



A family that grows and picks sweet corn together is a family that grows much more than corn. For me, growing up was caring for and maintaining the family farm with my family. A family farm, much like sweet corn or even a garden, took time together, making precious memories, but that time together cultivated so many values. You learned that everything built or planted needed to be cared for, and that took working hard by everyone. Caring for what you have makes you responsible while also making you truly appreciate it all. Growing gratitude makes you appreciate having something to care for and for being able to care for it yourself. Being able to care for something yourself, you grow into a capable and dependable person. Working as a family made everything more achievable. There are always age-appropriate jobs. If you're little, you're still going to be sent to retrieve a water jug, if you're older, you can handle a bucket of corn or sometimes in my case, rocks. Working side by side and, more often than not, sweating together, that builds deep family bonds, bonds that create roots. Those roots, they are a source of tradition. I love carrying on what my parents taught me with my own children.

A recent, close-to-home

tragedy has everyone absolutely heartbroken for a family. Life can turn upside down in one awful second and something I didn't fully comprehend until after losing my mom so quickly, is that tomorrow is never guaranteed, no matter what age you are. I didn't want much in life besides raising a family with a man who loves and supports me, but I did want a lot for the children I would raise. I wanted those values you get from doing your part on a family farm. This tragedy-stricken family, I know they are a 4-H family, and I know they had sweet corn to pick and sell and that tells me, their roots run deep and their values wide.

Your lifestyle shapes the children you raise. Put your phone down and plant a garden with your children, go pick sweet corn together, cook a family meal together. Limit screen time and instead do a project together, learn a new hobby, play a board game. Life isn't about the newest phone, the fanciest car... material things, it's giving time to those closest to you. Time is the best gift and the most rewarding. It takes time together to build all the values that matter, the values that will make your children better adults. Time together creates the only things that matter when you are gone, memories. It is up to you to make the best of

your time with your family. They are only little for so long, they are only living under your roof for so long. Teach them, set an example for them, show them the joy of living simply and appreciating the small things. Teach them to work for what they earn. Teach them to be kind and spread faith, faith that was instilled in them by you.

It doesn't matter where you live or what you have or don't have, you can still choose to slow down, be present, and plant the seeds right now. Nurture something together today, because tomorrow isn't guaranteed.

Follow us at Vintage at Heart Homestead on Facebook

Because recipes are traditions, here is my mom's bean salad that some of us so enjoyed!

Bean Salad
1 can green beans
1 can yellow beans
1 can Kidney beans
¼ c. onion, diced
½ c. green pepper, diced
½ c. apple cider vinegar
½ c. olive oil
2 – 4 T sugar (just to your liking)
½ t. salt
1 tsp pepper
Mix vinegar, oil, sugar, salt and pepper in a bowl. Add all other ingredients. Let sit in the fridge for a few hours for flavors to meld.

Political Happenings

By Larry Lambert

The views expressed here are solely those of the author.



Our 2 year old Municipal Swimming pool's final day was August 14th.

Sixty Eight percent of Ukrainians don't expect the fighting to end in the next 6 months. U.S. troops will not deploy to Ukraine.

The labor force participation rate for Kansas decreased to 66.9% in July. I guess that means many people are retired. July Smith County unemployment was 4%. Unemployment for Kansas in July was 3.8%.

Hillary Clinton while on the campaign trail in 2016 used her connections to the Obama administration to help create the narrative that then Presidential candidate Donald Trump colluded with Russia to win the 2016 election. It is alleged the Obama Administration changed intelligence to fit the Russia interference narrative.

One point six million illegals have decided voluntarily it is wise to go home since Trump became President.

Costco does not dispense the abortion pill. Walgreens and CVS do.

Last week there was a total of 760 arrests in Washington, D.C. Republican Governors in at least six states have authorized their National Guards to Washington D.C.

Vicky Schmidt Republican candidate for Governor is pro death just like Governor Kelly. Statistics show that about 28% of Gen-z has been aborted. The number is about 5 times the number of deaths in all wars in human history combined. When one looks at these numbers that is the equivalent of a nuclear attack. Disease, war and violence do not take more lives

than abortion.

