

Susannah French Putney December DAR meeting

Carla Cook, Susannah French Putney Chapter Secretary
Daughters of the American Revolution

The regular meeting of the Susannah French Putney Chapter was held on December 20, 2024 in El Dorado, KS at the Butler County Historical Society.

Nita Whiteman presented Community Service Awards to Kenny Vogt and Steve Crosley who are volunteers at Rise in El Dorado. Shari Griffin is the Administrative Director at Rise and was invited to attend the meeting.

Rise is the former Butler Homeless Initiative. They are currently a cold weather shelter. The goal is to get their clients housed, help them get their ID, food stamps and help them know where to go to get help for medicine, mental health and other needs.

Mr. Vogt and Mr. Crosley volunteer four nights a week. They serve food and supervise the guests. DAR member, Whiteman, also volunteers one night a week and serves as secretary on the board.

Regent Bachman and Registrar Jean Groendes presented Kim Ring with her new member notebook. She was honored by the wearing of the DAR sash

and tiara.
Regent Bachman presented numerous members with certificates and patriotic bracelets for their years of membership. (The entire list is included here, though not all members were present.)

Twenty-Five Year Certificates:
Linda Hare, 4-17-1999
Kathleen Morrow, 4-17-1999

Twenty Year Certificates:
Helen Terrell, 12-6-2003

Ten Year Certificates:
Martha Riedl, 10-5-2013
Jacqueline Seeley, 10-5-2013
Loria Howard, 12-7-2013
Hazel Russell, 12-7-2013
Charla Charlsen, 3-5-2014
Sharon Funk, 3-5-2014
Sue Ann Brown, 4-5-2014
Suzie Patterson, 4-5-2014
Rise Russin, 4-5-2014
Marilyn Seymour, 4-5-2014
Patty Goedecke, 8-5-2014
Susan King, 8-5-2014
Lee Lewallen, 10-5-2014
June Pressnell, 12-5-2014
Janet Green and Patty Goedecke updated the members about the Good Citizen and American History essay contest winners, which will be honored at the February meeting.
Sharon McClure was the



Member, Nita Whiteman, with the two community service honorees.

winner of the “Reduce plastic waste by using a permanent water bottle” drawing. Her prize was a patriotic throw blanket.
Regent Teresa Bachman, Joy Pulver and Kathy Morrow presented a program of Christmas Carols. Bachman and Pulver play music together often. Each plays a variety of instruments, but

today Pulver was playing a hammered dulcimer and Bachman was playing a mountain dulcimer. Morrow added harmonies. The audience also participated and everyone enjoyed the music.
SFP Members present: Teresa Bachman, Kay Catlin, Carla Cook, Sigrid Denchfield, Patty Goedecke, Janet Green,

Jean Groendes, Loria Howard, Susan King, Kathleen Lowman (guest), Kathy Morrow, Suzie Patterson, Martha Riedl, Kim Ring, Rise Russin, and Nita Whiteman.
The next meeting will be January 17, 2025 at the BCHS in El Dorado at 1:00 PM. Guests are welcome.

Attorney fee cap increase

Social Security Administration

Effective November 30, 2024, there will be an increase to the fee cap representatives can charge for help when you do business with Social Security. The maximum dollar amount for fee agreements approved by Social Security will increase from \$7,200 to \$9,200.
If a fee agreement is not filed, a representative can submit a fee petition after completing work on your claim(s). We'll review the value of your representative's services. We'll also let you know the fee your representative is authorized to charge and collect.
For more information, please read our publication, Your Right to Representation, at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10075.pdf.



SHERIFF

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with drug seizures, 117 arrests, 19 found missing people, and two arrests that involved a bite.
K9 Lego, (Malinois), joined the agency in 2022 and is trained in tracking, evidence recovery, apprehension, handler protection, and drug sniffing for narcotics and fentanyl. Lego's handler is Deputy Chip Weber.
K9 Radar, (Malinois), joined the agency in 2023 and is trained to sniff out narcotics, fentanyl, evidence recovery, apprehension and handler protection. Radar's handler is Deputy James Nelson.
K9 Xena, (Malinois), joined the agency in 2022 and is trained in drug sniffing narcotics, fentanyl, handler protection, apprehension, and evidence recovery. Xena's handler is Deputy Steven Parker.
K9 Bandit, (Malinois), is trained in drug sniffing narcotics, fentanyl, apprehension, handler protection and evidence recovery. Bandit's handler is Joel McLaughlin.
K9 Boone, (Bloodhound), joined the agency in 2022 and is trained only in human tracking. They agency always describes him as they agency “hillbilly”,

