

# CONCORDIA BLADE-EMPIRE

VOL. CXIV NO. 215 (USPS 127-880)

CONCORDIA, KANSAS 66901

Monday, April 6, 2020

## Blade makes difficult decision to publish three days per week

As the COVID-19 pandemic paralyzes our country, businesses large and small are suffering — and The Concordia Blade-Empire is not immune to the economic hardships being caused by this unprecedented crisis.

Advertising dollars are a key source of revenue for The Blade-Empire.

Businesses that are shut down or struggling to keep their doors open are currently unable to spend money on advertising.

That decline in revenue has led ownership to make

the difficult decision to reduce the number of days The Blade-Empire will publish each week, from five to three.

Beginning April 13, The Blade-Empire will publish on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The Advertiser will continue to be printed and mailed out on Tuesdays.

In-town subscribers of The Blade-Empire will receive The Advertiser on Wednesdays.

This decision was not made in haste or without

exhausting every other possible option.

The Blade-Empire is one of the few newspapers in towns of similar size to Concordia that has continued to print five days per week, and that has been a source of pride.

A reduction in the number of days the paper is published will not result in a decrease in the amount of local news we will be providing each week to our subscribers. Instead, it will create an opportunity for The Blade-Empire staff to emphasize bringing our readers

more up-to-date coverage on our website, bladeempire.com, as well as producing more local content.

For nearly 120 years The Blade-Empire has been delivering the local news to the doorsteps of our loyal subscribers.

Over the past century-plus, there has been plenty to celebrate and plenty of struggles, and The Blade-Empire, established in 1902, has been telling the stories and chronicling the history of this great community,

along with providing oversight on our governing bodies.

Even in a world that is dominated by the internet and social media, local newspapers continue to serve a vital role in their communities.

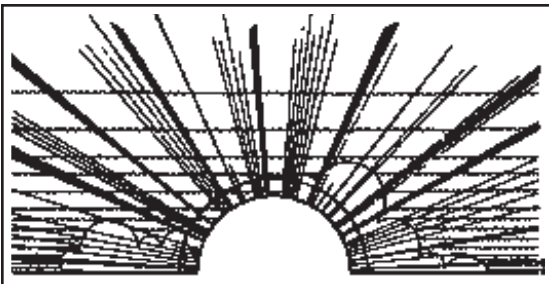
The dedication of The Blade-Empire employees is unmatched, and they will continue to show up every day and do whatever job needs to be done to make sure we are delivering your news on time.

Our community, the

nation and the world will get through these very difficult times, but it won't be unscathed.

There will be struggles and there will be loss, but there will also be make-you-want-to-cry acts of humanity and generosity.

We at The Blade-Empire are asking everyone to do their part to help mitigate the spread of this evil virus, so hopefully, come this fall, we will be reporting on Concordia High School football and volleyball teams' quests for state championships.



### Good Evening

#### Concordia Forecast

Tonight, mostly clear with a low around 53. South wind 10-15 mph.

Tuesday, sunny with a high near 81. Southwest wind around 10 mph becoming northwest in the afternoon.

Tuesday night, clear with a low around 50. Northwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.

Wednesday, sunny and breezy with a high near 75. Light northwest wind becoming north 15-20 mph in the morning. Winds could gust to 30 mph.

### Across Kansas

#### Divers recover body of truck driver from river

PERRY, Kan. (AP) — A trash truck driver who was reported missing after not returning from his route was found dead after his truck slid into the Delaware River during inclement weather, authorities said.

The body of 32-year-old Bernard Singleton, of Topeka, was found Saturday in the river near Perry.

Singleton was driving west on U.S. 24 Friday morning when he lost control of his truck because of inclement weather, the Kansas Highway Patrol said. The truck struck the guard rail of a bridge and eventually overturned in the river, where it sank, the patrol said.

Visit us online at [www.bladeempire.com](http://www.bladeempire.com)

## Cloud County has third case of COVID-19

Cloud County Health Department administrator Brandi Bray reported to the Cloud County board of commissioners during its regular meeting Monday morning that a third positive case of COVID-19 has been confirmed in the county.

Testing sent to a private lab identified the positive case.

The third positive case in Cloud County is a minor who has recently traveled to Clay County and Saline County in recent weeks. No further information about the patient will be given.

The Health Department is working to identify any close contacts of the individual, and those who were exposed will be

contacted as soon as possible, and will be monitored for symptoms.

A second positive case of COVID-19 in Cloud County was confirmed on Saturday. It is a male in his 40s with no underlying health conditions who travels to Saline County for work.

The first case of the virus in Cloud County was confirmed on April 1. It is a female in her 30s that travels to Saline County for work.

Both persons remain at home in isolation, and are in stable condition.

All of the contacts of those individuals have been contacted and are in quarantine.

Bray also reported to the com-

mission that the Health Department had learned that some residents of Cloud County have been identified as close contacts of positive COVID-19 cases in neighboring counties.

The Health Department is utilizing the Center for Disease Control guidelines to determine close contacts, which are defined as having direct contact with, or being within six feet for at least 10 minutes, of a person while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment. Caregivers and household members of the case-patient are considered close contacts.

Only a person identified as a close contact will be notified by the Health Department.

Those identified as close contacts will be provided with information about quarantine and will also receive an official order of quarantine from the Health Department.

The Health Department is working closely with community partners including the county government officials, Emergency Management and Cloud County Health Center.

Residents can stay informed by visiting the Health Department's Facebook page or the Cloud County Emergency Management Facebook page. There are links to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment coronavirus and CDC coronavirus websites listed.

## Gale takes the wheel in battle against coronavirus

By Russell Gagnon  
Blade Staff Writer

In the most literal sense, because of the Coronavirus, America is again at war. This time the enemy is faceless, but it is a vicious and virulent enemy nonetheless, and it will kill anyone - even children - without mercy.

Instead of armed soldiers, it is our doctors and nurses and healthcare personnel on the front lines trying to protect us from harm, and trying to save those who have already been harmed.

Lee Gale was one of those people on the front lines. He spent a week in New York City - a virus epicenter - shuttling doctors and nurses to a hospital.

