Comics Classified

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A2

THE GARDNER



CherryRoad Media

\$1²⁵ • Volume **85**, Issue **52**

A note from the publisher

To allow our employees some much deserved rest, we will not be printing a paper next week. While there will be no printed edition or e-edition online, please be sure to check the website throughout the week. News and events will be posted for all of our subscribers to keep you informed and updated on community happenings. We appreciate your continued support and wish you a peaceful holiday season.

Thank you,

CherryRoad Media

Christmas carolers

Performers brighten the holiday season at Divine Mercy Parish

Lynne Hermansen Gardner News

A quartet of carolers performed 31 Christmas carols and well-known songs at Divine Mercy Church on Dec. 21.

The organization began in 1977 by four

friends wanting to perform madrigal music and has evolved into an ensembles of performers in small groups of four or five people. The groups performs throughout the Kansas City area.



Photo by Lynne Hermansen Carolers of Note performed 31 Christmas Songs at SEE CHRISTMAS A4 Divine Mercy Parish, Thursday, Dec. 21.

County mental health crisis line team moves to bigger space



Photo by Lynne Hermansen

Commission Chair Mike Kelly cuts the ribbon for the new Johnson County 988 Crisis Line Center Space on Tuesday, Dec. 12.

Lynne Hermansen

Gardner News

On Dec. 12, county officials celebrated Johnson County Mental Health Center's crisis line move to a bigger, more equipped space for emergency calls.

The new space at the County Communications Center, 11880 S. Sunset Dr., Olathe, can withstand an F-4 tornado and is next door to the 911 dispatch floor.

The crisis line receives an upgrade to the infrastructure and technology supporting the mental health crisis lines with additional workstations for growth over time, county officials said.

"Today is a special day," Commission Chair Mike Kelly said. "We get to celebrate the good work that is being developed and continues to grow the resources available to help those most vulnerable in high for the county. our community."

Kelly said the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is a crucial service for the county.

"Not only is it another opportunity for those who need help to get that help, but it is an opportunity to help those that are already in this building--those 911 dispatchers," he said. "Providing resources and collaboration, so that the folks in Johnson County can get the best help that they can get."

Kelly said the county can make sure the resources can get to people in need as quickly and efficiently as possible.

"We have continued to face the county providing another mental rising challenge of mental health health resource for residents and

issues in Johnson County, in the State of Kansas, through out the metropolitan region," he said.

Kelly said the 9-8-8 crisis line service has already helped so many people facing a mental health crisis.

"More than 40,000 calls were answered last year," he said. "We are sure that that number is going to continue to rise. So now that 9-8-8 has a home here, it can be a home for the 14 full-time employees and 16 additional employees that are going to help on an as needed basis."

County officials said the new space provides room for the crisis line team to grow as call volume continues to increase in Johnson County. The team answered over 41,000 calls in 2022, up from 17,000 just five years prior in 2017. Kelly said those numbers seem

"But then you recognize the pandemic was tough," he said. "The scars of the pandemic continue to effect people; not only the physical scars but the emotional scars that have lasted from the pandemic. So we recognize that. Mental health services is a crucial service. It is going to continue to become even more crucial as people accept help. We know the need has always been there, but now as we continue to release that stigma as a community, we are going to see more people are going to be willing to accept the service."

Kelly said he was proud of the

the county is working on best the collaboration between 9-8-8 and 911 responders can evolve.

Kelly said having 30 people staff the 9-8-8 line will be helpful in saving lives in Johnson County.

"We are so proud of that," he said. Kelly said the county is proud of the collaborative efforts of the Johnson County Mental Health Center, Johnson County Dept. of Emergency Services, the Johnson County Sheriff's Office and the Johnson County Administrative and Manager's offices.

"We know the challenges are going to continue," he said. "I am glad that our mental health department is a certified mental health center and is able to provide primary services, as well as mental health services. Continuing to find ways to partner, collaborate, innovate. To be able to help those in Johnson County who need that care."

Kelly said it is important the county prioritizes having space for mental health services.

"The idea that we have folks that are dedicated to this mental health service, this mental health counseling, this mental health crisis intervention right at the front end of a phone call, it is incredibly important to us," he said. "This is a great step in the right direction, and obviously not the last step we will take. I hope that we will continue to work not only here in Johnson County, but the metropolitan region to prioritize texting for 9-8-8 and continue to innovate and evolve--be able to meet people where they are, where they are

willing to accept help."

Kelly said making the call is tough.

"The easier we can make it for folks, the more lives we are going to save," he said.

