

Community

Drive sober or get pulled over this Labor Day

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The Kansas Drive To Zero Coalition and law enforcement across the state urge drivers to “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” as increased patrols will be in effect from Aug. 16 to Sept. 1 ahead of the Labor Day holiday to support this national traffic safety campaign.

In Kansas, preliminary 2024 data shows that 83 people died and more than 1,100 people were injured in

crashes involving an alcohol-impaired driver.

“A drunk driver impacts everyone on the road,” said KDOT Behavioral Safety Manager Gary Herman. “Being responsible is simple. Never drink and drive.”

Impaired driving also can lead to jail time, driving privileges being restricted or revoked, monthly fees associated with an ignition interlock and higher insurance rates. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Association, the average cost of

a DUI is \$10,000. Nationally, crashes involving an alcohol-impaired driver resulted in \$57 billion in economic costs.

Planning ahead is key to driving sober. If you choose to drink, arrange for a designated driver or use a ride-sharing service or cab. If a friend is leaving the celebration impaired, take the keys. If you see an impaired driver on the road, contact law enforcement.

For more information on impaired driving, visit the NHTSA website, nhtsa.gov.

Local attorney attends American Bar Association House of Delegates

STAFF REPORT

Independence attorney Joslyn M. Kusiak of Kelly & Kusiak Law Office LLC attended the American Bar Association House of Delegates meeting held in Toronto August 10-12. Kusiak is one of three Kansas Bar Association Delegates to the ABA House of Delegates.

The ABA is the largest voluntary association of lawyers in the world. The control and administration of the American Bar Association are vested in the House of Delegates, the association’s policy-making

body. The ABA exists to serve its members, improve the legal profession, eliminate bias and enhance diversity and advance the rule of law throughout the United States and around the world. The House of Delegates meets twice each year and consists of approximately 600 elected delegates.

This meeting’s schedule was particularly full and there was rigorous debate of many issues that impact lawyer and judges; core professional responsibilities, access to justice, civics education and due process. During the meeting, the House of

Delegates adopted more than 50 policies.

“The House of Delegates is where national policy for the ABA’s work begins,” Kusiak explained. “In a room full of influential lawyers from around the world, I’m honored to bring our community’s perspective to that work so our voice is part of the policies that shape justice and the rule of law see and around the world.”

Kusiak’s legal practice includes estate planning and administration, business formation and advice and civil litigation.

• County Commission

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decreases in specific line items within that policy, but at the end of the day I think that it would benefit Montgomery County to get an insurance broker that can go to bat for us much like we did with health insurance so that we can try to get the best price for what we are looking for,” he stated. “Part of this is service based and part of this is dollar based.” The Commissioners approved. August 29 is the submission date for brokers. The following Monday the Commissioners and County Administrator will review candidates in work session.

Booe then presented for adoption Resolution No. 25 and a rules and regulations policy for county cemeteries. Montgomery County owns four cemeteries; Le Hunt, Quaker, Poor Farm and Highland. “In looking at County cemeteries there are no policies, rules, or regulations that govern the care, maintenances and traffic of the cemetery. This can lead to a large amount of issues and some of the biggest headaches in local government,” he stated. Managing cemeteries can be very stressful due to their emotional nature. “We have a duty to maintain them and we need to be able to set a standard in place,” he added, “I don’t want us to be in a position where we hire a contractor to maintain county owned cemeteries and now every year it’s a battle between the county, the contractor, and the individual who own the plot.”

These documents detail the county’s responsibility of maintenance, provides guidelines regarding decorations and details prohibited items including alcohol, solar lights, glass containers and fences. Decorations can be removed after 14 days. No notice will be given regarding the removal of

decorations. Commissioner Phil Clubine recommended that the resolution address how many cremains should be allowed on each plot. “I think we need to have that in there and I think that is appropriate,” Clubine stated. Booe stated that typically he only sees one or two cremains per plot at this time and that two ought to be the limit. Chair Mike Cordray asked how to address current fencing around plots. While the resolution currently states that fences are not permitted, Booe stated that the resolution could be changed to state that fences are allowed as long as they are appropriately maintained by the family of the plot owners and that the fences will be removed if not maintained. The Commissioners approved the resolution pending legal review.

