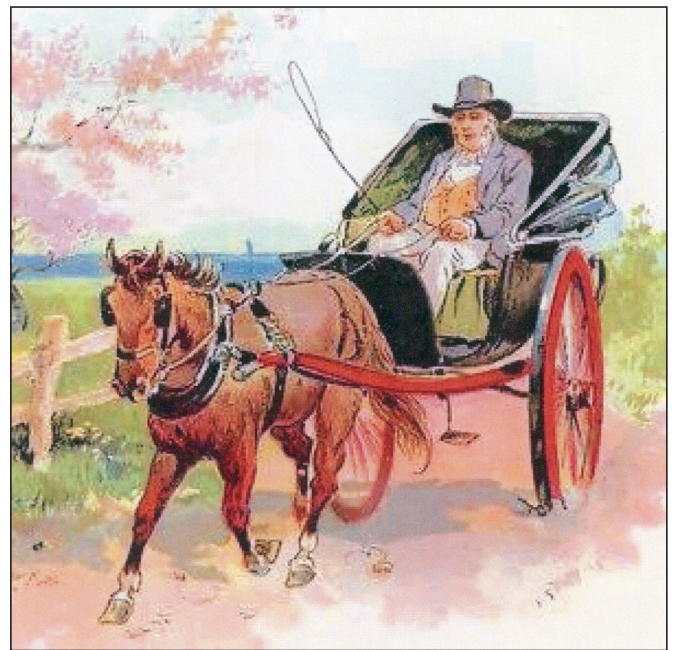




Roger Demanette and Galen LaBarge installing two AC units for the American Legion in downtown Concordia, with the help of a crane operated by Greg Peltier of Peltier Steel & Fabrication.



(FAMILY PAINTING OF DR. SILAS RANSOPHER)

City Commissioners update Highway and Downtown Improvement projects

A Supplemental Agreement for the Highway 81 project and a grant application for the Downtown Improvement Project were two of the items on the agenda at the regular meeting of the city commission on Wednesday, February 4.

The meeting began with a proclamation making February 2026 Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

Teen dating violence remains a serious public health issue in the United States, with approximately 1 in 3 adolescents experiencing physical, sexual, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a rate that continues to exceed victimization rates of other types of youth violence.

1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner each year. About 1 in 10 high school students report being purposefully hit, slapped, or physically harmed by a dating partner, with emotional and digital abuse increasingly common among teens.

High school students who experience physical or emotional violence in dating relationships are significantly more likely to engage in unhealthy behaviors, including substance use and risky sexual behavior, face increased risk of depression and suicide, and may carry patterns of abuse into future relationships.

Teens victimized by a dating partner often experience disrupted development of self-esteem and body image, report school absence or unsafe feelings due to abuse, and may suffer long-lasting psychological trauma.

Reporting rates remain alarmingly low, with only about 1 in 10 teens disclosing abuse to an adult and the large majority suffering in silence, highlighting the hidden nature of teen dating violence and the urgent need for awareness and support from families, schools, and communities.

Research indicates that a substantial proportion of parents either believe teen dating violence is not an issue or are unsure if it is, underscoring the need for broader education on recognizing abuse and fostering healthy relationships.

By providing young people, parents, educators, and professionals with education about healthy relationships, warning signs of abuse, respectful communication skills, and resources for support, and by challenging social attitudes that tolerate violence, teen dating violence is preventable with proactive effort and community engagement.

The Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas (DVACK) calls on all of Cloud County and the

City of Concordia to work together to end teen dating violence by empowering young people to build healthy relationship skills, assisting victims in accessing resources and supportive services, expanding community awareness and prevention strategies, instituting effective intervention policies in schools, and encouraging open dialogue among families and peers.

In the action item portion of the meeting, commissioners approved Supplemental Agreement #1 for Mayor Ashley Hutchinson to sign. The agreement increases the participating cost for the Highway 81 Project #15 U-2550-01 from \$400,000 to \$425,000.

The City's Public Works Director Shane Kisby stated that the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) changed the scope of the work on the project to remove twelve panels of bridge approach concrete pavement. Two of the twelve panels were broken and in need of replacement.

KDOT will fully fund the replacement of the two broken panels. The City is not responsible for the additional \$25,000 added to the Agreement.

In its final action of the evening, commissioners approved an application for the Downtown Improvement Grant for the exterior storefront at 127 W. 6th St.

R2 Developments LLC, owned by Spencer and Conner Reynolds, purchased the property at 127 W. 6th St., which most recently was Meg's Pet Resort. The grant application is for only the street-level storefront on the east side of the building, which is being restored as a separate commercial space from the larger storefront beside it to the west, which is how the buildings were historically.

