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The *Lucas-Sylvan News* will no longer accept "Letters to the Editor" effective December 1, 2015.

TOMMIE'S OUTDOOR TALES

By Tommie Berger-Sylvan Grove, Kansas

Dove Season is Almost Here

September 1 is the dove season opener in Kansas and this opener kind of signals the start of the fall hunting seasons. For those of us who love to hunt, the months between spring turkey season and now have been long and uneventful. Sure, the fishing has been pretty good this summer and will continue to be into the fall but there is something about the crack of gunfire that makes the upcoming cold weather seem worthwhile.

Mourning doves, otherwise known as turtle doves, are plentiful in Kansas. Many of the birds nest here and the early season birds are generally residents. As the weather cools down in September, lots of the doves that move through the state are northern birds from states as far north as Canada. They are one of our migratory birds – heading to warmer climates down south for the winter. Doves don't like cold weather very much and they seem to hate cool damp weather. There always seem to be a few that seem to tolerate cold weather as I have seen doves around clear until the snow flies. The exotic doves – Eurasian Collared doves and Ring-necked doves – tend to be less migratory.

So, it does not take very many cool fronts and wet days in late August and early September to get the doves moving! If falls comes early **like it might be this week**, good dove shooting here can be short-lived and even though the season extends through October – you can't shoot doves here when most of them are already in Texas!

There does not seem to be any scarcity of doves around right now. If you drive any of the backroads on these August mornings or evenings you'll likely see plenty. I took a drive up northeast of Hunter the other day to deliver some kitties to a farmer friend and on those gravel roads there were hundreds of doves.

They are bunching up a bit around worked wheat stubble and some of the fields being worked for wheat planting. Doves love foxtail millet and any roadside that hasn't been recently mowed has an abundance of foxtail along the ditches.

I live right on the Saline river and the doves are constantly trading up and down the river at all times of the day. Even though it has been fairly warm and dry until this weekend, there is now plenty of water around and it may be a bit hard to find a concentration of doves around any one water source. Doves need a drink of water every day so they will seek out water in ponds, puddles, or even stock tanks. Some hunters prefer to hunt ponds, especially if there are some bare shoreline next to the water.

Most early season dove hunters have their best luck finding a good feeding area, a good roosting area, the flight path in between, or a good water source. Doves like fairly open fields that have been worked or fields that have lots of short weeds and grass. If you can find a field where a farmer is cutting silage, it is usually a dove magnet. Doves like to set in trees near feeding or watering areas, dead trees preferred. So, if you can find a bunch of dead trees near a pond or field, check them out. Just remember, doves setting in trees or on power lines are not legal – they must be in flight.

Being in flight brings several things to mind. Doves are one of the speedier birds that we have in Kansas. Turtle doves can fly at speeds up to 55 miles per hour. Not only do they fly fast but they can dip and dive like a fighter jet. Needless to say, they are a challenge to shoot at!!!!

If you are planning a dove hunt, there are several things to keep in mind. Be sure to have that hunting license or

Sylvan Grove City Council meets August 11th

(From the *Unofficial and Unapproved minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Sylvan Grove City Council held August 11, 2025*)

Attendance: Mayor Stephen Boor, Council members: Ryan Gier, Darren Ammon, Brent Pahls, Jeremy Wacker, and Josh Boor

City Employees: Sara Gier City Clerk, Kaden Gier City Superintendent

Mayor Stephen Boor called the City Council meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Budget Hearing was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

There was no public comment on the proposed budget.

The Budget Hearing was closed at 7:01 P.M.

Ryan Gier made a motion to approved minutes as presented. Jeremy Wacker seconded, and the motion carried (5-0).

Librarian Ramie Schulteis thanked council for the support of the library.

Ryan Gier made a motion to approve the 2026 budget as presented. Josh Boor seconded the motion, and it passed (5-0).

Ryan Gier made a motion to adopt the Standard Traffic Ordinance code

book. Brent Pahls seconded the motion, and it passed (5-0).

Ryan Gier made a motion to adopt the Uniform Public Offense Code for 2025. Josh Boor seconded the motion, and it passed (5-0).

