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DONIPHAN COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER



Pray for
America

Memorial Day Celebration at Highland

By Mary Winder
Chief reporter

A special Memorial Day Service will take place at the Highland Cemetery on Monday, May 26, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The Highland Cemetery Association and Highland Community Action Team are sponsoring this event. The public is invited to attend. Admission is free.

Tana Snyder of Highland, organizer of the event, emphasizes that this celebration is "for the whole community."

"We are honoring those who died in service to our country," she explains. "It's a nice way to remember them."

"Everyone is invited. We would like to have more of our younger families attend," she adds, noting that Highland's Memorial Day Service usually has an attendance of around 100 people. "We are trying to increase community awareness and patriotism."

Snyder, who is retired now, formerly taught American Government, American History, and World History at Maysville High School in Missouri for 21 years. She believes her career has shaped her outlook on Memorial Day and patriotism.

"I think it's important to be active and be involved in your community and government," she says. Snyder is a member of the Highland Community Action Team and is on the Doniphan West School Board and the Highland City Council.

The first part of the Memorial Day Service at Highland will take place in the cemetery building. At 9:00 a.m., a hospitality table featuring cinnamon rolls, coffee, and water will be available for those attending. Terry Gibson will welcome everyone at 9:30 a.m., followed by a prayer by David Welch. Gibson will then recognize the veterans in attendance.



Pictured above is Brigadier General Paul Schneider, who will speak at the Highland Memorial Day Service.

Katie Thompson and Sheila Jeffers Hennigan will provide special music for the occasion. Then, Jason Taylor will introduce the speaker, Brigadier General Paul Schneider of Manhattan, Kan. He is Director of the Joint Staff, Kansas National Guard.

Schneider is a Doniphan County native and a graduate of Highland High School. He enlisted with the 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery Regiment in Hiawatha, Kansas, in March of 1987 as a split option enlistee while he was a junior in high school. In 1994, he received his commission in the Army National Guard as a field artillery officer after graduating from Officer Candidate School. Through the years, Schneider has completed numerous training courses, and he has served in a variety of assignments.

He attended Kansas State University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism

and Mass Communications. Later, Schneider earned a Master of Arts in Information Technology Management from Webster University and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

In 2004-2005, Schneider participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and he took part in Operation Spartan Shield in 2021. During his service, Schneider earned the following awards and decorations: Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Noncommissioned Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Army Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, and Joint Staff Identification Badge (KS).

After Schneider's presentation, Katie Thompson will lead the audience in singing "God Bless America."

At this point, those attending this service will proceed to the gazebo area for the remainder of the program. Adam Johnson, SGT Army, will raise the flag and the audience will recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Jagger Edie will then perform "The Star-Spangled Banner," and Brigadier Gen. Paul Schneider will place the wreath. At this time, the American Legion Color Guard will fire a gun salute. Hudson Ingmire will end the Memorial Day Service by playing "Taps."

A golf cart will be available to transport people from the parking area to the cemetery building, from the building to the gazebo, or to and from other spots during the event.

Class of
2025

Graduates
Featured inside!

Riverside High School
Sun., May 18, 5:00 p.m.
East Campus Gym

Troy High School
Sun., May 18, 3:00 p.m. at the
C.W. Oliver Gymnasium

Doniphan West High School
Held Sat., May 10
Feat. on page 5



Pictured above from left to right are Tom Heath and April Heim at a reception held May 8 at the insurance office in Highland to honor Heath, who is retiring, and to welcome Heim, who was recently named the new agent at the insurance business.

Tom Heath Retires from Insurance Agency in Highland

By Mary Winder
Chief reporter

Tom Heath of Wathena has spent many years providing insurance to Doniphan County residents. Most recently, he owned Highland Insurance Services in Highland. Heath sold that business to Farmers Union Midwest Agency, and he has since retired.

A celebration of Heath's retirement took place on May 8 at the office, located at 310 W. Main St. in Highland. Heath owned the Highland business for about 16 years.

Prior to his years of owning the agency in Highland, Heath owned an insurance business in Wathena for a number of years that he later sold to Allen Hewins.

Heath grew up in St. Joseph, Mo. and attended Lafayette High School and St. Joseph Junior College. He says that he has truly cherished his years of living and working in Doniphan County, however, with its small-town, rural character.

"I really enjoy being here," he says. "The people (of Doniphan County) are very, very friendly and nice—they have been very good to me. I just felt at home, both in Highland and Wathena, producing the insurance that my customers needed."

He feels a strong connection to the business of providing insurance to people, and he believes working in Doniphan County was a great fit for him.

"The people here wanted someone close to help them with their insurance," Heath says. "They didn't want to go out of town. They treated me like they were so glad I was able to help them with their insurance needs."

He was happy to fill that niche.

Heath and his wife, Sam (Sandra), have known each other since Heath was in the fourth grade, and they have been married for 57 years. They have three children: Jeff Heath of Barnard, Mo., Shane Heath of Texas, and Kelly McDonald of St. Joseph. The couple has four grandchildren.

The May 8 gathering also served the purpose of welcoming the new

insurance agent at the Highland office, April Heim.

"I was hired to run the office on September 15, 2023," explains Heim, noting that Heath stayed on for about nine months to help with the transition after selling the agency to Farmers Union Midwest Agency on January 1, 2023. "I agreed to accept the role of agent as of January 1, 2025. I am licensed in property, casualty, life, and health. My focus will be home, auto, farm, and unique small business needs."

