

NEWS

Health . . .

(Continued from page 1)

U.S., 90%.

Library access: Jefferson County, 4; Kansas, 3; U.S., 2. Social and Economic Factors—

Some college: Jefferson County, 73%; Kansas, 70%; U.S., 68%.

High school completion: Jefferson County, 95%; Kansas, 92%; U.S., 89%.

Unemployment: Jefferson County, 2.5%; Kansas, 2.7%; U.S., 3.6%.

Income inequality: Jefferson County, 3.8; Kansas, 4.4; U.S., 4.9.

Children in poverty: Jefferson County, 9%; Kansas, 13%; U.S., 16%.

Injury deaths: Jefferson County, 98; Kansas, 85; U.S., 84.

Social associations: Jefferson County, 8.7; Kansas, 13.2; U.S., 9.1.

Child care cost burden: Jefferson County, 22%; Kansas, 19%; U.S., 28%.

Just for the sake of comparison, Jefferson County outperformed three of the five counties adjacent to it in this year's rankings and matched the performance of one of the other two counties. Only Douglas County had a superior showing to the one turned in by this county.

Here are the results for Douglas, Leavenworth, Jackson, Atchison and Shawnee counties:

Douglas — for Population Health and Well-being, fared slightly better than the average county in Kansas and better than the average county in the nation, and for Community Conditions, fared better than both the average county in Kansas and the average county in the nation.

Leavenworth — for Population Health and Well-being, fared slightly better than the average county in Kansas and better than the average county in the nation, and for Community Conditions, fared slightly better than the average county in Kansas and better than the average county in the nation.

Jackson — for Population Health and Well-being, fared about the same as the average county in Kansas and better than the average county in the nation, and for Community Conditions, fared slightly better than the average county in Kansas and better than the average county in the nation.

Atchison — for Population Health and Well-being, fared about the same as the average county in Kansas and better than the average county in the nation, and for Community Conditions, fared about

the same as the average county in Kansas and slightly better than the average county in the nation.

Shawnee — for Population Health and Well-being, fared slightly worse than the average county in Kansas and slightly better than the average county in the nation, and for Community Conditions, fared slightly better than the average county in Kansas and better than the average county in the nation.

The rankings for every county in the United States and explanations for each of the numbers reported for them can be found by visiting www.countyhealthrankings.org.

Bill Culver seeks to retain school board seat at PL

Bill Culver became the 10th person to file for public office in Jefferson County this year. Culver, 79, Perry, currently holds Position No. 2 on the Perry-Lecompton school board, an unexpired term once held by Jackie Aldrich.

The filing deadline for the nearly 70 public offices up for election this year is June 2, just one month away.

Positions 4, 5 and 6 are up for election in the county's six school districts along with a few council seats and some mayor's offices in the eight cities, and the directors for the improvement districts and drainage districts. Two representatives will be chosen from Jefferson County to sit on the multi-county Meadowlark Extension District board.

Candidates are required to file with the county election office in the County Clerk's office at the courthouse in Oskaloosa.

1 injured in 46th and K-4 wreck

The driver of a pickup was injured when the southeast bound vehicle on 46th Street ran the stop sign at Highway K-4, crossed the highway, and went up a steep embankment before coming to rest.

Timothy Nystrom, 25, Perry, was transported to Stormont-Vail Hospital, Topeka, for suspected injuries.

According to the Jefferson County Sheriff's report, the accident happened about 6:45 a.m. April 18.

Nystrom was driving a 2002 Dodge pickup. The cause of the accident was not stated. There was no evidence of impairment.

Urgent need to purchase directly from farmers, ranchers, growers

by Rick McNary
Local Food Systems Analyst

Recent pauses in government grant funding — which helps food banks buy food from local farmers — have left many growers facing tough challenges. Growers had purchased machinery and planted crops in anticipation of a profitable harvest — they had purchased equipment to help them process the crops such as freezers and cool storage; some had taken out loans on buildings and vehicles to distribute their products.

They began this in anticipation of funding that suddenly vanished. But the crops keep growing, the bank still expects payment on loans for machines, and the people who would have received that local food are left without it. Here is where you and I can step in to help.

If you were ever interested in supporting local, now is the time to do it, not just as a popular culture thing to “buy local,” but because many of these growers' businesses will not survive unless we step in to purchase from them.

