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**BURGER**  
OF THE  
**WEEK**

**PEPPER  
JACK, BACON,  
PINEAPPLE  
RING, SPICY  
PEACH SAUCE ON  
BRIOCHE BUN**




# Concordia BLADE-EMPIRE

VOL. CXV111, NO. 31 (USPS 127-880)

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025



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## SNOW DAYS

### Massive winter storm dumps heavy snow across area

RUSSELL GAGNON  
Blade Staff Writer

A major snowstorm pummeled Concordia and Cloud County over the weekend, beginning with sleet and freezing rain that turned into a foot of snow in the southern parts of Cloud County.

The massive storm produced dangerous levels of snow and ice across a 1,000-mile range, from central Kansas through the mid-Atlantic states, closing major freeways in seven states. Millions of people dealt with a multitude of problems created by the storm, including power outages during record-breaking wind chill, and dangerous road conditions.

Over 300,000 people were without power on Monday in Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and West Virginia.

At least four people lost their lives over the weekend as a direct result of the storm.

Adam Jones, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in Topeka, said Concordia officially recorded 11 inches of snow, while the southern half of Cloud County received 12-15 inches of snow.



Blayne Sorensen, enjoying a second consecutive snow day, gets airborne after going over a ramp while sledding at Hood Park on Tuesday.

The last recorded snowfall amount this large was on December 8, 2009.

The record for the most snowfall recorded on January 5 was 17.2 inches in 1924.

Snowplows and private contractors were out cleaning roadways and driveways by Saturday evening even as the snow continued to fall.

County road crews began clearing rural roads at 4 a.m. on Sunday morning as farmers tried to reach their cattle.

Surprisingly, with all the ice, there were few reports of power outages within the Concordia city limits.

Concordia Unified School District 333 and Cloud County Community College were closed on Monday and remained closed on Tuesday.

Many businesses also remained closed.

Major interstates such as Highway 81 and I-70 were closed on Sunday but reopened on Monday. Many state highways remained closed on

Monday.

City of Concordia Public Works Director Shane Kisby said that his crews began treating the streets and sections of highways in town on Saturday afternoon.

"We started salting the emergency snow routes and the highways early Saturday afternoon when the sleet was coming down," Kisby said.

By Sunday morning Kisby's crews were working 12-hour shifts dealing with the major snowfall.

"We started early when it was still snowing to try and eliminate some of the bulk that would come later," Kisby said. "We're using one grader, three snow plows, and one skid loader. We got through most of the town by Monday afternoon."

Plowing the streets creates large piles of snow in the center of the streets, which Kisby hopes to start removing

by Tuesday morning, beginning with the emergency snow route accesses to facilities like the North Central Kansas Medical Center.

Kisby estimates that for just this weekend storm alone, his crews spread 48 tons of salt on the roads. "I don't yet know how much snow we'll have removed, but it's a lot."



Even snow plows get stuck. A Cat was needed to help a tractor that got stuck while trying to blade the snow from a parking lot on Fifth Street.



TIM CARPENTER/KANSAS REFLECTOR

Gov. Laura Kelly stopped at Mi Pueblito Meat Market, a Latino-owned grocery store in Topeka, in May 2022, to promote a reduction in the state food tax.

## State sales tax on groceries eliminated

TOPEKA — Beginning on January 1, Kansans are no longer paying state sales tax on groceries. They will still pay city- and county-imposed taxes, but the current state tax of 2% will be reduced to zero.

A 2022 law set out a three-year plan to reduce the state's sales tax on groceries, which was at 6.5% in 2022. In 2023, it was reduced to 4%, and in 2024 to 2%. When the bill was introduced, Kansas had one of the highest food sales taxes, second to Mississippi with 7%.

City and county grocery taxes will still be added. They range from 0%, in 11 counties, to a high of 2.25% in Sherman County. Most counties have between 0.01% to 2% grocery taxes. Twelve counties have a grocery tax higher than 2%. The average monthly household cost for groceries is about \$500 per month, so it's estimated that the average Sherman County household would pay about \$11 per month on grocery tax. In 2022, they would have paid around \$34 per month.

see TAX on page 2

## Business project agreement approved

An agreement with LeDuc Properties for a new business project, and an ordinance that changed the zoning in Block 4 of the Concordia original town site were among the action items at the meeting of the city commission on January 2.

The meeting was moved from Wednesday, January 1, because of the holiday. Commissioner Ashley Hutchinson was absent from the meeting. Commissioner Chuck Lambertz joined the meeting remotely.

The meeting began with Mayor Amy Jackson signing a proclamation that made January 2025 the National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month in Concordia.

Millions of men, women, and children are victims of human trafficking, which is the second-largest and fastest-growing criminal industry in the world. Human trafficking denies victims basic human dignity and freedom and is based on recruiting, harboring, and transporting people through the use of force, fraud, and/or

coercion for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor. It is a crime that can take many forms and tear at our social fabric, debase our common humanity, and violate what we stand for as a country.

Traffickers frequently target victims and then use violence, threats, lies, false promises, debt bondage, or other forms of control and manipulation to force victims to work against their will or to keep victims involved in commercial sexual exploitation.

The U.S. Justice Department has identified Kansas as an originating state for human trafficking, and most trafficking in Kansas involves local children.

With improved victim identification, medical and social services, training for first responders, and increased public awareness, the victims who have suffered this cruel crime can overcome the bonds of modern slavery, receive protection and justice, and successfully reclaim their rightful independence.

The Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas is joining forces with victim service providers, criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens throughout Central Kansas and the United States. Together, we commit to a society where our sense of justice tells us that, united, we can eradicate this wrong and continue to fight for human dignity and the rights of every person.