Kelly said it is important for the 9-8-8 crisis center to have a permanent location because when there is an opportunity for them to be a better resource for 911 responders the proximity will be beneficial.

Director of Emergency Services Paul Davis said the day was a celebration and milestone toward a "collective journey toward a healthier and more compassionate Johnson County."

"I am pleased we gather here today as we mark the opening of the 9-8-8 call center in the county communications center--a significant step forward toward prioritizing mental health in our community," he said.

Davis said the establishment of the 9-8-8 call center signifies more than just the addition of three digits to the county's response system, but it is a "beacon of hope, a lifeline for those facing mental health crises in our county and moving from awareness to action."

"Today we come together to underscore the vile importance of having a dedicated mental health crisis line in Johnson County and a collaboration with emergency responders, law enforcement, personnel in the call center--just as we have already established in the field setting," he said.

SEE **HEALTH** A4

INSIDE

Gardner Gold spreads cheer to local rehab hospital, assisted-living home A2

INSIDE Kansas business owner charged with selling aviation tech to Russia pleads guilty A4

Volume 85 | No. 52 To subscribe 913-856-7615 \$1.25 ©2023 CherryRoad Media

Gardner Gold spreads cheer to local rehab hospital, assisted-living home

Gardner Gold Olympics athletes and their families celebrated the holiday season with games, activities, hot chocolate and treats on Dec. 19 at Gardner Senior Center before embarking on singing Christmas carols to residents at Meadowbrook Rehab Hospital on Main St. and Vintage Park Assisted Living Facility off of Gardner Road. The caroling was

Special well-received by all residents at both facilities. One child gave a woman at Meadowbook Rehab Hospital her jingle bells bracelet, and the woman cried.

The Gardner Gold Special Olympics families were also joined by The Gardner Lions Club.

Both groups sang classics from "Jingle Bells, We Wish You a Merry Christmas, Silent Night and Away in a Manger."





Federal infrastructure dollars sent to more **Kansas communities for improvements**

By Rachel Mipro Kansas Reflector

TOPEKA — Around \$8.3 million will be divided across nineteen Kansas communities for road safety improvement projects, Gov. Laura Kelly announced Wednesday.

"Safer roads mean

parents can commute to work faster, businesses can get goods to market at lower cost, and tourists can get out to explore Kansas," said Kelly. "I applaud our local communities for seeking this funding to improve their local roads."

Money comes from the Transportation, federal Safe Streets and

Roads for All program, which provides 80% of project costs to the local government's 20% match.

The five-year program, funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, is overseen by the U.S. Department of and is geared toward

driving and safer road designs, among other objectives.

The Kansas Department of Transportation also started a pilot program to contribute funding to the local match mandate. The program has led to almost \$14.8 million

promoting responsible in federal funding for Kansas communities, with 38 Kansas communities successfully applying. Three million in state contributions have gone toward road improvements, along with \$743,00 in local match contributions since the program began.

"Each time a step is taken to improve safety in a community, it's a step in the right direction," said KDOT secretary Calvin Reed. "KDOT is happy to support

safety-conscious investment decisions. State and local partnerships like this help us compete nationally for Federal funds and bring critical investments to Kansans."

In this round of funding, Gray County received \$800,000 in federal funding to develop a new safety plan, and the North Central Regional Planning Commission received \$1.5 million for a regional safety action plan, among other grants.

CLASSIFIED

PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 2154 SUMMARY

On December 14, 2023, the City of

Edgerton, Kansas approved Ordinance

No. 2154 which amends Article 5 of the

Unified Development Code of the City of

Edgerton regarding permitted uses within

Business Park, Logistics Park, General

Industrial and Heavy Industry Zoning Dis-

tricts. A complete copy of this ordinance is

available at www.edgertonks.org or at Ed-

gerton City Hall, 404 E. Nelson, Edgerton,

Kansas 66021. This summary is certified

by Lee Hendricks, City Attorney for the

Published in Gardner News December

1806150

City of Edgerton, Kansas

27, 2023.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 2155 SUMMARY

On December 14, 2023, the City of Edgerton, Kansas approved Ordinance No. 2155 which amends Article 7 of the Unified Development Code of the City of Edgerton regarding specific district requirements for conditional uses. A complete copy of this ordinance is available at www.edgertonks.org or at Edgerton City Hall, 404 E. Nelson, Edgerton, Kansas 66021. This summary is certified by Lee Hendricks, City Attorney for the City of Edgerton, Kansas

Published in Gardner News December 27, 2023. 1806090

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ORDINANCE NO. 2156 SUMMARY

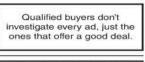
On December 14, 2023, the City of Edgerton, Kansas approved Ordinance No. 2156 which amends Article 12 of the Unified Development Code of the City of Edgerton regarding sign regulations in certain zoning districts. A complete copy of this ordinance is available at www.edgertonks. org or at Edgerton City Hall, 404 E. Nelson, Edgerton, Kansas 66021. This summary is certified by Lee Hendricks, City Attorney for the City of Edgerton, Kansas. Published in Gardner News December 27, 2023.