The County has been working with the Arnold Group out of Wichita on a wage study to make ensure that they are offering appropriate and competitive pay to employees by following market rates. The Arnold Group is ready to roll out the results and begin implementation in January 2026. Booe has received the final work book from them. He requested the formal adoption of this wage study by the Commission by resolution. He stated that the previous wage study was not formally adopted and that that allowed for some manipulation of wages. This led to discrepancies. The wage scale included within this new study provides increase guidelines to bring the county up to date with the market. It guarantees a minimum of a 1% annual adjustment for pay-scale maintenance and a maximum of 2.5% adjustment to include merit incentives. The commissioners requested this issue to tabled until after a work session to re-

view the wage study. These pay increases will not take effect until January 2026.

The budget hearing for Rural Fire will be on August 25th. It will not exceed the revenue neutral rate. The commissioners approved.

The commissioners approved the Neighborhood Revitalization application for 5218 CR 5700 in Cherrvale, KS.

• Splash to Dash

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in each age group. Award recipients were Adult Female, Kimberly Pryor 1st and Kelli Crowe 2nd; Adult Male, Doug Mund 1st, Eleazar Sanchez 2nd and Israel Sanchez 3rd; 11-12 Age Group Male, Brogan Zwahlen; Relay, Jack Tatman, Halle Tatman and Cashier Mitchell.

Several entrants were repeat participants. The triathlon is not only enjoyed by local community members but also by folks outside of Coffeyville. Kim Pryor traveled from Chanute to compete in this year’s event, making it her fifth year of partaking in the JAC Triathlon. Pryor enjoys that she can enter and experience the competition as an amateur without the intimidation that more competitive-oriented athletic events may cause. “It’s a nice triathlon for people who are not super athletic to dip their toes in the triathlon sport because it’s shorter distances and more doable for a regular person who is not a fitness nut,” said Pryor.

The JAC is a youth philanthropy program run by the Coffeyville Area Community Foundation (CACF). It provides high school students with the opportunity to gain experience in philanthropy, leadership and community involvement. JAC members volunteer, voice opinions on youth issues and award

The next meeting of the County Board of Commissioners will be held on Monday, August 18 at 9:00 a.m., in the lower level of the Judicial Center. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Recordings of the meetings are available for viewing at the new county website www.ks-montgomerycounty.civicplus.com under the agendas section.

grants to youth-focused programs. They also organize and host the annual JAC Triathlon to encourage community involvement while promoting fitness. According to CACF Board Trustee Janie DeVore Gillis, some of the projects that the JAC members have donated time to include Fishing Derby, Shop with a Cop, Daddy/Daughter Ball, Tot Olympics and the Brown Mansion Christmas light tours. A few past recipients of grants awarded by the JAC include Children’s Summer Theater, Coffeyville Skate Park, Shop with a Cop, Community Elementary Multicultural Field Trip, Holy Name Catholic School Community Garden, RMS “Take What You Need Cabinet” and FKHS Community Chest.

JAC members go through a selection process to become members. Counselors and/or youth send membership referrals to Lee. The referred youth are then interviewed, nominated and voted in. Potential members must be outstanding students and community members who are committed to giving back to the community.

Though the JAC holds fundraisers to support their mission, the JAC Triathlon’s purpose is not to raise funds but to encourage physical fitness in youth and adults. “It is an event to get the community active and get the youth interacting with other people,” said Erin Lee, current JAC Advisor.

This year’s event had 10 triathlon entrants and approximately 40 community and JAC volunteers. For more information on JAC, visit their Facebook page or the CACF website at www.coffeyvillefoundation.org.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16

- 10:00am-1:00pm, Bob Ross Landscape Painting Workshop, Coffeyville Public Library
- 7:00pm, Inter-State Fair and Rodeo Power Wheels & Demolition Derby, Walter Johnson Park

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

- 7:30am, Business Over Breakfast, Best Western

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

- 12:00-4:00pm, MCAC Tastes of Montgomery County, Lakeside Cedar Lodge

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- 5:00pm, Holy Name Catholic School Harvest Moon Gala, Holy Name Catholic School Gym

Have a community event?

Email it to coffeyville1@gmail.com.
It's your community calendar!

OBITUARIES

EDNA ANN FINDLEY



Findley

Edna Ann Findley age 88 of Coffeyville, Kansas passed away peacefully with her daughter by her side singing her favorite hymn “I Have Decided To Follow Jesus” knowing that Jesus was there waiting to take her to the mansion he has prepared just for her.

