



## Parkview Village receives \$20K grant from Stay Strong-Live Long Wilson County

Stay Strong- Live Long Wilson County has awarded \$20,000 in grant funding from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas to advance a healthy affordable housing project at Parkview Village. The project involves constructing two

outdoor gazebos, installing 12 outdoor benches and making facility improvements at the housing complex.

“Sustainable change in a community doesn’t happen overnight,” said Virginia Barnes, Director, Blue Health Initiatives for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas. “In most cases, it is led by those from inside the community. Stay Strong- Live Long Wilson County is leading this work and this grant is our commitment to making sure they have resources to move their project forward.”

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas representatives gathered with residents of Parkview Village to present the check. Among them was Gayle Schmidt, Project Manager at Parkview Village, who credits the residents for sharing their input on what improvements they’d like to see for the area.

“The Parkview Village tenants have been involved in this grant project from the very beginning,” Schmidt said. “They have participated in surveys, tenant meetings, and planning sessions to share their ideas and priorities for improving the Parkview Village community.”

“Their input has played a vital role in shaping the project’s goals and proposed improvements. Seeing these ideas come to life is both exciting and rewarding for everyone involved.

“On behalf of myself and all of the tenants at Parkview Village I would like to thank everyone who was involved from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Pathways to a Healthy Kansas, and Betti Jo Walters BCBS Pathways Grant Coordinator Stay Strong – Live Long Wilson County for mak-

ing this grant possible for the Parkview Village Community.”

Upcoming milestones for the project include installing benches, affixing signage and celebrating a ribbon-cutting later this year.

“This project is a great example of what can happen when a community comes together,” said Betti Jo Walters, BCBS Pathways Grant Coordinator for Stay Strong–Live Long Wilson County Health Coalition.

“Gayle and the Parkview Village residents have been involved every step of the way, making sure these improvements reflect their vision for the community. We’re grateful

to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas for investing in this project, and we’re excited to see the work get underway.”

Stay Strong – Live Long Wilson County is one of 19 health coalitions approved for funding through Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas’ Pathways to a Healthy Kansas the largest community grant initiative funded by the insurer. Pathways combines community-wide, evidence-based solutions and practices to help Kansas communities

improve active living, healthy eating, behavioral health and commercial tobacco prevention.

For more information

about Pathways grant awards in Wilson County, contact Walters at [ssllcoordinator@wilsoncountykansas.org](mailto:ssllcoordinator@wilsoncountykansas.org) or (907) 350-0807

Pathways to a Healthy Kansas is the largest community grant initiative ever funded by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas. It combines community-wide, evidence-based solutions and practices to help Kansas communities improve active living, healthy eating, behavioral health and commercial tobacco prevention.

The Stay Strong- Live Long Wilson County coalition improves health practices among Wilson County residents.



## Fredonia Babe Ruth baseball team finishes 3rd at state tournament, earns sportsmanship award

The Fredonia Babe Ruth baseball season came to a close this weekend at the State Tournament in Hillsboro.

The team battled hard all tournament long and finished with an impressive 3rd-place finish.

The team was also honored to receive the Sportsmanship Award, a testament to the char-

acter, respect, and class these players, coaches, and families displayed throughout the tournament.

Representing Kansas in the Midwest Plains Regional, which starts today in Sioux Falls, S.D., is the state tournament champion Hillsboro. The Fredonia Babe Ruth team,

which was sponsored by Micro-Lite, includes Jordan May, Hayes Cobb, KJ May, Kerrick Ross, Daxin Wallace, Jack Cramer, Riot Turner, Quinton Oney, Stockon Kiblinger, Hunter Smith, Carson Self, Logan Barnhart and McKinzie Cobb. Coaches are Adam Kiblinger, Mike Casteel, Ron May, and Kyle Ross.

### Toronto News by Kathy Cummings

One more week after this one and it’s August! And along with August coming soon so is the start of school! Seems like school just let out and here it is time for back-to-school sales. How much time do kids actually have off for the summer anymore?

What does “eidetic” mean?

Hello, to all in area nursing and assisted living facilities; Hello, also, to all in area hospitals and rehab centers.

We offer our sympathy to family and friends of Carol Olson. We offer our sympathy to all others who lost loved ones this past week. May they all rest in peace.

Congrats go out to Jeff Sowder, Kansas’ First Imperial

Potentate, on being awarded the 2025-2026 Imperial Potentate’s Award of Merit by Shriners Imperial Potentate Brad Koehn, in recognition of Jeff’s years of dedication and hard work for Shriners International and Shriners Children. Way to go Jeff, great honor for you and Cheryl.

Ever have one of those days when you just can’t stay awake? That’s the way I have been all Monday morning. I fell asleep many times writing this column.

Answer: Vivid memory.

Quote: “ When the sun is shining, I can do anything; no mountain is too high, no trouble too difficult to overcome.” - Wilma Rudolph.

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### PUBLIC NOTICE – CHILD FIND

Tri-County Special Education Interlocal No. 607 is seeking to identify children from age three (3) through age six (6) who live within the school district boundaries or the Interlocal who have developmental delays or may need special education services. The local school districts serviced by TriCounty Special Education Interlocal #607 are: Caney, Cherryvale, Coffeyville, Fredonia, Independence, Neodesha, Thayer and Parsons. Free developmental screenings and hearing/vision screenings are available for children ages three (3) through six (6). These screenings are offered within each of these local communities on a monthly basis during the school year. If you would like to schedule an appointment for a screening, please contact Tri-County Special Education Interlocal No. 607 in Independence at (620) 331-6303. If you have a child or know a child with developmental delays or suspected disabilities age six (6) or older, please contact the child’s local school personnel. Children ages birth through three may be referred to the Interlocal for assistance in contacting the appropriate service provider in your area. Areas of special education include early childhood special education, developmental delay, orthopedic impaired, visually impaired, hearing impaired, autistic, traumatic brain injury, emotionally disturbed, learning disability, deaf or blind, mental retardation, other heal impaired, gifted or talented or creative, speech or language and severely or multiple disabled. Parents are advised that all special education services are designed to offer the utmost in educational opportunities for each child, as well as to provide assistance in the areas of physical, mental, emotional and social growth. State and federal laws are followed in providing each student with a free, appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment.

#### Public Notice of Procedural Safeguards

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires each local board of education in Kansas to provide special education and related services to exceptional children. The term exceptional children includes children who are gifted, preschool aged children with developmental delays and school aged children with disabilities as defined in the Federal Individual with Disabilities Education Act. A list of procedural safeguards is available, upon request, by contacting Tri-County Special Education Interlocal No. 607, P.O. Box 668, Independence, Kansas 67301, or by calling 620 331-6303. In compliance with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act, Tri-County Special Education Interlocal No. 607, does not discriminate in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities. Tri-County’s Section 504 Coordinator is Emily McCambridge, Director. She may be contacted at Tri-County at the above address or phone number.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Tri-County Special Education Interlocal No. 607 will hold its regular Board of Education meetings at 6:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. The meetings will be held at the Tri-County Special Education Interlocal central offices at 2207 N. 10th , in Independence.

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