Gale, who was born and raised in Concordia, works for Village Travel. The company, based out of Wichita, originally started as a family-owned business with one motor coach. It is now one of the largest charter bus and tour companies in the Midwest,

and operates over 100 charter coaches.

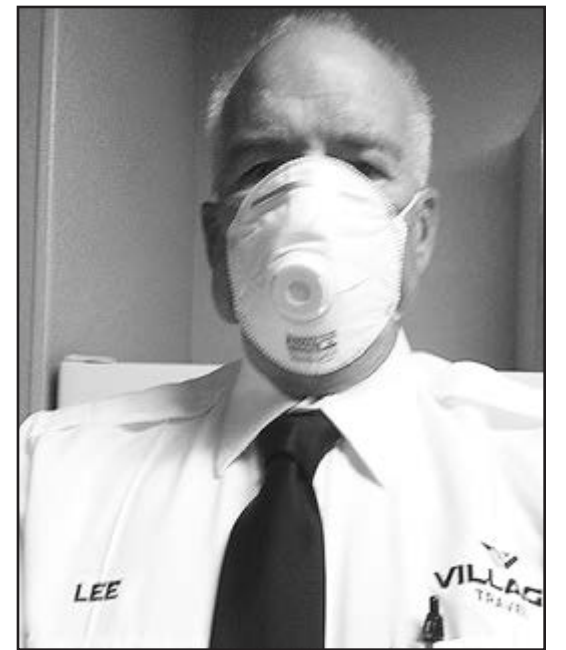
Gale has been driving a coach bus for Cloud County Community College for several years. In March, Village Travel was contacted by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and asked to shuttle healthcare workers in New York.

"Much to the chagrin of my wife and daughters, I said I'd go," Gale said. "I just felt that I needed to be there."

Gale left for New York on March 30, driving a bus to the beleaguered city. He arrived on April 1, and was assigned to a hotel housing healthcare workers.

His first shift started at 6 a.m., shuttling doctors and nurses from the hotels where they are kept isolated, to the Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx. The Jacobi is a municipal hospital with almost 500 beds, located in the Morris Park neighborhood. It is the front line of the New York City's battle against the coronavirus.

(see Gale on page 6)



Lee Gale

## A VIRUS JOURNAL

A COMMUNITY'S THOUGHTS - CONCORDIA, KS

April 6, 2020

The Blade-Empire is publishing this community journal as an ongoing record of the thoughts of our citizens as we embark on this journey through the coronavirus crisis.

Tell us what you think; your thoughts, fears and hopes for yourself, loved ones, and your fellow Americans. You may use your name; or you may submit anonymously.

When the pandemic is over, the Blade-Empire will publish the journal as a book. The thoughts of Concordians will become a time capsule and historical record for future generations to remember.

#### CORONAVIRUS TOLL

Worldwide: Infected-1,289,820 Deaths-70,680

Kansas: Infected-845 Deaths-3

Cloud County: Infected-3

**Mrs. Clarice Pruitt:** I was born in 1926, so in my 94 years I've seen many changes. I lived through dust storms, two floods, and worked hard my whole life. Of all the disasters, this disease is the worst. It affects rich, poor, young, old, fat or skinny, tall or short. The whole world is going through this. I have not been to a store since March 9th. We live 16 miles from the nearest grocery, so I always kept a supply on hand. I do not have a stash of toilet paper or food products.

My concern is for the ones keeping this country going.

I say God Bless, nurses, doctors, truck drivers — all the people who have a job they must go to every day. I have been home 20 days as of today, and will do whatever I'm told to do.

I have a granddaughter who is a dialysis nurse on call 24-7. Her job is vital to the lives of many.

I pray each day for family, friends, daily workers, with concern for all. Looking forward to when this is over.

May God Bless each of you. 94 years of Blessings.

P.S. To all the dedicated farmers who grow our food. Thank you. Thank you.

**A Cloud County farmer:** Am I concerned about the virus and taking precautions? You bet I am. But no matter what, cattle have to be fed and crops planted.

Are we setting a precedent? In the future, anytime there is a sickness, are we going to shut down the whole country?

**Lora Watson: English instructor at CHS, retiring at the end of the current school year:** During the two weeks before spring break, I washed my hands incessantly because I had been reading the news about the spread of the coronavirus. As I locked my classroom on March 6th, I remember thinking, "Good, we can go home for a week, and this will blow over." But then things escalated, and I spent spring break checking the US Covid-19 map, watching it creep toward Kansas from both directions. It was like watching an interactive map of WWII.

When Governor Kelley announced that public school buildings would be closed for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year, I was conflicted. I didn't know how to feel. On the one hand, I felt relief. Since I am over 60 and in one of the high-risk groups, I was glad that I could stay home and avoid infection. I was also relieved because I wouldn't have to live through the inevitable high stress of the last few weeks of school and that I wouldn't have to (once again) hear the moans and groans of senioritis. On the other hand, I felt an even greater disappointment.

I am disappointed that I don't get to "graduate" with this group of seniors. This class is special, not just because they are my last class of seniors, but because they have wrapped themselves around my heart like few groups have. I won't get to tell them the stories that keep them engaged at the end of the year. I won't get to give them my final life advice that usually leads to tears, theirs and mine. And I won't get to implement our plans. Oh, we had plans! Private jokes to slip into graduation speeches! A brilliant senior prank! Now it is all so anticlimactic, so deflating.

I am also disappointed that I lost that last nine weeks with my co-workers, my friends. Online meetings are informational, but there is no in-person ambiance. Online classes are necessary and effective, but they aren't much fun.

Now, I fluctuate between terror and boredom, but I am thankful for technology that keeps me connected. I am thankful that I live in a community of good people, people who take risks to provide me with groceries and people who take risks to provide healthcare. I am thankful for the people who keep the water coming out of my faucets, for the people who keep electricity in my sockets, for the people who keep the internet working, for the people who drive the trucks and deliver the packages, for the people who answer 911 calls, for the spiritual leaders who provide hope and prayers, for all the people that I too often take for granted.

Although denial and disappointment are difficult, they make me more appreciative of what I have. This isn't the way I thought my last year of teaching would end, but I have to admit that it's memorable.

