

# From Our ARCHIVES

By Linda Kenyon

## 10 Years Ago

March 9, 2016

Registered Republicans of Rush County went to the polls on Saturday to select presidential candidates in the Kansas caucus. One hundred thirty votes were cast, approximately 100 more than the 2012 caucus. Rush County residents cast 60 votes for Ted Cruz, 32 for Donald Trump, 17 for Marco Rubio and 6 for John Kasich. There were 15 provisional votes cast, which were sent to the Kansas Republican Committee to be determined whether or not they would be counted. The Rush County caucus was one of 102 sites in Kansas and one in St. Louis, Missouri, to determine how Kansas' 40 delegates will be assigned. Approximately 600 Kansans participated in the satellite caucus in St. Louis, due to people attending the Missouri Valley Conference championship to support Wichita State University. The nearest Democratic caucus was in Hoisington. Statewide, Bernie Sanders had 26,450 votes and Hilary Clinton 12,593.

Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Timken celebrated Father Kapaun Day because the priest served the church for six months in 1948. Chase Kear told his experience of being miraculously healed following a severe head injury in 2008. Chase's recovery is one of the miracles attributed to Fr. Kapaun because his family and others petitioned Fr. Kapaun to intercede for them.

## 25 Years Ago

March 8, 2001

Dorothy Leidig, a senior at Otis-Bison High School, received a great honor from Sterling College. Leidig was presented \$48,000 full-ride scholarship to Sterling College. She resides in Timken and is the daughter of Mary Leidig.

The Otis-Bison Cubs fifth and sixth grade girls basketball traveling team finished first at the Pratt-Skyline Tournament. Team members are Melanie Lightfoot, Brittany Commons, Megan Goodheart, Lauren Wissman, Kayla Nelson, Whitney Slater, Lissie McVey, Ashley Nelson, Kelsey Slater, Danae Yarmer, Ashley Moore and Christen Royer. Coaches are Brenda Slater and Josh Slater.

## 50 Years Ago

March 4, 1976

McCracken recently became the second city in Rush County to acquire cable T.V. constructed by Dean Misegadis, Rush Center, known as Dean's Cable Communication Co., was completed and hook up finished. The privately owned system was started on October 15 when Walnut Valley Construction started laying the underground cable. In December, the tower was constructed and the building housing the equipment was recently completed by Dick Ogle Tower Construction of Great Bend.

The McCracken Mustangs pulled out a 71-69 win over the Ransom Longhorns in the championship battle of Class 1A Regional Tournament at Ransom on Saturday night. The Glen Connor Mustangs were led by Casey McCormick with 21, while Jim Casey had 17 and Chuck Higgins 15. The Mustangs will face Stafford in sub-state Class 1A boys competition on Friday at St. Mary of the Plains at

Dodge City. The McCracken record is 17-2.

## 75 Years Ago

March 8, 1951

It didn't take long for the stork to beam in on the Rush County hospital. After a dedication program Sunday attended by 3-4 thousand persons, on the first official day of business Monday the first baby, a girl, was born at the new institution. The six pound seven ounce daughter is the first child for the parents, Rev. and Mrs. John Perry, Jetmore. Dr. J.H. Baker delivered the girl who was named Sharon Rae. The maternal grandparents, Rev. and Mrs. A.R. Farley, are former Rush countians. Rev. Farley was pastor of the Assembly of God church at McCracken. Rev. Perry is pastor of the Assembly of God church at Jetmore.

You can't hold classes without pupils, so the Timken grade school had to call a temporary halt to school work this week. When school was dismissed last Thursday only four of 26 students were able to attend classes. Everyone else was in bed with the measles or chicken pox. Teachers of the school are Mrs. Glen Friend, primary teacher, and Mrs. Louise Peetoom, principal and upper grades teacher.

First Lt. Clyde L. Wallace, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde L. Wallace Sr., Nekoma, is missing in action in Korea - the first Rush county soldier to be missing over an extended period, since the Korean war started. He has been missing in action since Feb. 12, and was in action near Wonju when he was last heard from.

