



THE Prairie Post



"A Hometown Newspaper Dedicated to Serving the Communities of Alta Vista, Dwight and White City"

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Area Sports Reports



Rural Vista

Junior High Football

Rural Vista Junior High

Notches Second Season Win

The Rural Vista Junior High defeated Canton/Galva Thursday night for their second win of the 2026 season. Final score was 40-14.

Offense leaders:

Offensively, Sheldon Effland led the way with 195 yards on 13 carries with 6 touchdowns and 1 extra point. Tucker Hall added a 2 pt. conversion.

Effland was 1 of 2 in passing completing an 11 yard pass to Kolton Pagel.

Caden Saenz added 8 yards on 6 carries and Brennik Wheeler added 21 yards on 8 carries. Tucker Hall had 20 yards on 8 carries and Koda Saenz had 4 yards on 4 carries.

Defense:

Defensively, again led by Effland with 12 tackles and 3 assists along with one interception for a 38 yard TD return; Kolton Pagel had 2 tackles and 3 assists; Carter Shearer had 2 tackles, 1 assist and caused 2 fumbles; Blake Mistic had 2 tackles and 2 assists and Tucker Hall added 2 assists.

Next up for the Rural Vista Junior High football team will be a trip to Little River tonight (Thursday) to take on the Redskins.

Council Grove

Cross County

by Coach Joshua Gant

Council Grove Cross Country travel to Hesston Thursday morning to compete in the Swather Special meet. The unconventional race setup gave the Braves a different approach for their race day. Races are run by grades, 9th through 12th. Eight races, one starting every 15 minutes. The first race for the Braves was the sophomores, Brayden Jarvis started strong and maintained a solid pace throughout, finishing at 20:52 and in 18th place. Aaron Crotts posted a season best time and Jaidyn Gomez fought through to get his second career race under his belt.

In the junior class race, veterans Carter Bremer & Hayden Horton came out feeling great, both in a large bunch of competitive runners through the first mile. As the race thinned out and runners settled in, Bremer stretched ahead of Horton, but both competed fiercely for time and points. Horton finished 22nd and Bremer 17th in their class.

"The Swather Special is a completely different approach for us. We have been focused on running as a team, sticking together, and feeding off of each other. When we get split up in separate races this week, it makes it tough. Guys have a different routine and mindset. But, the squad got to focus on running their own race and seeing some different competition. They handled it great. I thought Bremer, Horton, and Jarvis all had good days."

The fastest race, the only one that had each of the top 5 under 18 minutes, was the last race of the day featuring the seniors. Jady Picolet of the Braves was that 5th runner across the line, posting a 17:42. He came out strong and competed well through the race. His partner Brody Nelson had a season best time as well, finishing 17th.

"We needed a good day to run, we got it and the boys took advantage of it. They were pretty good today and Picolet made it look easy, he looked comfortable throughout. It was a fun, fast-paced day."

The Braves junior high team was at the Lyndon Invitational today where all 6 runners posted PR's, led by Christian Keplar at 14:14 and

See **Sports**, pg. 8



USD #481 Rural Vista BOE Meeting Notes

by Joann Kahnt, editor

The USD #481 Board of Education met Monday, September 14, at Hope Schools with six members present (Chris Barnes was absent), three administrators, board clerk and a reporter present.

The evening began with the Revenue Neutral Rate hearing at 6:45 with approval on a 6-0 vote.

Next was the budget hearing where there were no taxpayers present to ask questions or comments therefore the proposed budget was approved on a 6-0 vote.

The regular meeting then convened at 7 pm with the same persons in attendance.

