

THE Prairie Post

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

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Eleven Eighth Graders to Lead Rural Vista Junior High Heat Basketball Teams



Prairie Post photos)



8th Graders to Lead Rural Vista Heat Basketball Teams - *Ready to lead their respective teams this year are the eighth graders.*

Pictured are: above - front - ***Cade Saenz, Winston Breight and Gage Glessner****; back -* ***Karter Shearer, Daniel Moniz, Blake Mistic, Sheldon Effland and Kolton Pagel.***

At right are: Holly McCullough, Peyton Keiter and Riley Fiest.

The Heat will get their first game underway tonight (Thursday) at Marion. On Monday night, November 16, the Heat will host Burlingame at White City and will host Solomon on Thursday, November 19, at Hope.

Election Results in Morris and Wabaunsee Counties

November 3 has come and gone but not all races in Kansas have been finalized. All votes must be finalized by Monday, November 16. At present, the governor's race between Cindy Holscher and Ty Masterson has Holscher ahead by over 7,600 votes. The Secretary of State between Pat Proctor and Jennifer Day has Proctor leading by approximately 8,800 votes. Other state races have been called with Adam Hamilton defeating Roger Marshall for the US Senate; Derek Schmidt defeating Don Coover for US Representative 2; Chris Mann defeating Kris Kobach for Attorney General;Tracy Mann defeating Lauren Reinhold for US House of Rep. 1; Sharice Davids defeating Eric Jenkins for US House Rep. 3; Ron Estes defeating Katy Tyndell; Steve Johnson defeating Juan Luengo for State Treasurer; Daniel Hawkins defeating Dinah Sykes for Commissioner of Insurance; and the Constitutional Amendment passed.

Local Wabaunsee County Results were:

Total Ballots: 2,004

Governor: Cindy Holscher, 166; Ty Masterson, 492

US Senate: Adam Hamilton, 92; Roger Marshall, 1,167

Constitutional Amendment: Yes, 808; No, 1,050

Local Morris County Results:

Total Votes: 2,324

Governor: Ty Masterson, 1,496; Cindy Holscher, 819

US Senate: Adam Hamilton, 823; Roger Marshall, 1,366

Constitutional Amendment: Yes, 1,607; No, 621

Council Grove Recall Question, Yes, 367; No, 433

Hearts4Him to Present Concert at Latimer Church in December

Mark you calendars for Saturday, December 12, when the Hearts4Him Men's Ensemble will present a Christmas program at the Latimer Lutheran Church at 4 pm.

Hearts4Him is a men's ensemble from the central Kansas area. A love for music and a heart for Him are the driving forces that led to the formation of the group in 2001. The diversity of the individuals in the ensemble makes it possible to relate to a wide spectrum of people. The richness of their combined voices delights audiences and stirs the soul.

What binds them together is the message of their songs. Singing for God and his grace and mercy is what makes this group of men lift their hearts in song. Their southern gospel music is designed to touch the hearts of men and women in such a way that it will be a source of encouragement and inspiration. Hearts4Him desires to use their talents to bring honor and praise to God.

A free will donation will be taken to go to the window restoration project at the church.

The program is sponsored by Latimer Lutheran Church Preservation Society.

Insurance Agency Changes Ownership

For years, Gieswein Insurance Agency has been a steady presence in Council Grove — the kind of place where the staff knows your name and your story. That tradition will continue under new ownership, with a fresh identity: Tallgrass Insurance Group LLC.



Anna Romme

Anna Romme is the new owner. Anna has a background in Insurance and most recently worked for USDA-NRCS as a Soil Conservation Technician. She developed a lot of really great connections with the people in Morris County and surrounding communities. "I took a lot of pride in my job with NRCS helping producers implement systems that helped improve conservation & production on their land," she said. "We have such amazing communities here in KS, and the people that make up those communities are what makes them so special. Working for the people is what drives me, and what made the decision the become a local insurance agent for my community one that felt natural. 'Helping people protect what matters most' to them is my motto, and it means to me, protecting what people have poured their lives into building, some people have been building what they have for generations, and some are starting from ground zero. Either way, helping them protect what they give all their efforts into building is my "why"."

The name change reflects both a respect for Kansas heritage and a vision for the future. The Tallgrass Prairie is strong, adaptable, and deeply rooted — just like the relationships we want to build with our clients. Tallgrass Insurance Group provides any and all insurance needs that you may have. Our licensed staff can write policies for Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma.

(See Tallgrass Insurance Group LLC addition in our Business Directory.)

Large Crowd Attended USD #417 in Opposition to School Closing Hearing

The USD #417 Board of Education held a public hearing on Wednesday, November 4, 2026, at the Council Grove Junior/Senior High Auditorium. A large crowd attended in opposition to the proposed closing of Prairie Heights Elementary School in Alta Vista.

Superintendent Tyson Eslinger presented on the proposal to close the school in Alta Vista. The hearing was held to gather public feedback. At present, there is no vote scheduled.

