



• Editorial

person to person in a small town, one fact rings all too true: big talkers oftentimes have big mouths, and big mouths are usually full of shit. Then these uninformed citizens feel it’s their right to express displeasure, confusion or frustration with decisions made. Madness!!

Local government and administrative offices are watched by your local newspaper, staffed by many solid, open and willing-to-help individuals. I wish people would take advantage of that blessing and ask the local paper questions!!

“I am not a teacher, but an awakener.”-Robert Frost

We work each day to find information and give it to you in our pages, and we may not be teachers, but we do try to educate the public on what affects them the most!

“Education does not mean teaching people to know what they do not know; it means teaching them to behave as they do not behave.”-John Ruskin

There’s only one thing level-headed, everyday citizens can do to combat the rumor mill and preserve common sense and community: give the effort to be informed!

It sounds simple enough, but the majority of citizens don’t know their own rights! Below is a rundown of items that bring citizens into our office, who inevitably end up leaving, saying, “Well, I didn’t know that!” I’ve used the local City Council as the example throughout, although these “lessons” can be applied to most public entities and public meetings:

Public meetings Most voting citizens know that City Council meetings are open to the public, but what exactly qualifies as a public meeting? The City Council meets regularly to conduct regular city business.

Sometimes, agenda items need *Work Sessions* to focus on the item and hash out the trouble with it prior to addressing and/or voting

on the item during a regular meeting. Additionally, council can sometimes call a *Special Meeting* to conduct city business that is pressing and must be addressed and/or voted on prior to the next regular council meeting.

Both Work Sessions and Special Meetings are scheduled in advance on days agreeable to the quorum of council, and both are open to the public, and by attending regular meetings and/or keeping in contact with your clerk’s office, you can receive timely notification for these additional sessions and meetings.

Agenda The agenda for regular City Council meetings is set and distributed to interested parties and your local media source prior to regular meetings. Any citizen may have an item added to the agenda for council discussion, but the item may only be added at a council member’s or the mayor’s request. *You must contact your council representative first to address the issue.* If you are not interested in having a council member put your issue on the agenda, all public may speak freely during the public comments portion of the regular meetings.

Public Record Information handled in open council meeting, in addition to other city information, is deemed public record, meaning all citizens have the right to request access to all public record information. There are books upon books and laws upon laws written to tell you what is and what is not public record, a conversation that could be had for years, but for simplicity sake, I’ll focus on an everyday issue. For example, city groups requesting budgets from the city, like museum and tourism groups, must submit a detailed budget request, giving validation to their request for said funds. Those budget requests, and the expenditures of any group funded by the City, are public record. You have

Continued from Page 4

the right to ask for copies of all budget requests and expenditures submitted. Be mindful, however; government, in return, has the right to charge you for all copies requested, and the political jargon in some of those items can run for miles...

Preparing to vote When council prepares to vote on a “hot” community item, odds are they have discussing the item for some time. For example, the yearly budget. Although it is passed each year following a public budget hearing, the budget discussion begins long before that time. If citizens really want to be heard and possibly make a difference, start attending meetings in January and February! Budgetary items are a constant topic of regular meetings throughout the year, and attending those meetings can give you, the average citizen, a good understanding of what city officials are facing or not facing.

I stress to the general public that city government can be a difficult monster to understand. There are bonds, and ordinances, and legal terminology, and budgeted line items, complete with a long list of government cans and cannots. Understanding it all can be quite tricky, especially the legal hoops and restrictions, and inevitably someone will always be upset and angry.

“I could tell where the lamplighter was by the trail he left behind him.” Harry Lauder

If you are not informed, ask questions of officials who have the information. If you are not trained, talk with people who are! Your local newspaper has been following the happenings and dealings of governing bodies in the area for over 125 years, and we continue to work each day to lay the path of information for those who live and love in your community. Start by checking your local news source for a change!

Nickole Byers

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The Ellis High School Volleyball’s team shirts have been a topic of conversation this season. I as the coach would like to shed some light on the subject matter. The meaning behind the shirts; every year I allow my senior players to create/design our team shirts and choose a color. This year the girls came up with a great design and asked if they could do purple instead of the traditional orange or black. Why you may ask, first off sometimes we want a fun color, but did you know purple is the symbol of mental health awareness and with everything that goes on in this world today, everyone’s mental health is being tested. Second, lavender in particular is the color for cancer, not one specific cancer, but cancer in general and pretty much everyone these days is affected in some way by cancer. I hope this clears up any confusion as to why we are wearing purple on games days this season. If you have any other concerns related to the topic of our purple team shirts, please reach out via email aberens@usd388.com

Coach Alice Berens

The Ellis School Board needs you!

There are four open positions to fill in the November 2025 election, but no candidates filed to be on the ballot. To learn more about the opportunity, please chat with a board member or contact the district office for information.



If you could print a thumbs up for your local Pumpkin Patch please! We visited opening

Thumbs down are given to the volleyball shirt thumbs down from last week. I think they are nice!

Please put a thumbs down in the newspaper for the rough drive on

weekend and it was just beautiful out there! What a treasure for Ellis to have!

Thumbs up to the Ellis boys for their first win on the gridiron! Here’s to a bunch more this season, keep working boys!

