

# My Favorite Older Person

BY LINCOLN KINDEL



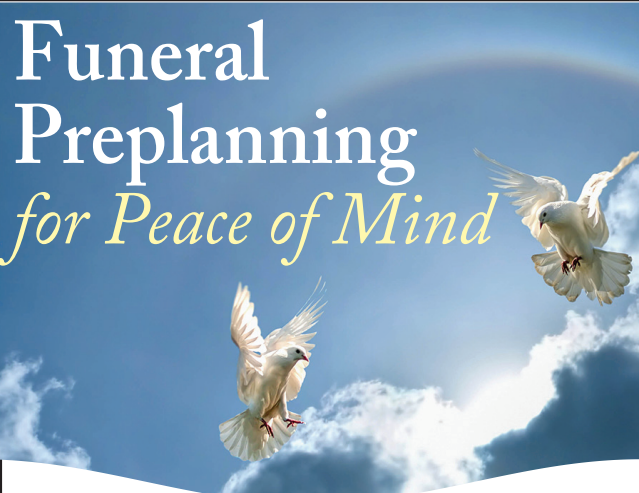
## Grandpa Reggie

Do you have a favorite older person? Well I have a favorite older person and that's my grandpa Reggie. His nickname is Grandpa Reggie. My grandpa reminds me of Santa Claus because he has gray hair and grey glasses. My grandpa was 6'0". He is my favorite older person.

During holidays we would go to grandpa's house every time. My grandpa has a farm.

He worked at NAPA and sold motors. Plus me and grandpa did a lot of activities like helping him pick tomatoes, ride golf carts, and fishing. That's why he's my favorite older person.

Every time I went to my grandpa's house, I would hold onto my grandpa. We would almost see him every day. One time, we watched the Spiderman movie together. That's why he is my favorite older person.



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# Cloud County Commission talks CDL training, department updates

BY OLIVIA BERGMEIER  
Concordia Blade-Empire

Multiple visitors addressed the Cloud County Commission on Monday, July 21, including Cloud County Community College (CCCC) representatives and a Community Corrections official.

Cloud County commissioners Ron Copple, Dannie Kearn and chairman Mike Cleveland attended the meeting at 9 a.m. in the Cloud County Courthouse, alongside Cloud County Clerk Shella Thoman finishing the regular roster.

The first order of business that commissioners addressed was how the county trains new hires for commercial driver's licenses (CDLs). The county has continued its education through Fort Hays Tech North Central, but the commission wants to bring that training back into the county.

"I want to do business local whenever possible," Cleveland said.

So, commissioners invited CCCC Vice President of Academic Affairs Brandon Galm and Dean of Math, Science and Technical Programs Larry Mclemore to discuss a possible plan to move CDL permitting into the local college.

Cloud County Highway and Weed Administrator Rod Michaud brought forward a comparison of the Fort Hays Tech North Central program and CCCC's program, and found there was quite a difference.

Mclemore said that the CCCC CDL course gives prospective drivers more time to practice driving large trucks, which commissioners found agreeable.

"I like that they have more drive time," Kearn said.

The rest of the room agreed, since Michaud mentioned that many of the folks applying for jobs that require a CDL are new to the profession. Commissioners asked Mclemore and Galm for a document laying out how CCCC would create a CDL training program for the county for later review.

Michaud continued his conversation with commissioners once CCCC staff members left. His department update included Casey Fraser, a Foley Equipment product

sales employee, joining in for an equipment bid.

The equipment in question was a small yard loader, but before any purchase, commissioners told Michaud that they'd like department staff to look at the machinery.

Fraser exited the meeting and commissioners then commenced a 15-minute executive session with Thoman and Michaud where they took no action after.

Commissioners talked about a few more ongoing projects with Michaud, and then moved on to their next appointment.

Cloud County Community Corrections Director Dawn Snyder joined the meeting after Michaud's department update, with a year-end outcomes report for both juvenile and adult services.

Beyond the routine part of Snyder's appointment with commissioners, she brought forward some funding concerns for her department's connection with the State of Kansas.

