Letters to the Editor

Last Wednesday our community members from AV and Dwight area did an outstanding job communicating costs for our community in a decision to close the Alta Vista school. I believe more of our CG, Wilsey, Dunlap etc. community members would've attended had sharing of the hearing been greater priority.

I'm grateful our board is wanting to listen.

But one major issue I saw prior is that there lacked importance in official informational and promotional posts online in reminder of it. We've previously witnessed usage in extreme abundance for some desired topics of engagement.

By comparison the official USD 417 facebook page:

Posted the bond survey 5x more.

And the last bond proposal was posted about a staggering 40x more than the public hearing on its own school closure.

All referenced here were within an equal timeframe of two months prior to their ensuing dates.

Whether accidental or intentional I pray the administrative decisions over that discrepancy be evaluated. Then, grow into prioritizing equal discussion before advocating irreversible major financial decisions for our district and community.

Don't get me wrong!

There are wonderful people on our school board both past and present, in our district office, and in all our school buildings employing and educating our community. I'm proud my family is in it.

But I'm skeptical of an idea pitched with the subtraction of something and the addition of something else constitutes trying to maintain, grow, or build together with financial responsibility.

Lastly, everyone please consider contacting our state and U.S. representatives to express that rural America needs Special Education funding to be reinstated from its recent cuts.

It'll help struggling school districts immensely, it affects our little communities more than you can imagine!

Help be a voice for those that can't be heard.

Keep Prairie Heights Open

Jeremy Cosgrove

IT TAKES A SPECIAL STUDENT TO HAVE A SCHOOL

I feel privileged to have the opportunity to live in Council Grove and attend student activities such as concerts, plays, academic, and athletic contests. Our students represent us very well!! It is a true joy when we take the opportunity to watch our young people perform.

Our students put in a great deal of time and effort getting ready for a wide variety of performances from athletics, music, and many other activities. Many times, young people practice athletics for two hours after school, go home to eat and return to school for musical/play practice or night classes. Many students spend Saturdays performing or working toward an organizational goal.

At a time when the public says too much time and money is spent on athletics and activities, it is worth noting research shows those same students involved are the leaders of the school. Research also confirms the fact that a realistic measure of a student's future success in life relates directly to their involvement in their school's activity program. I know this would hold true in our district. Check it out!

The Kansas State High School Activities Association has as one of its mottos, "Academics + Activities = Curriculum Partners." Participating in activities builds self-esteem, self-confidence, self-discipline, and a sense of fair play. Activities give our students the chance to belong to a group working toward a common goal. It is a great teaching tool!

Our students are among the best in Kansas, and they need our support and our thanks, as do those who work with them!! They are truly a "SPECIAL GROUP!" GO BRAVES!

Robert Herbig, Retired Educator

In a conversation this week, I realized that the real winners in the recent midterm elections were the Republicans. I was talking with someone who had been a lifelong Republican until his party nominated Donald Trump in 2016, prompting him to change his affiliation to independent. Now, with such an absolute repudiation of Trump's presidency, that person is finally going to be able to recognize the Republican Party again. That is why I believe -- although the Democratic Party has won a short-term victory -- the real winners are the Republicans, who have their Grand Old Party back after it was hijacked for the past decade. I am happy for the Republicans, and happy for America. Abe Lincoln, Dwight Eisenhower, John McCain, and Bob Dole must be smiling and sharing high fives all around wherever politicians go in the afterlife. Democrats are happy with good reason of course, but no one is happier than true Republicans are to have their party back! God bless America and thank goodness for this 250th birthday present to celebrate a resurgent American democracy!

Sincerely,
Robb Scott

Fresh from the Hen House

By Ashley Burkhardt Walker

Ever since my husband and I first shared a home, I've used his grandmother's vintage kitchen canister set. It started out tucked inside the kitchen cabinets of our first home, then eventually found its place on my antique Hoosier cabinet when I brought home my first one. There the canisters remained, always full of all-purpose flour and refined white sugar, until this past week.

I hadn't opened a single canister since we had switched to fresh-milled flour a couple of years ago and started using bulk organic cane sugar, but there they stayed inside the antique kitchen cabinet, unchanged, just a comforting, constant sight in our home and a reminder of years gone by.

It all started with the grief milk cow, after both of my parents passed. We welcomed milk buckets and jars upon jars for raw milk into the porch, kitchen, and fridge. I think we would have been on this path eventually, even without death in the family, maybe just in a different order and at a slower pace. From that point though, starting with the milk cow, we changed so much in our household. Toxic out and non-toxic in. We morphed into an ingredient home, where we make everything from scratch. Though all-purpose flour is an ingredient, we also switched to the most natural form of everything we could. So, one day, the flour canister just didn't get refilled. A flour mill found its place on the counter, and buckets of wheat started collecting in the porch.

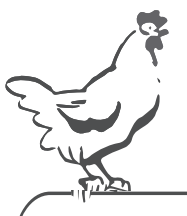
Last week I labeled seven jars for my seven different kinds of wheat, filled them, and placed them in the spot that had held the canisters for so long. It just made sense to have wheat on hand in the kitchen rather than only in buckets.

The canisters are now tucked away for another use one day or for one of the kids. The flour canister may never hold flour again if the kids carry our ways with them when they leave this home, but it can hold something else, along with memories of home and the pivotal changes we made in life.

Fresh-milled whole-grain flour includes the entire wheat kernel, the bran, germ, and endosperm, providing fiber, protein, vitamins, and minerals. It starts oxidizing within the first few hours after milling, so we only mill what we are going to use for a recipe. It has been one of the bigger changes that has made a profound impact on my health, helping to reverse my hypothyroidism, for one.