Mayor Jackson then signed a proclamation making January 2025 National Stalking Awareness Month in Concordia.

Stalking is intentional harassment — a pattern of behavior directed at a specific person, causing that person to feel fear and endangerment for themselves or their family. The variation in stalking behavior ranges from hang-up phone calls to more direct threats toward a victim. The likelihood of injury increases when the stalking behavior escalates over time.

Under the laws of Cloud County, Kansas, and all jurisdictions in the U.S.,

stalking is a crime. The majority of victims are stalked by someone they know, typically an ex-dating partner or acquaintance, and three in four women killed by an intimate partner had been stalked by that same intimate partner.

The statistics do not represent the true incidence and prevalence of stalking for multiple reasons. Not all victims report the crime to law enforcement, and stalking is a tactic of domestic violence and sexual abuse, so it may not be reported as the primary form of abuse and victimization although the victim has experienced stalking along with other forms of abuse.

Many stalking victims are forced to protect themselves by relocating, changing their identities, changing jobs, and obtaining protection orders. Many stalking victims lose time from work, experience serious psychological distress and lost productivity at a much higher rate than the general population.

see AGREEMENT on page 2

## Weather pictures provided by the Concordia Elementary Students



Today's weather artwork by Mason Nunez a 4th grader in Mrs. Krier's class



Today's weather artwork by Hunter Pfister a 4th grader in Miss Rippka's class



Today's weather artwork by Rylan Samuel a 4th grader in Mrs. Richard's class



Today's weather artwork by Zaylee Jackson a 1st grader in Miss Anderson's class



Today's weather artwork by Carter Sutton-Kearn a 1st grader in Mrs. Erkenbrack's class



Today's weather artwork by Eric Strait Jr. a 1st grader in Mrs. Popelka's class



Today's weather artwork by Jaxon Whiteley a 1st grader in Mrs. Peltier's class



Today's weather artwork by Wyatt Seward a 4th grader in Miss Rippka's class



Today's weather artwork by Anders Herman a 4th grader in Mrs. Krier's class



Today's weather artwork by Lollie Bowers a 1st grader in Mrs. Erkenbrack's class



Today's weather artwork by Weylen McKee a 1st grader in Mrs. Thompson's class



Today's weather artwork by Betty Yang a 2nd grader in Mrs. Snavely's class

## Tax

continued from 1

Nancy Hamilton, a health psychologist, says the burden of the food sales tax — and other regressive taxes — fall the heaviest on low-income communities.

"Eliminating sales tax on food should have a greater benefit for those with the least because they spend the greatest proportion of their income on necessities like food," Hamilton said.

The Kansas Health Institute found that not only did the tax harm low-income Kansans financially, but also in terms of health.

"Taxes are a financial driver within the overall food system that impact household purchasing power and behavior, community health and nutrition," they said.

The 2022 law was passed with bipartisan support, unanimously in the Senate and with an overwhelming majority in the House. G

Kansas Governor. Laura Kelly said that the tax cut is a "win for the Kansas people," after hearing Kansans' concerns with inflation on food.

When the law was passed, food prices had increased by 9.9%. In 2023, they increased by 5.8%.

"You take a 6.5% reduction in the cost of food for people — that makes a huge difference to many, many people," Kelly said. "Now I think we calculated that the average family of four would save over \$500 a year, just on sales tax elimination."

## Agreement

continued from 1

Communities can better combat stalking by raising awareness, adopting multidisciplinary responses by teams of local agencies and organizations, and providing more and better victim services.

Commissioners then met in executive session for 20 minutes with City Manager Amy Lange, City Attorney Justin Ferrell, Jesse Pounds, CloudCorp Executive Director Tim Beims, and Troy and Shirley LeDuc to discuss confidential business matters.

After the executive session, commissioners took action, voting 4-0 to approve an agreement between the city and LeDuc Properties for the development of a concrete batch plant at the location of Block 4 of the Concordia Original Town Site.

The new batch plant would enable LeDuc Properties to significantly enlarge its sales territory and operational reach, with up to 75% of the total product manufactured in Cloud County projected to be sold outside Kansas to satisfy existing demand "pull" in Minnesota, Iowa, Kentucky, New Mexico, Colorado, North and South Dakota, Michigan, and other states. LeDuc Properties intends to hire local contractors for the construction as much as possible, and also hire at least one full-time employee at the site to begin operations.

The estimated total development cost for the project, excluding operational costs, is approximately \$300,000.

Continuing in the action item portion of the meeting, by a 4-0 vote, commissioners rejected a new agreement with Prairie Land Electric Cooperative (PLE) for the installation and maintenance of black metal street light poles at the St. Joseph Subdivision, in the amount of \$105.75 per month.

The city entered into an agreement with PLE for installation of an electrical underground distribution system to serve the St. Joseph Subdivision. This work was approved on June 5, 2024, and included installation of cabling, transformers and other appurtenances. A separate agreement approved at the same time also included installation of three street lights.

Under the current agreement with PLE, the city will incur a monthly charge of \$48.75 for basic wooden street light poles, which are owned and maintained by PLE. The city commission had directed staff to consider options for black street light poles, and PLE provided a new agreement for black street light poles at a rate of \$105.75 per month.

Commissioners then approved Ordinance 2025-3232 that changed the zoning in Block 4 of the Concordia Original Town Site from I-1 Light Industrial District to I-2 Heavy Industrial District.

Bruno Rehbein, the city's Building Inspector/Planning & Zoning, informed commissioners that the ordinance was a recommendation from the Planning Commission. Troy LeDuc had requested the zoning change from I-1 Light Industrial District to I-2 Heavy Industrial District for the purpose of developing the property with a concrete batch plant.