Regarding the Water Line Replacement Project, we have received a letter from KDHE stating that they are pleased to inform the City of Sylvan Grove that has been selected for the KDHE 2026 Intended Use Plan to apply for a loan in the amount of \$2,000,000 from the Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund with an estimated \$900,000 in loan forgiveness. The approval from Council to have North Central Regional Planning Commission prepare the loan application for \$1,500.00 and \$30,000 administrative fees needed by October 15 to move forward with the loan application. Jeremy Wacker made a motion to approve North Central Regional Planning Commission fees of \$1500.00 application fee and \$30,000 administrative fee. Ryan Gier seconded the motion, and it passed (5-0).

City Superintendent Kaden Gier gave his report. The Cottonwood tree branch

that was north of the park has been cleaned up, along with the waterway that flows through there. Brady Ryan has been mowing our streets and our other properties that have needed mowed. The lagoons have been mowed and sickled and will also be sprayed with aquatic herbicide. Several potholes have been filled around town and will continue to be worked on. The road grader has been fixed and all the dirt roads around town have been graded by Gary Frederking. The tree pile will get burned in smaller sections since the pile is getting so large. A new water release flapper has been installed on the water tower at the request of KDHE.

Darren Ammon talked about working on the alleyways in town. The right of ways for the alleys were discussed and who is responsible for maintaining the alleyway. The discussion was had that if the city were to clean up the alleyway what kind of fees would be associated with it. The goal is to be able to grade the alleys to fix drainage problems that are occurring. This topic will be discussed again at a future meeting.

The Council discussed getting a Grapple for the Loader. Josh Boor will look at prices for one.

Parking at baseball and softball outfield during the fair was discussed by the council.

Sylvan Grove's 150th anniversary will be happening next year, and a celebration is being planned for Memorial Weekend.

There is a planning committee coming together on August 20th to start working on plans for the celebration.

Darren Ammon made a motion to accept financials as presented. Ryan Gier seconded and carried motion (5-0).

Ryan Gier made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jeremy Wacker seconded and carried motion (5-0).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Earl Bane Foundation awards grant to Smoky Hills PBS

Smoky Hills PBS is honored to announce a generous grant from the Earl Bane Foundation to support our ongoing mission of providing trusted children's educational programming and local content to Central and Western Kansas.

This grant was awarded earlier this spring, during a time when our future was full of promise. However, with the recent elimination of all federal funding for public media, the landscape has dramatically shifted. Support like this is no longer just helpful – it is essential to our survival. We are deeply grateful to the Earl Bane Foundation for standing with us as we work to preserve the services and stories that matter most to our communities.

"This gift is deeply appreciated," said Betsy Schwien, General Manager of Smoky Hills PBS. "It helps us stay strong,

local, and accessible – especially for the families and children who depend on us for FREE quality educational programming."

Smoky Hills PBS remains dedicated to its mission of providing local, educational content to the communities it serves. We are incredibly grateful to the Earl Bane Foundation for believing in that mission and helping to keep it alive.

The Earl Bane Foundation was established in 1994. Its giving supports primarily higher education, children, youth and social services for the educational, economic, scientific and religious benefit of Salina and Saline County.

For more information about Smoky Hills PBS and how you can support its mission, please visit SmokyHillsPBS.org or by calling 1-800-337-4788.

hunter safety card in hand when you go. You must have a HIP stamp to hunt any migratory bird – that stamp that you get when you fill out the migratory harvest report form. You will also need a plugged shotgun – one that can hold no more than 3 shells. You can shoot doves with lead or steel shot, whichever you prefer. The limit is 15 so plenty of shells are probably in order, especially if you shoot like I do!

Dove hunting is generally where you simply go out and sit down to wait for the doves to come to you. It is an excellent opportunity to introduce young hunters to the sport and to teach them the correct shooting form. It is also a safe way to teach shooting fundamentals because it is generally a one-on-one student/mentor situation. The only drawback to dove hunting is that they are tough to hit and often youngsters get frustrated after a number of misses. Still, it is certainly a good place to start! Dad, don't worry about the size of that pile of empties, shotgun shells are a cheap investment in your kid's hunting future!

