# REMINISCING

(from the files of the Council Grove Republican)

**1976**

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Burns receive "member of the year" trophy of Flint Hills Sportsman Club…Gary Carrier leads scoring for the boys and Vicki Bratton has 14 points for the girls when the Little Braves defeat Osage City.

**1986**

Jayme Diekmmann and Denise Woods are White City High School juniors receiving honorable mention when All-Eisenhower League volleyball team is selected…Fund is established to benefit Ardyce, Nita and Trisha Schrader, Alta Vista, after their home is destroyed by fire.

**1996**

Toni Steere is elected president of Council Grove Chamber of Commerce, with Alan Lierz vice-president…Local students selected for District III Honor Band are Tracy Chaney, Lisa Zerbe, Julie Smitheran and Jennie Throne.

**2006**

Marianne Free and Hazel Parker are drawing winners during Calvary Lutheran Church's dinner and bazaar…Shelby Morgan and Erin Carroll lead Lady Twisters scoring in loss to Solomon.

**2016**

Esther Brabb to celebrate her 95th birthday on Dec. 7…Rural Vista volleyball players Lauren Campuzano, sophomore, receive honorable mention in the All-Wheat State League voting; and Holly Brockmeier, freshman, was All-League first team and honorable mention on the Class 1A, Division 1 All-State team.

Shop Locally for Fall!

# LEGAL NOTICE

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MORRIS COUNTY, KANSAS**

In the Matter of the Estate of
MARY ANN WENDEL, Deceased.
Case No. MR-2026-PR-000007
NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified that a petition has been filed in this Court by Douglas W. Wendel, duly appointed, qualified and acting Executor of the Estate of Mary Ann Wendel, deceased, requesting that Petitioner's acts be approved; Petitioner's account be settled and allowed; heirs be determined; the Will be construed and the estate be assigned to the persons entitled thereto; the court find the allowances requested for attorney's fees and expenses are reasonable, should be allowed and ordered paid; the court costs be determined and ordered paid; the administration of the Estate be closed; upon the filing of receipts the Petitioner be finally discharged as the Executor of the Estate of Mary Ann Wendel, deceased, and Petitioner be released from further liability; the Court appoint KC Olson to serve as Trustee according to the terms of the trust as set out in the Will.

You are required to file your written defenses to the petition on or before December 17, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the District Court, in Council Grove, Morris County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

DOUGLAS W. WENDEL
Petitioner

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(First published in the Council Grove Republican November 10, 2026; subsequently on November 17, 2026 and November 24, 2026)

## Four NH Wildcats earn all-district football honors

Four Northern Heights High School football players earned eight honors on the 2026 8-Man Division I, District 3 All-District Football Team, receiving recognition for their performances on offense, defense and special teams.

First-team defensive honors went to junior Henry Sheeley at linebacker and senior Cooper Woodrow at defensive back. Woodrow also earned first-team special teams recognition as a punter.

Second-team offensive selections included Sheeley at running back and junior Grayson Hanlin on the offensive line.

Second-team defensive honors went to senior Cameron Hagemann and Hanlin, both selected as defensive linemen.

Woodrow also received honorable mention recognition at quarterback, giving him three all-district honors. Sheeley and Hanlin each received two selections, while Hagemann earned one.

# KANSAS BRIEFLY

## Felon hid gun in toilet paper dispenser in police station bathroom

SEDGWICK COUNTY (JC POST)– A convicted felon was sentenced to 24 months in prison for having a firearm that he took inside of a police station while being questioned in connection with a shooting.

According to court documents, Daquinton Baker, 24, of Wichita pleaded guilty to one count of prohibited person in possession of a firearm.

In April 2025, the Wichita Police Department (WPD) responded to a call about a shooting on North Hydraulic Avenue. Officers determined Baker had been in the white SUV from which shots were fired. Law enforcement collected shell casings inside and around the vehicle.

The next week police arrested Baker and took him to a city building for questioning. While on the sixth floor, Baker requested to use the restroom. Officers escorted him to the men's restroom and allowed him to use the handicap stall. The following Monday morning, a WPD detective went into the same stall and found a 9mm pistol in the toilet paper dispenser. The casings of this firearm were consistent with those collected from the white SUV involved in the Hydraulic Avenue incident. DNA on the firearm was consistent with Baker's DNA.

In March 2021, Baker was convicted of a felony and incarcerated for 34 months.