In its final action of the evening, commissioners approved Ordinance 2025-3233, vacating the entire alleyway between Kansas and Olive Streets in Block 4 of the Concordia Original Town Site.

The Planning Commission recommended vacating the entire undeveloped alley right-of-way between Kansas and Olive Streets in Block 4 so LeDuc Properties could develop the site for its concrete batch plant.

With no further business on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

## SUDOKU

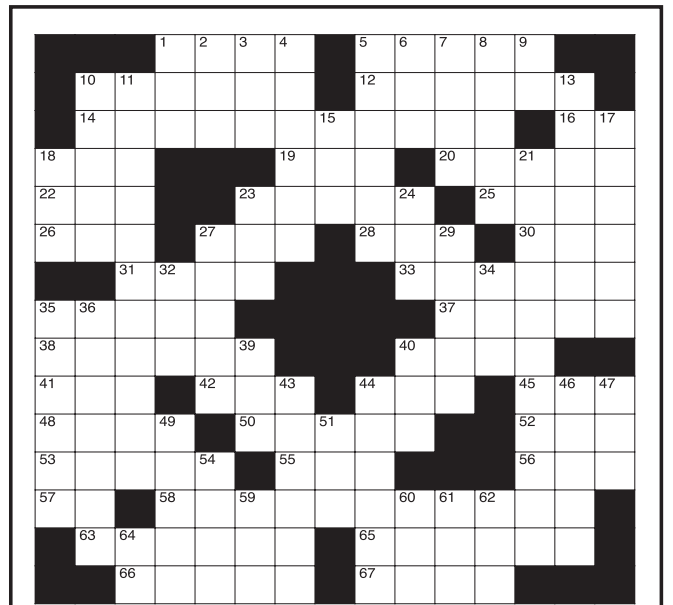
Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | 4 |   | 6 | 1 |   |   |   |
|   |   | 6 | 3 |   | 9 |   | 4 | 5 |
|   |   |   |   | 2 |   | 8 |   |   |
| 7 |   |   | 6 |   |   |   | 8 | 4 |
|   |   | 3 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | 2 |   |   |   |   | 9 |   |   |
|   |   |   | 8 | 1 | 7 |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 3 |   |
|   |   |   |   | 5 |   |   | 9 | 6 |

Level: Intermediate

## Crossword



### CLUES ACROSS

- Hand (Spanish)
- Siskel and \_\_, critics
- Seaman
- Chemical weapon
- One who eliminates
- They precede C
- Baseball stat
- Americans' "uncle"
- Cassia tree
- Surround
- Crisp and Pebbles are two
- A sudden very loud sound
- Affirmative
- Disadvantage
- Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- OJ trial judge
- New York art district
- Become more bleak
- Upstate NY city
- Clarified butters
- One who witnesses
- Condemn
- \_\_ juris
- Natural
- Prohibit
- Swiss river
- Greek war god
- 5 iron
- New Zealand mountain parrot
- Scandinavian surname
- Follows sigma
- Doctor of Education
- Spanish be
- One that feeds on bugs
- Tooth issue
- Get into
- Lumps of clay
- Overly studious student

### CLUES DOWN

- Variety of Chinese
- Boxing's GOAT
- Japanese classical theater
- Prayer
- Inspire with love
- Ballplayers' accessory
- Retailer payment system
- More raw
- Atomic #81
- Fencing sword
- Hostilities
- Sea dweller
- Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects
- Businessmen
- Rest here please (abbr.)
- Loud devices
- Make a soft murmuring sound
- One point west of due south
- Trout
- Type of grass
- South American plant
- Letter of the Greek alphabet
- Not secure
- Traveler
- Sweet potato
- Period after sunrise and before sunset
- Some are choppy
- Asian country
- Genus of mosquitoes
- Cool!
- Shrill, wailing sound
- A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- Within
- Unhappy
- Decorate a cake with frosting
- Videocassette recorder
- Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- It cools a home

Puzzle Answers on Page 7

Thank You for Reading the Blade-Empire & The Miltonvale Area News!

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# Sister Dorothea Stoeber

1903 ~ Orphan Train Rider ~ Iowa

**This story is taken from "Orphan Train Riders: Their Own Stories," Volume 6**

Just before her death on January 4, 1979, Sister Dorothea wrote an autobiography. From unknown beginnings into life on earth to an unexpected entrance into another life, her story is so unique that we give it mostly in her own words:

I was born in Manhattan in Rockefeller Center area, a great square housing the Empire State Building. I knew little about my early years when, in August of 1965, Sister Mary Angela and I went to visit the world's fair. After Cardinal Spellman's Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, we strolled along to St. Vincent Ferrer Church to obtain blessed water. Here an elderly gentleman stopped to speak to us. He said this whole area was a scene of raging fire down to 66th Street and Third Avenue in 1903. It was the worst the city had ever seen. Many people lost homes, many perished; hundreds of firemen on the scene kept tossing children into safety nets, carrying victims to ambulances amidst screams and noises. Blocks and blocks became places of devastation.

Little did he know that my earliest recollection was of this very fire he was speaking of. I remember landing on a net and bouncing into the strong arms of a fireman.

About three blocks away, we saw a building eight stories high with a place card reading, "Home for Dependent Children." It was under the care of the Sisters of Charity founded by dearly beloved Mother Seton. This home



Sister M. Dorothea before entering Mt. St. Francis

enrolled children of three years—myself among them—for only one year. If at the end at that time no one called, nor any information on their background was found, they were sent to foster homes. Since the enrollment after the fire exceeded the number that could be cared for, various dioceses were asked to find families to adopt these children. So many people responded that plans were made to send matrons with a trainload. The state of Iowa had the largest number answering the call.

