

# I-R Calendar

## THURSDAY, JULY 3

**HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY:** The Independent-Reporter office will be closed so employees can enjoy the July 4 holiday with their families.

## FRIDAY, JULY 4

**HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY:** The Independent-Reporter office will be closed so employees can enjoy the July 4 holiday with their families. The office will reopen at 8 a.m. Monday, July 7.

**FOURTH OF JULY PANCAKE FEED FUNDRAISER:** The Ellsworth Kiwanis Club hosts a Fourth of July Pancake Feed and Celebration fundraiser from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Ellsworth American Legion Post 174, Ellsworth. Menu includes pancakes, eggs, sausage and more. Freewill donation.

## SATURDAY, JULY 5

**DAY OF UFO ART AND CULTURE:** The Geneseo City Museum invites the public to celebrate Kansas UFO Day in Dimension G starting at 9 a.m. with the opening of the museum. UFO and paranormal speakers and musical events take place from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs. A Martian and Market Pop-up Marking by Simply OP will be available from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., with a bounce house and waterside open from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. There will be a parade at 5 p.m. and a street dance featuring Rice County Line from 6-9 p.m. The American Legion beer garden will be open all day. For more information call Jim Gray at (785) 531-2058 and leave a message.

## MONDAY, JULY 7

**COUNTY BUSINESS:** Ellsworth County Commissioners meet at 9 a.m. at the courthouse meeting room. Information: (785) 472-4161

**CITY BUSINESS:** The Wilson City Council meets at 6 p.m. at city hall.

**SCHOOL BUSINESS:** The Ellsworth-Kanopolis-Geneseo USD 327 board of education meets at 7 p.m. at the district office.

## TUESDAY, JULY 8

**CITY BUSINESS:** The Kanopolis City Council meets at 5:30 p.m. at city hall.

## THURSDAY, JULY 10

**SCHOOL BUSINESS:** The Ellsworth-Kanopolis-Geneseo USD 327 board of education meets at 5:30 p.m. for a work session at the district office.

## MONDAY, JULY 14

**COUNTY BUSINESS:** Ellsworth County Commissioners meet at 9 a.m. at the courthouse meeting room. Information: (785) 472-4161

**CITY BUSINESS:** The Ellsworth City Council meets at 5:30 p.m. at city hall.

**SCHOOL BUSINESS:** The Central Plains USD 112 board of education meets at 6 p.m. in Claffin.

**SCHOOL BUSINESS:** The Ellsworth-Kanopolis-Geneseo USD 327 board of education meets at 7 p.m. at the district office, Ellsworth.

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

**HOSPITAL BUSINESS:** The Ellsworth County Medical Center board of directors meet at 5:30 p.m. in the hospital conference room.

## MONDAY, JULY 21

**COUNTY BUSINESS:** Ellsworth County Commissioners meet at 9 a.m. at the courthouse meeting room. Information: (785) 472-4161

**CITY BUSINESS:** The Wilson City Council meets at 6 p.m. at city hall.

## MONDAY, JULY 28

**COUNTY BUSINESS:** Ellsworth County Commissioners meet at 9 a.m. at the courthouse meeting room. Information: (785) 472-4161

# INDEPENDENT ELLSWORTH COUNTY REPORTER

(USPS 461-680)

Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter  
Morris Multimedia

Karen Bonar  
Publisher/Editor

### DEPARTMENTS

Advertising — Alan Rusch & Orlita Dobkins  
Graphic Design — Bill Beckmeyer  
Ad Billing/Circulation — Dawnae Bunch

The official newspaper for Ellsworth County,  
USD 327, USD 112 and the cities of Ellsworth,  
Holyrood, Kanopolis, Lorraine and Wilson.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single Copy — \$1.50  
Per Year in Ellsworth County — \$55  
Per Year Elsewhere — \$65  
Online — \$50

### HOW TO REACH US

Phone — (785) 472-5085  
Mail — 304 N. Douglas Ave., Ellsworth, KS 67439  
Email — news@indyrepnews.com  
sports@indyrepnews.com



The Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter is published weekly at 304 N. Douglas Ave., Ellsworth, Kansas. Periodicals postage rate paid at Ellsworth, KS 67439. POSTMASTER: Send all UAA to CFS. (See DMM 507.1.5.2); NON-POSTAL AND MILITARY FACILITIES: Send address corrections to Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter, 304 N. Douglas Ave., Ellsworth, KS 67439. Reproduction or use of editorial or graphic content, in whole or in part, without permission, is strictly prohibited.

# I-R Obituaries

## Connie Jean (Anschutz) Dickinson (1957-2025)

Connie Jean (Anschutz) Dickinson, 67, passed away Saturday, June 28, 2025, in Hutchinson, Kan. She was born Dec. 22, 1957, in Ellsworth, Kan., to Dale and Mabel (Choitz) Anschutz. Connie married Will E. Dickinson, Jr. in Ellsworth on Nov. 7, 1981, and their union was soon after blessed with a daughter, Tiffany. Connie was a beautician for over 39 years and worked at the hospital as a dietician. She was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Ellsworth, and very active in the church, serving as a mid-week and Sunday school teacher, youth sponsor for eight years and other areas as needed.

Connie is survived by her daughter Tiffany K. Harders (Daniel), Holyrood, Kan.; siblings Lois Wenz (Gilbert), Holyrood; Alan Anschutz (Kim), Bella Vista, Ark.; and Gale Anschutz (Lisa), Rose Hill, Kan.; as well as five nieces, one nephew and 10 great nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents Dale and Mabel and her husband of 39 years, Will. Connie was a strong Christian woman and it showed through in her many walks in life.

