



The Ness City Jr. High Cheerleaders 2025-2026 year were giving it their all last Thursday evening when the Ness City Jr. High Football team took on Central Plains. Pictured above are back row, l. to r.: Evelyn Keener, Molly Tillitson, Clara Carr, Brooklyn Overlease and Olivia Remple; front row, Arlyn Cruz, Jordyn Finley, Riley Whited, Reagan Pfannenstiel and Madelyn Randa This year's team sponsor is Jerika Mitchell. Great job ladies.

What’s up with the water towers?



Utility Service Company was observed working on the water towers last week. What were they doing? Approximately six months ago, crews conducted routine maintenance by sandblasting and coating the interiors of the towers. They returned in September to paint the exteriors. If you’re out and about, take a moment to check out the new paint job!

Offers fun, free family connection

Ness City Little Eagles Learn & Play

Families in Ness City have a wonderful opportunity to connect, learn, and grow together through Little Eagles Learn & Play, a FREE play-based group designed for young children and their parents or caregivers.

Held every other Thursday from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. at the Little Eagles Preschool, this welcoming group is led by facilitators Mrs. Lesa Schulte and Mrs. Lacie Clarke, who are passionate about building a space where children can explore through play while adults form valuable community connections.

“Little Eagles Learn & Play is all about creating a safe and engaging environment where parents can interact with their children and meet other local families,” says Mrs. Clarke. “It’s relaxed, it’s fun, and it’s free—what more could

you ask for?”

Each session is rooted in play-based learning, which research shows is essential for early development. The group meets bi-weekly and includes a variety of activities tailored to support social, emotional, and cognitive growth in young children.

Upcoming Schedule

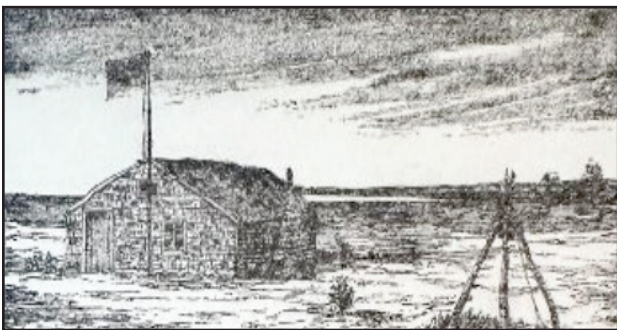
- October 9 & 23
- November 6 & 20

Fall Story Time

The Ness City Public Library will be having our fall story time in October for kids 4 – 6 years old. The dates are October 7, 14, 21, and 28 from 4-00 – 4:45 p.m. We will have stories, crafts, games, and snacks. You can sign your kiddos up at the library or give us a call at 785-798-3415. Please sign up ahead of the first meeting so we can be sure to have enough supplies for everyone.



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Suspicious Hotel Fire Owner Murdered

The Harwood Hotel, located just south of the Arlington Hotel (Currently where Western Fuel and Supply is located) was built in 1886-1887 and opened its doors April 25, 1887. The Harwood changed ownership on October 20, 1887 and became the Hotel Le Grand. Owner and proprietor was Eugene (Gene) Brusher from Walnut City, Rush County, Kansas. (Brusher was with Reno at the time of the Custer massacre and was a scout with “Buffalo Bill” and was offered a position by him if he would accompany his Wild West Show to England. Brusher declined!)

Less than 2 months after Gene Brusher acquired ownership, a fire broke out in the kitchen of the Le Grand, which was a semi detached building of the hotel. The fire broke out around the flue or stove-pipe, which seemed odd since there had been no fire in the stove for quite some time and the kitchen had been closed since shortly after supper. A heroic effort was made to save the main part of the building. In an incredibly short space of time the building was completely wrapped in flames and the heat drove the men away and prevented any further attempts at extinguishing the fire. In less than half an hour after the fire had taken hold of the main structure it had fallen to the ground, a heap of crackling, blazing ruins. At one point it looked as if the Arlington, just to the north of the Le Grand was doomed also. But thanks to the “chemical” and bucket brigade, this handsome building escaped damage, except for some scorched and blackened siding and shingles. The Le Grand was insured to its full value, \$2,500 on the building and \$1,000 on the furniture, which was to go to owner Eugene Brusher.

On February 10th, 1888, just 2 months after the fire, headlines in several Newspapers announced the murder of Gene Brusher. There are many conflicting stories surrounding the killing of Brusher, who along with a man by the name of Morris headed to Beaver

City, No-

Man’s Land, I.T. (Indian Territory). After arriving in Beaver City, by way of Dodge City the two men were at a saloon drinking. While Brusher was standing at the bar with his head resting on his hands, Morris walked up behind him and shot him point blank in the back of the head. No cause for the murder of Brusher could be determined at the time. One article stated \$105 was found on the deceased, another article said \$1,000. Morris claimed the shooting was accidental. There were several witnesses in the saloon at the time of the shooting, who all agreed Morris, for no known reason, simply walked up behind Brusher and shot him in the head.