For those interested in turning local food production into a business rather than a hobby, it's important to understand two main market options: selling directly to consumers or selling indirectly through intermediaries.

The indirect-to-consumer model is based on high volumes with narrow profit margins. That grower raises a crop then sells it to someone else who, in turn, sells it to someone else, who, in turn, sells it to someone else. For example, a loaf of bread at the store might cost \$3.50, but the farmer who grew the wheat only receives 10 to 15 cents.

Whether it's a farmer who grows wheat, which is also called a commodity crop, or one who grows vegetables, a specialty crop, selling indirect-to-consumer means they are selling at a wholesale price, which is much less than the



final retail price.

However, some growers choose direct-to-consumer sales because they have higher margins and don't require the scale of commodity crops. Therefore, while the consumer may still pay the same amount for a loaf of bread at the grocery store or directly from a local grower, the grower keeps a larger share of the retail price.

While many people want to buy their food from local growers, access to them is not always easy. For many consumers, unless they personally know a grower and can buy directly from them, the only other option has been to drive to local farmers markets, which are only open part of the year. And, for some who live in rural areas, they might have to drive an hour or longer to attend a farmers' market. Access to local food is not always easy.

However, Shop Kansas Farms has worked for five years to make access to locally grown food easier for both the consumers and the growers. We build that bridge between the consumer and the grower in three different ways.

First, we have a website that serves like an online shopping mall: www.shopkansasfarms.com. Imagine when you use it, it's like wandering through a big mall with various businesses, each one of them separate, yet united under one roof. Our website is like a building and houses hundreds of growers.

Please note we don't sell their products, but we give them the online space to sell them. If you, as a consumer, want to buy, you will buy directly from them. Incidentally, we don't charge them rent! They can list on our website for free.

Second, we have the Shop Kansas Farms Facebook group, which currently has more than 169,000 followers and continues to grow each week. Most of those members are consumers who want to buy directly from local growers.

Third, we are creating hyper-local Harvest Hubs to build out the needed supply chain to benefit growers. That supply chain consists of three elements: production, processing, and distribution. For many growers, the processing component such as local meat lockers and commercial kitchens/canneries is the most difficult aspect so we're helping build those out. Our first one is the Border Queen Harvest Hub based in Caldwell but encompasses about a 60-mile radius. One that is coming online soon is the Sedgwick County Harvest Hub. We have built these models to be replicable across the state and nation.

Our local growers need us now more than ever to purchase food raised by the wonderful farm and ranch families of Kansas. As you meet the people who grow the food you eat, you will fall in love with them. After all, these are the people who put food on our plates each day.

Court awaiting LSH report about West

Readily acknowledging that the court was “hamstrung” until it could get its proverbial hands on a critical post-evaluation report from Larned State Hospital, Jefferson County District Judge Christopher T. Etzel scheduled the next competency hearing for murder defendant Michael Thompson West for at 9 a.m. Thursday, May 8, during last Thursday morning's competency hearing in Jefferson County District Court.

When asked by Etzel about the status of the report, Lawrence attorney Matthew Cohen, West's court-appointed attorney, told the judge that when he had spoken with a female employee at LSH at an earlier time, she “didn't sound hopeful” that the report would be available for consideration at that day's hearing.

Etzel then reported that the court had received a letter from LSH April 16 in which it had been related that those who evaluated West were of the feeling that he wasn't competent to stand trial for the murder of his father, at least not at this time anyway.

West, who was transported to LSH Jan. 27 for evaluation and treatment, wasn't present either physically or virtually for the hearing.

The state was represented in the courtroom by County Attorney Josh Ney.

As previously reported in the paper, West is charged with premeditated murder in the first degree in the Sept. 11, 2023, death of 59-year-old Michael J. West. He is accused of attacking his father at the rural Ozawie home the two men shared, leaving him seriously injured. The incident occurred Sept. 9, 2023.

The senior West died two days later as a result of his injuries when he was removed from life support.

The junior West is in his early 30s.

The case is JF2023CR125.



PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Oskaloosa Independent April 24, May 1 and 8, 2025)3t

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, KANSAS

Pursuant to KSA Chapter 59 IN THE MATTER OF CONSERVATORSHIP OF: Doris K. Boiesen

Case No. JF-2024-PR-000005 **NOTICE OF HEARING** THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified that an Amended Petition has been filed in this Court on April 7, 2025, by Lynnette Nicole Droge, Conservator of the above entitled Conservatorship of Doris K. Boiesen, requesting an Order authorizing the private sale of the following described real estate situated in Jefferson County, Kansas:

The East Half (E/2) of the Southwest Quarter (SW/4) of Section Thirty-Three (33), Township Eight South (T8S.), Range Eighteen East (R18E) of the 6th P.M., in Jefferson County, Kansas according to the U.S. Government Survey thereof.

and a further Order confirming the private sale of the property to Lawrence Nix for \$130,867.00 cash, with taxes prorated to date of sale, abstract of title or policy of title insurance to be furnished by seller, growing crops to belong to buyer, and with closing to be held immediately, and possession to be delivered upon closing; and a further Order authorizing the Conservator to pay the costs of the sale including an abstract of title or policy of title insurance and a real estate commission.

You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before May 23, 2025, at 8:30 a.m., in the District Court in Jefferson County, Kansas at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgement and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

Lynnette Nicole Droge, Petitioner

PREPARED AND APPROVED BY: Werring Law, LLC Andrew E. Werring, #22184 Attorney for Petitioner 110 N. 5th Street Atchison, KS 66002 P: 913-367-2424 F: 913-367-7017 E: andrew@werringlaw.com

Hometown healthcare happens in McLouth.

Since 2007, LMH Health Primary Care has served McLouth with convenient, quality healthcare.

As your partner for lifelong health, we care for your whole family—all ages. When more specialized care is needed, LMH Health has a network of physicians to provide personal, expert care in your own backyard.

Call 913-796-6116 to schedule an appointment.



Melissa Norris, APRN
Nurse Practitioner

LMH Health
Primary Care

313 S. Union Street, McLouth
lmh.org/mclouth

44-cow-tfc

THE OSKALOOSA INDEPENDENT

Business Card Directory

06-04-24

S & S Concrete Inc.
Concrete Construction
Driveways • Sidewalks • Patios
Free Estimates
(913) 796-6998 or (913) 796-6337
41-tfc

Mike's Lock Service
Mike Smith, Locksmith
22 years of Professional Service
Lock Repair & Replacement
Automotive Locks & Keys
785-764-7173 • Call or Text • Oskaloosa, KS
16-tfc

KING'S CONSTRUCTION
Earth Moving, Ponds, Terraces, Waterways,
Brush Clearing, Tiling, & Tile Terraces
DAN KING • KENT KING
Minorities and Females encouraged to apply. An Equal Opportunity Employer
785-863-2534 • Oskaloosa, KS
43-tfc

Advertise... it pays!
785-863-2520

Barnett Family Funeral Home
Jefferson County Crematory
Pre-need arrangements, burials, cremations and monument services
1220 Walnut • PO Box 602
Oskaloosa, Kansas 66066
PH: (785)863-2020 • Fax: (785)863-2008

MCM MIDWEST CONCRETE MATERIALS, INC.
Ready Mix Concrete & Aggregates
Plants in Perry and Atchison
888-244-2082 or 785-843-1688
18-tfc

BOYD'S
Heating & A/C
Our Customers Matter
BoydHeatingAndAir.com
785.231.8350
05-tfc

THE COMPUTER DOCTORS
“We make house calls.”
907 W 4th
Holton, KS 66436
785-364-9300
12-tfc

FARMER EXCAVATING, INC.
OSKALOOSA, KS 785-863-2404
Excavation, ponds, trucking, landscaping, snow removal, all types of dirt work.
<http://www.farmerexc.com>
14-tfc

Call 785-863-2520 or e-mail independent@jeffcountynews.com to put your ad in The Oskaloosa Independent Business Card Directory.

Oskaloosa Day Spa
LAST OF THE BEAUTIFUL
Patty Rymer, Aesthetician
913.709.2763
Facials • Chemical Peels
Dermaplaning
Acne Treatments
Microblading
08-tfc

Kramer Agency, Inc.
An Independent Property and Casualty Insurance Agency for Northeast Kansas
Homeowners Farm • Auto Commercial
www.kramerins.com
106 Main St. • Ozawie, Kansas
Next to the Post Office
785-876-2493 office
10-tfc