

JULY 3, 2025



Willy Wonka, played by Abby White, presents Charlie, played by Kate West, along with Grandpa Joe, played by Haylee Lyon, the Chocolate Factory during the Neodesha Arts Associations Summer Theater production of Willy Wonka Kids Friday evening.

- Photo by Rob Morgan

## Holman Guitars part 3 Made in Neodesha

This is the third and final part of an article that ran in Vintage Guitar Magazine. We are running this article because a Holman guitar was donated to the Neodesha Historical Museum.

At some point, the Holman-Woodell folks began to sell their guitars carrying their own Holman brand name. It's not known if these appeared concurrently with the Wurlitzer brand, but it's more probable that Holman-brand guitars appeared in 1966 or later. A good guess might be that when Wurlitzer pulled the plug, Holman-Woodell was left with lots of stock, and decided to try to market guitars under its own name. After the Wurlitzer episode, Holman-Woodell ditched the idea of stereo-mono output, favoring more traditional mono output.

The Holman Classic shown on page 23 (SN 155226) has '66 pot dates, though that, of course, only establishes an early date for the manufacture of the pot itself. If Wurlitzer left Holman-Woodell 55holding the bag, they may have had a large supply of pots that lasted a long time. This guitar is a blond natural-finish Strat-style double-cutaway solidbody with most of the typical Holman-Woodell features. It has a 243/4" scale, string tree, six-in-line Kluson Deluxe individual covered tuners with chrome buttons, truss rod adjustment at body with covered access hole, black pickguard with gold-colored imprinted logo, two Sensi-Tone adjustable pole single-coil pickups with plastic and metal covers marked Channel A and Channel B, two volume and two tone controls (lead tone pot has two capacitors - .022 and .001 - yielding thin single-coil sound at 10 and fatter humbucker sound at 1, but which adds highs to the rhythm pickup when set at 10; go figure), three-way pickup selector, and Wurlitzer Vibratron Bigsby-style vibrato. Unlike its Wurlitzer brothers, this guitar had only mono output. Also, unlike the Kiss-Tongue heads seen in the Wurlitzer flyer, this has a sort of bizarre squarified Strat-style headstock shape. These are seen on other later Holman factory guitars.

The Wurlitzer Wildcat (page 25) was also produced bearing the Holman brand name. While we don't have an example to show, so, too, undoubtedly, was the Gemini, since it survived into the Alray era.

The Holman brand continued to be made for some time. It's not clear whether it was simply a transitional brand between Wurlitzer and Alray or whether it actually

ran concurrently with the later Alray name. This may be an academic consideration because the entire factory history wasn't really very long, anyway! The reason this issue is even raised is that as you can see from examples pictured here, at some point Holman-Woodell came up with a semi-solid guitar and bass design with models known as the Long Horn and Short Horn. While these appear in the Alray catalog, there are examples also bearing the Holman name, often engraved into the pickguard. Generally speaking, the Holman versions continued using the sort of bizarre Strat-style head-stock, whereas Alrays tended to favor a wide three-and-three head. However, so much variation exists in the few examples known to us that firm conclusions are hard to draw. The unsolved mystery is: did the Holman folks design the semi-solids right after losing the Wurlitzer business? Or did Al and Ray, whom we're about to meet, come up with the idea after taking over, and continue to make both Holman and Alray guitars (possibly using up necks with the Holman head)?

### Down by the Bay

At some point, late in '66 or early in 1967, the Holman-Woodell company was put in touch with Dan Helland, a young photographer, music teacher and would-be guitar designer living in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Dan worked for Henry Czachor, of Henry's Music in Green Bay, and had this idea that an electric guitar is just a piece of wood with a neck, right? The wood could be anything, even a 2 X 4. Why not slap a neck on a 2 X 4 and have a guitar? The LaBaye 2 X 4 was born. Why the name LaBaye was chosen is unknown, but there are a lot of folks of French heritage in northeastern Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and Green Bay is, after all, situated on "the bay."

The LaBaye 2 X 4 guitar was called, in quotes, the Six, while the bass was called - dare to guess? - the Four. Ta dum.

Basically, except for the novel body, the LaBaye 2 X 4 guitars and basses were similar to Holman-brand instruments, with Sensi-Tone pickups and mono output. Unlike Holmans and Wurlitzers, the LaBayes did not feature the jazz/rock rocker switches. Also, in a design nightmare, the 2 X 4s put the three-way toggle down on the bottom of the log, so that the slightest movement while playing it was likely to knock the pickup selector out of position. The Wurlitzer

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## County commission hold quick meeting

Wilson County commissioners took care of business quickly at their final June meeting last Wednesday, and canceled - by consensus - the July 3 meeting due to the holiday weekend.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Kary Tatum reported on revisions to the MUTCD on bridge signage and discussed road barricades during flash floods. He also informed commissioners that asphalt road work would begin soon on 500 Road between Scott and Thomas roads.

