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# The Gyp Hill PREMIERE

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*Serving Barber County Since 1991*

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**Dispatch News –  
Kiowa PD/Medicine Lodge  
PD/Barber County Sheriff  
01/06/2025-01/12/2025**

01/06-Dispatch logged a call from the Copa inquiring about road closures.

01/06-MLPD responded to a civil dispute at the Copa Motel about a motel reservation.

01/06-Dispatch logged a control burn of a brush pile being burnt a half a mile south on Mingona Road.

01/06-Dispatch logged a control burn of trees being burnt in the 2900 block of SE Northstar Road.

01/06-KWPD performed a citizen assist taking a patient home from the Kiowa Hospital.

01/06-Dispatch logged a request to speak to an officer from California about documents they needed.

01/06-Dispatch logged a control burn of a brush pile being burnt in the 7000 block of SE HWY 160 in Sharon.

01/06-BASO served civil process papers in the 800 block of North Oak in Medicine Lodge.

01/06-BASO served civil process papers in the 100 block of West Washington in Medicine Lodge.

01/06-MLPD responded to a dog at large in the 400 block of West Eldorado. The officer was unable to get the dog.

01/06-Dispatch logged a control burn of a brush pile being burnt in the 4100 block of SE Bluestem Road in Sharon.

01/06-Dispatch logged a control burn of a brush pile being burnt one-mile north of Union Chapel on Lasswell Road.

01/06-Dispatch logged a control burn of a trash pile being burnt on SE Chieftain and SE Bluestem Road.

01/06-MLPD responded to a dog at large call in the 700 block of Medicine Blvd. The officer was unable to find the owner or catch the dogs.

01/06-BASO attempted to serve civil process papers in the 300 block of N 11<sup>th</sup> Street in Kiowa.

01/06-MLPD responded to a dog at large call in the 700 block of Medicine Blvd. The officer has contacted the owners and they have got their dogs.

01/06-MLPD performed a traffic stop on E First Ave and N Main. The officer gave a verbal warning for an expired registration.

01/06-BASO performed a traffic stop in the 500 block of Main in Kiowa. The officer gave a verbal warning for stop sign violation.

01/06-MLPD responded to a dead deer in the middle of HWY 281 north of Southern Pioneer. The officer removed the deer from the road.

01/07- BASO performed a traffic stop in the 600 block of Main in Kiowa. The officer gave a verbal warning for a stop sign and turn signal violation.

01/07-MLPD responded to a commercial alarm at Tractor Supply. The officer found no evidence of anyone around.

01/07-BASO responded to a commercial alarm at the Peoples Bank. The officer found nothing suspicious and the key holder came to reset the alarm.

01/07-Dispatch logged a control burn of brush being burnt in the 2300 block of NW HWY 281.

01/07-BASO responded to a request to speak to an officer in the 700 block of North B Street in Wellington regarding a ticket the person had gotten.

01/07-MLPD patrolled the school zone at the Medicine Lodge Grade School.

01/07-KWPD and BASO responded to smoke in a green box behind the bank in Kiowa. The officer advised the fire was already out.

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[www.gyphillpremiere.com](http://www.gyphillpremiere.com)  
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## Music legend, friend Daryl Schiff dies at 86

By Tammy McCain Lonker  
The Gyp Hill Premiere

Lifetime Sharon resident, Daryl Schiff, passed away on January 14, 2025. He was a beloved member of Barber County. His quiet spirit, gentle manner, kindness and love of music were the prominent characteristics that described him.

Every person on earth has a date of birth and eventually will have a date of death. In recent years there have been writings and even a song about the dash in the middle that comes between those two dates. Daryl lived his “dash” to the fullest, doing all the things he loved.

At the top of the list of things he loved were his wife, Jeanne, and his family. In an article from The Gyp Hill Premiere, published in 2015, about the Schiff’s 50th anniversary, Daryl stated, “It has been great ever since I found the love of my life and married her in 1965.”

