

Hansen scholars announced

The Dane G. Hansen Foundation of Logan, Kansas, has named 229 high school seniors from 47 Northwest Kansas schools as winners in its 51st annual scholarship competition.

In selecting award winners, the Scholarship Committee considered proficiency in verbal and writing skills. Other important factors are academic records, test scores, and community service in which the student may have participated.

Seven students have won Hansen Leader of Tomorrow scholarships. These awards are for \$10,000 and may be renewable for three additional years. Renewal of scholarships is based upon continued regard for the principles which guided the success of the late Dane G. Hansen, a 3.00 or better GPA at the college level and a progress update describing progress towards educational goals.

A local student awarded a \$10,000 scholarship this year is Raelynn Moore, Clifton-Clyde H.S.

The Foundation offered seventy scholarships for Hansen Student winners. These awards are for \$4,000 and may be renewed for one additional year provided the student has maintained a satisfactory academic record.

A local student awarded a \$4,000 scholarship this year is Mya Bauer, Concordia H.S.

For students interested in seeking competence through career and technical education in one of the pre-approved schools in Northwest Kansas, the Foundation offered the following scholarships. These awards are for \$4,000 and may be renewed for one additional year provided the student has maintained a satisfactory academic record.

Local winners of the Career and Technical Education scholarships locally are:

- Jordi Fahey, Clifton-Clyde H.S
- Luke Nobert, Clifton-Clyde H.S.
- Ethan Sacco, Clifton-Clyde H.S.
- Aidan Warkentin, Clifton-Clyde H.S.
- Lindsey Berk, Concordia H.S.

Chamber Corner

Please join us on March 17, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at The Concordia Chamber of Commerce, 207 W. 6th Street, for our weekly Chamber Coffee.

If you are interested in becoming a Chamber Member or being a Chamber Coffee Sponsor, please contact Annie Bergmann at 785-243-4290 or email info@concordiakansaschamber.com.

Join us for coffee and donuts: Donuts provided by Me and Ma's Bakery. Keep up to date on all the events and activities happening in Concordia and the surrounding area.

Our Coffee sponsor for March 17, 2026, is The Concordia Senior Center.

The Concordia Senior Center was formed in April of 1977, as the "Concordia Community Senior Citizens Recreation Center." At that time, it was located at 121 West 6th Street in downtown Concordia. A building was later purchased at 109 West 7th Street and is the current location of the Center. The name was changed to the "Concordia Senior Center" in 2016.

The Concordia Senior Center was organized to serve those 60 years of age and over but has also served the community at large over the years. For example, the public transportation operation, currently run by OCCK, was run out of the Center for several years. The Concordia Center had operated a Meals on Wheels program in conjunction with the North Central Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging until January of 2024. The Center now operates the program independently and has done so since May of 2024.

The kitchen has a complete makeover with new equipment such as sinks, a dishwasher, freezers, a large mixer, a small oven, dishes, utensils and more. This would not have been possible without generous donations from the community. The Center itself has also had a facelift with new paint, new flooring, and a new parking area behind the building to better accommodate the volunteer drivers for Meals on Wheels.

Some of the activities at the Center include a pool table, exercise program for seniors, card games, coffee club, jigsaw puzzles and bingo, in addition to in-house dining five days per week.

Upcoming Chamber Events:

March 24- 8:00 a.m. April 6 Eggstravaganza -Coloring Contest PreK-through adult (7 age groups). Find the sheets on our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/concordiakschamber/>. They will be sent home with the elementary students on March 20th.

Eggstravaganza Plastic Egg Hunt- 40 businesses will have 5 plastic eggs each with entry cards for a \$50 Chamber Buck drawing. Some eggs will have coupons for Chamber Bucks, which can be redeemed at the Chamber by April 15th, at 207 W. 6th Street,

Drop off coloring pages and entry forms (from the eggs) by 8:00 a.m., April 6th.

Drawing for Coloring contest (7 age groups) and \$50 Chamber Bucks will be at noon April 6th.