## 100 Years Ago

The La Crosse Republican  
March 11, 1926

Peter Diehl, formerly of Loretto and now of Hays, was convicted of violating the National Prohibition Act, known as the Volstead Act, in the United State District Court at Wichita on Tuesday, March 9, 1926. Diehl was prosecuted in that Court for manufacturing and selling liquor with more than one-half of one per cent of alcohol by volume, which offenses were charged to have been committed in Rush County on August 31, 1924. Diehl, at that time was in the garage business in Loretto. He was prosecuted by the State of Kansas, in the District Court of Rush County, Kansas, for this same act, and the first Rush County jury could not agree, and the second acquitted him. The Federal Government, apparently acting upon the theory that there had been a miscarriage of justice under the state law, instituted proceedings in the United States District Court against Diehl.

NOTICE: I wish the party who borrowed my wheelbarrow would return it, now that the grass is getting green and the robins singing. I need it in my business. Orville Ragland

## 125 Years Ago

The La Crosse Republican  
March 8, 1901

Twenty-three years ago yesterday, the writer landed in Rush county. The wind was blowing that day and it's blowing just as hard today.

T.A. Grumbein has bought the general store at Alexander, and we have no doubt he will be well patronized, as Titus is genial and speaks German. That part of the county is settling up with German speaking people.

## -Rush County Commission Minutes-

COMMISSIONERS MINUTES Monday, February 23, 2026, 9:00 a.m. Chairman Mitchell Blackburn, Vice-Chairman Richard T. Luft and member Leslie Rogers were present. Commissioner Rogers moved to approve the February 17, 2026 minutes as presented. Commissioner Luft seconded the motion. Chair called for discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

The accounts payable checks, register and warrants were reviewed and signed by the board.

A call was placed to Chad Fisher with Kansas Dirt, Inc. to discuss the final payment for the road project on Ave E.

Sheriff Mark Knowles met with the board to discuss the purchase of a bumper pull trailer to repurpose as a mobile communications or command trailer.

The road and bridge weekly report was presented for review. They graded in Alexander, Banner, Belle Prairie, Big Timber, Fairview, Illinois, La Crosse, Lone Star, Pioneer and Pleasantdale townships. Sand was hauled in Alexander, Banner, Belle Prairie, Big Timber and Fairview, road elevation done in Belle Prairie and Hampton and shoulder work done in Union. Signs were repaired or replaced in Big Timber, Garfield and Illinois townships. The mechanics did regular maintenance on county equipment. Applications have been submitted for the Off-System and FAS bridge programs for bridge #17 and #33.

Deputy County Clerk Kristen Muller joined the meeting.

Krystal Lineberry, Assistant EMS Director, and Rush County EMS board members Nicole Fehrenbach and Lisa Lewis met with the board. Assistant Director Lineberry requested the Rush County EMS Director be added to the county's insurance plan but EMS would reimburse the county for the cost. A call was placed to Julie Yarmer, Freedom Claims, to discuss the insurance request. Ms. Yarmer stated per the county's policy it is not an option as the individual is not a county employee. Assistant Director Lineberry and Ms. Lewis presented information on a 2012 Dodge Ram 4500 HD Osage ambulance with 61,000 miles from Barton County for \$50,000.00. Rush County EMS is needing to replace the current transport ambulance and is looking into the purchase of the ambulance from Barton County. Assistant Director Lineberry and board members requested \$50,000.00 from the county to purchase the 2012 Dodge Ram 4500 HD Osage ambulance. The commissioners will discuss the request and make a decision at a later date.

The Annual Township report for Alexander-Belle Prairie was reviewed by the board.

Two abatements to the Treasurer's Tax Roll were reviewed by the board.

At 11:05 a.m., Commissioner Blackburn moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes with County Clerk Keener and Deputy County Clerk Muller regarding an HR issue. Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting returned to open session at 11:10 a.m.

County Clerk Keener presented a letter of Agreed Upon Procedures for the Year Ended December 31, 2025, Landfill Audit Agreed Upon Procedures, a letter of Engagement and a letter of Representation from Adams Brown, LLC for signatures from Chairman Blackburn and County Clerk Keener. After review, Commissioner Blackburn moved to sign the presented letters from Adams Brown, LLC. Commissioner Luft seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence was reviewed.

There being no other business before the board, Commissioner Blackburn moved to adjourn at 11:28 a.m. and to meet again in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, March 2, 2026. Commissioner Luft seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved this 2nd day of March, 2026.