Many years later, as I was applying for social

security in 1965, I had neither a birth nor a baptismal certificate. After a thorough search through files and records, the Fathers at St. Vincent Ferrer Church found a small worn-out paper written by a Benedictine Father and badly blotched, but which recorded my conditional baptism at the age of three, as well as three birthdates—March 4, 8, and 14 or 1900. I chose the last.

One week before Christmas of 1903, the train with our matrons arrived at the station in Remsen, Iowa. Five little girls were taken to the rectory, where we

were to meet our new foster parents. On our arrival, Sister M. Blandina and Mother Coletta witnessed that happy scene. Now my new life was to begin with the Adam Stoeber family. Mrs. Adam Stoeber had died in November, which left the family still mourning her departure.

I found a new home on the farm with Grandfather Stoeber, Aunt Molly, Aunt Margaret, Uncle Barney, and Uncle Leonard—as they wished me to call them.

In the spring, Uncles Leonard and Barney and Aunt Margaret made plans to continue on the farm, while Grandfather and Aunt Molly were to build an eight-room house in town. The large Homan pasturage for chickens, ducks, two horses, cows, and a pond, would be a great asset.

In the spring on 1904, Grandfather and Aunt Molly took over the new residence, one block from church and school. Because I often played on the swings and needed companionship, Sister Blandina offered to have me enter school at the early age of four. What fun to be with a class of almost 70 little tots reading that old Benziger reader and charts, sewing drawing cards of birds and flowers, eating lunch from a nice bucket.

Due to a large enrollment of the school, Sister Editha, school supervisor, came to shift rooms for better organization. That was the way I skipped the second grade, because I passed all the tests. I rode along rather smoothly, a great asset to the German Stoeber family, who could neither read nor write the English beyond fourth grade.



## Looking Back

### 75 Years Ago—1950

The long-legged bird swooped into Cloud County 543 times in 1949, leaving 290 boys and 253 girls. Double loads were delivered to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Tillinghast, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Polson, Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Burns and Mr. and Mrs. Neill Gunnell, with the only cargo of sugar and spice being left for the Gunnells in the form of their daughter, Ruth... former Concordian Rob Roy Buckingham, son of Roy Buckingham, who was city editor of the Blade-Empire in 1918 and 1919, was one of several newsmen expelled from Czechoslovakia by the Communist government... Don Pae, drum major for the high school band, had been selected by the officials of the National Baton Twirling association and by the editors of Drum Major magazine, as one of the 301 "finer baton twirling exponents now residing the the United States"... Cloud County was among the counties affected after the Secretary of Agriculture announced a corn production program calling for a 12.9 percent cut in plantings as a step to avoid a top-heavy surplus... James Huff and his son had opened a plumbing and fixture shop in Glasco... Cub Scouts of Den 4 met with Mrs. Francis Palmquist and Den Chief Brad Lowell taught the boys how to tie square knots, neck ties and packages...

### 60 Years Ago—1965

The library board voted to encourage the use of library facilities by students of the projected Community College, and "If more reference material or books are needed, the board will comply with the demand"... two new county officials began their terms: Kenneth Peery replaced Lee Stanford as county attorney and Carl Clintsman replaced Leon Bonham as sheriff... Miss Cathy Claycamp, Mankato; and Miss Patricia Yaksich and Miss Marie Feasel, both of Concordia, had accepted positions with the U.S. Navy Department in Washington, D. C. ... Concordia High School basketball coach Larry Werhan reported that Bill Kagle was the player to show the most improvement since the holidays and would be a starter at the game against the Minneapolis Lions, the first time all 12 players on the A team would be suited up for a game due to injuries: Jack Mitchell, ankle injury; Ron Townsend, broken bone in foot; Lynn Nelson, injured eye... Misses Edna and Doris Walker and Harry entertained with a Christmas dinner... Townsend's Gifts advertised a new shipment of chocolate covered pretzels... Mrs. Lyle Wilgers and Mrs. Gary Cash gave a layette shower for Mrs. Ernest Paquette...

### 50 Years Ago—1975

Sister Isabelle Poisson, resident at St. Mary's Convent in Concordia, had been a Sister of St. Joseph of Concordia for 80 years, the oldest Sister in the Community... Lloyd T. "Tom" Hutchinson, 1970 graduate of Concordia High School, had been named as a full-time deputy sheriff... Peggy Owensby, student of nursing at Marymount College, was working with Cloud County Public Health Department staff during the January inter-term... Marine Private William Jensen, Miltonvale, was graduated from recruit training at the Marine Corps Recruit Training Depot in San Diego... Mrs. Marilyn Hesse of Concordia, student at Marymount College, accompanied Sister Lucy Schneider, Marymount professor of English, to the Boston-Concord-Salem area to study backgrounds of writers Thoreau, Emerson, Hawthorne and Melville... Mr. and Mrs. N. P. Nobert, Cuba, announced the engagement of their daughter, Connie Sue, to Gino Ernest Brichalli, son of Mr. and Mrs. Meo Brichalli, Concordia...

### 25 Years Ago—2000

Gwendolyn Elyse Stiles, daughter of Chris and Melissa Stiles, Concordia, was the first baby born at Cloud County Health Center in the new millennium... Maria Letourneau, Kayla Metro and Jaime Andersen, Concordia High School Dance Squad members, performed in the 2000 Florida Citrus Bowl halftime presentation New Year's Day in Orlando, Fla. ... Russ and Mia Budreau, Clyde, announced the birth of a son, Adam Rickey... a poetry contest was underway at the Frank Carlson Library, with cash prizes for senior high and junior high levels... Jared Collette, Aurora, was listed on the deans' honor roll for the 1999 fall semester at Fort Hays State University... Pat and Jolene Girard, Clyde, were the parents of a son, Elias Joe...