Please print my thumbs up in the paper: to the

some of the Ellis roads. I wish we could see a road plan or a plan to address some of these holes and cracks and more holes!

Submit your “Thumbs Down!” to the Review Today!

managers for this year’s sports! You’re not always seen, but you are always felt by our local teams. Your hard work does not go unnoticed, kids! Keep doing the good work you are doing to support our Railroader teams!

Submit your “Thumbs Up!” to the Review today!



Submit your “Thumbs Up” or “Thumbs Down” Today! Limit of 30 words! The Review presents the new, entertaining and stimulating “Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down”! This featured section is for the enjoyment of our readers, showing positive comments with a “Thumbs Up” and negative comments with a “Thumbs Down.” You may drop off submissions to our office at 1020 Washington, mail to PO Box 227, or email to review@gbta.net.

All Submissions MUST CONTAIN name, address and phone number (for use by office for verification only); submissions without this information WILL NOT be printed. Negative comments shall omit specific references to person(s), location(s), business(es). REVIEW STAFF MAY EDIT. At the editor’s discretion, elected officials’ names may be allowed, only as they relate to current political events. Submissions may include name of the person submitting the comments, but comments may also remain anonymous.

It’s October Match Month!

As you consider your end-of-year giving, remember the impact of giving local. This October is the perfect time to support community projects, as every dollar donated will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Patterson Family Foundation.

The Community Foundation of Ellis (CFOE) is proud to sponsor this year’s October Match Month, supporting four meaningful projects that will directly benefit Ellis. Donors may choose a specific project or allow their gift to be shared among all four. Every contribution—large or small—makes a difference. This year’s campaign highlights

these projects.

1. Ellis Food Pantry Endowment

CFOE funds and operates the Ellis Food Pantry, which serves neighbors in need year-round. The Foundation’s goal is to raise at least \$50,000 to establish an endowment, ensuring long-term sustainability for operational costs. Informational flyers about this campaign were delivered to every home in Ellis last week.

2. Ellis Public Library Upgrades

Built in the 1960s and serving as the public library since 1986, the building is in urgent need of updates. Drafty windows, leaky glass storefront panels, and

outdated electrical outlets make the space inefficient and uncomfortable. The Library Board has been working hard to modernize the facility, aiming to make it brighter, safer, and more welcoming. The project cost is \$51,000.

3. Lakeside Campground Playground Equipment

A new piece of playground equipment, originally planned as part of the campground expansion, was cut from the budget due to costs. This \$12K addition would provide small children with safe and fun recreation while staying at the campground.

•Continued on page 3B

Ellis Food Boxes

Our Mission: To provide free food boxes for those living in USD 388 who might want the help that a food box brings.

Date Check Curbside Pickup 210 Madison St. October 6



Want a Food Box?

Free food boxes are offered to all residents living in USD 388... No income restrictions!

Questions, Requests, or Offers to Help!

Contact the Alliance Office, 820 Washington, 785 726-2660 (if not in, please leave a message)

Christmas Box Sign up NOW!

- Deadline is October 31
- Sign up at the pantry from 3-6pm on October 7th OR by calling Rita Younger @ (785) 650-4225 or Millie Winterscheidt @ (785) 726-1127
- Christmas Box Pickup: Dec 16 for 1-2 person families Dec 18 for families of 3 or more

HOROSCOPES

ARIES Mar 21-Apr 20

Your energy is off the charts this week, Aries. This is the perfect time to start a new fitness regimen or tackle projects that you’ve been putting off for a while.

TAURUS Apr 21-May 21

Focus on your finances this week, Taurus. A new opportunity to increase your income or make an investment comes your way. Your practical nature will facilitate sound decision-making.

GEMINI May 22-Jun 21

Your communication skills are very powerful right now, Gemini. Whether it is a difficult conversation or a creative collaboration, you will find the right words to express yourself.

CANCER Jun 22-Jul 22

Take some time for self-care this week, Cancer. Your intuition is strong and your inner voice will lead you to what will ultimately bring security and comfort.

LEO Jul 23-Aug 23

Leo, you are shining brightly right now. This is your time to be seen and celebrated. Step into the spotlight at work or in your social circle. Your confidence will be contagious.

VIRGO Aug 24-Sep 22

Productivity and organization are the name of the game this week, Virgo. You will feel a sense of satisfaction from checking off tasks and bringing order to your surroundings.

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 23

Your natural charm and diplomatic skills make you a sought-after companion, Libra. This means your social life may be buzzing right now with plenty of people staying close.

SCORPIO Oct 24-Nov 22

You are in a powerful position to achieve your professional goals, Scorpio. A new project or recognition at work might be on the horizon. Stay focused.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23-Dec 21

Adventure is calling you, Sagittarius. Whether it is travel plans, a new work project or trying a new restaurant, you will be seeking novel experiences this week.

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 20

Take some time for deep reflection, Capricorn. You can find clarity by looking inward and understanding what drives you. Expect some good news by midweek.

AQUARIUS Jan 21-Feb 18

Your relationships are a great source of joy this week, Aquarius. You may connect with others who share your unique vision and ideas. Don’t be afraid to be yourself.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 20

Creativity is flowing right now, Pisces. Devote some time to a passion project, whether it is art, music or writing. It is alright to daydream a little while as well.