(see Journal on page 6)



First Published in the Blade-Empire on Monday, April 6, 2020

#### REQUESTS FOR BIDS

City of Concordia

Blosser Municipal Airport (CNK), Concordia, Kansas  
AIP Project No.: 3-20-0013-013  
Construct New Runway 18/36 & Parallel Taxiway,  
Lighting, PAPI's, Wind Cone, and Segmented Circle

Sealed bids will be received by the **City of Concordia in the City Commission Room**, 701 Washington Street, Concordia, KS 66901 until **11:00 a.m. local time, on Wednesday, April 29, 2020** and then publicly opened and read aloud, for furnishing all labor, materials and equipment, and performing all work necessary to "**Construct New Runway 18/36 & Parallel Taxiway, Lighting, PAPI's, Wind Cone, and Segmented Circle**," AIP 3-20-0013-013.

In general, the improvements on which bids are requested will require the following major construction items:

1. Reconstruction and shift of new Runway 18/36 (4,000' x 75') in new P-501 pavement.
2. Conversion of existing Runway 17/35 into parallel taxiway.
3. Construction of new connector taxiways and parallel taxiway extension.
4. Re-grading of cross-wind Runway 12-30.
5. Installation of subdrain system along the newly constructed pavement sections.
6. Installation of new base-mounted MIRL system, with new cable in duct, on Runway 18/36.
7. Installation of new base-mounted MITL system, with new cable in duct, on newly constructed taxiways and converted parallel taxiway (separate grant).
8. Electrical vault upgrades.
9. Installation of Runway 18 and Runway 36 PAPIs & REILs.
10. Relocation of wind cone and segmented circle.
11. Construction of new runway and taxiway pavement markings.
12. Installation of temporary erosion control measures to stabilize the on-site soils and prevent soil run-off.

Copies of the bid documents including project drawings and technical specifications are on file and may be inspected at:

City of Concordia, 701 Washington St.,  
Concordia, Kansas, 66901 (785-243-2670)

Alfred Benesch & Company, 3226 Kimball Avenue  
Manhattan, KS 66503 (785-539-2202)

A complete set of bid documents can be seen or purchased for a non-refundable fee on-line at [www.drexeltech.com](http://www.drexeltech.com) in their eDistribution plan room. Information regarding this project can be found in the "Public Jobs" link on the [www.drexeltech.com](http://www.drexeltech.com) website. Additional Assistance is available at [distribution@drexeltech.com](mailto:distribution@drexeltech.com). Contractors desiring paper copies of the contract documents may also obtain a set of such documents from Drexel Technologies: 10840 West 86th Street - Lenexa, KS 66214 or @ (913) 371-4430. Bid documents will be shipped only if the requesting party assumes responsibility for all related charges. Corporate, certified or cashier's checks shall be made payable to Drexel Technologies, Inc.

A **pre-bid meeting** will be held in conjunction with this project. The pre-bid conference for this project will be held on **Tuesday, April 21, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. at the Blosser Municipal Airport Terminal Building located at 2995 Blosser Dr., Concordia, KS 66901**. If travel restrictions are still in place at this time, the conference will be held via a conference call. All bidders are required to examine the site to become familiar with all site conditions.

Contractors shall coordinate with the Airport for site visit opportunities at (785) 243-2670. The Owner reserves the right, at the time of the site visit, to reject requests to inspect specific areas of the airfield, if it is not conducive to airport operations at the time.

Each proposal must be accompanied by a bid guaranty (per 49 CFR Part 18.36(h)(1)) in the amount of not less than five (5) percent of the total amount of the bid. The bid guaranty may be made by certified check on a solvent bank or bid bond made payable to the City of Concordia, Concordia, KS.

All proposals submitted in accordance with the instructions presented herein will be subject to evaluation. Bids may be held by the City of Concordia for a period not to exceed **90 calendar days** from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of evaluating bids prior to award of contract.

Award of contract will be based on the lowest aggregate sum proposal for all work, submitted from those bidders that are confirmed as being responsive and responsible. The right is reserved, by the City of Concordia, to reject any and all bids and to waive any or all irregularities, technicalities, informality or any information in the bids received.

The successful bidder will be required to furnish separate performance (per 49 CFR Part 18.35(h)(2)) and payment (per 49 CFR Part 18.35(h)(3)) bonds, each in an amount equal to 100% of the contract.

#### Federal Provisions

Each bidder shall be aware and acknowledge that the project is subject to the FAA's current Federal Provisions as listed below and in Article 2 Supplementary Provision Specifications of the contract documents.

This project is subject to the requirements of the Davis-Bacon Act, as amended. The Contractor is required to comply with wage and labor provisions and to pay minimum wages in accordance with the schedule of wage rates established by the United States Department of Labor.

This project is subject to the requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Participation. The owner has established a contract participation goal of **5.15 percent** for small business concerns owned and controlled by certified socially and economically disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE). The bidder shall make and document good faith efforts, as defined in Appendix A of 49 CFR Part 26, to meet the established goal.

Award of contract is also subject to the following Federal provisions:

1. Executive Order 11246 and DOL Regulation 41 CFR PART 60 - Affirmative Action to Ensure Equal Employment Opportunity.
2. DOL Regulation 29 CFR Part 5 - Davis-Bacon Act.
3. DOT Regulation 49 CFR PART 29 - Government-wide Debarment and Suspension and Government-wide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace.
4. DOT Regulation 49 CFR PART 30 - Denial of Public Works Contracts to Suppliers of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Contracts to Suppliers of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors (Foreign Trade Restriction).
5. TITLE 49 United States Code, CHAPTER 501 - Buy American Preferences.

By: City of Concordia, Kansas

## Grocery workers are key during crisis, and they are afraid

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Every day, grocery workers are restocking toilet paper, eggs, produce and canned goods as fast as the items fly off the shelves.

They disinfect keypads, freezer handles and check-out counters as hundreds of people weave around them, sometimes standing too close for comfort amid the coronavirus pandemic. Some work for hours behind clear plastic barriers installed at checkout counters, bulwarks against sudden sneezes or coughs that can propel germs.

They aren't doctors or nurses, yet they have been praised for their dedication by Pope Francis, former U.S. President Barack Obama and countless people on social media, as infections and death counts rise.