Doves are tasty little critters too. Most hunters simply breast out their doves and that is fairly easy. Doves are good for teaching youngsters the art of cleaning game. The very best way to cook doves is to grill them outside or in the broiler of your oven after you have wrapped a piece of bacon around each breast, held in place by a wooden toothpick. The bacon keeps the meat from drying out and gives it a flavor that most can't resist. Last year I tried dipping the breasts in batter and deep fat frying them just like fish – pretty darned good!

Dove season is just around the corner and it is time to get things ready. Check out those traditional dove spots, get that landowner permission, and get ready to use up some ammo. The season may not last long, so make the best of it while it lasts!

PUBLIC NOTICE

(First published in *The Lucas-Sylvan News*, Thursday, August 28, 2025)1t


NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Sylvan Grove, Kansas will conduct a public hearing on September 29th, 2025, at 4 p.m. at the following location: 118 N Main St, Sylvan Grove, KS 67481 regarding a proposed loan in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 to be taken by the City of Sylvan Grove from the Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund administered by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment "KDHE" pursuant to K.S.A. 65-163c et seq. The City of Sylvan Grove has made preliminary application to KDHE for the Loan, the proceeds of which will be used by the City of Sylvan Grove to finance certain modifications and improvements to the City of Sylvan Grove's water supply and distribution system, and to pay interest during construction of the Project. Further information regarding the nature and scope of the Project, the source of revenues pledged to secure the Loan, the City of Sylvan Grove's financial information, the City of Sylvan Grove's water conservation plan, environmental impact information which could qualify for a categorical exclusion, the proposed Loan documents, and the schedule of rates proposed by the Governing Body to enable the City of Sylvan Grove to meet its financial obligations for the Loan are available for public inspection and copying at any time during normal business hours at this address: 118 N Main St, Sylvan Grove, KS 67481.

The Governing Body will not adopt a resolution authorizing the completion of the Loan application and the execution and delivery of the Loan documents until after the conclusion of the public hearing described in this Notice.

All persons having an interest in this matter will be given an opportunity to be heard at the time and place herein specified.

This notice has been published on August 28th, 2025



Seeds of Hope

www.SowerMinistries.org

Years ago it was a heartwarming experience for me to take my wife and sons to visit my childhood home. With some hesitation I knocked on the door. The new owners remembered me and invited us in.


We began our tour in the living room, then went into the dining room and eventually the kitchen. We walked upstairs and paused in my childhood bedroom before visiting the attic. Then we went to the basement. Though there had been some changes, many things remained the same. Walking through my "original home" brought back many memories that flooded my heart. There were tears of joy mixed with tears of sadness as I thought of my family.

As we returned to the car, I began to think of the many different "homes" I'd lived in since my parents died. The final number was rather staggering but not unusual for most people. A recent census study revealed that the average American will live in 11.7 different "homes."


Psalm 90 begins with the word "Lord" referring to *our* God as a *sovereign God* who is our *eternal shelter* - our *dwelling place*. Moses used the same words in Deuteronomy when he wrote, "the eternal God is your dwelling place." He told the Israelites that God was then and would always be their "home" - their *refuge* no matter where they were.

Do you need a DOT Physical?

Our lab just became a certified DOT testing site.



Amber Fern, APRN
DOT Physical Provider
313 E Franklin, Lincoln, KS
To make an appointment,
call 785-524-4474.



If you drive a commercial vehicle for work, your employer may require a DOT physical. Capturing your medical history, a general physical exam, and a urinalysis will give your employer confidence that you are healthy enough to safely operate a commercial motor vehicle.

HOURS


Monday-Friday 7 am - 5 pm
(pre-employment and random testing)
24/7 (post-accident)

SCHEDULE:

785-524-4403 x 223 (same-day available)
Walk-ins welcome

NOTES:

Patient must have a urine drug screen kit form from employer; results take 1-3 days.



Our Lab Team (left to right): Megan Handley, Brooke Haring and Shamarie Farthing