We could know within a few weeks if peace is possible between Russia and Ukraine. U.S. troops would not deploy to Ukraine as part of any peace keeping or security force. President Trump has ruled out boots on the ground but the situation could include U.S. air power. I say President Trump is dealing with a very evil man in Vladimir Putin. Last week after the Alaskan talks Putin fired 574 drones and 40 ballistic missiles at Ukraine. I believe Vladimir Putin doesn't want a peace deal and President Trump is being played by the Devil.

CNN is starting to invite conservative voices on its panels much to the chagrin of liberal hosts and the left in general.

Dr. James Dobson, at the age of 89, has gone on to be with the Lord. He was one of the most influential Christian leaders in the last half century. He started Focus on the Family in 1977 on 27 radio stations. At one time the program was up to over 2,000 stations. When the program came on radio station KROA in 1977 it was 15 minutes long. It shortly went to a half hour. KROA then was the only contemporary Christian program format in the area. There was not enough contemporary Christian radio programming to reach around the clock. The station would sign off at Midnight and sign on at 6 am. I have tapes of over 100 Focus on the Family and Family Talk programs on cassette tapes.

Everything Boston

mayor Michelle Wu believes is bad.

Cracker Barrel is changing it's logo. Stocks plunged.

There has been at least 3 states that want to mount the 10 commandment signs in classroom schools. A Federal Judge appointed by Bill Clinton said you can't do it. Judge Biery wrote several pretty ridiculous reasons as to why not. It's a war against God.

There as been plenty of food sent into Gaza but 92.5% of that food was stolen or looted by Hamas. It is Hamas that is preventing food from getting to the people in Gaza.

The FBI has raided the home of former National Security Advisor John Bolton looking for Classified Documents.

In Nigeria 7,090 Christians have been massacred this year and another 8,700 have been abducted for being Believers. Thirty Christians a day are being wiped off the face of the earth because of their faith. The Government seems to be uncaring.

Kansas: After multiple warnings from the USDA, the Kelly Administration is doubling down on its refusal to turn over eligibility-related information used to administer the food stamp program. Kansas provides about \$417 million in benefits and feeds about 188,000 people a month. That includes around 86,000 children.

Ecclesiastes 7:20 "Indeed, there is not a righteous person on earth who always does good and does not ever sin."

Smith Co. Commissioners Meeting Minutes

The County Commissioners met in a special session on August 11, 2025, in the County Commissioners' room. Present were Commissioners Brady Peterson and Jim Gwennap. Also present was Ashley Maxwell, Clerk, Travis Story, Assistant Road Supervisor, Mitch Fritz, Road Supervisor and Gary Baetz, Blade Foreman.

At 7:08 a.m. Gwennap called the meeting to order. Baetz and the commissioners discussed the following: Kurt Ifland joined the meeting.

1. The commissioners discussed the need to have roads in shape by September 1, 2025, for fall harvest.
2. Gwennap discussed patching that was done on 140 Rd and Y Rd and the blow outs that were caused by the amount/weight of traffic on the roadway. Gwennap suggested visiting with the feedlot about a watering plan.
3. Gwennap talked about the blade men getting behind because of needed repeat work due to the work not being completed in the first attempt.
4. Gwennap asked about the process of rock patching. Generally, the blade men order their own loads of rock, but sometimes the blade men contact Mitch or Travis.
5. The commissioners discussed the need to get the water off the roadways prior to the tubes and bridges by building a crown in the road. Baetz stated he has addressed that with his blade men before, but he will do it again.
6. Gwennap asked how often the blade men meet as a group. Baetz stated he usually has one-on-one conversations or small group meetings. Gwennap asked Baetz to implement a meeting with all the blade men once or twice a month.
7. Gwennap thanked Baetz for working P Rd between 10 Rd and 50 Rd and complimented his work. Baetz left the meeting.

Mitch Favinger joined the meeting. The commissioners and Favinger discussed the following:

1. Favinger stated the trucks have been busy. Gwennap asked about the status of the trucks. Favinger stated the automatic semi is back in Salina for repairs.
2. Gwennap asked about the new trailers. Favinger stated the trailers are working great.
3. Gwennap asked about communication with the water trucks. Favinger stated the water trucks are under Mitch or Travis.
4. The commissioners asked about future equipment needs. Favinger stated maybe a dump truck or trailer, but right now everything is running good now.
5. Fritz stated he would like to purchase a load of the asphalt North of Red Cloud to see how it spreads.
6. Fritz stated he spoke with Dave Hommon about getting water from the rural water district for C Rd. C Rd is the next road that will have the BaseOne product applied.