From South Africa to Italy to the U.S., grocery workers — many in low-wage jobs — are manning the frontlines amid worldwide lockdowns, their work deemed essential to keep food and critical goods flowing. Some fear falling sick or bringing the virus home to vulnerable loved ones, and frustration is mounting as some demand better workplace protections, including shorter hours to allow them to rest, and "hazard" pay for working closely with the public.

"Everyone is scared everywhere, here in South Africa and everywhere in the world," said Zandile Mlotshwa, a cashier at Spar supermarket in the Johannesburg suburb of Norwood.

For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough, and the vast majority survive. But for others, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can be more severe, even causing pneumonia or death.

In the U.S., a handful of states — Minnesota and Vermont were the first — have given grocery workers a special classification that allows them to put their children in state-paid child care while they work.

## Tiger at Bronx Zoo tests positive for virus

NEW YORK (AP) — A tiger at the Bronx Zoo has tested positive for the new coronavirus, in what is believed to be the first known infection in an animal in the U.S. or a tiger anywhere, federal officials and the zoo said Sunday.

The 4-year-old Malayan tiger named Nadia — and six other tigers and lions that have also fallen ill — are believed to have been infected by a zoo employee who wasn't yet showing symptoms, the zoo said. The first animal started showing symptoms March 27, and all are doing well and expected to recover, said the zoo, which has been closed to the public since March 16 amid the surging coronavirus outbreak in New York.

The test result stunned zoo officials: "I couldn't believe it," director Jim Breheny said. But he hopes the finding can contribute to the global fight against the virus that causes COVID-19.

"Any kind of knowledge that we get on how it's transmitted, how different species react to it, that knowledge somehow is going to provide a greater base resource for people," he said in an interview.

The finding raises new questions about transmission of the virus in animals. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, which confirmed

Unions in Colorado, Alaska, Texas and many other states are pressing governors to elevate grocery workers to the status of first responders.

"The government's responsibility is to step up in these moments," said Sarah Cherin, chief of staff for the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union in Seattle, the first U.S. epicenter of COVID-19.

The union, which represents about 23,000 grocery workers and 18,000 health care workers, won early concessions for higher pay.

"We have always been a group of people who come to work when others stay home," Cherin said. "Our workers need the same protection others get."

U.S. grocery and food delivery workers are insisting employers pay them more and provide masks, gloves, gowns and access to testing. Whole Foods workers called for a recent "sickout" to demand better conditions, including double pay. A group of independent contractors for the Instacart grocery delivery service walked out to force more protections.

Some of the biggest employers in the U.S. are responding.

Kroger, the nation's largest grocery chain, said it will give all hourly employees a \$2-an-hour "Hero Bonus" through April 18. That follows temporary \$2 pay bumps by Walmart, Target and others.

Walmart's raise is just for hourly employees in distribution centers, but it's also giving bonuses to full- and part-time workers. Walmart, the nation's largest private employer, and Target will provide masks and gloves to front-line workers and limit the number of customers in stores. Walmart is taking the temperatures of its nearly 1.5 million employees when they report to work.

"Most will see it as a welcome relief," Walmart spokesman Dan Bartlett said of the new measures.

But that doesn't alleviate the fear when shoppers won't follow the rules, including social distancing.



## DEAR ANNIE

by Annie Lane

## And the People Stayed Home

**Dear Readers:** We are living in unprecedented times. With many states imposing mandatory lockdowns and so many of our health care workers on the front lines, I wanted to offer a few thoughts.

First is a huge thank-you to those doctors, nurses and health care workers who are dealing with this pandemic as the whole country is trying to get it under control. Thank you to all of the citizens who have been following the government guidelines and staying home, practicing social distancing and washing hands.

If we all do our part and stay home, this will end much sooner than if we don't listen to what the experts are saying.

I care so much about all of you and am praying everyone stays safe and healthy.

Here is a beautiful poem by Kitty O' Meara, who has a lovely take on our dealing with, and eventual recovery from, the COVID-19 pandemic:

*And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.*

*And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.*

*And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.*

Here are some fun daily quarantine questions you can ask yourself:

1. What am I grateful for today?
2. Who am I checking in on and interacting with today?
3. What beauty or art am I creating or appreciating today?
4. How am I moving my body today for exercise?
5. Have I been outside in nature yet today?

6. What expectations of normal am I letting go of today, and what am I doing instead?

**Dear Annie:** Kids do the darnedest things, and so do millennials.

They grow up. They leave the nest and become independent. We consider that a parental job well done.

They gave us a general idea of the location of their new home. No direct address and no invitation to come and see their new home. We don't understand this new distance. Would you be able to have the slightest explanation? — Hurting Mom and Dad

**Dear Hurting Parents:**

While I congratulate you on giving your children wings to fly out on their own, I'm not sure this is a millennial thing. If you don't understand this new distance from your children, why don't you ask them about it? Have an open and honest conversation with them about your desire to see them. Be proactive and bring them a nice gift or something homemade to congratulate them on their new home.

**Dear Annie:** In your reply to "Worried Wife," you left out the one thing that would give the wife hope and might be a powerful persuasion to get the husband-in-denial to the doctor. The most destructive and incurable diseases, including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and multiple sclerosis all have treatments that can lessen the effects and progression of the disease and give a better quality of life.

Early diagnosis is critical in getting the most out of these treatments. We can't choose what ends us, but we can choose how we live our lives until then. — Been There, Done That