### 10 Years Ago—2015

Dr. Dorothy Breault had been selected by her fellow providers to be the Chief of Staff for Cloud County Health Center... a coffee bar was a new addition to the Concordia Senior Center... Drake Hake had been selected as the January Student of the Month at Concordia High School... Kaitlin Woellhof, Valley Center, graduate of CHS, was among 32 beginning educators from around the state of Kansas who were named 2015 Kansas Cable Telecommunications Horizon Award recipients... work was nearing completion on a new business, Urban Couture Salon+Spa, in downtown Concordia...

### 5 Years Ago—2020

Gertrude Isabelle Householder Breault celebrated her 100th birthday... Laura Hansen, administrative assistant in the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia's Development Office, was the guest reader at Reading With Friends... Vonn Malcuit, Concordia, won \$10,000 in the "Celebrate Kansas" lottery drawing...

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## Landowners and producers: plan to attend to voice your conservation concerns

*A local meeting option for Cloud, Jewell, Mitchell & Republic Residents on Jan. 29; RSVP by Jan. 24*

The Concordia NRCS Management Unit will be hosting a Local Work Group (LWG) meeting on Wednesday, January 29.

The complimentary taco bar will begin at 12:00 p.m. at the Cloud County Co-op Distribution Center Meeting Room, located at 1401 East Sixth Street Trafficway, Concordia, Kan. The counties in the Concordia Natural Resources Conservation Service Management Unit (MU) are Cloud, Jewell, Mitchell and Republic.

The purpose of this meeting is to make recommendations relating to natural resource concerns. These local concerns will be forwarded to the NRCS State Conservationist, David Doctorian.

"LWGs are important because they provide recommendations on local and state natural resource priorities and criteria for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) conservation activities and programs. It is critical that the 'boots on the ground' have a voice in the process," said Dan Meyerhoff, executive director for the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD).

According to Meyerhoff, the LWG should be diverse and focus on agricultural interests and natural resource issues existing in the community. Membership should include agricultural producers representing the variety of crops, livestock and poultry raised within the local area. Also, representatives of agricultural and environmental organizations and governmental agencies carrying out agricultural and natural resource conservation and activities are included. LWGs take into account the concerns of particular historically underserved groups and individuals, including but not limited to women, persons with disabilities, socially disadvantaged, and limited resource groups.

Some of the 2024 LWG Statewide Resource Concerns that were discussed at over 50% of the state-wide LWG meetings involving the five main topics include:

*Need for increased adoption of soil health practices; Active erosion associated with structural practices that have exceeded their life span; Cedar tree invasion (and other invasive species); Lack of prescribed burning or barriers to prescribed burning; Declining ground water*

*levels; Declining population of ground nesting game birds; Concern with growing numbers of absentee landowners*

Potential topics for discussion at the January 29 meeting include but are not limited to:

**RESOURCE ASSESSMENT:** *What are the greatest natural resource concerns on your farm, or in your area? On a broader scale: what are the resource concerns seen across the landscape (think watershed or county)?*

**CLIMATE RESPONSE:** *Is there an awareness of weather-related disaster response programs? Does adequate knowledge of weather-related response programs – and the processes involved – currently exist?*

**URBAN/SMALL FARM:** *Is there an awareness of small farms within the Management Unit (MU)? Are those farms aware of available conservation partnering opportunities?*

**OUTREACH:** *What type of outreach mediums (Facebook, newsletters, field days, etc.) have been successful? What barriers to outreach have been experienced?*

**PROGRAMS:** *What potential program implementation improvements are needed to address identified resource concerns? What are some successes of the current programs?*

**Please RSVP for the Wednesday, January 29 meeting by Friday, January 24** for the complimentary taco bar by contacting your local Conservation District!

To request more information about LWGs, contact the Conservation District or NRCS staff in any of the four counties involved in the Concordia NRCS Management Unit.

Cloud County 785-243-1509 ext. 3; Jewell County 785-378-3731 ext. 3; Mitchell County 785-738-5172 ext. 3;

Republic County 785-527-2725 ext. 3.

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## OBITUARIES

### Caley Robyn Wilson

May 4, 1990 – December 29, 2024

Caley Robyn Wilson, 34, of Concordia, Kansas, passed away on December 29, 2024. She was born in Salina, Kansas, to Mark and Cindy (Anderson) Challans.

She was a graduate of Moundridge High School, Moundridge, Kansas, where she was a cheerleader, a flutist in band, and was class president. Caley went on to graduate from the American Academy of Cosmetology in Manhattan, Kansas.

She was currently working at Clifton-Clyde High School District #224 as the Secretary, and loved her job and her co-workers.

Caley was united in marriage to her loving husband, Eric Wilson, on April 21, 2018, at The Branch in Clyde, Kansas. Their son, Nash, was the biggest joy in her life. She had wanted to be a mother since she was a little girl and Nash fulfilled her dreams. She was such a good "boy mom" and so proud of Nash.

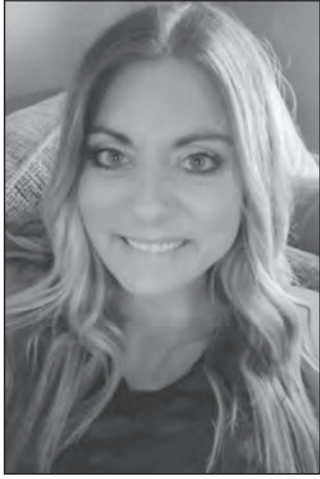
Caley was a caring and compassionate person, and loved everyone with her whole heart. She made each one of her friends feel like they were her best friend, because they all were. Her love for Eric was strong & deep and he stood by her through thick and thin. Caley cared for all animals and her well-loved "girls" Scout "Goldendoofus" & especially her "Dixie girl." She was so witty, with a great sense of humor and her giggles and laughs alone could make everyone else laugh with (or at) her. She was a good sport and often laughed at herself and her "Caley-isms." She is irreplaceable.