Visitation is from 1-8 p.m. Wednesday, July 2, 2025, at Parsons Funeral Home, Ellsworth, with family present from 6-8 p.m.

The funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, July 3, 2025, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Ellsworth, with burial following at Ellsworth

Memorial Cemetery.

In lieu of plants and flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Immanuel Lutheran Church or to the family, c/o Parsons Funeral Home, P.O. Box 45, Ellsworth, KS 67439. Condolences can be left at parsonsfh.com.

## Jeremiah Paul Gray Wells (1982-2025)

Jeremiah Paul Gray Wells, 43, left this world on June 23, 2025. He was born Jan. 26, 1982, in Tulsa, Okla. Jeremiah was a graduate of Ellsworth High School, Class of 2001. After high school he attended Barton County Community College and worked at Ellsworth Correctional Facility. He farmed alongside his grandpa and worked cattle for many years.

Jeremiah is survived by his mother, Denise Brock (Richard), Carlton, Kan.; sisters Amanda Samland (Peter), Denver, Colo.; and Melissa Williams (Keith), Salina, Kan.; three nieces, one nephew and grandmother Donna Mehl. He was preceded in death by his grandfather Wayne Mehl and his uncle Daryl Mehl.

His smile and sense of humor will be deeply missed.

Cremation was chosen and no services will be held. The family kindly requests no flowers or donations at this time.

## VFWS SUPPORTS FCCLA STUDENTS



ALAN RUSCH/Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter

On June 24 at Ellsworth VFW Post 6485, Ellsworth VFW Commander George Martin and members of the VFW presented a \$400 check to Carsyn Johnson of the Ellsworth Jr./Sr. High School Family, Career and Community Leaders of America and four other members of the FCCLA to help with expenses as they attend the national FCCLA competition July 3-10 in Orlando, Fla. According to FCCLA sponsor Mandy Burger, the girls will each compete in different categories ranging from fashion to community service. Front row, from left, Carsyn Johnson and Commander George Martin. Second row, Tony Svaty, Mallory Dobrinski, Kinley Place, Kelli Rodriguez, Brecklyn Rush and Tomasa Cisneros. Back row, Leonard Haverkamp, Doug Stefek and Dale Weinhold. Not pictured: FCCLA member Madison Ward.

## Road becomes minimum maintenance

BY ALAN RUSCH  
Ellsworth County I-R

After a public hearing Monday, the Ellsworth County Commission approved Resolution 2025-R-06, declaring certain roads in Ellsworth County as minimum maintenance roads, specifically 27th Road from K-140 Highway to Avenue K and Avenue J from K-140 Highway to 27th Road.

The request was made three weeks ago by Carneiro Township Trustee Kelly Cikanek.

It was noted that since the nearby bridge on K-141 Highway is temporarily closed for construction, drivers have been taking a detour to 27th Road and Avenue J, parts of which are impassible after a rainfall.

Commissioner Shawn Thomas said he has received six telephone calls from individuals in that area.

"I received quite a few pictures of the condition of it (the road)," he said. "And pictures of some of the tow bills that some of the individuals received. I think one was like \$900 and one was more than that."

Thomas said he also listened to the concerns of some of the individuals who helped the driv-

ers who were stuck. "All of us have been out to the road," he said. "In dry conditions, it's not great."

Thomas said in his opinion, the minimal maintenance is the best solution from a cost prohibitive standpoint.

"I think that's what I would do," Commission Chairman Greg Bender added, noting before the bridge construction, very few drivers traveled the road.

Gretchen Griffith-Hughes said during the last township board meeting of 2024, she recommended using extra money to repair the road instead of putting it into the equipment fund.

She noted the township is allowed to put up to 25 percent of their income into the equipment fund, which left \$11,883.

The board voted to move those funds into the equipment fund (an estimated \$50,000 over the last five years).

Hughes said these funds should have gone to repair of the roads, which have been known to be bad for a decade or more.

"I feel our tax dollars are not being utilized, as expenditures should be based on duties described in KSA 80-301," she said. "So if these roads are to be assessed as low maintenance, then it is my

belief that our taxes should be reduced accordingly."

"The board's responsibility is proper care and management of all property and roads," Michelle Vanek said. "They were elected to manage the township with the money that is given for this reason."

Vanek noted the road has been minimum maintenance.

"That's why we're in the position that we are in," she said.

Vanek said the right thing to have been done was for the township board to notify the community of the issues and call a special meeting.

"Prior to the meeting,

the resolution had already been drafted and ready to be signed by board members, without consideration for the taxpayer," she said.

Cikanek said maintenance of the road is not going to change.

"We're not planning to reduce maintenance on that road," he said. "We're trying to solve the problem."

Cikanek said the signs to be installed would say "Low Maintenance: Travel at Your Own Risk."

This lets people be aware the road is in bad condition when wet.

"All I know is cars are

See ROAD Page A11

### Vesper Community Center

## BINGO

SATURDAY, July 5th  
DOORS OPEN @ 5:30pm  
BINGO STARTS @ 7:00pm

Play for as little as \$6 CASH PRIZES



Hamburgers, sundaes, pie, floats & more!

785-524-2466 www.vespercc.org  
1247 N 120th Rd Lincoln KS 67455  
Concessions are sold by volunteers to fundraise solely for community purposes

## FARMERS MARKETS

Every Thursday 4pm-6pm  
<https://vespercc.org/farmers-markets/>