**Dear Been There, Done That:** Thank you for this suggestion.

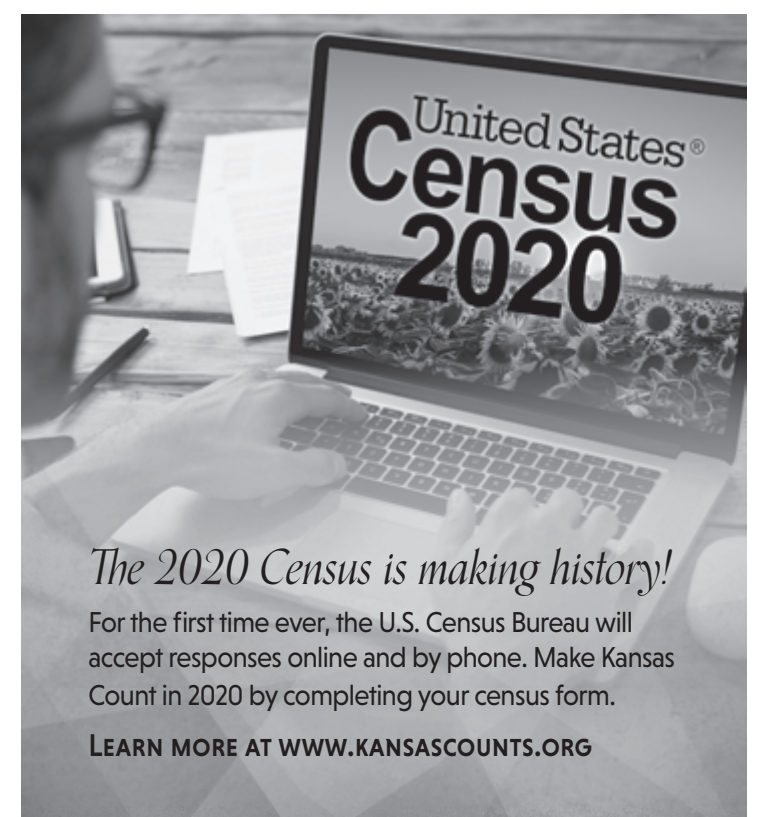
"Ask Me Anything: A Year of Advice From Dear Annie" is out now! Annie Lane's debut book — featuring favorite columns on love, friendship, family and etiquette — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).

## Senior Citizens Menu

Week of April 6 - April 10

**CONCORDIA SENIOR CENTER IS CLOSED.**

**TUESDAY:** MEATLOAF, Baked Potato, Spinach or Carrots, Peaches, Roll Milk, bread and butter served with meals  
Call Lori Raccagno at 243-1872 for questions .



*The 2020 Census is making history!*

For the first time ever, the U.S. Census Bureau will accept responses online and by phone. Make Kansas Count in 2020 by completing your census form.

LEARN MORE AT [WWW.KANSASCOUNTS.ORG](http://WWW.KANSASCOUNTS.ORG)

# BLADE-EMPIRE CLASSIFIEDS



**Need help? Want to rent or buy a home?  
Have a used car for sale or provide a service?  
Then the BLADE-EMPIRE  
classified section is ready to serve your needs!**

## GET HUGE RESULTS!



**3 ways to place your ad.**

• Call Denise at 785-243-2424

• Email - bladeempire@nckcn.com

• Mail to P.O. Box 309, Concordia, KS. 66901

### For Rent

FOR RENT-Storage spaces, various sizes, reasonable, locally owned. 785-243-4105.

**\$SPRING INTO SAVINGS**  
2 br., 1bath, w/d hookup

Call Suzy  
785-614-0189

### Help Wanted

#### HELP WANTED Part-Time

Some weekends required. Must be able to lift 50 lbs. repeatedly, stocking, cashiering, etc. Pick up an application at:

**CONCORDIA  
TOWN & COUNTRY**  
1516 Lincoln, Concordia

#### BUTCHER POSITION AVAILABLE

at

#### Duis Meat Processing

We offer competitive wage and benefits in a fast paced environment.

Apply in person and talk to Ryan or Toby 785-243-7850

#### DRIVERS NEEDED

Hiring for 2 positions in Concordia area, \$9 hr. No CDL required. 785-543-7314

#### MOUNT JOSEPH SENIOR VILLAGE

##### Full-time, Part-time or PRN NURSE & CMA

6a to 2p  
2p to 10p  
10p to 6a

##### Full-time, Part-time CNA

6a to 2p  
2p to 10p  
10p-6a

##### Dietary Aide

##### Full-time, Part-time Some weekends

Apply in person or online at <http://mjsv.easyapply.com>

Applications can be picked up at Mount Joseph Senior Village, 1110 W. 11th St., Concordia, KS.

#### AMERICAN STATE BANK Is currently seeking a FLOAT TELLER to service our Concordia, Clyde and Belleville locations.

The position will be housed in Concordia, but will float to other locations as needed. We offer competitive pay and benefits, tuition reimbursement, personal and professional development and so much more! If you're interested in joining our A-team, please visit [www.asbt.bank](http://www.asbt.bank) to apply today.

#### LOAN OFFICER American State Bank & Trust

#### Concordia Bank

Responsible for relationship management of top level commercial clients and their portfolio management. Provide mentoring to junior lending officers and branch employees. Manage existing portfolio while developing new business and expanding existing relationships. Collect and analyze financial and related data to determine the creditworthiness of prospects. Establish and negotiate terms under which credit will be extended. Essential Functions & Responsibilities: Underwrites loans within authorized levels, and reviews and promotes LAR's for credit requests in excess of individual lending authority. Makes retention and business development calls on existing and potential new customers. Assists other officers in development of new business relationships, structuring loans and assuring proper returns. Takes applications for consumer loan business. Reviews customer financial condition and assesses the customer's ability to re-pay the loan. Makes underwriting decisions within approval authority. Completes or directs completion of all loan documents and closes loan. Respond to customer and internal inquiries. Provides input to the departmental budget-making process; ensures adequacy of departmental services; and makes recommendations for product changes and improvements. Other duties as assigned.

#### Requirements:

5+ years of ag/commercial lending experience  
Excellent communication skills  
Excellent interpersonal skills  
Problem-solving abilities  
Strong computer skills

#### Location Description:

American State Bank & Trust,  
Concordia Bank  
302 W. 6th St.  
Concordia, KS 66901

#### COOK NEEDED Day and Evening Shifts Flexible Scheduling

Visit Marquis Place  
for application  
205 West 21st Street  
Concordia

## For the Record

#### Police Dept. Report

**Arrest**—Officers doing a traffic stop on Thursday, April 2, arrested Miralis J. Cozart, 40, Concordia, in the 200 block of East 12th Street, charging him with distribution of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, criminal use of a weapon, no driver's license, improper tag and no insurance. Cozart was transported to the Cloud County Law Enforcement Center.

#### Fire Dept./EMS Report

At approximately 9:40 a.m. April 5, M-4, T-2 responded to Mt. Joseph Senior Village and transported a 77-year-old female to Cloud County Health Center.