for his goofy personality and unwavering ability to lick a missing person to death when he finds them. Boone's handler is Deputy Garret Hinz.
The agency purchased the Flock Safety cameras in 2024 with an investment of \$34,000 for 10 cameras. That cost included installation and first year usage. Per year costs are estimated to be \$30,000. The cameras are used to take still images of vehicles as they drive by that show the back of the vehicle and license plate. Those images are only pulled for criminal cases and require a case number to be accessed. According to the report, the BCSO used the cameras to successfully recover \$421,000 of stolen property, make 29 arrests and seize six pounds of controlled substances.
Through the agency's Career Criminal Unit, (CCU), which is comprised of five deputies and a Sergeant who target specific cases and areas of crime to locate illegal drugs and stolen property. The team also assists the Cold Case Unit, Road Patrol, and other agency units as needed. During their year of work they've recovered \$73,500 of stolen property and 1,571.39 grams of controlled substances, broken down into the following categories:
Methamphetamine: 163.93 grams
Marijuana: 1231.80 grams
THC wax: 172.46 grams

Psilocybin: 3.2 grams
Fentanyl: 25 dosage units
Morphine: 7 dosage units
Drug proceeds: \$33,564 in cash
Recovered property: \$90,605
Cases: 15
Narcotics arrests: 29
Warrant arrests: 21
Intel reports: 36
The BCSO Civils and Warrants Unit includes two civil deputies, two warrant deputies and a lead Sergeant. The team received 979 warrants and returned 1,012 in 2024. They made 236 custody arrests. The team received 9,126 civil papers and returned 9,084. In 2022 the unit received 1,044 warrants and returned 1,083 with 232 custody arrests. The team received 7,963 civil papers and returned 7,927.
The agency's Cold Case Unit reorganized in 2022 with the intent to reopen and close remaining cold cases. Through hard detective work, the suspect in the German Clerici murder case was arrested and extradited from South Carolina. He was then prosecuted and charged 14 years after the initial murder and is now serving time in prison.
Butler County Sheriff Monty Hughey indicated he was ready to enter into 2025 with the same aggressive progress, commitment, protection and investment into the agency employees as well as the community.

COMMISSION

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correct errors, which occur at no fault of the taxing entity while still upholding the Legislature's intent to maintain transparency throughout the budgeting process.”
2) Support modifications to Motor Vehicle transactions to increase fees to support counties in staffing those functions
“The current statewide method of charging a flat fee per transaction is not sufficiently funding Motor Vehicle operations and many counties have resorted to utilizing general property taxes to

support this State function. The County Commission requests the support from our delegation to minimize the impact on property taxes for these functions of the State which are fee-based services.”
3) Support a bill authorizing KPERS to implement a Drop Program for eligible public employees.
“In 2023 the legislature approved a bill allowing KP&F retirement program to implement a Drop Program for eligible employees, thus helping with the retention of police and fire employees enrolled in KP&F. Unfortunately, not all public employers offer KP&F, due to the cost and the County is requesting allowing KPERS to implement the program as well capturing all public safety employees as well as public employees. With the current

employment market, the retention of experienced public employees is essential for the deliverance of public services in our state. The addition of the drop program has no negative impact to KPERS and provides local units of governments another tool at no cost to help retain long term employees.”
4) Support special legislation similar to KSA 19-2699
“This would allow for the restructure and appointment of the county fair board of Butler County to consist of 15 members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners.
5) Support special legislation allowing for a special use sales tax in Butler County. There is no formal supporting language in the Legislative Agenda regarding the

tax, nor any specification on how much the tax would be or what it would be used for. If the Legislation approves Butler County Commissioners to begin the discussion, the Commissioners would need to pass a resolution that specifies these details which would then be put on the next voting ballot for the public to vote on.
“That's something we can take to the voters to use on property tax relief or whatever,” said Will Johnson during the October 15 County Commission meeting.
6) Support additional funding for State Park maintenance and upkeep.
“Currently there is no state funding for State Parks other than fees generated by the park resulting in deferred maintenance of our best public tourist destinations.”



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