

# McCracken NEWS

by Carolyn and Shirley

**Birthdays:** September 17, Ashley Taylor, Anthony Taylor, Jennifer Betz; September 18, Linda Bittel, Rhett Dodd, Cindy Wierman, Dwight Eisenhower, Carolyn Schadel; September 19, Jeff Butler, Mikaela Brackney; September 20 Trina Casey, Kamryn Anderson; September 21, Phil Wiesner, Jamie Sewell; September 22, Lisa Collings, Lyslee Wilson; September 23, Mark Brackney, Jerry Schutte, Cathie Ryan Shapiro, Taylor Doornbos, Elizabeth Showalter, Jeffrey Norlin, Kevin Anderson, Lexea Horning, Antonella Foster.

**Anniversaries,** September 17, Bryan and Michelle Yohe; September 21, Ron and Kathy Casey.

Trenton Schroter visited the Paper Moon Museum this past week. He attended McCracken Middle School. He was interested in the charred piece of the Russian satellite donated by Dave Derr (that fell in Dave's pasture). He remembers it going over the football field at La Crosse. Trenton was home for the funeral of his aunt. He lives on the Big Island of Hawaii.

Members of the Wilson Historical Museum were here on Saturday afternoon to view the Paper Moon Museum. The Midland Hotel and many other sites in Wilson were used in the filming. Those here were David Towbridge, Raynna Beckman, Roxanna Beckman, Joyce Kraus and Charilee Ward.

Constitution Week begins on September 17 and last until September 23.

Those attending Coffee Chat on

Monday were Angie Murray, Lynn Litson, Signe Barnes, Jeanette McCormick, Lori Brax, Carolyn Thompson. Arlene Gilbert brought brownies.

Sending our sympathies to Walter and Jeanette Rogers, Pete and Terri Cox and their families after the loss of Brenda (Rogers) Keener. Brenda passed away on Sunday, September 7. Brenda was a 1974 graduate of McCracken High School.

Our deepest sympathy to Craig Rixon, Shelly Dunah, Tammy Yoke, Jamie Sewell and their families on the passing of Deb Watson. Deb was a part of the McCracken community for many years and she will be missed.

The McCracken Historical Museum has reprinted copies of three different books. The McCracken History Book Vol. I 1867-1963, The McCracken Community Cookbook (1955 McCracken street scene on the cover) and the St. Mary's Catholic Church 1886-1986 history book. The community cookbook is new and improved! It is 8 1/2 x 11 inch in size with a larger print, and the St. Mary's history book has been reprinted in advance of the 100th anniversary of the church that was completed in 1926. A limited number of each publication is available. Contact Carolyn Thompson or Susan Keith for pricing and purchase information.

**History Notes**  
2004: The McNair-Fear families donated many McCracken yearbooks to the McCracken/Jail Museum. Congratulations to Tony and Tomi Rues on the birth of their son, William Al-

bert Rues, born January 25. Walter and Janey Rogers spent last weekend in Lone Jack, Missouri, visiting their daughter, Terri and Pete Cox. Roy and Phyllis Conrad have been working for the past two years trying to update the records for the St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery. They have taken a picture of every headstone/and or marker and have placed a copy of an obituary on the same page if one could be found. The Fort Hays State University chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, a national academic honor society has announced new members this year. They are Dena Irvin and Gloria Blackwell. Terry and Carol Herdman, Backsburg, Virginia, and Glenda and Norman Pfannenstiel were guests of Willetta Herdman during the rodeo. Emily Rogers and Dane Basgall placed 3rd in the mud volleyball tournament at the Rush County Fair. Richard Showalter, Priscella Jacobs and Sandra Jacobs had dinner at the Mustang with Ralph and Kerrie "Tootie" Schnell, Kylee and Larissa. Angela Morgan, Derek Derr, Scott Irvin, Brian Legleiter, Elizabeth Pfeifer, Sierra Jones and Katlyn Morgan were among those that played in the band and marched in the homecoming parade at La Crosse on Friday. Zoe Anderson was honored on her 2nd birthday with a party at the Methodist Church. Phyllis Higgins was surprised with a birthday party at the home of Maddie Petz. Guests included: Pat and Betty Keener, Kelly Walker, Marvin and Katie Wills, Sarena Higgins, Sabrina, Ron and Sam Hurt, Jim and Terry Everhart, Megan, Josh and Clayton, Jim and Donna Rein, Benny and Sheryl McCaskey, Ed and Deb Stoper and Maddie Petz.