1806220

ORDINANCE NO. 2153 SUMMARY

On December 14, 2023, the City of Edgerton, Kansas approved Ordinance No. 2153 which amends Article 4 of the Unified Development Code of the City of Edgerton regarding permitted uses within C-2 and C-3 Zoning Districts. A complete copy of this ordinance is available at www. edgertonks.org or at Edgerton City Hall. 404 E. Nelson, Edgerton, Kansas 66021. This summary is certified by Lee Hendricks, City Attorney for the City of Edgerton, Kansas

Published in Gardner News December 27, 2023. 1806260



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PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 2152 SUMMARY

On December 14, 2023, the City of Edgerton, Kansas approved Ordinance No. 2152 which amends Article 3 of the Unified Development Code of the City of Edgerton regarding permitted uses within Agricultural, Residential and Manufactured Home Park Zoning Districts. A complete copy of this ordinance is available at www.edgertonks.org or at Edgerton City Hall, 404 E. Nelson, Edgerton, Kansas 66021. This summary is certified by Lee Hendricks, City Attorney for the City of Edgerton, Kansas

Published in Gardner News December 1806280

ORDINANCE NO. 2151 SUMMARY

27, 2023.

27.2023

On December 14, 2023, the City of Edgerton, Kansas adopted Ordinance No. 2151 authorizing the issuance of its Home Rule Revenue Bonds (Logistics Park Infrastructure Phase Two Projects) Series 2024A, in an aggregate maximum principal amount of not to exceed \$4,000,000, for the purpose of providing funds to pay or reimburse the costs of acquiring and constructing certain public infrastructure improvements to support Phase Two of the Logistics Park-KC and to pay costs of issuance. A complete copy of this ordinance is available at www.edgertonks.org or at Edgerton City Hall, 404 E. Nelson, Edgerton, Kansas 66021. This summary is certified by Lee Hendricks, City Attorney for the City of Edgerton, Kansas. Published in Gardner News December

1806330



Building Community Engagement **Through the Power** of Local News

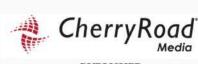
Cherry Road Media Inc. is focused on using technology to strengthen communities through their local newspapers.

We believe the newspaper is an essential resource for developing strong communities



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COMICS

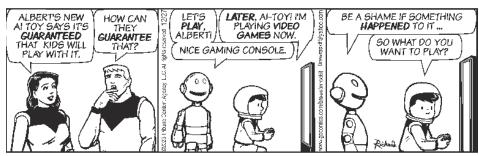
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FOR RELEASE DECEMBER 27, 2023

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Jacqueline E. Mathews

THE MIDDLETONS



LINDA C. BLACK HOROSCOPES

Nancy Black, Tribune Content Agency

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (12/27/23). The coming year grows love, romance and artistic exploration. Steady communication cultivates collaboration. Adjust winter plans for changing passions, before conquering career challenges this spring. Savor sweetness at home with family this summer. Autumn communication changes lead to professional victories. Share your heart.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) - Today is an 8 - Domestic issues require attention. Can you work from home? Coordination and communication come easier now, facilitating ease and profits. Take advantage of lucky conditions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 7 - Write your story. Research, study and investigate. You can learn what you need to know. Communicate and coordinate. You're putting together a fascinating puzzle.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) - Today is a 9 - More income is possible. Here's where you start making profits. Share successes with your partner. Support each other for great results. You're stronger together.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) - Today is a 9 - Go for your heart's desire. You've got the power and confidence to make things happen. Love inspires you. Let your passion be your guide.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 7 -Slow down and contemplate. It's easier to finish old projects. You're especially productive behind closed doors. Support yourself to process recent events. Savor beautiful views.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 7 - Teamwork scores for victory. Have fun with friends. Advance common goals together. Participate for community gain. Words and actions coalesce. Coordinate who does what.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 7 - You're attracting the attention of someone important at work. Abandon old fears. Share professional presentations and interests. Your status and influence are on the rise.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is an 8 - Expand your territory. Travel, transportation and communications flow with greater ease now. Your creativity flowers. Study and research. Make a delightful long-distance connection.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -Today is a 7 - Quick action can get lucrative results. Handling finances comes easier. Grow and save resources. You're building for the future. It's all for the family.