The consent agenda was approved including the following:

- An anonymous donation of \$300 for White City Reading Books
- Substitutes for the 2026-2027 school year: Ginger Stewart (Hope), Melissa Oswald (White City) and Meagan Carson (White City sub para, kitchen and library)
- New hires: Dustin Winslow (White City Custodian) and Kolton Pagel (White City ASP tutor)
- Supplementals: Kane Hensley and Adam Sobba (approved for full supplemental); Kari Hinkle as mentor teacher for Madison Hinkle; Ben Schierling as the music director; Makenzie Boltwood as the White City assistant track coach and Diana Newey as the White City Freshman Class sponsor
- New smart board purchased from BenQ Boards at a purchase price of \$13,859.16 (Supt. Griffiths stated several new teachers had classrooms without a smart board where these boards would be utilized)
- Contract with Callie Effland working with the school as a physical therapist
- Health insurance

There was no one to speak in the public presentation open forum, no correspondence and the governmental relations was covered in the superintendents comments later in the meeting.

A three minute executive session for negotiations was then held with the board and superintendent. Following the very short session, the negotiated contract was approved as presented to include the starting extra duty pay rate in the negotiated agreement to \$20.00/hour beginning August 1, 2026 and a 25¢ raise for classified personnel.

The board adopted the Local Option Budget Resolution for the district for the 2026-2027 school year at the percentage stated (33%) in the resolution. It was noted the percentage of 33% has been in place several years.

The board then officially approved the 2026-2027 budget for USD #481 as presented. The board acknowledged that the building needs assessment and State Assessment Review were provided to and reviewed by the board and this information was considered during the budgeting process. The approval included the mill levy at 49.259.

The board approved the classified handbook with very few revisions.

A lengthy discussion was held on the contract the Little Huskies Childcare Center has with the district for the use of half of the school's portable building next to the daycare and for the purchase of the meals from the school cafeteria with an additional 75¢ charge per meal.

Kansas State Fair Announces Cancellation of Channel 2K Concert

Hutchinson, KS — The Channel 2K concert scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 20 at 4 p.m. at the Kansas Star Casino Grandstand has been canceled due to unforeseen circumstances.

All paid ticket purchasers will be automatically issued a full refund. No action is required from ticket holders.

For questions regarding refunds, contact the Kansas State Fair Ticket Office at 620-669-3618.

The Kansas State Fair apologizes for the inconvenience and appreciates guests' understanding.

Supt. Griffiths had been asked to connect local districts who provide daycares in their school about costs, etc. Only one school replied to her request and the actual cost to the district was \$66,000 from their general budget (that was on top of what the daycare took in from the parents who paid for their children to be in the daycare).

Discussion was held on cost and profits but board member Nick Morgan reminded the board that the local daycare is not a business but a 501c3 non profit. They continually apply for grants and have fundraisers to make ends meet along with many volunteer hours.

Board member Liz Stroda said she felt the issue should be tabled until more information was gathered.

After much more discussion, the board moved the rent to \$1 for the year and waived the 75¢ additional fee the daycare was paying above the regular price of the meals purchased from the school. The vote to approve was 5-0-1 (Liz Stroda abstained).

Supt. Griffiths informed the board the elevators in both schools are having issues and do not always work. The elevators were put in the schools when the bond issue was passed over 25 years ago and were in need of being updated to comply with federal regulations. Supt. Griffiths will contact elevator companies to come and give an estimate of cost of needed repairs and updates.

The board met in a 15 minute and an additional 10 minute executive session with only the board members present. No action was taken following the sessions.

Supt. Griffiths asked the board to make notes of what they would like to see in the strategic plan and send those ideas to her.

Hope principal, Adam Sobba, reported that the school year was off and running, Homecoming would be Friday, September 18 when the Heat would host Waverly, sports update (junior high volleyball and football are both 2-0, high school football is 0-2 and high school volleyball is 8-3), Hope Schools would try to get with Crosswinds to work with their school, possible upcoming changes on the junior high side of the league and that Bennington and Ell Saline would most likely be added to the league.

White City principal, Kane Hensley, reported on the status of the football scoreboard which had been fixed, new mats had been purchased for the north end of the gym and had been installed, new speakers (same as Hope has) have been added to the football field, Grandparents Day had been a huge success, PAWS had supplied snacks for the staff workroom, enrollment is at 207, he had been seeing so many good things from his staff and that Crosswinds is now working with the White City Schools.