Caley is preceded in death by her Papa, Robert J. Anderson and her Grandma Elsie K. Challans.

She will be missed by her husband, Eric Wilson, and son, Nash Wilson of Concordia, KS; her parents, Mark and Cindy Challans of Smolan, KS; sister, Lacey Fischer of McPherson, KS, and brother Daniel Challans (Kelsey) of Tescott, KS; grandparents, Barbara B Anderson of Salina, KS; Robert R Challans of Newton, KS; parents-in-law, Reed and Christine Wilson of Clyde, KS; sister-in-law, Laura Gray (Nevada) of Abilene, KS; and many beloved Aunts, Uncles, nieces & nephews, cousins and friends.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at The Branch in Clyde, KS, on Friday, January 10, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. with Ron Elsasser officiating.

Visitation will take place on Thursday, January 9, 2025, at The Branch from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with family greeting friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Memorials may be made to the Nash Wilson Education Fund in care of Chaput-Buoy Funeral Home, P.O. Box 606, Concordia, KS 66901.



### Gertrude (Trudy) Poe

August 12, 1935 – December 25, 2024

Gertrude (Trudy) Poe, nee Bilderbeck, was born August 12, 1935, in St. Louis, Missouri, and passed away peacefully on December 25, 2024. Trudy was fun loving and loved to travel with her best friend and niece Teddy Lineberry. They traveled to Europe and went on cruises, as well as traveling the U.S. to visit relatives and tourist destinations.

She worked for Traveler's Insurance for 20 years before retiring. While living in Concordia, Trudy served as a Representative of the Cloud County Commission on Aging and as a Board member on the North Central Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging.

Trudy was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. Over the following years she lived in Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Rockport, Texas, and Concordia, Kansas. Trudy was happiest when with family, traveling, or shopping.

She spent the last few years as a resident of The Nicol Home in Glasco, Kansas. She was well loved by the staff and was very popular with the other residents.

Trudy is survived by her daughters, Valerie (Craig) Giglio of Tecumseh, OK, Cara (Steve) Martino of Eau Claire, WI, and Candace Musgrove of Pensacola, FL. She had four granddaughters, Crystal (Matt) Bradford, of Oklahoma City, Shannon (Frankie) Williams of Colorado Springs, Elizabeth (Michael) Meyer of Foreston, MN, Jennifer Giglio of Tecumseh, OK, and six great-grandchildren. Trudy is also survived by two brothers, Mike and Steve Bilderbeck, both of Memphis, TN, and numerous nieces, nephews and greats. Also known as MeMe, she was adored by all of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Trudy was preceded in death by her parents, her sisters and brother, and other family members.

A memorial service will be held at Nutter Mortuary in Concordia, KS, January 3, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to The Nicol Home in Glasco, KS, the Senior Center in Concordia, KS, or the Resource Center in Concordia, KS.

She will be cherished and missed by all who knew her.

For online condolences, please visit [nuttermortuary.com](http://nuttermortuary.com).



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### Eudyne "Dean" J. Reames

March 3, 1953 – December 30, 2024

Eudyne "Dean" J. Reames, 71 years of age, of Jamestown passed away, Monday, December 30, 2024, at the Hilltop Lodge in Beloit, Kansas. He was born on March 3, 1953, in Concordia, Kansas to Eugene and Frances (Fulmer) Reames.

Dean was a graduate of Jamestown High School in the Class of 1971.

He was a welder for many years at Combustion Engineer, Sunflower Manufacturing, and Gerard Tank and Steel. Dean also was the manager for the Co-Op Elevator in Jamestown for 22 years.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing and learning.

Dean is survived by his daughter, Raelan Reames, Jamestown, KS, brother, Randall Reames, Jamestown, KS; sister, Carlene Edwards (Dick), Jamestown, KS; friends, George Idorf (Kathie) Jamestown, KS; Jim Conn, Concordia, KS; his two beloved grandchildren, Kellner and Tannith.

He was preceded in death by his parents Eugene and Frances, his sister, Jolene Strnad.

Visitation will be held from 9-11 a.m., on Thursday morning, January 9, 2025, at the Chaput-Buoy Funeral Home in Concordia, Kansas.

Celebration of Life will be held 11 a.m. on Thursday, January 9, 2024, at the Chaput-Buoy Funeral Home in Concordia, Kansas, with Pastor Randy Whitley officiating.

A burial will follow in the Jamestown Cemetery in Jamestown, Kansas.

Memorials may be left to the Jamestown Cemetery Fund or Jamestown Fireworks Display in c/o Chaput-Buoy Funeral Home, PO Box 606, Concordia, KS 66901.

Condolences may be left online at [www.chaputbuoy.com](http://www.chaputbuoy.com).



## Chamber Corner

Please join us on January 14, 2025, from 8 to 9 a.m. for our weekly Chamber Coffee. If you are interested in becoming a Chamber Member or being a Chamber Coffee Sponsor, please contact Annie Bergmann at 785-243-4290 or email [info@concordiakansaschamber.com](mailto:info@concordiakansaschamber.com). Join us for coffee and donuts: Donuts provided by Me and Ma's Bakery.

Keep up to date on all the events and activities happening in Concordia and the surrounding area.

Join us Tuesday morning, January 14th from 8 to 9 a.m. as we do a traveling coffee to The Grind coffee house for a Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening as well as this week's chamber coffee.

It is located at 104 E. 7th Street, Concordia KS 66901.