The commission held a 10-minute executive session to discuss matters of non-elected

personnel pertaining to employee performance with the commissioners, Tatum, Randy Farrar, and Coordinator Kris Marple.

The regular meeting resumed with no action taken.

Marple gave an update on the Kansas Open Meetings and Records Acts and discussed preparations for the FY2026 budget draft. He also presented Resolution #2025-007 re-appointing Jessica Porter as County Appraiser for another four-year term, which was approved.

The meeting will reconvene at 9 a.m. Wednesday, July 9.

## Neodesha Arts Association Presents August 2 Artisan and Quilt Showcase

More than just bits of cloth stitched together, quilts are handmade heirlooms woven with memories and family stories. Historically, quilts preserved a family's heritage and cultural identity, often reflecting the times in which they were made.

Created not only for warmth, but quilts also provide an avenue for artistic expression: patterns have emerged throughout history to symbolize major events, such as wed-

dings and births; often, quilts incorporate the last remnants of fabric remaining from dresses too worn out to be handed down any longer.

The Neodesha Arts Association is putting together a quilt display for an Aug. 2 Artisan Quilt Show, and would like to display Wilson County residents' favorite quilts.

Whether self-quilted, received as a gift, handed down through generations, or

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## City works on removing dangerous structures in Neodesha

More dangerous or unsafe structures were on the agenda for the Neodesha city commission's June 25 regular meeting.

Commissioners approved an ordinance and a resolution dealing with 127 Mill and 1305 N. 8th, respectively.

Speaking about 127 Mill, Neodesha Building Inspector Tommy John reported, "This property has already been through the process in late 2024.

"Time was given to the parties that held interest in the property. Nothing has been done, so now we are moving forward with the demo process."

Regarding 1305 N. 8th, John said, "This property is one that the city would like to move forward in the yard abatement process. This resolution is the first step in getting this property cleaned up."

The commission also approved a resolution to change the city's depository information, removing Commissioner Chris Jabben and adding Commissioner Ed Truelove.

The NHS Clay Target Team presented a renewal agreement with the city to use

the airport for the team's practices. Joe Cody asked to be on the agenda to discuss the agreement.

In other business, commissioners:

- Approved the 2025 Audit Engagement letter with Jarred, Gilmore and Phillips, authorizing the firm to conduct the 2025 audit;

- Approved the offer letter from Casey's General Stores, which has proposed an offer for the City of Neodesha's property just north of the electrical shop, \$235,000 for three acres of the parcel of land directly west of Ottawa Road between the city electric shop and Highway 75;

- Approved the appointment of Carolyn Smalley to the Library Board for the term expiring April 30, 2028. Smalley originally left the library board to become the library director until such time as one could be hired. Now that Joan Oliver has been hired and has assumed the directory position Smalley will be resuming her board duties.

The commission will reconvene in regular session at 4 p.m. on July 9 at City Hall.



Left to right: Shawna Shaffer, Director of Radiology; Nuclear Medicine Technologists PJ Price and Brandy Maffei. pose with the GE Nuclear Medicine 830 Imaging System. - Courtesy photo

## Wilson Medical Center Announces Acquisition of Advanced GE Nuclear Medicine

NEODESHA, Kan. (June 26, 2025) — Wilson Medical Center is proud to announce the arrival of the GE Nuclear Medicine 830 Imaging System, marking a major milestone in the hospital's continued investment in state-of-the-art diagnostic technology and patient-centered care.

The GE NM 830 represents

the next generation of nuclear medicine imaging, offering a combination of precision, efficiency, and comfort that will significantly enhance diagnostic capabilities for patients across Wilson County and surrounding communities.

"This is more than a technology upgrade—it's a leap forward in the way we care for our



A group of children join Delaney Bradford at the W. A. Rankin Memorial Library to paint rock Thursday morning. K-State Research and Extension intern will be coming in to do some fun science activities. Bradford, who will be a senior at Neodesha High School in the fall, will instruct classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-11 a.m., starting with "The Mystery of Corn" on June 24. Other classes include "Rock Painting" on June 26; "Paint a Pot and Grow a Plant," July 15 and 17; "Solar Oven S'Mores" on July 1; "Spaghetti Towers" on July 3; "Make Your Own Lava Lamp" on July 10; and "Ice Cream in a Bag" on July 29. Sign up for the K-State classes by calling the Wildcat District Extension Office, 620-378-2167.

- Photo by Rob Morgan