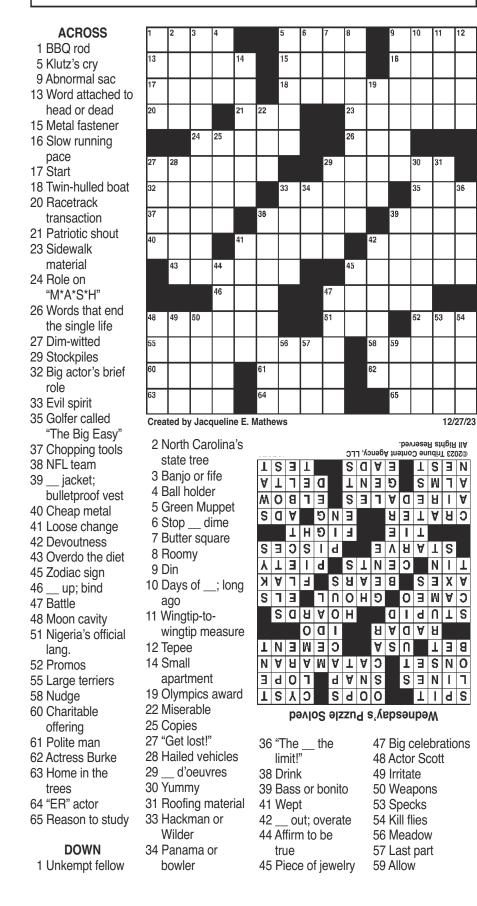
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -Today is an 8 - Collaboration flowers naturally. Your partner understands you intuitively. Coordinate tasks and responsibilities. All for one, and one for all. Share the load and the rewards.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 9 - The pace is picking up. Get into a productive rhythm. A walk outside clears your head. Exercise energizes you. Listen to birdsong for cheerful inspiration.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 7 - Prioritize love, romance and friendship. Spend time with the people you cherish, enjoy and admire. Social connections open new doors. Follow vour heart.

(Astrologer Nancy Black continues her mother Linda Black's legacy horoscopes column. She welcomes comments and questions on Twitter, @LindaCBlack. For more astrological interpretations like today's Gemini horoscope, visit Linda Black Astrology by clicking daily horoscopes, or go to www.nancyblack.com.)

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Kansas business owner charged with selling aviation tech to Russia pleads guilty

By Rachel Mipro Kansas Reflector

TOPEKA — A Kansas businessman faces up to 25 years in prison after conspiring to sell and export aviation-related equipment to Russia, a scheme that allegedly began in 2020 and continued through Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Sixty-year-old Cyril Gregory Buyanovsky, the owner and president of KanRus Trading Company Inc., pleaded guilty Tuesday to federal criminal charges. He's accused of conspiring to commit crimes against the U.S. and conspiring to illegally launder money.

His sentencing hearing is set for March 21. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Scott Rask and Ryan Huschka for the District of Kansas, along with a national security division trial attorney, are prosecuting the case.

"Buyanovsky admitted to a long-running scheme to smuggle

sophisticated U.S. avionics equipment to Russia, doubling down to hide his actions after Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine," said Assistant Attorney General Matthew Olsen of the Justice Department's National Security Division.

"Today's guilty plea demonstrates the Justice Department's commitment to cut off Moscow from the means to fuel its military and hold those enabling it accountable in a court of law."

Buyanovsky forfeited more than \$450,000 worth of avionics equipment and accessories to the government, including a pallet of devices detained by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. He also turned over personal assets estimated to be worth about \$50,000.

In his guilty plea, Buyanovsky said from 2020 to March of this year, when he was arrested, he had worked to smuggle U.S. avionic equipment to those in Russia and

Russians in other foreign countries. To do so, he and fellow conspirators either didn't file required export forms, or filed false export forms in some cases, lying about export values, users and final destinations, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Former KanRus vice president Douglas Robertson, a 56-year-old Olathe resident, was part of the scheme, Buyanovsky said.

The two, along with others, continued to purchase and export equipment for Russian clients after Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, despite tightened U.S. export measures. They did so, prosecutors allege, by shipping products through intermediary companies based in Armenia, United Arab Emirates and Cyprus and using foreign bank accounts to funnel money from Russian customers to the U.S.-based KanRus company.

Investigation into the years-long

scheme was conducted by an interagency law enforcement task force dedicated to enforcing sanctions and export controls set after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February of 2022.

The ongoing task force is still combating "efforts to evade or undermine the collective actions taken by the U.S. government in response to Russian military aggression."