At approximately 6:35 p.m. April 5, M-4, T-2 responded to the 1500 block of State Street and transported a 76-year-old female to Cloud County Health Center.

## Legals

(First Published in the Concordia Blade Empire on Monday, March 23, 2020.)

#### IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CLOUD COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of Joseph L. Demars, Deceased. Case No. 2020-PR-000008

(Proceeding Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)

#### NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

#### THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on March 19, 2020, a Petition was filed in this Court by Tamara S. Maher, heir of Joseph L. Demars, deceased, requesting Informal Administration.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before April 17, 2020, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. in the District Court, Concordia, Cloud County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

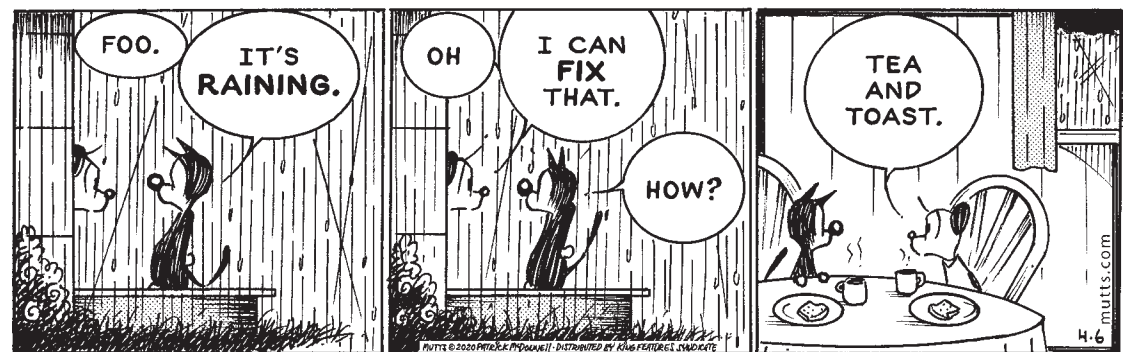
All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the estate within four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Tamara S. Maher, Petitioner

Scott R. Condray, S. Ct. #10047  
CONDRA Y & THOMPSON, LLC  
812 Washington  
P.O. Box 407  
Concordia, KS 66901-0407  
(785) 243-1357  
FAX (785) 243-1359  
condraylaw@condraylaw.com  
Attorneys for Petitioner

3m

MUTTS® by Patrick McDonnell



ZITS® by Scott and Borgman



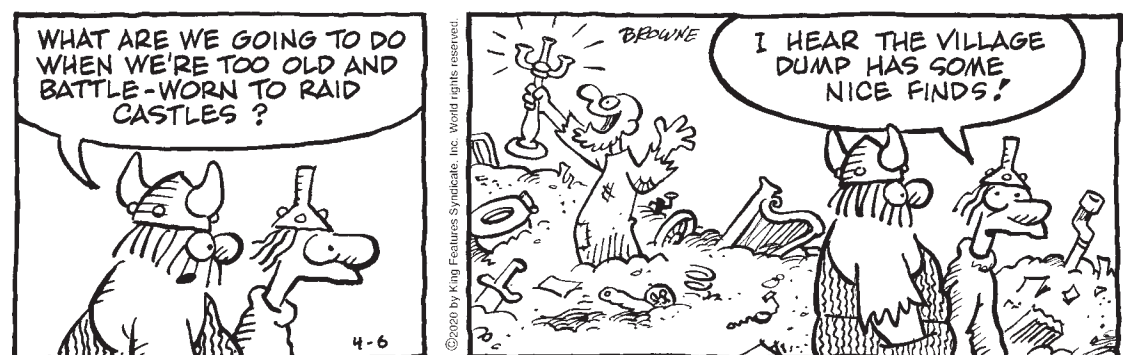
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# Student of the month

## Macy McMillan



Congratulations to Macy McMillan, Concordia High School's Student of the Month for April. Macy is the daughter of Howard and Shea McMillan.

Macy plans to attend Kansas State University Polytechnic to obtain a Bachelor of Science in the Professional Pilot program.

Macy has participated in Tennis, Scholars Bowl, Trap Team, National Honor Society, Renaissance, Friends of Rachel, Science Club, Foreign Language Club, and 4-H. In her spare time, Macy enjoys playing tennis, flying, traveling, and spending time with her family and friends.

Faculty, staff, and student leaders of CHS selected Macy McMillan as student of the month and wish her a successful future!

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# Obituaries

## JIMMIE DEAN OTOTT

Jimmie Dean Otott, son of Earl and Vera (Feldhausen) Otott, was born February 10, 1943, at Concordia, Kansas. He attended grade school in Palmer, Kansas, and graduated from Linn High School in 1961. He also attended Kansas Wesleyan College in Salina, Kansas.

On August 24, 1963, he was united in marriage to Jane Allsman at the Central Christian Church in Belleville, Kansas, and to this union two children were born: Kent and Candace. Throughout his adult life Jim was employed in the medical, agricultural, trucking industries, and the landscaping business. He especially enjoyed being involved with landscaping. He and Jane had their own nursery, "Sweet Cherry Village," for strawberries, cherries and assorted vegetable beds. In the most recent years, along with their nursery, Jim had his own lawn service during the growing season and snow removal in the winter months. In his spare time, Jim enjoyed his Jersey cows, and volunteered on the Belleville Fire Department. He also served as the director of the Republic County Ambulance Service, little league baseball coach, was a fan of Johnny Cash and the Statler Brothers and Gospel music.

Years ago he trusted Christ as his Lord and Savior at the Belleville Wesleyan Church. For many years he and Jane drove their church bus for various church activities and he was a volunteer at the Bill Glass Prison Crusades. In the past years, he attended the Landmark church of Belleville.