## Shafer Gallery brings printing plates back to life with talents of local artist

**by Joe Vinduska**  
The Shafer Art Gallery, in collaboration with artist Brian Hutchinson, is reviving a selection of printing plates created by historic Kansas printmaker Orlin C. Baker. Shafer Gallery Director Alyssa Bliven said Baker lived from 1886 to 1959 and was a skilled printmaker in drypoint, lithography, etching, and aquatint. She said in addition to his artistic endeavors, he was also a jeweler, civil engineer, and teacher who shared his artistic vision through classes across Kansas and beyond.  
"His wife Margaret was a dedicated supporter of the Shafer Art Gallery, both as a donor and as an engaged presence in the local arts community," she said. "This special project honors Baker's enduring legacy by producing a small run of prints from his original plates, which will be available for purchase through the Gallery. In doing so, we preserve not only the material traces of his artistry, but also the

spirit of creativity and community that he and Margaret embodied."  
Hutchinson lives in Hays, where he teaches art and art education at Fort Hays State University. In addition to his role as an instructor, he is an active contemporary artist whose practice centers on printmaking and extends into mixed media, sculpture, drawing, painting, ceramics, and jewelry. He said he was excited to be a part of this process because he was fascinated with printmaking from a technical standpoint and the archival and historical elements included in the process.  
"The beauty of these plates to me is that we can revive those marks," he said. "We can get them with fresh ink on new paper. Working on somebody else's plate is really interesting because I'm literally touching those marks, kind of almost going through some similar motions that the artist might have been doing. So, there's this sort of communion that happens between the past and the present. You're also sort of

learning about their mark-making and how that is diverse from the way that I might engage with that. So, there's kind of a timeless quality."  
Hutchinson also wanted to be a part of rescuing and bringing back the integrity of these works so that future generations can enjoy them. Both Hutchinson and Orlin once lived in Great Bend, and like many of the artists featured by the Gallery, they reflect its focus on Kansas art educators.  
"Several of these plates also have been damaged over the years," he said. "So, I enjoy that idea of repairing and engaging in some preservation to bring those images back to a much more powerful state and then keep them there so they can continue."  
The Shafer Gallery is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is always free. For more information, contact Bliven at shafergallery@bartonccc.edu or (620) 792-9342.

## -City of Liebenenthal Council Minutes-

The Governing Body of the City of Liebenenthal met in public hearing to review the proposed 2026 budget in the city building at 6:00 p.m. on September 8, 2025. Presiding was Mayor Darrell Warner, council members present were Barb Matal, Renee Legleiter, Stephanie Schmidt-Koerner, Bill Stark, Kathy Herrman, Clerk Beverly Stark, and Maintenance Operator Kelly Koerner. No residents were in attendance. After the required 15 minutes, council member Bill Stark moved to approve Resolution 2025-003 to levy a property tax rate exceeding the revenue neutral rate, Stephanie Schmidt-Koerner seconded, the vote was unanimous with five council members voting in favor or Resolution 2025-003, no dissenting votes, and the motion carried. Bill Stark then moved to approve the 2026 budget as presented, Kathy Herrman seconded the motion, the vote was unanimous with five council members voting in favor, no dissenting votes, and the motion carried. All councilmembers signed the roll call vote paperwork. The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.  
The governing body opened the regular meeting at 6:21 p.m. Minutes from the meeting held on August 11, 2025, were read. Barb Matal moved to approve the minutes as read, Kathy Herrman seconded, the vote was unanimous, the motion carried.  
Clerk's Announcements: Bev Stark noted the meeting with the Contracted Operator from KDHE on Sept. 23 at 8:00 a.m. for Kelly Koerner, and Darrell Warner. Bev also noted a public hearing on Tuesday Sept. 30, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. for the second portion of the grant to replace current water meters. Bev continues to work with engineers from Jacobs, and Beth Warren of KS Municipal Utilities to complete the final application for the water system improvements. The city clerk presented information about the proposed change of accounting software with the council. This discussion will be tabled so the representative from the city accountant can meet with the city council.  
Old Business: The mayor updated the council on the