Changing out the kitchen canisters is only a small change in this healthy lifestyle process. Sentimentals still surround us in our home, but we're also filling it with knowledge, skills, and ways of living that I hope will be carried on for generations to come. Follow us on Facebook: Vintage at Heart Homestead

These breadsticks were an amazing addition to vegetable soup, especially with some homemade mozzarella stuffed inside!



by Ashley Burkhardt Walker

Fresh milled Flour Breadsticks

1 cup warm water 235g
1 tablespoon active dry yeast
2 tablespoons butter softened
1 egg
3 3/4 cups hard white wheat flour 470g
1/4 cup honey
1 tsp salt
For Topping
6 tablespoons butter melted
garlic salt to taste
parmesan to taste
italian herbs seasoning to taste

Add all ingredients (except for topping ingredients) in the bowl of a stand mixer and mix using the dough hook attachment.

Knead 5-10 minutes until the dough is smooth and elastic. Dough will be soft and slightly sticky and may not completely pull away from the bowl, but most of it should.

Move dough to a greased bowl, cover with a clean towel until doubled in size. (about an hour)

Punch down and move to an oiled counter. Divide into 16 pieces.

Shape and tuck all of the seams under so you get a smooth breadstick.

Place breadsticks seam side down on a baking sheet that's been lightly greased. Cover and let rise for 30 minutes while the oven is preheating.

Preheat oven to 350°F

Bake 14-16 minutes until barely golden.

While they are baking make your topping mixture. You can brush on the butter with garlic and herbs and then sprinkle the Parmesan on.

2 killed Tuesday in head on collision on I-70

(KABI) Two people were killed late in the morning Tuesday in a head on collision on Interstate 70 west of the Chapman exit.

According to the Kansas Highway patrol a 2025 Ford Explorer was traveling Eastbound on I-70 in the outside lane and 2026 Kona Hyundai was traveling Westbound on I-70 near milepost 285 in the outside lane.

The Ford Explorer exited the roadway to the left, crossing the median, and crashed head-on into the Kona Hyundai.

The Driver of the Ford Explorer 42-year-old Michela R Brown from Abilene and the driver of the Kona Hyundai 65-year-old Rex K. Gile from Calhan Colorado were both killed.

St. Rose of Lima
TURKEY BINGO
November 15, 2026
Doors open at 4:00 p.m.
Bingo starts at 5:00!
St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church
300 Spencer St
Council Grove
Hot dogs, chips, + more for supper and snacks!
$2/card or 3/$5
Turkey prize each round + final round = $50 blackout!

Clubs

Neosho Valley 4-H Club

By Aiden Newey, reporter

The Neosho Valley 4-H Club held its monthly meeting on November 9, 2026, at the Rendezvous in Council Grove. President Haylee Nielsen called the meeting to order at 7:13 pm. Jaylee Engel led the Pledge of Allegiance; Daylen Nielsen led the 4-H Pledge; and Roll Call, "Community Service We Should Do," was answered by 16 members, 2 leaders, and 5 guests. Morgan Romme gave the secretary's report. Dustin Small gave the treasurer's report. Bailey Ehrlich gave the reporter's report. For parliamentary procedure, Jaylee reported on the "Roles of the President." Fayth Ehrlich gave the Christmas Committee report, followed by Amy Nielsen's leader's report on the banquet and upcoming events. There was no Old Business. Under New Business, the club voted on the Christmas meeting and changes to the treasurer's bank account.

For the program, Aiden Newey gave a project talk on "Building Blocks," Daylen Nielsen led the club in "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes," and Jackson Green led the club in a game of "5 Second Rule." Haylee announced the December meeting time and location, followed by a motion to adjourn.

The next meeting will be held on December 13, 2026, at The Rendezvous at 5 pm.

Morris Co. canvass

(Continued from Page 1)

and attorney general. Schmidt said the work required additional election personnel and approximately three and a half hours of counting Friday afternoon. The state approved the audit findings before the canvass.

The 26 accepted provisional ballots increased the county's total from 2,351 to 2,377 ballots cast. With 4,056 registered voters, official turnout was 58.60 percent.

Schmidt noted that approximately 10 percent of registered voters are classified as inactive, which she believes makes turnout appear lower than participation among active voters.

She also reported largely positive feedback on the county's new electronic poll books, which helped simplify election-night recordkeeping and ballot reconciliation.

Following Schmidt's presentation, commissioners approved the official results and thanked her and the election staff for their work.

Cheers!
Thanksgiving
Make Your
RESERVATIONS NOW
for a Special Day!
Serving smoked turkey, glazed ham, and fried chicken and traditional sides including mashed potatoes, turkey gravy, dressing and green bean casserole, and MORE.
1857
HAYS HOUSE RESTAURANT and TAVERN
112 West Main Street,
Council Grove
620.767.5911
Ask for Randy.
Tuesday - Thursday 11 am - 8 pm
Friday - Saturday 11 am - 9 pm
Sunday 11 am - 3 pm

It's that time again!
Put a Little Extra Cash In Your Pocket for the 2027 Holidays with our
CHRISTMAS CLUB ACCOUNT!
You make 49 weekly deposits and we pay 1/4 of the last deposit for you!
Join Nov. 1 Until Dec. 31!
FARMERS & DROVERS BANK
farmersanddrovers.com • Council Grove & Alta Vista, KS
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
Member FDIC