Edna was born to Roy and Mary (Manley) Rhinehart on October 26, 1936 in Coffeyville, Kansas. The Rhinehart family resided in Coffeyville until Edna was five, they then moved to South Coffeyville, Oklahoma through her sixth-grade year. They then moved west of Dearing where she attended Robbins School and then on to Roosevelt Junior High and graduated from Field Kindley Memorial High School. Edna had three brothers, John, Gary and Tom. Edna worked as a young woman at Newberry’s and that is where she met a dashing young man by the name of Herbert “Herb” Findley and that meeting led to marriage on August 23, 1953. The couple made Coffeyville their home and they had three children, Tony, Carl and Linda. Herb preceded her in death on December 15, 2011.

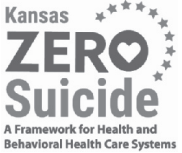
Edna was a homemaker during her children’s childhood, she used every opportunity during their day to teach life lessons, as well as being active in every activity they participated in. When she and Herb’s youngest Linda started high school, she began working at JC Penny’s as a salesclerk for several years. Edna will be remembered as an accomplished artist, writer, and illustrator. She has painted numerous paintings that adorn her family’s walls, her grandchildren were gifted with beautifully written and illustrated stories published by their grandma especially for them. Herb and Edna instilled the importance of developing a personal relationship with Jesus in their children, as a family they worshiped at Emmanuel Baptist Church. Edna was a Sunday School teacher for many years, sang in the church choir and remained an active member until her health didn’t allow her to attend.

Edna had a heart for children. She encouraged her children, their friends and later her grandchildren to express themselves through arts and crafts. There are many treasured drawings, paintings and handmade crafts that her family has held on to over the years that now are more precious than gold. Music was also important to Edna she played with piano beautifully and enjoyed singing.

Edna loved her family deeply, she valued spending quality time with each of them, though she will no longer physically her family will hold her love deep in their hearts. She leaves behind her children Dr. Tony (Jo) Findley, Linda Bynum, Joy Findley who remained close to Edna, her daughter-in-law Kelly of her late son Carl, grandchildren Amber (Vince) Bandy, Carrie (Nate) Fite, Bret Bynum, Seth (Brynn) Findley, Andrew (Abby) Findley, Ben (Jessica) Findley, Lillian and Ben Madson, Sydney and Ben Spencer and Family, Allison and Tyson Breshear and family, great-grandchildren Reagan and Rhys Findley, Roscoe and Maeve Findley, Miles, Calvin and Henry Findley, Chris (Lacey) Bandy, Greg (Tabi) Bandy, Roselynn and Ashlynn Bandy, Averi and Myleigh Sweeten, Nora and Isaiah Fite, great-great grandchildren Kenzie and Ellie Bandy and two more on the way, brother Gary (Pat) Rhinehart and sisters-in-law Laura Rhinehart. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, son Carl, brothers John Rhinehart and Tom Rhinehart.

Funeral services to celebrate her life will be held on Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at 2 pm at Ford-Wulfschapel, 2405 Woodland Ave., in Coffeyville, Kansas, with Pastor Wayne Martin officiating. The family will receive friends beginning at 1pm on Wednesday until service time where they welcome you to share your fond memories of Edna. Following services at the chapel Edna will be laid to rest next to her husband Herb in Restlawn Memorial Park Cemetery. To leave an online condolence, share a fond memory or view live streaming of the service visit her obituary page at www.fordwulfschapel.com.

Join Us



*AUGUST 19: WAKE UP - Winfield Location: 4:30PM, Cowley Cinema 8; <i>film screening & panel discussion</i>
*AUGUST 21: QPR TRAINING - Winfield Location: 10AM, 1PM, & 4PM, Winfield Public Library; <i>emergency response training in a suicide specific crisis</i>
AUGUST 22: LIGHT UP THE NIGHT - Indep. Location: 7:45PM, Riverside Park; <i>luminary walk & candlelight vigil</i>
*AUGUST 25: WAKE UP - Independence Location: 5:30PM, Indep. Public Library; <i>film screening & panel discussion</i>
*AUGUST 26: QPR TRAINING - Independence Location: 9AM, 1PM, & 4PM, Independence Civic Center; <i>emergency response training in a suicide specific crisis</i>
AUGUST 29: LIGHT UP THE NIGHT - Winfield Location: 7:45PM, Island Park; <i>luminary walk & candlelight vigil</i>
*REGISTRATION REQUIRED.
To register or more information: Rachael Miles 620-332-1982 or rmiles@fourcounty.com

my time is now.

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NEWS