Superintendent Darlene Griffiths reported on a superintendents meeting she had attended where it was announced there were 5 openings on the state Board of Education with no incumbents. She stated she had met with Ann Zimmerman of Salina who is running for one of the positions and is very well acquainted with public education and its needs. She also reported on investment funds with the Kansas law.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm with the next meeting of the board to be October 12 at White City Schools at 7 pm.

Reminder about Latimer Fund Raiser

Just a reminder to put October 3 on your calendar for the Latimer Lutheran Church Preservation Society Chili Fund Raiser at 5 pm and program by Ron Wilson, Cowboy Poet, at 6:30 pm all at the Latimer church. Mr. Wilson's entertainment is sponsored by Central National Bank, Herington.

The fund raiser is for Match Day with the Emporia Community Foundation.

Funds raised will go to continue restoration of the remaining windows of the church.

Big Kansas Road Trip Pop Up Heads to Concordia

Concordia, a city in Cloud County, will host the Kansas Sampler Foundation's Fall 2026 Big Kansas Road Trip Pop Up on Saturday, October 3. A project of the non-profit Kansas Sampler Foundation, the purpose of the Pop Up event is to provide the public firsthand experiences in rural communities and allow small towns to showcase who they are and what they have. The public is invited. Events and activities are scheduled Friday evening and throughout the day Saturday to help people get to know Concordia.

Big Kansas Road Trip events are known for connecting visitors with behind the scenes looks at local businesses and local stories. Most of the thirty plus weekend activities will take place on Saturday with a Kickoff Celebration and Explorer Club meeting including cupcakes supplied by local business Simple Seed Station at Broadway Plaza starting the day. Guests are encouraged to check out events that appeal to them, with a choose your own adventure format. BKRT attendees are invited to participate in Concordia's community service project by bringing new toys for the Toy Drive and Toy Run hosted by a local motorcycle club. Wrap up the event on Saturday afternoon with prizes, s'mores, and sharing at a Closing Party back at Broadway Plaza.

"We couldn't be more excited to host the BKRT Pop Up in Concordia," says Michelle Bombardier, Co-Director of event partner Cloud County Tourism. "There are 625 amazing incorporated communities in Kansas that the Kansas Sampler Foundation could have chosen. We are blown away that they chose us!"

Kansas Explorers Club members and curious Kansans alike are welcome to get to know Concordia at the Big Kansas Road Trip. The Kansas Explorers Club exists to encourage people to get addicted to taking back roads, visiting with locals, and putting money in local economies across Kansas.

Learn more about the Kansas Explorers Club at explorekansas.org. Papa Baldy's Popcorn of rural McPherson County is the Founding BKRT Pop Up sponsor. The Grind Coffee House in Concordia is the Concordia BKRT event sponsor.

Find locations, times, and details at bigkansasroadtrip.com or on the Facebook page [@bigkansasroadtrip](https://www.facebook.com/bigkansasroadtrip).



September 17 - Rural Vista High School Volleyball @ Hope vs Burlingame and Northern Heights

September 17 - Rural Vista Junior High volleyball and football @ Little River

September 18 - Rural Vista High School football vs Waverly @ Hope (Hope High School Homecoming)

September 19 - Rural Vista Junior High volleyball @ Solomon Tournament

September 21 - Rural Vista Junior High volleyball @ Hillsboro vs Hillsboro and Marion

September 21 - Rural Vista High School JV football @ Waverly

September 22 - White City Senior Center Closed for Sunflower Fair in Salina at Tony's Expo Center

September 24 - Rural Vista Junior High volleyball and football @ Wakefield

September 25 - Rural Vista High School football @ Topeka vs Cair Paravel

September 26 - Alta Vista Alumni Reunion, 12:30 pm @ Prairie Heights Elementary School