The scope of the work includes installing 4 windows, a door, lumber framing, front siding, insulation, sheetrock and tile. R2 is applying for a Downtown Concordia Improvement Grant to assist with completing the storefront work, which is estimated to have a total labor and materials cost of \$20,560.75.

R2 Developments LLC seeks \$5,000 in grant funding from the City and \$5,000 in loan funding from the Depository Bank (Citizens National Bank, as designated in Resolution 2008-1818). The applicants will pay the remainder out of pocket.

R2 plans subsequent phases of renovation to include restoring the larger storefront to the west and eventually the upper story, where the original windows were covered by an aluminum facade.

Commissioners then met in executive session for 20 minutes with City Manager Amy Lange, City Attorney Justin Ferrell and CloudCorp Executive Director Tim Beims to discuss confidential business matters. No action was taken.

Commissioners then unanimously agreed to a development agreement for Lot 6, Block B of the St. Joseph Subdivision.

With no further items on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Cloud County Curiosities

Have you ever wondered about some of the firsts in Cloud County? Who was the first doctor? Who was the first sheriff? Who created the laws that governed Cloud County in its early days? We have some answers!

Join us on February 14, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. for our February program at the Cloud County Historical Museum, focusing on Cloud County firsts. We will explore who lived in Cloud County, Kansas, during the early days as settlers moved west and made this area their home. Due to scheduling problems, this program is bumping the program "Family Tree 101" until April 11th.

Our speaker will be Vicki Cyr-Katz, President of the Cloud County Genealogical Society and a historical researcher. She will share insights into our county's history and highlight some of the prominent individuals who settled here. If time permits, we may also discuss the first suspected murders in the county.

As always, this program is jointly sponsored by the Cloud County Historical Museum and the Cloud County Genealogical Society, working together to increase interest and knowledge about the county we all love. Refreshments will be available.

LIONS CLUB SOUP SUPPER & RAFFLE



Monday, Feb. 23, 2026, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Miltonvale Community Center

Soup, Relish, Beverage, Homemade Pie Available
Meal by donation to support Lions Club community projects.

\$300 Cash! Raffle Drawing to be held at the soup supper.
Donation - \$1 per ticket - You need not be present to win.
Buy tickets from any Miltonvale Lions Club member.

BID NOTICE

Cloud County Highway Department is taking sealed bids on approximately 6.67 acres of hay land, 12.03 acres of cropland, and 101.81 acres of pastureland. Copy of contract can be picked up at the Cloud County Highway Department or printed from the Cloud County website.

Sealed bids need to be sent to the Cloud County Highway Department, P.O. Box 627, Concordia, KS 66901, or can be delivered to 321 Greeley Street, Concordia, KS 66901, no later than February 20, 2026. Bids will be opened February 23, 2026 at the Cloud County Commission meeting and the new tenant will be let known that day. "Cloud County reserves the right to refuse any or all bids"

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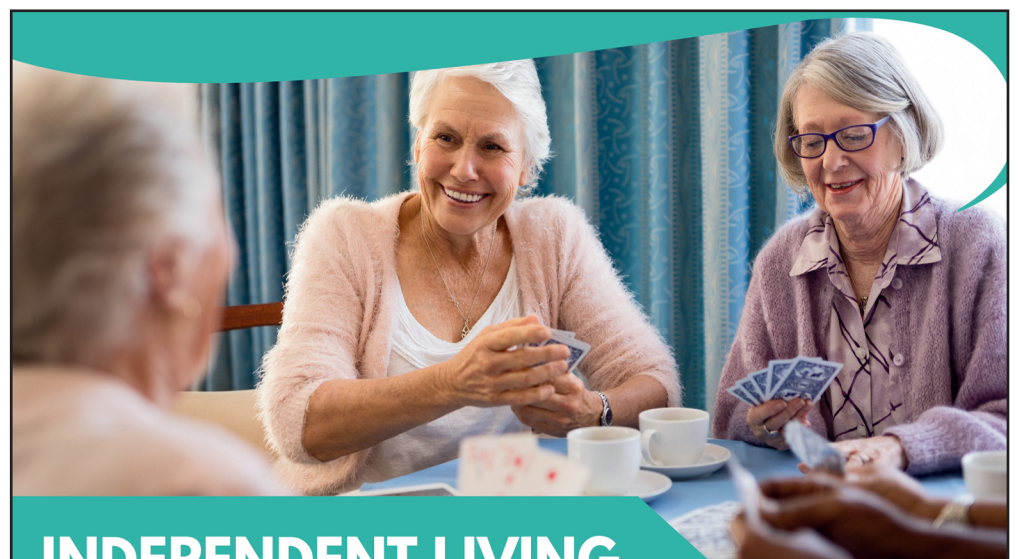
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