. It's mandatory

Only a week after doubling down on a policy of "strongly encouraging" the wearing of face masks in public places, Ellsworth County commissioners unanimously approved Resolution 2020R12 Monday requiring face masks for all indoor property open to the public within the county.

### Free holiday dinners to be delivered

It will be a traditional Thanksgiving meal of turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, green bean casserole, cranberry salad and roll with a choice of pumpkin pie or cake for dessert.

However, the tradition stops with the menu. Instead of a community volunteer dinner as in the past, volunteers will serve the pre-packaged meals the day before Thanksgiving for reheating at home on the holiday.

### Brungardt to leave for Topeka

Dale Brungardt, who led the Ellsworth-Kanopolis-Geneseo School District through the coronavirus pandemic, plans to leave his post at the end of the school year to become director of finance of the Kansas Department of Education in Topeka.

### Officials stand firm on mask mandate

After hearing comments from 18 patrons both for and against the current face mask require-

ment in Ellsworth County, county commissioners decided Monday to give the mandate time to work.

### From farm to courtroom

Even as a boy, Randall K. Rathbun was certain about what he wanted to do when he grew up.

The decision, he said, came a day after his father, Ronnie, sat him on a tractor for the first time, working ground on the family farm just outside of Ellsworth. Unlike the long line of educators and farmers predominantly making up the Rathbun clan, Randy wanted to be a tough litigator who fought for his client's innocence, just like the fictional character, Perry Mason.

### Grit, Courage and Hope

For Mildred Janzen, Thanksgiving is about family and the wonderful life she had enjoyed after surviving the horror of Germany as a teenager during World War II.

This year the feeling of gratitude may be even stronger, following several months of interviews and editing that are expected to end with the publication of "Surviving Hitler, Evading Stalin, One Woman's Remarkable Escape from Nazi Germany."

### ECMC struggles with COVID overload

COVID-19 is continuing to take a toll at Ellsworth County Medical Center, in more ways than one.

"Things have changed here dramatically in the last 24 hours," he said. "We've seen a dramatic increase in testing and positives."

### December

### Chamber celebration postponed

Downtown Ellsworth's annual event to showcase local businesses was reduced in scope this year — thanks to the coronavirus pandemic.

### Rush ends 20 years on commission

Monday, Jan. 11, will be a bittersweet day for Kermit Rush.

That will be the last time he sits behind the Ellsworth County commission desk. After 20 years of service, he did not seek re-election in the district that covers the City of Ellsworth. In a recent interview with the Independent-Reporter, the 86 year-old Rush said he has no regrets and thinks he is leaving the county in better shape than when he started on the commission.

### Quarantine time can be reduced

The Ellsworth County Health Department has decided to accept a recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control and reduce the time in quarantine from two weeks to 10 days for those with possible exposure to COVID-19.

The time will be reduced to seven days for those with no symptoms and a negative test for the virus.

### Drovers renovation project moves forward

First came the demolition, then the renovations. Employees of Doubrava Woodworking started gutting the inside of downtown Ellsworth's signature Insurance Building in mid-November as part of an ongoing effort to restore a piece of cowtown history.

### Ellsworth awaits vaccine distribution

Anticipation is growing as the first shipment of COVID-19 vaccine left the manufacturer this past weekend en route to states for distribution.

However, in a telephone interview Monday with Andrew Bair, chief executive officer at the Ellsworth County Medical Center, the hospital learned earlier Monday during a weekly telephone call from state officials. Department of Health and Environment that ECMC will not receive this week's allotment of COVID-19 vaccine.



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