Mitchell Blackburn, Chairman

ATTEST: Tacy A. Keener, County Clerk

## Law enforcement activity

Rush County Sheriff Mark Knowles reported law enforcement activity for February 22 through February 28.

There were 4 civil process papers served and 1 complaint of cattle out.

There was 1 arrest during the week.

On February 22, investigation of a non-injury vehicle/deer accident in the 3900 block of Ave. O, citizen assist for information on a civil matter.

On February 23, assisted a motorist in the 1200 block of Peace Street in La Crosse, investigation of an accidental 911 dial in La Crosse, citizen assist with a VIN inspection in La Crosse, investigation of a scam in the 600 block of West 7th Street in La Crosse, investigation of a possible theft in La Crosse, requests to check vehicles in Alexander and the 1500 block of Main Street in La Crosse, report of traffic debris on the side of the highway in the 2000 block of U.S. 183, investigation of an animal bite in Bison.

On February 24, investigation of driving complaints in the 400 block of East 3rd Street in Bison and the 1700 block of Main Street in La Crosse, completed a booking for court purposes at the Sheriff's Office, assisted a motorist in the 2600 block of U.S. 183, citizen assist with a VIN inspection in La Crosse, investigation of a 911 accidental dial in the intersection of 9th Street and Elm Street in La Crosse, investigation of possible theft in the 1100 Peace Street in La Crosse, investigation of scams in the 1700 block of Main Street in La Crosse and the 600 block of Maple Street in La Crosse, criminal investigation from a vehicle pursuit on K-96, citizen assist for a medical concern in the 700 block of West 6th Street in La Crosse, questions for a Deputy for firework information in Rush Center.

On February 25, citizen assist with fingerprinting for employment, citizen assist with fingerprinting for conceal and carry, outside agency assist for a medical emergency in the 1700 block of Main Street in La Crosse, investigation of a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of South Main Street in Timken.

On February 26, outside agency assist with EMS for a fall victim in the 600 block of East 16th Street Terrace, investigation of a non-injury vehicle/deer accident in the intersection of K-96 and CR 160, investigation of a lost wallet in the 800 block of

Union Street in Rush Center, citizen assist for found property at the Sheriff's Office, outside agency assist with Pawnee county for a 911 accidental dial on U.S. 183, investigation of a child in need of care in La Crosse, investigation of a driving complaint in Liebenenthal, investigation of animals at large in the 2700 block of Ave. G, citizen assist for phone issues in the 600 block of East 16th Street Terrace in La Crosse.

On February 27, investigation of criminal trespass in the 500 block Jefferson Street in La Crosse, investigation of an animal bite in the 3300 block of CR 400, returned found property at the Sheriff's Office, citizen assist for a civil matter at the Sheriff's Office, investigation of counterfeit currency in La Crosse, accidental 911 call in the 3600 block of K-96, outside agency assist for a fall victim in the 700 block of Main Street in La Crosse, follow up on a parking complaint in the 200 block of West 9th Street in La Crosse, investigate a driving complaint on U.S. 183, investigate a disturbance in the 1500 block of Main Street in La Crosse, outside agency assist for a 911 call in Pawnee County, investigate a driving complaint on K-4 near La Crosse, investigate private property accidental damage in the 300 block of West Beech Ave. in McCracken.

On February 28, investigate unauthorized burns in the 500 block of East 11th Street in La Crosse and the 200 block South Railroad Ave. in Timken, outside agency assists with EMS in the 200 block of North Main Street in Otis and the 300 block of South Railroad Ave. in Timken, investigate an animal at large in the 200 block East Kepner Ave. in Alexander, investigate a vehicle/deer non-injury accident at Ave. E and U.S. 183.

Anyone noticing anything out of the ordinary occurring in the county is encouraged to contact the Rush County Sheriff's Office, 785-222-2578 or if it is an emergency call 911. You can also follow us on Facebook at Rush County Sheriff's Office. Also check out our new app on Google Play and in the App Store on your mobile device, by downloading Sheriff Connect. Once you are in the app, search for Rush County Sheriff's Office. This app will connect you to get notifications in case of an emergency, plus it provides many other resources.