Supt. Eslinger highlighted declining student enrollment, under funding of special education and previous staff reductions. He stated the district anticipates a budget deficit of $390,000 for the next school year and projected that the deficit would grow more over the next five years. He stated the consolidation plan for PHES aims to retain all active staff and save approximately $131,591 in the first year. He emphasized the goal of maintaining strong student opportunities within the district.

Patrons who spoke during the open forum with their concerns about the possible closing of PHES included Desiree Thompson, Missi Spiker, Laura Armbrust, Alicsa Mayer, Stacy Markley, Colter Macy, Amber Jones, Patty Essary, Amy Oleen-Naaf, Demi Jackson, Shandi Andres, Lindsey Hickman, RK Parkerson, Ben Kormanik, Anna Romme, Angela Harris, Sheryl Crooks, Alisha Gladbach, Ashley Brown, Tracey Oltmanns and Marc Bowen

The next regular scheduled meeting of the USD #417 BOE is Tuesday, November 17 at 6 pm in the CGJSHS Auditorium. (Please note the change of date from the usual meeting date)

White City FCA Offering Lunch on November 15

The White City FCA will be hosting a luncheon on November 15 from 11 am to 1 pm at the Simmons Fellowship Hall at 206 West Mackenzie in White City. The menu will include pulled pork, potato salad, baked beans, hot dogs, chips, dessert and a drink. A free will donation will be accepted.

The FCA appreciates your support.

Veterans and Active Military Admitted Free to Sectional Football Games

TOPEKA, Kan. — Active military, veterans and one guest are invited to watch Kansas student-athletes participating in playoff football this week at no charge. For the fourth year, the Kansas State High School Activities Association is pleased to provide complimentary admission to all Sectional Championship football games to be played Nov. 12 and 13.

Active-duty military personnel, veterans and one guest will be admitted free of charge simply by showing a military ID or driver's license with a designation indicating veteran status. If the individual has not renewed their license in the last couple of years, a veteran ID card or other proof of military service is acceptable.

Sectional football games may take place either Thursday or Friday, based on facility availability. Host schools may also honor veterans and active military in other ways on game day.

News & Ad deadline is MONDAY, 2 pm

2026 Morris County Care and Share Christmas Project

All in the Morris County and USD 417 area are invited to consider helping with the county-wide Christmas Project sponsored by Morris County Care and Share. This annual Christmas Project is a joint effort of Care and Share, Child Health Care, civic organizations, church groups, schools and individuals.

Angel gift tags will be available in six areas banks – Bank of the Flint Hills, White City; Farmers and Drovers Bank, Alta Vista; Farmers State Bank, Dwight; Citizens State Bank and Trust, Emprise Bank and Farmers and Drovers Bank, Council Grove beginning Monday, November 16th. An additional Angel gift tag pickup will also be at the Council Grove Library.

Those who want to adopt a child or a family as part of their Christmas observance are encouraged to select their tags early, purchase and wrap the gifts and return them (with tag attached to the outside of the gift) to one of the banks or the library no later than Friday, December 4th .

Items being collected by the churches and organizations in the area such as books, socks, hats, mittens and gloves need to be delivered to the Morris County Courthouse meeting room by Monday morning, December 7th. Call 620.767.5065 when arriving to deliver items.

We would prefer that all clothing donations such as coats be taken to the Community Thrift Store at 17 South 5th St. in Council Grove since Care and Share office space is limited.

If you have questions about the Christmas Project, or if you would like to make a contribution, please call 620-767-6801, or come by the Care and Share Office at 1003 West Main St. in Council Grove.

Thank you in advance to all who help in any way with the annual Care and Share Christmas Project. Care and Share is proud to represent the community with this project.

Simpson UMC Fall Festival set for November 14

ALTA VISTA-The Simpson United Methodist Women of Faith will have their annual Fall Festival Saturday, November 14, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Homemade soups, including Chicken Noodle, Potato, Tortellini and Chili, plus all the fixings and a variety of desserts. Cost is by donation.

There will also be a silent auction with some interesting items to bid on.

The church is located at 518 Logan Street, just a block off Main Street. You can enter through the north door and there is an elevator available located on the south side of the church. Everyone is welcome!

Kansas Office of the State Bank Commissioner Awards Grant Funds for Financial Literacy Education

Topeka, KS – The Office of the State Bank Commissioner has awarded $231,150 in grant funds to nine Kansas organizations to provide financial literacy education throughout the state.

The mission of the Office of the State Bank Commissioner (OSBC) is to "Ensure the integrity of regulated providers of financial services through responsible and proactive oversight, while protecting and educating consumers." Although its

See **Bank,** pg. 7

Cookies, Cookies, Cookies

The Flint Hills LWML "Cookie Walk" is planned for Thursday, November 19, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Alta Vista from 3-7 pm. Choose your cookies from a wide variety with carry out containers provided.

Proceeds of the event support the Flint Hills Lutheran Women in Mission St. Paul's, Alta Vista; St. Paul's, Clarks Creek, Immanuel, Junction City and Redeemer, Lake Wabaunsee.