At 8:30 a.m. Gwennap called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. A motion was made by Ifland and seconded Peterson to approve the 8/04/2025 regular minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ifland and seconded Peterson to approve the 8/11/2025 agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

The commissioners approved payroll #16 for \$150,344.22.

The commissioners approved voucher #15049-#15113 and wires for the following accounts:

- General \$16,156.35**
- Road & Bridge \$80,282.17**
- Noxious Weed \$486.95**
- Health \$10,638.71**
- Appraiser \$537.63**
- Patterson Grant \$5,945.15**
- Solid Waste \$317.68**
- EMS \$3,803.67**
- Employee Benefits \$ 57,549.09**

•Continued on page 10

the number of tube/bridge projects on the list. Marcum stated there are a dozen or so. Story stated the list has 43 projects on it currently. The commissioners suggested concentrating on the areas that will affect fall harvest first.

7. Gwennap asked about the equipment. Marcum stated he has a couple issues with the JCB backhoe. Marcum left the meeting. The commissioners and Fritz discussed future BaseOne projects.

A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Ifland to adjourn the special meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The County Commissioners met in a regular session on August 11, 2025, in the County Commissioners' room. Present were Commissioners Brady Peterson, Kurt Ifland and Jim Gwennap. Also present was Ashley Maxwell, Clerk, Travis Story, Assistant Road Supervisor, and Mitch Fritz, Road Supervisor.

At 8:30 a.m. Gwennap called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. A motion was made by Ifland and seconded Peterson to approve the 8/04/2025 regular minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ifland and seconded Peterson to approve the 8/11/2025 agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

The commissioners approved payroll #16 for \$150,344.22.

The commissioners approved voucher #15049-#15113 and wires for the following accounts:

- General \$16,156.35**
- Road & Bridge \$80,282.17**
- Noxious Weed \$486.95**
- Health \$10,638.71**
- Appraiser \$537.63**
- Patterson Grant \$5,945.15**
- Solid Waste \$317.68**
- EMS \$3,803.67**
- Employee Benefits \$ 57,549.09**

•Continued on page 10

Editorial

Thank a Teacher Today!

Each August, as families finish their back to school shopping and gather supplies, clothes and other necessities, teachers have already begun filing into their classrooms, decorating and organizing, readying the area for classrooms full of students.

What most don't realize is the amount of work and preparation teachers must give to get those rooms (and themselves) ready and conducive for learning minds.

The "readying" for a teacher, ultimately, never stops, as those wonderful teachers we all know and love never stop thinking about the lives they are continually shaping.

A wonderful teacher of mine once told me this: *we mold children for the rest of their lives, and more often than not we spend more time in a day with those minds than their parents do.*

At the end of the day, when all the homework is done and bags are packed for another day of school, how often do you, as parents, put the math to the number of waking hours your child is with their teachers, and compare that to the number of waking hours your child is with you?

The comparison was a substantial wake up call for me, and as my three young boys leave my doorstep each morning and head for school, I try to make sure their educa-

tors and "molders" know how much I appreciate their work with my boys.

It's amazing what happens when a parent takes the time to write small notes of thanks and gratitude in those monotonous planners our teachers see every day, multiple times. It can turn their entire day around!

Dealing with ungrateful and grouchy youngsters, day in and day out, can be absolutely exhausting, as every parent knows. Now, put 20 of them in the same room, and face those young students alone! That alone makes teachers some of the bravest individuals I've ever met.

Now add dirty hands, snotty noses, an empty Clorox® container, untied shoe laces, late homework, and a stack of papers to grade before tomorrow, among other tasks assigned to these individuals daily, and talk to me about your sanity at the end of the day.

Then, you'd better be chipper and happy to see everyone the next morning...or just give them a big "Thank You" the next time you see them, because that works too, I've heard.

Thanks, Educators!! You touch the lives of our children, and that is such an important task! – Nickole Byers

When You Buy Smith Center

- You creat new jobs
- You retain local employment
- You stimulate economic growth
- You draw more regional buyers
- You enhance your quality of life
- You keep more tax dollars at home
- You save time and money
- You increase the local availability of products and service
- Yore-circulate your tax dollar