According to Snyder, the Kansas Department of Corrections has updated the different entities that can access the evidence-based programs (EVP) fund, which pays for community-based services.

"They (state employees) foresee that within the next two years, that fund being depleted," Snyder said.

"So we will have no more programming for our community-based services that it was intended for."

After a few more updates about the department from Snyder, commissioners unanimously approved Community Corrections' year-end outcomes report.

Commissioners then tackled some routine business, which included the minutes of the previous meeting, last week's abatements and recording the meetings which commissioners attended. The commission unanimously approved its routine items.

With routine business out of the way, commissioners looked to their next appointment which was with Cloud County Health Department Administrator Tonya Sulanka and Home Health Administrator Kendra Annon.

The first matter that Sulanka brought to commissioners was her

continued concern for her department's state funding.

Every year, the department applies for and receives a significant amount of grant funding through the State of Kansas. According to Sulanka, her department has only received around half of the state dollars that it received last year, with two grants, the Immunization Action Plan (IAP) and Public Health Emergency Preparedness State Formula (PHEP SF), still in limbo.

"IAP is not that big, we hope to get four to five (thousand) every year," Sulanka said. "But the other one, I mean, it just ranges. I always ask for a lot, and hopefully they give us more every year, but it just depends since they put out that letter about how they're only receiving 70%. No one knows."

Sulanka then moved on to other matters, including the community health survey that wrapped up last week. According to Sulanka, the same three topics continued to dominate the poll since the last community health survey three years ago.

According to 147 responses, the top three health concerns for Cloud County residents remained as weight management, mental health and substance abuse.

"Which is kind of expected," Sulanka said. "You can't fix a community in three years, so the results came back, and it's exactly the same as the three years before."

After a few more reports from Annon about home health and Sulanka about an upcoming audit, the commission moved into executive session with Sulanka and Thoman present for about 15 minutes.

Once commissioners ended the executive session, they moved on to discuss a department update with Cloud County Solid Waste Director Mike Hake.

Commissioners then finished a few more routine business items, and ended the meeting. The next Cloud County Commission meeting will take place at 9 a.m. on Monday, July 28, in the Commissioner Room at the Cloud County Courthouse, 811 Washington Street, in Concordia.

# Frank Carlson Library keeps giving to the community

BY CYNTHIA WILSON  
Concordia Blade-Empire

The Frank Carlson Library has been busy this summer—with a revamped summer program and a new adult services coordinator—there are lots of exciting things going on.

This summer's library activity calendar was packed full. Lyndsey Kopsa, director of the Frank Carlson Library, said, "We took advice from last year's comments, and added more activities and diverse times to this year's schedule."

Shelby Newville, the children's services coordinator, said, "We have seen an increase in grandparents bringing their grandchildren to more of the programs this summer."

According to the library's June 2025 report, to date, the summer program's attendance has reached 716 individuals participating in 48 programs.

The library has added a few all-ages programs this summer. It has seen an increase in visits from residents of the nursing homes in town.

Frank Carlson Library has several recurring programs geared towards adults. One of them is a monthly book group, the No Name Book Group, which usually meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 7 p.m.

The No Name Book Group is an adult-only book discussion group that reads a variety of genres and subjects. Kopsa said, "We have been pretty consistent in attendance for the book group; it averages about 10-12 people. The library reserves 12 copies of each title to be given out on a first-come basis for the group."

## City

continued from 1

Under the City's demolition reimbursement program, the city does not solicit sealed bids. The owner was required to bring in two bids from two different contractors. City policy is to pay a fifty percent reimbursement based on the lowest of the two bids, up to a maximum reimbursement of \$4,000. These funds are drawn from budget line 426.726.001 of the City's Capital Im-

provement Plan.

Commissioners then met in executive session with City Manager Lange and City Attorney Justin Ferrell for 15 minutes. No action was taken.

Commissioners then met in a second executive session with Lange, Ferrell, Greg Conway, and Landee Thyfault for 15 minutes. No action was taken.

With no further business on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.