There was strong talk of lynching the murderer, but the matter will probably die out, and soon be forgotten, as in many other instances of the same kind.

William Brusher, Brother of Eugene Brush-er was in Ness City a few weeks later and he informed the news reporter that the name of the party who killed his brother was John Clark, not Morris. Clark had come to Ness City about the first of February and was in Ness about two days spending most of his time in the billiard halls, where he formed a friendship with Eugene Brusher, and the two men went to Beaver City together. The vigilance committee arrested Clark, and he was given into the hands of William Brusher, but was released as he had no authority.

The vigilance committee then kept a strict watch over Clark who was afraid to leave Beaver City for fear someone would follow and kill him. Clark

was relieved of his anxiety on the 15th of February by receiving a ball through his chest entering the right side and coming out at the left through the heart. It was published in several papers that William Brusher killed the murderer of his brother, Gene, but whether he did, we are unable to tell. As no court, or officer has any jurisdiction or authority in no-man’s-land, the case, no doubt, will always rest as is.

The whole affair is shrouded in mystery to a certain extent, and the real facts will probably never be known. Gene Brusher’s body was brought back to Walnut City for burial. He was 31 years old and survived by his parents and one brother, William.

On William Brusher’s biography it simply says: “Suspected in the 1888 shooting death of the man convicted of killing his brother. No indication he was ever caught or brought to justice”.

One of the Mysteries of the past, long forgotten, but never solved.

Be sure to check out the Historical Society’s Facebook page for updates on events and more information and pictures on some of the “Archives” articles.

Our deadline reminder

The deadline for articles, ads and legal publications to be turned in at the *Ness County NEWS* for publication in that week’s issue is **Monday at 12:00 p.m.**

You may send news and advertising to nessnews@gbta.net or mail to the PO Box C, Ness City, KS 67560. We would also like our readers to know that if you have a photo or an ad that you want printed in color, you have the option of doing that at an additional cost of \$125 (which is our cost for printing colored pages).

We appreciate all those who contribute to the *NEWS* each week!

You’re invited!

After 40 years of service to Ness County, Treasurer Layne Wasinger is hanging up his calculator and beginning a new chapter. Please join us for cake, snacks, and refreshments as we celebrate his remarkable career, honor his dedication, and share our gratitude. Let’s send him off with heartfelt wishes, fond memories, and excitement for all that lies ahead in his retirement.

Friday, October 3rd

Time: 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Ness County Courtroom



OCTOBER: CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH ONLINE SAFETY TIPS



LOCK YOUR DEVICES

Use a passcode, fingerprint or facial recognition to unlock phones and tablets. This protects your info if the device is lost or stolen.



KEEP UPDATED

Software and app updates improve a device’s security. Use automatic updates to keep our devices safe from the latest threats.



CREATE STRONG PASSWORDS

Strong passwords should be long, random and unique for each account. Using a password manager to help create and save passwords, to keep you safe.



ADJUST DEFAULT SETTINGS

Privacy and security settings on new devices may not be strong, so change them. Under “Settings” option on the device are the options to control what information is shared.



SHARE WITH CARE

Sharing personal details on social sites, makes it easier for a scammer to steal our identities, our our data. If a website asks for our address, photo or mother’s maiden name, we don’t have to provide it!



CONSIDER PHOTO DETAILS

Before posting a picture online, think about what details may reveal. We don’t want to inadvertently share details like where we live, our daily routines or even places we frequently visit with strangers.



CAUTION WITH LINKS & ATTACHMENTS

Most scams start with links & attachments in emails, texts, ads & social media. Don’t click on links or download anything from a stranger or was unexpected.



FALSE IDENTITIES

Criminals easily disguise their identity to appear trustworthy, even pretending to be friends or loved ones. Only accept friend requests from people we know personally.



STAY CALM

Scams often rely on quick, emotional reactions. Be cautious with requests that sound urgent while asking for sensitive info. Don’t respond, instead verify the request with a trusted source.



LOOK OUT FOR RED FLAGS

Requests for payment by wire transfer or gift cards, are usually a scam even if it seems to be from friends or loved ones. Verify them through trusted sources. Never send money or sensitive info to anyone not personally know.

Share your thoughts

Ness County News
email us at: nessnews@gbta.net
or call 785.798.2213