## SHERIFF DEPT.

**Arrest**—At 11:31 p.m. on Friday, December 27, a deputy had a car stop at Oat and 145th roads. After an on-scene investigation, the deputy arrested Caleb Jay Miller, Glasco, for driving under the influence.

**Unattended death**—At 10:58 a.m. on Monday, December 23, a deputy got a call for an unattended death.

**Non-injury accidents**—At 1:21 p.m. on Monday, December 23, a deputy took a report of a non-injury accident in Clyde.

At 9:11 a.m. on Wednesday, December 25, a deputy took a report of a non-injury accident located at 280th and Rust roads.

At 7:59 a.m. on Friday, December 27, a deputy took a report of a non-injury accident located at Deer and 30th roads.

At 9:39 p.m. on Saturday, December 28, a deputy took a report of a non-injury accident located at U.S. 81 Highway and Noble Road.

## EMT/FIRE DEPT.

### Monday, December 30, 2024

At 10:15 a.m., Medic 2 was dispatched for a medical emergency. One patient was transported to North Central Kansas Medical Center (NCKMC).

At 10:37 a.m., Medic 2 was dispatched for a medical emergency. One patient was transported to NCKMC.

At 12:57 p.m., Medic 2 was dispatched for a medical emergency. There was no patient transport.

At 2:57 p.m., Medic 2 was dispatched for a medical emergency. There was no patient transport.

At 9:15 p.m., Medic 2 was dispatched for a medical emergency. There was no patient transport.

At 10:54 p.m., Medic 5 was dispatched for an advanced life support, long-distance transfer. One patient was transported to Salina Regional Health Center.

At 11:31 p.m., Medic 2 was dispatched for a blood draw. There was no patient transport.

### Tuesday, December 31, 2024

At 12:40 a.m., Medic 2 was dispatched for a medical emergency. One patient was transported to NCKMC.

At 2:03 p.m., Medic 5 was dispatched for a basic life support, long-distance transfer. One patient was transported to Salina Regional Health Center.

At 5:11 p.m., Medic-2 was dispatched for a medical emergency. One patient was transported to NCKMC.

Concordia Fire Department/EMS total number of runs for 2024: 1,002.

### Wednesday, January 1, 2025

At 1:11 a.m., Medic 2 was dispatched for a medical emergency. One patient was transported to NCKMC.

At 7:31 a.m., Medic 2 was dispatched for a medical emergency. One patient was transported to Mitchell County Hospital Health Systems.

At 10:16 a.m., Medic 2 was dispatched for a medical emergency. It was cancelled en route.

At 11:51 a.m., Medic 2 was dispatched for a medical emergency. There was no patient transport.

At 3:05 p.m., Medic 5 was dispatched for an advanced life support, long-distance transfer. One patient was transported to Salina Regional Health Center.

At 9:55 p.m., Medic 2 was dispatched for a medical emergency. There was no patient transport.

At 11:07 p.m., Medic 2 was dispatched for a medical emergency. One patient was transported to NCKCM.

## Business Grant Funds Available for a Limited Time

### Cloud County Community Development Block Grant-COVID Resiliency Project Ending Soon

BY CAROL TORKELSON  
NCRPC Community Development  
Assistant/CDBG Project Administrator

BELOIT, KS, JANUARY 3, 2025 — Limited grant funding remains to assist for-profit businesses in Cloud County that were in operation as of March 1, 2020. The funding is part of the Community Development Block Grant-COVID Resiliency (CDBG-CVR) grant program awarded to Cloud County in Fall 2023.

Similar projects are also underway in Lincoln and Mitchell Counties. The North Central Regional Planning Commission, Beloit, is administering these projects in each county.

These grants can help cover expenses for various projects, including equipment, software, professional development and training, HVAC upgrades, and more. The program aims to improve businesses in ways that directly enhance their resilience to events like pandem-

ics or emergencies, with the primary goal of retaining jobs for low-to-moderate income families. This marks the fourth and final round of the Kansas CDBG-CV program.

"This is a unique opportunity for businesses to access grant funds that can help them become more resilient should we experience another health emergency such as COVID," says NCRPC Community Development Assistant Carol Torkelson.

To be included in this project, businesses must submit their completed application by February 15, 2025. In addition to the requirement that the business must have been operational as of March 1, 2020, additional eligibility criteria are outlined in the application.

Interested businesses should contact Carol Torkelson to determine if their business project qualifies. Torkelson can be reached at the North Central Regional Planning Commission at 785-738-2218 or via email at [communitydevelopmentassistant@ncrpc.org](mailto:communitydevelopmentassistant@ncrpc.org).



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## #2 Centralia defeat #3 Clifton-Clyde, deliver brutal first loss, 63-35

BY TUCKER ASHBURN

The number three ranked Clifton-Clyde girls basketball team suffered their first loss of the season, falling 64-35 to number two ranked Centralia last Friday.

The normally stalwart Eagle offense struggled to launch for the entire first half, scoring only two points in the first quarter, falling behind 28-2, with the first points coming late into the quarter.

Centralia's lead would continue to grow despite Clifton-Clyde finally finding an offense, with the Panthers expanding their lead as they outscored the Eagles 13-8 in the second quarter to enter halftime 41-10.

The 41 first half points would be the thirds most points given up, behind the 47 and 51 total points against St. John's/Tipton and Rock Creek.

Despite outscoring the Panthers in the third quarter, time would not be on their side as the Eagles entered the fourth quarter behind 24-53.

As the Eagles continued to establish an offense, both teams went to the benches for playing time. Both teams scored 11 points as Centralia coasted to their largest win of the season, putting the Panthers arguably as the number one team in Class 1A Division I.

Sevy Wurtz led in scoring with 15 points, rebounds with five, and picking up two steals.

Myles Hammond had eight points.