"I'm really excited about the opportunities that Farmers Union Midwest Agency has brought to Highland," she adds. "With the 70 agents in our organization, we are able to negotiate like the big companies. But, they are located in Kansas and Nebraska. Most of the agents are in small town offices like our Highland office. So, they understand how we like to do things in small towns."

Heim points out that the insurance office in Highland has a long history. She and Mike Parker of Highland provided some interesting information about that history. The Highland agency was launched by Roy Noll in 1927, so that he would have business in the lulls in his funeral home business. That makes the insurance agency 98 years old.

Roy's son, Bill Noll (known in Highland as the elder Bill Noll), was also involved in this insurance business in Highland, as was the Parker family. Mike Parker owned the agency from 1983 to 1988.

"The Bank of Horton purchased it from me in 1988, and Artie Lucas managed it," explains Parker. "Later, Artie owned the agency."

Heath and Allen Hewins then purchased the insurance business from Lucas, and later Heath became the sole owner.

It is important to Heath to express his gratitude to his insurance customers during his many years of working in this field.

"I want to thank them all very much," he says.



Pictured: Mrs. Jodi Leatherman, advisor, Brooklynn Drake, Judd Prawl, Brooklyn Denton, and Kamryn McCauley.

Doniphan West Students Recognized at the Business Professionals of America National Leadership Conference in Orlando

By Jodi Leatherman

Students from Doniphan West Business Professionals of America (BPA) chapter were among the nearly 7,000 attendees representing nearly 800 school chapters who attended the 2025 BPA National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida, May 7-11.

While in Orlando, students vied for top honors in BPA's Workplace Skill Assessment Program competitions, which cover the areas of business administration; digital communication and design; finance; health administration; information technology; and management, marketing and communication. Conference participants also attended leadership development workshops, received awards for community service activities, and elected BPA's 2025-2026 national student leadership team.

The students from the Doniphan West BPA chapter who attended the National Leadership Conference were:

Judd Prawl, junior – Integrated Office Applications & Advanced Spreadsheet Applications; Kamryn McCauley, junior – Advanced Interview; Brooklyn Denton, junior – Intermediate Word Processing; Brooklynn Drake, sophomore – Integrated Office Applications.

Grain Belt transmission line promises to boost power, savings, and jobs

By Melanie Davis
Chief reporter

The long-awaited Grain Belt Express project is on the horizon, promising to deliver more power, lower energy costs, and create over 4,000 jobs across the Midwest. The 800-mile transmission line, which will run through Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana, is set to begin construction in 2026.

Doniphan County Clerk Peggy Franken provided a press release from Grain Belt to the Board of Commissioners during Monday's regular meeting. The release states that the transmission line is expected to save Americans approximately \$52 billion in energy costs over the next 15 years and strengthen the power grid's security and reliability.

A public hearing was held for the purpose of re-submitting a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application for the ADA sidewalk ramp project at the Doniphan County Courthouse in Troy. Sitlali Samano, Transportation Planner with Mo-Kan Regional Council, was present to answer questions. No public comments or questions were made. Following the hearing, Commissioner Tim Collins moved to apply for the grant, Commissioner Wayne Grable seconded, and the motion passed. Commissioner Bobby Hall was absent.

A \$3,197 expenditure was approved to replace two balance guides in the Doniphan County Emergency Management Office. The window replacement, which aims to reduce air infiltration, will be completed by Architectural Glazing Professionals, Inc., of Grandview, Missouri.

Lindsey Norris provided the

Board of Commissioners with a list of potential candidates for the Kansas Local Bridge Improvement Program (Off-System Bridge Program). The proposed locations include 180th Road west of Ash Point Road, Friendship Road east of 105th Road (a wood plank bridge), Larkinburg Road south of 150th Road (a truss bridge), and 190th Road east of Randolph Road. Possible sacrificial bridges include 196th Road north of 195th Road and Oxide Road north of 195th Road. Norris explained that Doniphan County's local match requirement is currently 10%, based on population density, and that some bridge projects may qualify for 100% funding. The commissioners will review the list and submit their recommendations based on need from least to greatest to Schwab-Eaton Engineering.

The April 2025 Doniphan County Household Hazardous Waste Report was also presented. It detailed collected items including latex and oil-based paints products, herbicides, pesticides, poisons, corrosive bases and acids, flammable solvents, aerosols, antifreeze, fluorescent lights, compact fluorescent lights (CFLs), lead-acid batteries, and other assorted hazardous materials.

A petition to vacate roads and an alley located in the city of Maynard, North of the St. Joseph and Denver City railroad, was presented by County Attorney Charles Baskins. A public hearing to discuss the petition will be held Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. Attorney Baskins commended newly elected Register of Deeds, Rhian Ptomey, for her work on the petition.



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Files for Office

According to the Doniphan County Election Officer Peggy Franken the following have filed for office:

USD 114 - DISTRICT 2 (3): Zach Euler, Wathena
HIGHLAND CITY - COUNCIL (3): Tana Snyder, Highland
HIGHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES (3): Vernie Coy, Wathena
USD 429 - AT-LARGE (3): Brian Johnson, Troy
Elwood Gladden Drainage District- (3): Alvin "Woody" Wood, Elwood
TROY CITY - COUNCIL (3): Darren Clary, Troy