

107 W. 6th
785-262-4099

BURGER
OF THE
WEEK

**GRAPE JELLY,
PEANUT BUTTER,
BACON,
AMERICAN
CHEESE,
ON TEXAS TOAST**



Subscribe for only \$75 a year!
You get total access to our website -FREE

Concordia BLADE-EMPIRE

VOL. CXV111, NO. 95 (USPS 127-880)

CONCORDIA, KS | WWW.BLADEEMPIRE.COM

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026



908 E. 6th Street • Concordia
785-243-7298
geislerroofing.com

HONEST • INTEGRITY • QUALITY • RELIABILITY



Award winning family

Pictured from left to right: the Lindberg family – Richard & Melanie Lindberg, Weston Lindberg, Wylder Lindberg, Carlyle Lindberg, fiancé Ashley Schwiger, & Renea Creech. Not pictured: Renea’s family – Ryan, Ryker, Gunner & Hunter; Breonna Reding and family – Peter, Leonidas, Gideon.

Lindberg Family Wins Conservation Award

On the western edge of Republic County near Courtland, Kan., third-generation farmer Richard Lindberg is proving that innovation and conservation can go hand in hand.

Richard and his wife Melanie own and operate Lindberg Family Farms. For many years, they’ve discussed and adapted the farm’s irrigation strategies to meet the realities of limited water resources. The farm’s geography presented additional challenges, split almost in half by railroad tracks. With help from Reinke in the past year, Lindberg met that challenge and even earned the Republic County Conservation District’s Key Banker Award for water conservation.

The honor recognizes Kansas farmers who demonstrate exceptional steward-

ship of agricultural and natural resources. Lindberg’s operation stood out for its adoption of advanced irrigation technology designed to maximize water efficiency in an area with water use restrictions.

Lindberg Family Farms has been irrigating crops for several decades as the farm was purchased 80 years ago. Like many operations in the region, irrigation began with siphon tubes and eventually evolved into graded irrigation pipe systems. While effective for their time, those methods typically deliver only about 50–60% irrigation efficiency. As water supplies have tightened over the years, Lindberg realized a more efficient solution was needed.

See LINDBERG on 14

City Commission approves certificates of final inspection

Two Certificates of Final Inspection and action toward establishing a Reinvestment Housing Incentive District (RHID) were part of the regular city commission meeting on April 1. Commissioner Christy Hasch was absent.

The meeting began with a proclamation that declared the month of April 2026, Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Concordia:

WHEREAS: April is recognized nationwide as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, dedicated to increasing public awareness about sexual violence, supporting survivors, and promoting

prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS, sexual assault is a serious and widespread issue affecting individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and identities, often occurring alongside domestic violence and other forms of abuse; and

WHEREAS, in Kansas, 977 incidents of sexual assault were reported in 2024, with one rape reported every eight hours, 57 minutes, and 58 seconds, and law enforcement making one arrest for rape approximately every two days, 19 hours, 23 minutes, and 31 seconds; and

See CERTIFICATES on 3



American currency resting on a black table.

PHOTO BY OLIVIA BERGMEIER | CONCORDIA BLADE-EMPIRE

Kansas lawmakers’ magnifying glass on property taxes

BY OLIVIA BERGMEIER

Throughout the 2026 Kansas legislative session, electors have introduced and passed their regular flurry of bills and statutes that impact every area of everyday life, but specifically, property taxes. The session began on Monday, Jan. 12, and recently wrapped up in the early morning hours of Saturday, March 28. The House Committee on Taxation introduced a specific bill, House Bill 2745, on Friday, Feb. 6, that brings a new power of petition to residents of various governing bodies. In the new piece of legislation, now named Senate Substitute for HB 2745, it states that whenever a governing body proposes a budget that surpasses the Midwest Consumer Price Index (CPI), it invokes this bill and begins the

process of petition.

If the proposed budget surpasses CPI, the county clerk is tasked with creating and dispersing these protest petitions. Then, if the petition is signed by at least 10% of the registered voters of a taxing subdivision, it will shut down the governing body’s proposal and mark it as “disapproved” by residents. Once this disapproval happens, it forces the elected officials to submit a new budget at a revenue-neutral rate and cannot exceed the previous year’s budget. Cloud County Commission Chairman Mike Cleveland said that it wouldn’t impact the county’s budget much, since he and his fellow commissioners work toward staying close to a revenue-neutral rate as much as possible.

See TAXES on 14



PHOTO BY OLIVIA BERGMEIER | CONCORDIA BLADE-EMPIRE

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Nathan Edson Chapter members Karla McMillan, Peggie Barrett, Regent Mary Thoman and Alice Bachand, stand with Frank Carlson Library Director Lyndsey Kopsa for a photo during the reception for the Kansas Pioneer Patriots exhibit on Monday, March 30, at the Frank Carlson Library in Concordia.



**CONCORDIA
AUTO MART**

AUTOMOTIVE SALES & SERVICE
785-243-DEAL (3325)



SERVICE CENTER
915 E 6th, Concordia KS 66901

SALES CENTER
212 E 6th, Concordia KS 66901