Jim passed from this life peacefully at his home in Belleville on Thursday, April 2, 2020. He was preceded in death by his parents. Jim will be forever remembered by his wife Jane of their home; children, Kent Otott, Concordia,



Jimmie Dean Otott

Kansas, and Candace Hitchcock (Wes), Sparks, Nebraska; grandchildren, Abbigail Hitchcock, Holdrege, Neb., Kylee Braithwait (Landon), Columbus, Neb., Gunnar Hitchcock (Skye), Johnston, Neb., Wyatt Hitchcock, Sparks, Neb., Allison Hitchcock, Sparks, Neb., Ashley Otott, Hutchinson, Kan., Duaine Otott, Hutchinson, Kan., Jossalin Otott, Concordia, Kan.; great-grandchildren, Elouise and Amelia Braithwait, Hugh and Bridger Hitchcock; daughter-in-law Lisa Otott, Concordia, Kan.; brother Roger Otott (Nancy) Linn, Kan.; other relatives and many friends.

A private family service was held Saturday, April 4, 2020, at Tibbetts-Fischer Funeral Home, Belleville, Kansas, with Pastor Wade Moss officiating. Interment was in the Belleville City Cemetery. Limited visitation was 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, April 3, at the funeral home. Donations in Jim's memory may be made to the Landmark Church or Blair Theater in c/o Tibbetts-Fischer Funeral Home. Tibbetts-Fischer Funeral Home of Belleville assisted the Otott family with these arrangements. [www.tibbettsfischer-funeralhome.com](http://www.tibbettsfischer-funeralhome.com)

# Gale

(continued from page 1)

Gale's second shift would start at 8 p.m., when he would pick up healthcare personnel at the hospital and return them to their hotel.

"Normally, driving in New York City would be a nightmare," Gale said, "but it's like a ghost town now. Not at all what I was used to."

The eeriness was compounded by what Gale saw when he picked up his passengers at the hospital. "Believe me, it's a war zone there. It's scary. Just plain scary."

Gale didn't go inside the hospital, but he saw the physical and emotional toll it was taking on the doctors and nurses. He saw it on their faces every time they got on his bus after a shift on the front lines.

"I would talk to them a little," he said. "I was wearing a mask, but I always smiled to them. Some of them would smile back. I could hear them talking to each other. It was scary. They were around so much death, day after day. This is very serious. This pandemic is killing people of all ages. No one is immune."

Despite the unrelenting

stream of sick patients, despite the rising death toll and the toll it was taking on the healthcare workers, they returned day after day, night after night to do battle again.

"I hope everyone realizes the courage of these people," Gale said. "Every day they go to work knowing it might be the day they become infected, and could die. Those people are the real heroes."

After one week on the front lines, Gale's company brought him home.

The eeriness continued on Gale's return flights home. There were few passengers on the planes. The airports in Newark, New Jersey, and Dallas-Fort Worth were nearly deserted.

Gale arrived back in Concordia on Saturday night, and immediately began an in-house 14-day quarantine. He's feeling fine with no symptoms, and trying to do his best to adjust to isolation.

"I'm glad to be back, but not handling the quarantine well. I'm still trying to process everything. I just want to impress on everyone, please, how real this thing is. I've been there; I've seen it up close, and it's scary."

# JOURNAL

(continued from page 1)

**A Concerned Citizen:** This is an actual quote that I've heard twice recently, right here in Concordia – "I don't watch TV anymore, I only watch Fox News."

**Dylan Thoman, CHS student:** I never thought that the Coronavirus would become this serious, but I will keep my experience on a lighter note. Social distancing has been fantastic for introverted people like me. At this point, I almost have a spiritual connection with my dogs because of the amount of time spent with them. Rolling out of bed and getting to the fridge as fast as possible is now down to a science.

In an attempt to stay sane, I have played through every video game twice, and I've even tried to rock every hairstyle imaginable. I have actually put on an outfit and looked into the mirror imagining that I'll wear that when this whole situation is over with. I've even attempted to challenge boredom with questionable exercise. For example, the max speed that I can run on the treadmill backward is eight, and I can do 85 push-ups in one minute. I think I've gone up the stairs in my house in every possible variation, from sprinting up them like a track star to skipping four steps at a time like a giant.

When I'm not in the basement doing what I have listed above, I'm annoying everyone else in the house. I particularly find joy in annoying my sister, Zaide, who can't escape back to college. I find new ways to push her buttons every other day. On a bit more serious note, this time of isolation and social distancing has brought my family closer together. By the way, my bountiful supply of toilet paper is better than yours.

Please email your thoughts to [russell@nckcn.com](mailto:russell@nckcn.com). In the Subject Line type "Journal Entry" Or you may write down your thoughts and mail them to: Blade-Empire Journal Entry 510 Washington Street Concordia, KS 66901

Please email photographs of you, your family and friends coping with the crisis. Humor is always appreciated. Email the photos to [russell@nckcn.com](mailto:russell@nckcn.com)

## Daily Trivia



In which decade was the New River George bridge in West Virginia opened?

**A:** 1970s.  
In which Woody Allen movie did Madonna play a trapeze artist?

**A:** Shadows & Fog.  
From 1903 to 1958, every Pope-bar one-took which name?

**A:** Pius.  
Bradley International Airport is in which US state?  
**A:** Connecticut.

## Markets

**LOCAL MARKETS -EAST**  
Wheat .....\$4.58  
Milo .....(per bushel) ....\$3.18  
Corn .....\$2.93  
Soybeans .....\$7.92

**CONCORDIA TERMINAL LOADING FACILITY LOCAL MARKETS - WEST**  
Wheat .....\$4.58  
Milo .....(per bushel) ....\$3.18

**JAMESTOWN MARKETS**  
Wheat .....\$4.48  
Milo ... (per bushel) .....\$3.11  
Corn.....\$2.86  
Nusuns.....\$16.60

# Three in four U.S. hospitals already facing COVID-19

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three out of four U.S. hospitals surveyed are already treating patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19, according to a federal report that finds hospitals expect to be overwhelmed as cases rocket toward their projected peak.

A report Monday from a federal watchdog agency warns that different, widely reported problems are feeding off each other in a vicious cycle. Such problems include insufficient tests, slow results, scarcity of protective gear, the shortage of breathing machines for seriously ill patients and burned-out staffs anxious for their own safety.

"There's this sort of domino effect," said Ann Maxwell, an assistant inspector general at the Department of Health and Human Services. "These challenges play off each other and exacerbate the situation. There's a cascade effect."

The inspector general's report is based on a telephone survey of 323 hospitals around the country, from March 23-27. With hundreds of new coronavirus cases daily, the situation is becoming more dire for many of the nation's 6,000 hospitals. Others can still scramble to prepare.

