# BELOIT CALL

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**SERVING THE SOLOMON VALLEY SINCE 1901** 

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025** 





West Beloit Veterans Day Parade: Club members participated in the Veterans' Day Parade

#### **West Beloit 4-H Club** celebrates National 4-H Week

BELOIT—The West Beloit 4-H Club has been celebrating National 4-H Week, October 5-11. Enrollment for the new 4-H year started Oct. 1. Throughout the year, the West Beloit 4-H Club participates in many activities, learning opportunities, and community service activities.

The club hosts the Isle of Lights, beautifies Westside Park each October, works at Kids Café, and this year took over the care and maintenance of the community zinnia garden at North Campus. This past year, the club's project was horticulture and the club hosted Scott Chapman and Cassie Thiessen as guest speakers. Meetings are held monthly with 4-Hers leading and conducting their own meeting and learning parliamentary procedure.

The individuals of 4-H are also allowed to give demonstrations, project talks or other presentations at the meetings.

Meetings also include time for skill building, such as writing thank-you notes and team-building games.

The Club also participates in the Veteran's Day Parade, 4-H Day with the Lady Wildcats, Regional Quiz Bowl, and 4-H Club Days. State-level leadership opportunities for older youth are available with events in Manhattan and Topeka. The 4-H year concludes with the Mitchell County Fair and Kansas State Fair, where exhibits and projects are presented and judged. 4-H is open to youth ages 7-18 and welcomes all. 4-H is a family affair, and parents are encouraged to attend each meeting and come alongside their children to all 4-H activities.

If you are interested in joining the West Beloit 4-H Club, please reach out to Post Rock Extension, club leaders Tara Pruitt or Katie Schroeder, or any current



Lakeside students take part in the Mitchell County Health Systems Teddy Bear Clinic for 146 kindergarten students. Beloit, St. John's Catholic School, Tipton, Mankato, Glasco and Sylvan-Lucas also participated in the event, where they engaged with healthcare professionals in a fun, non-intimidating environment.

#### MCHHS and Auxiliary host Teddy Bear clinics

BELOIT - The Mitchell County Hospital Health Systems (MCHHS) Auxiliary, in partnership with MCHHS, recently hosted its annual Teddy Bear Clinic for 146 kindergarten students. The event is designed to help young children become more comfortable in healthcare settings while learning the importance of health and wellness at an

Each child received a special MCHHS teddy bear and an "employee" name badge before touring both clinical and non-clinical departments of the hospital. Students from Beloit, St. John's Catholic School, Lakeside, Tipton, Mankato, Glasco and Sylvan-Lucas participated in the event, where they engaged with healthcare professionals in a fun, non-intimidating environment.

The Teddy Bear Clinic has been a tradition since 1990, originally introduced as the Doll Clinic by Auxiliary members Vickie Mears and Mary Jane Chapman. Over the years, countless volunteer hours have gone into making the event a success, providing children with positive early experiences in healthcare.

Nicki Cleveland, Chief Nursing Officer said "The Teddy Bear Clinic is a special tradition for our hospital and community. It gives children the chance to see healthcare in a positive, friendly way while reminding families that MCHHS is here to care for them at every stage of life. "We're grateful to our Auxiliary, staff, and schools for helping us create these joyful memories that make kids feel safe and supported in our hospital."

Hospital leaders emphasize that MCHHS is more than just a place for treatment—it is a partner in prevention, education, and building healthier communities. Events like the Teddy Bear Clinic not only ease fears about doctor visits but also strengthen trust between families and healthcare providers.

MCHHS is proud to continue this collaboration with the Auxiliary and area schools to offer meaningful experiences that foster confidence and comfort in the next generation.

## Electric rates go back to 2016 pricing

**BY SHARON SAHLFELD** Call Editor

The Beloit City Council met on Oct. 1,

2025, with Andrew Grabon absent. There was no City Attorney report.

– Halley Roberson, Beloit City Manager, reported on the EDA grant, asking if the city can begin contract negotiations to bring back to the council.

Walnut street is now open again and light poles are being installed.

The RFP metering project is receiving good information from vendors.

Using Sourcewell for a possible Suck Truck purchase for the city is being questioned, and possible other ways for purchasing are being looked into.

The Pipeline project to Waconda Lake has started. A strainer pump for fish issues so they would not make it clear to the water plant, has been brought to the table with a change order which would cost \$20,000 more. "We were led to believe this was taken care of," said Mayor Tom Naasz.

See ELECTRIC on 4

### Demo to Dirt" program Helping to remove dilapidated housing

BELOIT — A new housing initiative is set to launch soon across several counties in North Central Kansas aimed at addressing the issue of dilapidated residential structures. The "Demo to Dirt" program provides financial assistance to help property owners remove unsafe or blighted housing, contributing to safer neighborhoods and enhancing the overall appearance of communities.

The North Central Regional Planning Commission (NCRPC) in Beloit, Kansas, will administer the program with support from a 2025 grant by The Patterson Family Foundation.

Eligible applicants may qualify for reimbursement grants of up to \$4,000 toward demolition costs for deteriorated residential homes, garages, and sheds that pose safety risks or detract from neighborhood quality. There are no income requirements for the program. Assistance will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Property owners are required to contribute a 25% match and cover any costs that exceed the \$4,000 grant.

See **DEMO** on 2



#### Bull!

This bullsnake was helped off the country road in Mitchell County so it wouldn't be run over. Bullsnakes (Pituophis catenifer sayi), also known as gopher snakes, are common in Kansas, where they are the largest native snake, typically growing five to six feet long and even larger in some cases. These non-venomous, beneficial snakes are often mistaken for rattlesnakes due to their loud hissing, tail-shaking, and bold patterns. They use it as a defensive display of rearing up and rattling their tail, like a rattlesnake, but they lack a rattle. Bullsnakes are valuable for pest control, feeding primarily on rodents like rats, mice, and gophers.

SHARON SAHLFELD PHOTO



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