progress of the water tower renovation: all was completed and water samples passed the KDHE standards.  
The grant for replacement of water meters is ongoing with the final application date Oct. 15. The KMU representative Beth Warren will attend the public hearing on Sept. 30 to submit the finalized Preliminary Engineering Report to the council, and answer any questions.  
New Business: United Ag services is offering a service agreement for propane sales for the next year. The council discussed the previous year's use, and current propane costs. The council decided to forego the contract.  
City Utilities and Maintenance Updates: Water samples taken from the newly painted standpipe have been tested for coliforms, and all tests were negative. The chlorine residuals for the recently filled standpipe are being fine-tuned. Kelly Koerner reported that he will be mowing city property this week, and will spray for weeds this fall.  
Calendar / City Events: The council tasked the clerk to contact Mike Staab to arrange for roll-off dumpsters for the city-wide cleanup scheduled for Oct. 17-Oct. 27 allowing two weekends for residents to utilize the dumpsters. Renee Legleiter asked anyone interested in joining the committee for the Liebenenthal 150th anniversary celebration to contact her.  
Approval and Payment of Bills: Stephanie Schmidt-Koerner moved to approve the payment of the bills as presented, Kathy Herrman seconded, the vote was unanimous, motion carried. The next meeting will be a public hearing to discuss the meter replacement project on Tuesday Sept. 30, 2025 at 6p.m. at the city building. The next regular council meeting will be held Monday October 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the city building. Renee Legleiter moved to adjourn the meeting, Bill Stark seconded, the vote was unanimous, motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.  
Mayor Darrell Warner  
City Clerk Beverly Stark



**INSIGHT WITH EXTENSION**  
**Living Well Wednesdays**  
**by Kristen Schmidt, Family and Community Wellness Agent**

Living Well Wednesday is a virtual learning series hosted by K-State Research and Extension, Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) professionals from across the state of Kansas. The Fall 2025 series kicks off in September and we invite you to join us!

Webinars will be offered the second Wednesday of each month, from 12:10-1 p.m. There is no charge to participate, however, registration is required. All webinars will be recorded and posted along with supporting resources. Register for all webinars in this series at [bit.ly/4IE7kqJ](https://bit.ly/4IE7kqJ).

One Pill Can Kill: Opioid Crisis in Our Communities will be held September 17 with speaker Jenni Ebert, Community Health Educator, Riley and Pottawatomie County Health Departments. This session provides an overview of the opioid crisis and the growing risk of fentanyl in our communities. Topics covered include youth prevention strategies, key data trends, and hands-on guidance for responding to an opioid overdose/fentanyl poisoning, including safe administration of Narcan.

Scam Smarts: Staying Safe in a Scamming World will be held October 15 with speaker Ed Burr, Investigator, Attorney General's Office. Scams are everywhere - by phone, online, mail, and even in person. Learn how to recognize common scam tactics, protect your personal information, and know what steps to take if you become a target.

The Buzz on Energy Drinks: Unpacking the Truth will be November 19 with speaker Chelsea King, MPH RDN; Johnson County Nutrition, Food Safety and Health Agent. Energy drink consumption is on the rise, particularly among adolescents and young adults. These drinks are often marketed as a way to increase focus and performance, and to give a boost of energy. But what is really inside the can? Join us in November to learn more so you can make informed decisions about energy drink consumption.

For more information on this article or family and community related questions contact Family and Community Wellness Agent, Kristen Schmidt at [kbschmidt@ksu.edu](mailto:kbschmidt@ksu.edu) or 785-798-3921.

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