

What’s the Word?

TEACHING

BY DAVID WOODS

►► Have you ever been sent out to do a job without proper training? As a young man, the farmer I worked for invariably expected me to do a task with no training. The results didn’t always work out very well.

We recently got a new feed truck at the ranch. Before we allowed any employee to use it for feeding, we required them to have the proper training. If we had used the ‘trial and error’ method, it could have been extremely expensive and very destructive.

So it is with our lives. It is foolish and naïve to think we can navigate this life without the proper training that God’s word provides. The result is

a catastrophe. This is precisely why God gives us specific instructions for training our children. Proverbs 22:6 says to train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 tells us to impress God’s truths upon our children, continually, in every aspect of life, and to be always reminded of them.

You see, not just any ol’ training manual will do. Each of us must ask ourselves where we get our training from. What do we want to influence our lives: TV shows? Computer or games? Stuff on the internet? Phone time? Social media?

Who is training you? Is it the ideas of man or the word of God?

Want to have a word?
David Woods is the lay pastor at First Baptist Church in Girard, KS. You can reach him at 620-238-0797.

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Commission sets annexation hearing date: Nov. 13, 5:30 pm

CRAWFORD COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING – OCTOBER 24, 2025

BY PHILIP STEVENS
HOMETOWN GIRARD

►► The Crawford County Commission met Friday, Oct. 24, at the Crawford County Courthouse with all commissioners present.

During public comment, resident Ross Martinson spoke about safety issues at several unmarked county road intersections in his area. He described increased traffic since Highway 7 north of Girard has been closed, noting that semis, trash trucks, and delivery vehicles often speed through intersections without clear stop signs.

Martinson asked the county to consider additional signage or trimming brush to improve visibility, especially near 690th, 700th, and 710th roads intersecting with 130th. Commissioners agreed to refer the issue to Road and Bridge Department and the Sheriff’s Office for review.

an increased fire risk could affect premiums.

The commission then entered a 15-minute executive session under the non-elected personnel exception to discuss employee job performance with Communications Director Tim Mikrut.

After the executive session, Mikrut updated the commission on progress with the county’s outdoor warning siren grant project. He said all eight FEMA applications had been accepted and the county is waiting for responses. “For all intents and purposes, everything’s looking good,” Mikrut said.

Following his report, the commission voted to enter a 20-minute executive session under the attorney-client privilege exception for legal advice regarding land annexation and potential litigation. County Counselor Jim Emerson participated in the session, along with Josh Albin, who joined by phone. No action was taken following the session.

Returning to open session, Counselor Emerson discussed the statutory schedule for the county’s review of Mulberry’s annexation resolution, which was filed Oct. 20. The county must reach a final decision by Nov. 19.

After discussion, commissioners agreed to hold the public hearing on the annexation at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13, in the courthouse courtroom, allowing residents to attend after work hours.

“This will be your chance,” Emerson said. “This will be your chance to discuss the annexation proposal.”

Lusker announced early voting would continue Saturday at the Homer Cole Senior Center in Pittsburg from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. She also scheduled an ARPA work session for Tuesday, Oct. 28, at 9:45 a.m.

In old business, Counselor Emerson provided a review of county finances heading into year-end. He reported: \$61,616 from ARPA funds

has been committed toward the Judicial Center boiler replacement; \$162,597.05 remains in the ARPA interest account; the Operating Reserve Fund contains \$190,227.58, plus \$105,000 already set aside for the storage building project; and Total funds available for the boiler project amount to \$414,440.63.

Emerson said EMS finances are tightening and may require a transfer from the county’s risk management fund next month. He noted the general fund carryover is currently projected at \$478,000, slightly above the \$466,398 budgeted estimate for the start of 2026.

He also distributed a draft travel and per diem policy for commissioner review and presented a signed contract with JT Construction for previously approved building work, which the board voted to authorize for signature.

Following that, the commission entered a 15-minute executive session under attorney-client privilege to discuss eminent domain, at Emerson’s request. No action was taken after the session.

The board then held another 15-minute executive session under the non-elected personnel exception to discuss employee health, dental, and vision insurance renewals with County Clerk Lisa Lusker, Fiscal Officer Randi Ryan, and County Counselor Jim Emerson. After returning to open session, Emerson recommended increasing the county’s individual stop-loss insurance threshold from \$125,000 to \$150,000, which would save approximately \$167,000 in premiums. The commission approved the change for the upcoming plan year.