Thank You for Reading the Blade-Empire & The Miltonvale Area News! Stop By Anytime

Looking Back

75 YEARS AGO March 12, 1951

Lincoln PTA unit will hold its March meeting tonight at the school building at 7:30. Mrs. LeRoy Breault will lead devotions, and the program will consist of two films, "Safety at Home" and "Safety at School." Election of officers will be held. . . High school PTA meeting will be held at the high school. There will be an exhibition by the girls of the physical education department. The public is invited. . . On Friday night, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. V. L. Huber, there was a surprise birthday party for Mr. Huber. The party was arranged by Mrs. Huber and the children, Arvilla, Frank, Vera, Marilyn, Walter, Jim and Bob. The guests were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kutz, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Huber, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Vanek, Karen Vanek, Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Van Laningham, Max and Sandra Van Laningham, Mr. Bob Wagor and Mr. Ted Hanson. . .

50 YEARS AGO March 12, 1976

Marianne Fischer entertained members of Coterie Thursday evening. Susan Retter, Sherry Myers and Genie Ruzicka were guests of the club. The high prizes at bridge went to Phyllis Kreighbaum and Genie Ruzicka. Phyllis Kreighbaum will be the hostess on March 18. . . M. Sgt. Benny Ray has retired from the U.S. Air Force after 20 years of military service. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Loris Ray of Miltonvale. He and Mrs. Ray, the former Joyce Trussell of Concordia, are now living in Haysville, KS. . . Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Cote of Clifton announce the birth of a daughter, Angela Dawn, on Friday, March 12; the baby is a granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Flanary of Clifton and Mr. and Mrs. Alcid Cote of Redlands, California, and a great-granddaughter of Mrs. Laura Dallen of Miltonvale and Mrs. Blanche Cote of Concordia.

25 YEARS AGO March 12, 2001

Matt and Randi Craig, Concordia, announce the birth of their daughter, Caitlin Michelle, born Feb. 1, at Republic County Hospital in Belleville. Grandparents are Jeff and Becky Huber, Pam and Lowell Moon and Tom Snyder, all of Concordia. Great-grandparents are Lawrence Schleuder, Phyllis Moon, Norman Sicard and Harriett Huber, all of Concordia. . . Two area residents have received \$125 spring semester scholarships from Alstom Power Inc. Air Preheater Co. They are Dawn Blazek, who plans to pursue a degree in accounting, and Leslie Vylacil, who is majoring in Veterinary Technology. . . Alan Maish, Jamestown, recently met with Congressman Jerry Moran in Washington, D.C. Maish was in Washington, D.C. with the Kansas Farm Bureau.

City commission sets public hearing

Setting the date of a public hearing for the condemnation of three structures in Concordia were the main action items at a brief city commission meeting on Wednesday, April 4.

Commissioners unanimously approved a public hearing date of April 29, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the city commission room, to begin the condemnation process for structures at 311 W. 2nd Street, 321 E. 12th Street, and 424 E. 1st St.

With no further items on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

NAZARETH MOTHERHOUSE

1300 WASHINGTON STREET - CONCORDIA

Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
March 15, 2026 11a.m. - 1 p.m.
Spaghetti Dinner, Bake Sale, Raffle and Silent Auction

COMMODITIES DISTRIBUTION

Cloud County Commodities distribution is scheduled for **Every 2 Months from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on the Third Wednesday of the Month**, at the First United Methodist Church, 740 W. 11th Street, Concordia, Kansas. 785-243-4560.

To be eligible your household's total monthly income must be below • 1 person, \$2,322 • 2 people, \$3,152 • 3 people, \$3,981, • 4 people, \$4,810. For each additional family member add \$830.

Scheduled date: MARCH 18, 2026.

Jim's Metal Roof Coatings
Leak Repair, bin tops, flat decks
Quonset roofing metal/galvanized
Asphalt Shingle roof coating
Painting exterior steel or aluminum
Statewide service - Free Estimates
785-201-7622

SUDOKU

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

			1			3		
9	7							
			4	2				
5	4			9				
		7						9
2		8	5			1		7
	5					7		1
		4					3	5
		1	3			6		

