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BURGER
 OF THE
WEEK

CHILI BURGER:
CHILI,
SHREDDED
CHEESE, FRITOS
ON BRIOCHE
BUN


***USD 333 School Board
story on Page 6B***

Concordia BLADE-EMPIRE

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CONCORDIA, KS | WWW.BLADEEMPIRE.COM

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025

A dark blue banner with rounded corners. On the left is the Geisler Roofing logo, which includes a stylized house icon above the word 'Geisler' in a large, white, serif font, with 'ROOFING' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it, and '& Home Improvement' in an even smaller font at the bottom. To the right of the logo, the text '908 E. 6th Street • Concordia' is written in a white, sans-serif font. Below this, the phone number '785-243-7298' is displayed in a larger, bold, white, sans-serif font. Underneath the phone number is the website 'geislerroofing.com' in a white, sans-serif font. At the bottom right of the banner, the words 'HONEST • INTEGRITY • QUALITY • RELIABILITY' are written in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

City Commission to hold public hearing on May 7

A public hearing for the condemnation of two structures recently damaged by fires, and an ordinance that prohibits certain types of parking on residential yards were part of the regular meeting of the city commission on Wednesday, March 5.

The meeting began with a discussion of the Two Lights For Tomorrow initiative, a nationwide initiative to commence the celebration of the 250th birthday of the United States of America.

The famous ride of Paul Revere occurred on the overnight of April 18-19, 1775. Two Lights for Tomorrow commemorates that famous ride and uses the imagery of shining lights as a uniting call to action for our citizens to celebrate and serve.

The initiative calls for two lights to be displayed in every statehouse in the nation on April 18, 2025. The lights will be a reminder that the visual of a light shining out in the darkness on Revere's ride is not just something that mattered then; it's something that matters today,

and for the collective tomorrow.

This is an opportunity to not only raise public awareness of the nation's upcoming 250th birthday, and how that visibly will be observed, but also to communicate the meaning of Revere's ride as history and remind our citizens of their part in the perpetual building of a more perfect union.

From two spotlights at a state capitol building beaming in the darkness, to smaller displays at municipal buildings, and lights in individual homes, every citizen can participate.

In the action item portion of the meeting, commissioners approved a grant agreement with the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) for the KDOT TA Concordia Sidewalks for Schools project.

In October of 2024 the City was awarded a \$1.032 million grant through the KDOT Transportation Alternatives program for the design and construction of sidewalks near Concordia Middle School (CMS).

See **CITY** on 3B



Craig Finlayson, Print 5 manager, welcomes customers to stop by the new Concordia location at 510 Washington.

Newly remodeled Print 5 offers expanded service

BY RUSSELL GAGNON

Having a local printer at your disposal is of great value to a small community, and a rural area in general. It means instant service and faster turnaround times for your printing and office supply needs.

Print 5 has been taking care of those needs in the North Central Kansas area for almost 40 years. The business was opened by Mike LeClair in 1987 in his garage. He eventually relocated his shop

to Concordia's Main Street.

In early 1999, the Blade-Empire Publishing Co. bought Print 5. In February of 2024, Sweet Tea Media purchased the Blade-Empire Publishing Co. With that purchase, Print 5 is now partnered with Sweet Tea Media's state-of-the-art printing capabilities, and has more than doubled the other services it can provide to customers.

See **PRINT5** on 6A

An interview with Ashlea Marsh

According to the official complaint filed by the Cloud County Attorney, on or about November 18, 2024, an alleged assault occurred involving several Concordia Junior/Senior High School (JSHS) students. The incident did not occur on school property.

Two Concordia JSHS students have been charged with violation of K.S.A. 21.5412.a.e 1, Assault, a Class C Person Misdemeanor.

Ashlea Marsh is the mother of the alleged victim of assault. Her son is 15 years old. Ashlea Marsh is a Title 1 para-educator at USD 333.

Marsh said that her son has faced physical and mental limitations since he was a young boy. “His physical strength... his capabilities and his coordination isn’t all there,” Marsh said. “Fine motor is a big challenge for him. He had an IEP (Individualized Education Program) as a young child, and we’ve converted that to a 504 plan, which is a less-invasive version of an



individualized education plan for him.”

According to the Disability Rights Center of Kansas: 'A 504 plan is a plan for students with disabilities. It helps them

get what they need in school by providing additions or changes to the learning environment to accommodate your child's disability.'

See **MARSH** on 8A



Concordia Junior/Senior High School powerlifting team

Powerlifting team makes great strides in 2025

TUCKER ASHBURN

Combining athletes of all ages, the powerlifting team at Concordia Junior/Senior High School focuses on some core principles: bettering themselves for personal reasons, and becoming better athletes for their sport.

Led by Ryan Peroo, the powerlifting team boasts 34 members, with students from nearly every varsity sport on the roster.

The powerlifting “season” starts at the same time as winter sports, but Peroo said powerlifting is not competition to the varsity sports, “I want as many kids to go out for basketball and wrestling, and once those sports start, I start promoting powerlifting,” said Peroo.

Athletes are able to be on a sports team and still compete in powerlifting practices and meets.

See **POWERLIFTING** on 6A

Wardcraft Homes Open House: Sat March 29th 10-3

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Fullerton III #6049 1,860 sq ft
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