September 28 - Rural Vista High School JV football @ White City vs Cair Paravel

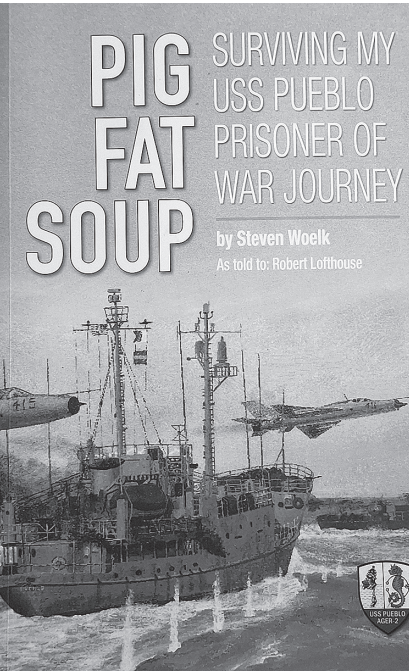
October 3 - Latimer Lutheran Church Preservation Society Chili Feed Fundraiser at 5 pm with entertainment by Ron Wilson, cowboy Poet at 6:30 pm

October 12 - White City Senior Center Board Meeting

October 12 - Morris County Senior Citizens Board meeting at White City, 2 pm

Ag Heritage Park To Host Alta Vista Native Steven Woelk; USS Pueblo Book Signing and Barn Quilt Drawing, Sat., Sept. 26

Ag Heritage Park will host Alta Vista native Steven Woelk, USS Pueblo Captive and Hero on Saturday, September 26 at 2:15 p.m. Steve is scheduled to present a program, including a video, about his experience while captured by the North Koreans.



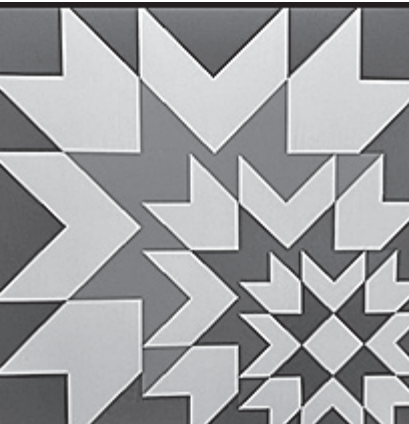
Steve Woelk's book, "Pig Fat Soup" will be available for purchase and autographing.

Following Steve's presentation, he will be available to autograph his book, "Pig Fat Soup," where he recounts the North Korean capture of the USS Pueblo in 1968, when he and his crew suffered brutal treatment for 11 months.

His books will be on sale at Ag Heritage Park for \$20.00.

Growing up in Alta Vista, Steve will be remembered as a musician playing in a local band in the 1960's. Following his graduation from Alta Vista High School in 1966 he joined the U.S. Navy.

A barn quilt drawing will be held at 3:30 p.m., with the ticket donations benefiting maintenance projects at Ag Heritage Park. Ticket information is posted on Facebook and website www.AgHeritagePark.blogspot.com, and will be available on the 26th at the Park.



The barn quilts are donated by barn quilt artist Connie Larson with the proceeds to benefit Ag Heritage Park maintenance. Details on Facebook and www.agheritagepark.blogspot.com.

"Take A Step Back In Time," while Ag Heritage Park exhibits will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 26, with snacks and lunch available. Ag Heritage Park, 103 Main Street, Alta Vista, is open any day by appointment, calling 620-767-2714, and is handicap accessible.

Council Oak DAR Hosting Genealogy Workshop on September 9

The Council Oak Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution is hosting a genealogy workshop with State Genealogists to assist those wanting to build or add to their family tree information. The intent is to assist prospective members, but all are welcome. The workshop is to be held Saturday, Sept. 19 at 623 East Main, Council Grove in the Tallgrass Insurance meeting room, from 1-5 pm.

Attendees may bring laptop computers to store the information gathered. Attendees will learn how to collect information, how to verify and other information on 'finding your roots'.