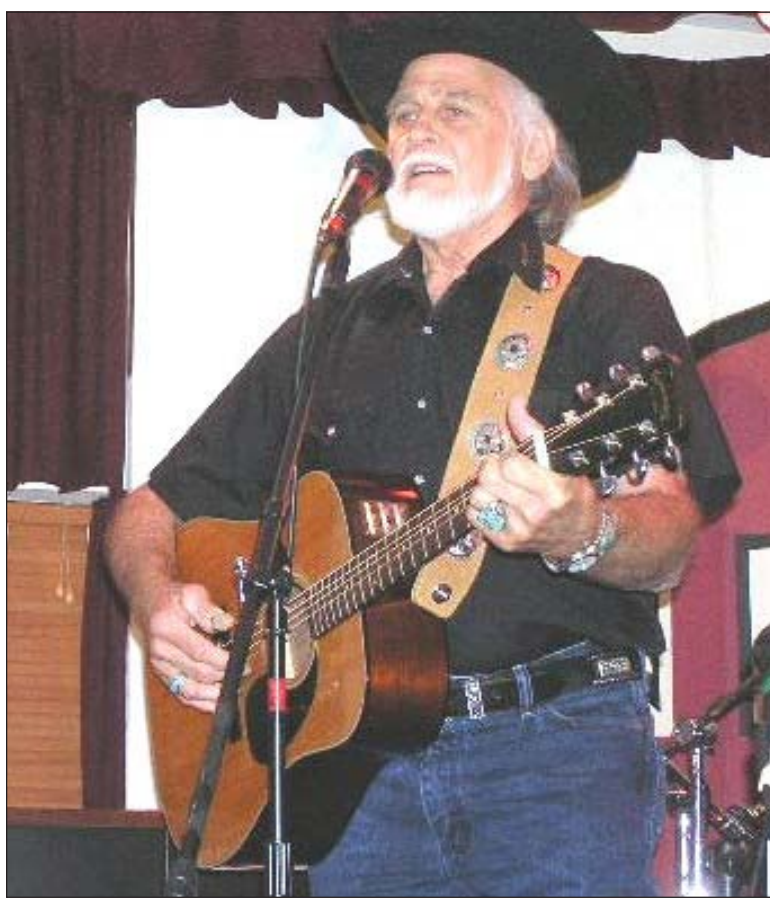
Another of Daryl’s great loves was music; primarily country-western rock. Merle Hag-

gard, Waylon Jennings and Dwight Yoakum were influential in his life when it came to music. He shared his talent with others on a regular basis for many decades.

Daryl began to play the guitar when he was eight-years old. In the mid-1960s he founded the band The Schiffers, which performed for 17 years at a variety of venues in Kansas and Oklahoma. People who grew up during the years the band was performing, fondly remember the Saturday night Schiffers’ dances.

After the group disbanded, Daryl continued to share his music at the Wilmore Opry and Concert in the Barn. The Wilmore Opry was a local non-profit. Money raised from the events was donated to help those in need. They donated to families who lost their homes to fire and to individuals who needed money to travel for medical

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Daryl Schiff, founder of “The Schiffers” died Wednesday night.

## USD 254 board approves for opening of bids for old basketball scoreboards

By Tammy McCain Lonker  
The Gyp Hill Premiere

A regular USD 254 board meeting was held on Monday, January 13, 2025 at the district office. President Jamie Phipps presided.

A presentation was made by Joscelyn Nittler and Deb Kolb, requesting on behalf of the Medicine Lodge Peace Treaty Association (MLPTA) for an easement agreement between the association and school board in order to place an information kiosk on the district’s property near the statue of the Native American and Cavalryman. The proposed kiosk is a part of the Kansas Byways Program and would be installed by the Kansas Department of Transportation. Educational and informational material for the kiosk will be managed by the MLPTA. The board requested more clarification. The matter will be visited at a future meeting.

Aaron Koehn, the district’s financial auditor, presented the financial audit to the board. There were no concerns or issues.

Principals Adam Maloney and Andrea Fisher shared their reports with the board. Each gave attendance and enrollment updates. Both buildings’ attendance rate shows significant improvement over last year at this time. Medicine Lodge Junior Senior High enrollment count is down six students since the beginning of the year and Medicine Lodge Grade School enrollment count is up eight students. Both reported their progress with the Leader in Me Program and their winter testing schedules.