"A prior felony conviction carries serious consequences, including the loss of the right to possess a firearm in many cases," said U.S. Attorney Ryan A. Kriegshauser. "Those who choose to disregard that law should expect to be investigated, prosecuted, and sent to federal prison."

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) and Wichita Police Department investigated the case.

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## Shawnee school principal placed on leave after arrest

SHAWNEE (KCTV) - The principal of Midland Adventist Academy has been placed on administrative leave after his arrest in Iowa.

Yefferson Rafael Mercado was arrested Nov. 18 and arraigned in Guthrie County, Iowa, on charges of grooming and enticing a minor under the age of 16.

Saul Dominguez, communications director for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists, said the conference was aware of the charges but could not comment on the ongoing legal matter.

"The safety and well-being of our students and school community remain our top priority," Dominguez said. "As we understand, no students or families from Midland Adventist Academy are involved."

School families have been notified, and Vice Principal RaeLea Frishman has been named interim principal, Dominguez said.

Mercado began serving as principal July 1, 2026. In an announcement welcoming him to the school, Midland said Mercado previously had seven years of teaching experience and three years of experience as a principal. The announcement said he had lived in New York and Colorado, but did not name his previous schools.

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## Former K-State offensive lineman defies odds after spinal cord injury

Emporia (KAKE) — A Former Kansas State offensive lineman, Hayden Perry, is defying the odds after an accident led to a complete spinal cord injury in September.

In September, the football player sustained a spinal cord injury after falling from a tree stand while preparing for deer season.

When he arrived at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals, he was classified as having a complete spinal cord injury and faced long odds of walking again.

As his recovery progressed, Hayden began regaining movement and was ultimately able to walk out the front doors of Madonna before returning home in time for Thanksgiving.

The 29-year-old fractured his T8 and T9 vertebrae after falling from a tree stand while hanging equipment for the upcoming hunting season.

After undergoing a spinal fusion at Ascension Via Christi St. Francis in Wichita, Hayden arrived at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals' specialized spinal cord injury program, requiring multiple people to help him move in and out of bed.

"He had a T6 Asia A, complete spinal cord injury, meaning that his chances of walking were probably somewhere between 6-12 percent. But I didn't want to take away his hope because he had so much hope." Samantha Trausch, Hayden's physical therapist, said.

"I just woke up and was like, all right, well, this happened," Hayden said. "I don't have another option. I can't reverse this. The only way to go is to keep pushing through it."

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## Nearly $31.6M in FEMA funding to be awarded to Kansas energy company

HAYS (WIBW) - The Federal Emergency Management Agency approved more than $62 million in recovery funds for several Midwest states, including Kansas.

According to FEMA, the funding was approved Monday, Nov. 23, and includes nearly $52.9 million under FEMA's Public Assistance program awarded across Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. FEMA says it disburses this money to states, tribal nations and territories, as they are best positioned to know how these funds will be most effectively spent.

Officials said that the projects include repairs to infrastructure, restoration of public buildings, road repairs and reimbursement for costs incurred to ensure public health and safety after a disaster.

FEMA approved nearly $31.6 million for Midwest Energy Inc. in Kansas for permanent repairs to its overhead power distribution system and overhead power sub-transmission line system, along with repair or replacement of utility poles, transformers, and associated components.

# Notice for Bids

Morris County is seeking bids for the courthouse winter snow removal. Sealed bids will be opened on Tuesday, December 1st at 11:00 a.m. in the Morris County Commissioner's Meeting Room. Please contact the Morris County Clerk at cschmidt@morriscountyks.org or 620-767-5518 to obtain further information.

# CLASSIFIEDS

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## NOTICES

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PACKING BOXES – Free at the Republican office.

## SERVICES

RICHMEIER BROTHERS Roofing,620-767-4100. tfc

SEPTIC TANK PUMPING. 620-767-4101. tfc

PORTA-POTTIE RENTALS. 620-767-4101. tfc

WYATT REMODELING Handyman Services. 785-317-1181.

## MISC.

"The 36-Hour Day" Support Group meets 1-2 p.m. on Thursdays at the Morris County Hospital Chapel. It is free, safe, confidential and open to anyone caring for a friend or loved one with dementia. For info, call Jan at 303-775-5901 or Liz at 785-466-1590.

ARE YOU Concerned about someone else' s drinking? Al- Anon can help! 785-561-0157.

DO YOU think you have a drinking problem? Call Alcoholics Anonymous, 620-767-8138 or 785-561-0157.

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Take our quick, anonymous community survey today and help guide what's next for Downtown Council Grove!
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