The commission revisited the Judicial Center boiler replacement following receipt of multiple bids. Commissioner Blair

recommended accepting the low bid from CDL Electric Company at \$77,715, citing current financial constraints and upcoming uncertainties with EMS and other departments. “I think it would be best to go with the low bid. And I think it’d be best if there’s changes that need to be addressed, that they see what they can do to make some of those changes on a cost-savings way as they do the process,” said Blair. “But the boiler failing is what we’ve talked about. And we’ve got the courthouse that’s got issues, don’t have a cost on that yet.”

Commissioner Wood favored the higher bid from Design Mechanical, arguing that firm had stronger technical qualifications and familiarity with the system. However, after discussion, the board voted 2-1, with Wood voting against, to award the project to CDL Electric, with the expectation that facility supervisors will work with the contractor to address performance issues as needed.

Under old business, Commissioner Wood urged monitoring the Road and Bridge budget closely and suggested verifying salt supplies before winter. Emerson said the county received its final City-County Revenue Sharing payment, confirming road and bridge funding remains solid for the year. Commissioners agreed to consider purchasing additional salt while prices and hauling conditions remain favorable.

In closing announcements, there will be upcoming work sessions on Oct. 31: a work session at 8:30 a.m. to sign bills and payroll vouchers, followed by a 9 a.m. meeting with the SEK Recycling Center.

The next scheduled regular meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 28, at 10 a.m. in the courthouse.

Police arrest two in connection with aggravated battery and robbery investigation

PRESS RELEASE

Parsons Police Department

►► In the early morning hours of Sunday, October 19, 2025, Parsons Police Officers responded to a report of a battery in the 1100 block of South 13th Street in Parsons.

Upon arrival, officers located an adult male victim with significant facial injuries and blood visible on his face and clothing. The victim declined immediate medical attention but was later transported to Labette Health for evaluation. Medical personnel confirmed multiple facial fractures and other trauma injuries consistent with a physical assault.

Preliminary investigation revealed that earlier in the evening, the victim reportedly confronted individuals he believed

were involved in the theft of his personal property. Shortly after returning to his residence, two male suspects arrived and forcibly entered the victim’s apartment, where a physical altercation occurred.

Through the course of the investigation, officers identified the suspects as Jonathan “Junebug” Atchley and Jeremiah “JD” Schaible, both of Parsons. Witness statements and evidence indicated that Schaible physically assaulted the victim while Atchley was present and allegedly took the victim’s wallet during the incident.

Officers later located Schaible at a residence in the 2600 block of Clark Avenue, where he was taken into custody without incident. Atchley subsequently arrived at the Parsons Police

Department and was also taken into custody. Both suspects were booked into the Parsons Police Department’s temporary holding facility.

Atchley was arrested for Aggravated Robbery, Aggravated Kidnapping, Battery and Criminal Littering. Schaible was arrested for Aggravated Battery, Aggravated Kidnapping and Aggravated Robbery. The investigation remains ongoing, and additional charges may be submitted to the Labette County Attorney’s Office for review.

“This case demonstrates the professionalism and persistence of our responding officers and investigators,” said Parsons Police Chief Robert Spinks. “Their quick coordination ensured the suspects were identified, located,

and arrested within hours of the incident. Our department remains committed to protecting victims of violent crime and holding offenders accountable, it is now up to the judicial leg of this county to finish these officer’s fine work.”

This continues to be an on-going investigation, and citizens are encouraged to “See It, Hear It, Report It.” All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. If anyone has any further information on this incident or any other criminal activity, please contact the Parsons Police Department at 421-7060 or call the Tip Line at 421-7057 or email at tips@parsonspdks.gov.



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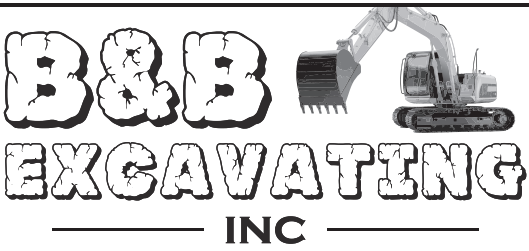


Meal program for ages 60+ served at 10:30 am in the Girard Senior Center.

Located at Girard Senior Center – 221 S Ozark St, Girard KS

Mon. Nov 3-	Peppered Pork Loin , Cheesy Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Veg, Dinner Roll
Tues. Nov 4-	Chicken Teriyaki , White Rice, Broccoli, Pineapple Tidbits, Dinner Roll
Wed. Nov 5-	Beef Chili , Normandy Blend Vegetable, CornBread, Dessert, Fruit
Thur. Nov 6-	Baked Fish , Roasted Sweet Potatoes, Steamed Cabbage, Fruit, Dinner Roll

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