"After the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the U.S. government imposed export controls and sanctions to prevent the weaponization of U.S. manufactured technology against Ukraine in a conflict intended to usurp its right to sovereignty within its borders," said Kate Brubacher, attorney for the District of Kansas. "As long as there are people who value greed and profit over freedom and justice, the U.S. Department of Justice will remain vigilant and investigate and prosecute these crimes."

HEALTH CONTINUED FROM A1

Davis said he wanted to give credit to the Johnson County Mental Health Center for their "tireless efforts in championing for mental health awareness and support" and working the endeavor into action.

"Their commitment breaking down to stigma, providing resources and fostering a culture of empathy has laid the foundation for a successful program through all aspects of services to their clients," he said.

Davis said together the county is creating a community where mental health is a priority and help is readily available to those who need it.

Davis said the vision and leadership from various county officials in all de- Photo by Lynne Hermansen instrumental. "It is through their vision, dedication that the mental health programs provided in the county are successful, and the 9-8-8 call center in this building is now a reality," he said. "We are grateful for their tireless efforts in making our community safer and a more supportive place for everyone."



Davis said mental health is an integral part of the overall health and well-being of everyone.

"Everyone deserves access to timely and compassionate support," he said.

Deputy Director of Emergency Services for Johnson County Mental Health Center Renee Van Meter said the Sheriff's Dept. welcomed them with open arms.

"It has gone off, really without a hitch," she said.

Van Meter said this moment is a "mile

partments has been Deputy Director of Emergency Services Renee Van Meter gives a tour of the new crisis center 988 at the Johnson County Communications Center. 988 responders will collaborate with the 911 responders.

marker."

"It is a mile marker of innovation, innovative mental health services, innovative crisis response, innovative collaboration, right here in Johnson County, Kansas," she said.

Van Meter said the new space allows the mental health center to have a seat at the table of a really important conversation.

"Is there a way to get the right response to the right person at the right time," she said. "And sometimes that might not be police or fire or an ambulance, and sometimes it is."

Van Meter gave a tour of the 988 crisis line room adjacent to the Sheriff and Med Act dispatchers.

Van Meter highlighted the building's infrastructure, specifically a wall.

of this building is in 2022. We are on par

profound," she said. "This is a hard wall. All of the call center, all of the floor, all of the emergency responses happening behind this wall which is built to withstand an F4 tornado. That is huge in this land where we answer these calls and respond to crisis in our county. Behind this is where all of the work happens, and we feel safe, and we feel secure."

Van Meter said the new space provides more work spaces for future Johnson County Mental Health Center employees as they expect to grow with the call volume increase.

"We had four call stations in our previous call center, we were even smaller before that, so just planning for growth as our call volume has gone from 17,000 in "The infrastructure 2017 to over 40,000

to hit that in 2023. We know that growth will happen."

Van Meter said they also want to get into the field of chat and text, and the bigger room will let them respond to mental health crisis calls better.

Van Meter said the room is staffed four people deep from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. and three staff from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. every day of the year.

Van Meter said the number of calls per day "depend on the moment."

"If you want to take an average of 40,000 (calls) throughout a year, it is 110 crisis calls a day," she said. "We know that doesn't happen. We know some days it is 210 and somedays it is 50. But we are staffed here to respond to the county's needs as the county has told us that

they need us." County officials said sharing a building will also allow the county's 911 dispatchers and mental health professionals to share resources and collaborate more closely and efficiently, which is a first step toward a more formal connection between the two. Johnson County Health Mental Center Director Tim DeWeese said they want to make sure they're providing the right service at the right time for anyone in our community who's experiencing an

emergency or crisis. "As a county, we're working together to ensure mental health crisis response is a part of that conversation alongside police, fire and EMS," he said. County officials said

over time, the goal will be to implement a 911 diversion program

in Johnson County that would allow 911 calls to the County Communications Center to be transferred directly to the crisis line team when it is safe to do so. Such a program could be a model for other jurisdictions regionally and nationally looking to implement a similar connection between the two services.

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is a national resource providing around-theclock mental health support and was launched July 2022.

Those in need of mental health support for themselves or their loved ones are encouraged to call JCMHC's crisis line, 913-268-0156, or 988 to connect with a local mental health professional who will listen, support, share resources and provide guidance.

CHRISTMAS CONTINUED FROM A1

Art Latex, Nanette Foley, Richard T. Gill and Julie Watson performed songs Thursday ranging from traditional Christmas songs of "O Come, All Ye Faithful" to the children's classic, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" to "O Magnum Mysterium" in Latin.