Level: Intermediate

Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Blockchain-based entity
4. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
7. Painted with glue
12. Legendary crooner
15. Structure made with strips of wood
16. Tropical fruits
18. Commercial
19. Comedienne Gasteayer
20. The Ocean State
21. Ancient Scot
24. Basics
27. Stated propositions
30. Scottish island group
31. Expression of annoyance
33. Large tree
34. Engine additive
35. Conspiracy
37. Drunkard
39. Someone who is morally reprehensible
41. Ancient Syrian city
42. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
44. Carry (slang)
47. Sweet potato
48. European river
49. The Golden State
50. Windy City ballplayer
52. New Testament
53. Possess spiritually
56. A treeless grassy plain
61. Popular historical novel
63. In a law-abiding way
64. A place to sleep
65. Criticize

CLUES DOWN

1. Impression in a surface
2. Computer language
3. Relating to the ear
4. Occupant
5. Member of Great Plains people
6. Social media firm
7. Digital audiotape
8. Midway between east and southeast
9. Chronic, progressive disease
10. Chinese lute
11. Not wet
12. Moves wings up and down
13. Communication devices
14. Swiss river
17. Female sibling
22. Receive
23. Relating to a type
24. General's assistant (abbr.)
25. Steep bank
26. Taxi driver
28. Moves into without difficulty
29. Bicycle manufacturer
32. Traditional rhythmic pattern
36. Fugitives are on it
38. Bitter-tasting organic substance
40. Die
43. Matched
44. Literary genre ___-fi
45. Cannot
46. Pounded
51. British rock group
54. Debt relief order
55. 2006 NL Cy Young winner
56. Green vegetable
57. Tough outer skin of fruit
58. ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
59. Ailments
60. Famed singer Charles
62. Camper

Puzzle Answers on Page 13

NOTICE TO CERTIFIED ARBORISTS

The City of Concordia (Sponsor) is hereby soliciting Statements of Proposals from licensed certified arborists who are bonded and is a part of the Kansas Arborist Association and/or International Society of Arboriculture credentialed arborist to plant and prune trees. Subject to the receipt of the Community IRA Grant the project will include the following:

1. The planting of 24 downtown trees.
2. The pruning of 6 trees located at the (3) Broadway Plaza and (3) 5th Street downtown parking lot.
3. The planting of 24 trees designated by the City at other various locations around Concordia.

The full language of the RFP can be found at www.concordiaaks.org. Interested arborists may contact Amy Lange, City Manager, City of Concordia, at citymanager@concordiaaks.org or (785) 243-2670 to request consideration for this project. All statements must be received by 4:00 p.m. on March 26, 2026.

<p style="text-align: center;">STAFF DIRECTORY</p> <p>Kevin L. Zadina, Publisher/Owner kevinzadina@sewardindependent.com</p> <p>Russell Gagnon, General Manager russellblade@nckcn.com</p> <p>John Hamel, Office Manager johnhamel@nckcn.com</p> <p>Olivia Bergmeier, News Director olivia.blade.empire@gmail.com</p> <p>Tucker Ashburn, Sports Reporter bladereporter1@gmail.com</p> <p>Denise Lahodny, Circulation Manager deniselah@nckcn.com</p> <p>Dixie Winter, Designer dixiewinter@nckcn.com</p> <p>Erin Urban, Graphic Designer concordiabladeempire@gmail.com</p> <p>Kathy Hart, Digital Media/Ad Sales bladeempire.media@gmail.com</p> <p>Marcia Mauch, Proofreader.....marcia.bladeempire@gmail.com</p>	<p>Concordia Blade-Empire</p> <p>510 Washington, Concordia, KS</p> <p>P.O. Box 309</p> <p>785-243-2424</p> <p>www.bladeempire.com</p> <p>Published once a week on Thursday Owned by Sweet Tea Media, LLC</p>	<p>A weekly newspaper published each Thursday at 510 Washington, Concordia, KS, by Sweet Tea Media. Periodical postage paid at Concordia, Kansas Postmaster send changes of address to P.O. Box 309, Concordia, KS 66901.</p> <p>Email the circulation dept. at deniselah@nckcn.com.</p> <p>Office hours 8 a.m.– 5 p.m. Monday–Thursday 8 a.m.– 4 p.m. Friday. Normal deadline is noon Friday.</p>
<p>SUBSCRIPTIONS</p> <p>\$75.00..... <i>Trader Area</i></p> <p>\$54.00..... <i>Blade Box</i></p> <p>\$90.00..... <i>Out of State</i></p>		