Maloney shared that students involved with wrestling are doing well with the program. Scholars Bowl is also off to a good start and forensics will begin later this month with Meagan Henry serving as coach for the team.

Fisher shared that the concrete for the ramp on the MLGS playground has been installed. The basketball goals have not yet been set, but will be soon. The playground is ready for students, but has remained inaccessible due to recent snowfall. MLGS will be participating in Souper Bowl of Caring and One School One Book in the coming weeks.

Superintendent Ryan Cunningham shared that he has spoken with individuals and organizations that are renting space in the District Office Building about the increase in rent. He then shared that the KESA (Kansas Educational Systems Accreditation) plan has been submitted. He also asked the board for volunteers to serve on the negotiations team. Brian Withrow volunteered.

Withrow shared during the board member reports that he will not be seeking reelection. Positions held by Allen Dick, Micha Werner and the vacant position of District 1 will also be on the next ballot. The deadline for filing is June 2, 2025. Withrow brought up the possibility of redistricting. Discussion was held, but no decision was made.

Following a 10 minute executive session for non-elected personnel, the board approved the following items: the hiring of Brandy Wedman for MLGS custodian; MLGS donations, which included \$50 from Medicine Lodge Memorial Hospital (MLMH) and \$928.24 from First Christian Church to GS Love Fund, \$200 from MLGS Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) to MLGS (for student incentives) and \$100 MLGS PTO to MLGS for the Mobile Planetarium;

MLJSHS donations, which included \$50.00 from MLMH/Physicians Clinic, \$2000 from David and Aimee Hoppes, and \$100 from Sara Stuewe (class of 73) to MLJSHS Love Fund; \$50 from Color Up, LLC and \$500 from M & D Hauling to MLHS Stuco for activity posters; KASB Board Policy Updates, excluding an optional fundraising policy; 2023-2024 financial audit by AdamsBrown and the selling of the old basketball scoreboards (2) by silent bid auction from the MLJSHS gymnasium (bids will be accepted through Friday, February 7, 2025) and will approve the two highest bids at the February Board meeting February 10, 2025.

January is School Board Appreciation Month. The members of the board were treated to a special snack for their meeting.



Frankie Land and Renee Paxson recently closed the door on one chapter and opened a new one.

## RayKies to become The Fat Donkey after 33 years of continuous service

By Tammy McCain Lonker  
The Gyp Hill Premiere

Raykies in Medicine Lodge closed its doors for the final time on January 18, 2025 following the sale of business and property, owned by Renee and Rob Paxson, to Pete and Courtney Nesseralla, who have named the new restaurant The Fat Donkey. The Nesserallas previously owned The Bull Smokehouse and Saloon in Alva, Oklahoma.

Raykies was purchased in the early 1990s by Frankie Swonger (Renee’s mom) and Ray Land, who were dating at the time, from Robert and Betty Ott. Ray, who worked and lived out of town, wanted to buy the business in order to move closer to Frankie.

The business wasn’t new to Renee when Frankie and Ray purchased it. “I started working here when I was 14 and worked here all throughout my high school years and into some of my college years,” she said. “Then I got married and moved. They called and said, ‘We’re gonna buy this, move home’. So we moved home and I worked two to two and a half years for them. I then decided I wanted to go back and finish my degree. I helped when I could through-

out the years that they had it. I have worked every Peace Treaty since I was 14. We’re kind of looking forward to Peace Treaty in two and a half years.”

Ray passed away in 2007 and the Paxsons took over the restaurant in 2011. “I was pretty burned out on social work,” Renee said. “I knew mom was kind of struggling with everything and she was ready to get out. I was excited to take it over. Mildred [Ricke] was definitely an idol and she taught me so much.”

The business went on the market a few years ago, primarily because Rob had moved out west to work “[We were trying to sell] mainly because Rob had moved out west and it would have been easier for me to kind of go in between,” Renee said. “It’s not because the business is bad.”

In addition, Renee desired to go back into social work.

Upon deciding to sell, the family had a desire for the building to remain a restaurant. “You know, the one thing that we’ve prayed for all along is that it

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