"Hospitals reported that their most significant challenges centered on testing and caring for patients with known or suspected COVID-19, and keeping staff safe," the report concluded.

"It's likely that every hospital in America is going to have to deal with this," Maxwell said.

In most people, the coronavirus causes mild to moderate symptoms. Others, particularly older people and those with underlying health issues, can develop life-threatening breathing problems. The U.S. has more diagnosed cases in the global pandemic than any other country, according to figures compiled by Johns Hopkins University. Projections show the nation will see the peak impact later this month.

Maxwell said the goal of the report was to describe the predicament hospitals are facing. She said the key

insight is that different problems — usually addressed individually — are building on each other to entangle the whole system.

For example, a lack of testing and slow results means hospitals must keep patients with unconfirmed coronavirus disease longer.

That takes up precious beds and uses up protective equipment like gowns, masks and face shields, since doctors and nurses have to assume that patients with symptoms of respiratory distress may be positive.

The increased workload raises the stress level for nurses, doctors and respiratory therapists, who are also concerned they may be unable to properly protect themselves.

"Health care workers feel like they're at war right now," a hospital administrator in New York City told the inspector general's investigators. They "are seeing people in their 30s, 40s, 50s dying. ... This takes a large emotional toll." The inspector general's office did not identify survey respondents due to privacy concerns.

Overtime hours and increased use of supplies are raising costs at the same time that many hospitals experience a revenue crunch because elective surgeries have been canceled. The recently passed federal stimulus bill pumps money to hospitals.

"It is in fact a national challenge, not just from the hot spots, but from all over the country," Maxwell said. Rural hospitals are vulnerable because of a limited number of beds and smaller staffs.

Of the 323 hospitals in the survey, 117 reported they were treating one or more patients with confirmed COVID-19, while 130 said they were treating one or more patients suspected to have the disease. Suspected infections are treated similarly, because of the uncertainties around testing. Only 32 hospitals said they were not treating any patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19. Another 44 hospitals did not provide that information.

# WEATHER HISTORY

For Monday, April 6, 2020

**1936** - A tornado outbreak in the Deep South resulted in a total of 446 deaths and eighteen million dollars damage. It was a "Tale of Two Cities". During the evening of the 5th a tornado hit Tupelo MS killing 216 persons, injuring 700 others, and causing three million dollars damage. The next morning the paths of two tornadoes met about 8:30 AM and cut a swath four blocks wide through Gainesville GA killing 203 persons, injuring 934, and causing thirteen million dollars damage. Eight to ten feet of debris filled the streets following the storm. At least 70 persons died in the Cooper Pants Factory, the greatest tornado toll of record for a single building. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

**1983** - The temperature at Denver, CO, dipped to a record cold seven degrees above zero. (The Weather Channel)

**1987** - Rain and melting snow caused flooding from New England to Ohio. Flooding in the Merrimack Valley of Massachusetts was the worst in fifty years, causing forty-two million dollars damage. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

**1988** - A powerful storm produced wind gusts to 75 mph around Chicago, IL, and wind gusts to 92 mph at Goshen IN. The high winds created twenty-five foot waves on Lake Michigan. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

**1989** - Unseasonably hot weather prevailed in California. Afternoon highs of 91 degrees in Downtown San Francisco, 93 degrees at San Jose, 98 degrees at San Diego, 103 degrees at Santa Maria, 104 degrees at Riverside, and 106 degrees in Downtown Los Angeles established records for the month of April. (The National Weather Summary)

**1990** - Snow developed in the northeastern U.S. for the second time in the month. In Virginia, a heavy wet snow blanketed northern and central sections of the Shenandoah Valley, and eastern foothills, with up to 12 inches reported around Harrisonburg. Heavy snow also blanketed the high elevations of West Virginia, with 10 inches reported at Snowshoe. An inch of snow at Syracuse NY raised their total for the winter season to a record-tying 161.3 inches. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

**2005** - Thunderstorms erupted and produced severe weather including 32 reports of tornadoes, most of which touched down in Mississippi and Louisiana. Between 20 and 25 homes were destroyed and 7 people were injured. Mississippi governor Haley Barbour declared a state of emergency (CNN).



## Easter Egg Hunt

The Frank Carlson Library and the Concordia Rotary Club are sponsoring a community-wide Easter Egg Hunt. Because the traditional Easter Egg Hunt was cancelled, library staff and Rotarians have planned a no-contact event. The public is invited to post pictures of Easter eggs in windows of their homes. As children walk through their neighborhoods, they can spot the Easter eggs.

Brightly colored Easter eggs can be downloaded from the Library's website: [fcarlsonlib.org](http://fcarlsonlib.org). There is also an option to print and color your own Easter eggs to display.

"This is a low-cost project that anyone can enjoy," said Rotarian Tyler Knox, who was responsible for placing the egg templates on the library's website. "Even families without a computer and printer can draw their own eggs. Everyone can participate by looking for Easter Eggs."

Library Director Denise de Rochefort-Reynolds noted that the project can boost morale and create community unity.

Easter eggs are already posted in the windows of the Frank Carlson Library.



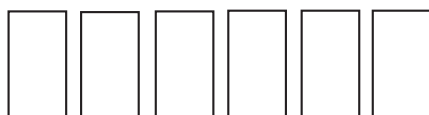
## Weather

High and low temperatures and precipitation for the 24 hours ending at 6 a.m. this morning.				Hutchinson			
	Hi	Lo	Prec.				
Chanute	58	53	0.00	Manhattan	60	54	0.00
Coffeyville	63	54	0.00	Medicine Lodge	64	56	0.00
Concordia	59	54	0.00	Olathe	55	48	0.00
Dodge City	57	52	0.00	Parsons	59	57	0.00
Emporia	60	49	0.00	Pratt Airport	62	56	0.00
Garden City	69	49	0.00	Russell	59	50	0.00
Goodland	68	38	0.00	Topeka	60	51	0.00
Hays	59	48	0.00	Wichita	63	56	0.00
Hill City	57	43	0.00	Salina	58	53	0.00
				Winfield/Ark City	64	54	0.00

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to discover something pertaining to reading.

S I S E E R



Answer: Series