Lillian Steinbrock had seven points, four rebounds, and four assists.

The Eagles will travel to Frankfort to take on the 4-3 Wildcats in Twin Valley League Competition. Competition start time is 4 p.m.



SCOUT SKOCNY

Clifton-Clyde's Lillian Steinbrock driving the ball against Centralia. Steinbrock had seven points, four rebounds, and four assists in the 64-35 loss to the Panthers.



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SCOUT SKOCNY

Clifton-Clyde's Jack Skocny attempting a layup against Centralia. Jack finished with a career high 34 points in the 60-55 loss to the Panthers.

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## Eagles fall to Centralia, 60-55

BY TUCKER ASHBURN

In a rollercoaster of a basketball game with a shot clock for the first time, the Clifton-Clyde boys basketball team fell to Centralia 60-55.

It would take over five minutes for the Eagles to score their first points of the game, in which Centralia would open the game with a 12-0 run. The Eagles would keep the game close, closing the quarter down by five, 14-9.

The Eagles would own the second quarter, led by Jack Skocny, opening the stanza tying the game at 14 all and outscoring Centralia 12-4 to have the lead going into halftime 21-18.

In the third quarter, Centralia would snatch the momentum. After some back-and-forth, Centralia would start to pull away. Thanks to the inside game, the Panthers outscored the Eagles 21-11

to enter the fourth quarter with a seven-point lead, 39-32.

Skocny would keep the game close by himself, scoring 20 of the Eagles' 23 fourth quarter points, including hitting a massive three point shot late, to make it a one possession game, but with foul trouble and fighting against the clock, Centralia would hold on to earn their third win of the season.

Skocny had a career high 34 points, 13 rebounds, two assists, and two steals.

Trextin Koch had six points, and three rebounds.

Oliver Nobert had six points, five assists, and two rebounds.

The Eagles will travel to Frankfort to take on the 5-2 Wildcats in league competition. Start time for competition is set for 4 p.m. this Friday.



### A Taste of Winter

Taking a break from sledding at Hood Park on Tuesday afternoon, a youngster enjoys a bite of snow.

## JUST A LITTLE LIGHT

BY DAWN PHELPS  
jdawn@tootlevillepublishing.com

### Rearview Mirror or Front Windshield

**“The past is like using your rearview mirror in your car. It’s good to glance back and see how far you’ve come. But if you stare too long, you’ll miss what’s right in front of you.”**

I am unsure who wrote the original quote above, but many similar quotes have been written. And here’s a quote by Soren Kierkegaard:

**“Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards.”**

On December 31, the year of 2024 was over and in our rearview mirror. For some, 2024 left behind pleasant memories, some sad memories, and lessons for others. Many of us were glad to see the old year go and the new one begin.

I believe many of us are hoping for a healthier, kinder 2025 than 2024 as we turn our eyes forward to our metaphorical front windshield.

A quote by Warren W. Wiersbe says,

**“You do not move ahead by constantly looking in your rearview mirror. The past is a rudder to guide you, not an anchor to drag you. We must learn from the past but not live in the past.”**

Our past is extremely important. In a sense, I believe I am who I am because of my growing-up years in Tennessee on a farm in a large family. The lessons I learned as a child have been good—to work hard, to be honest, and try to do my best.

In my later years I was influenced by my family and friends. My first husband taught me several important things—that I could do things I did not think I could do, to have faith even in the toughest times, and to love, laugh, and enjoy life!

After my first husband died, Tom and I were married. And in the past seventeen years, Tom and I have learned lessons and had fun together. And importantly, we have learned to thank God for our many blessings!

Like Mr. Wiersbe said, our past is like a rudder to help keep our lives on track, not drag us under. Like our past, the rudder is not in the front of ships, but in the back, to guide the ship forward.

If you are not pleased with your past (none of our pasts are perfect), use your past as an example of what you do not want to happen again. Work hard. Appreciate your lessons and, in faith, keep moving forward!

If we have regrets about our pasts, we cannot change the past. But we can live our lives better in the future. I do not usually make New Year’s resolutions, but I do make lists and set goals for myself. I rarely accomplish as much as I would like to, but without my lists to motivate me, I would get even less done.

Each year seems to whiz by faster now that I am older. And I realize that Heaven is just one year closer, not just for me, but for all of us. So, I want to use 2025 well and find joy in every day.

Appreciate your past, but don’t stay there. Look in your rearview mirror just long enough to realize how far you have come, but don’t “miss what is right in front of you.”

Look at the view in your front windshield, and with God’s help, keep moving forward. Wishing you a blessed 2025!

## TOOTLE’S TALES

The forecast given by the weathermen for last week-end’s weather turned out to be pretty accurate. We had freezing rain starting on Saturday morning and then snow started to fall early Sunday morning. The amount of snow varied, but it forced the closing of a lot of roads and the cancellation of a lot of events on Sunday and Monday.

TT

Happy Birthday to: Denise Hamel, Gerald Richard, Jennifer Cox, Brettlyn Kay Golbek, Ellen Revell, Jaci (Hamel) Begnoche, James Garrison, Connor Graham, Rick Paillet, Kaury Stout, Derek Revell, Jack Kamien, Debbie Rethman and Isaac Garrison

TT

We send our prayers and get-well wishes to: Calvin Schultz, Gary Turner, Terry Tate, Nancy Cowl, Kyle Stolzenburg and their caregivers.

TT

We send our sympathy and prayers to the families of Darlene Smoot and Charlotte Fuller.

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## LOOKING BACK

### 100 YEARS JANUARY 15, 1925

MARRIAGE: Miss Ellen C. Reed to Mr. Andrew C. Malcolm. Miss Bertha Murphy to Mr. N.J. Lanoue... Ernest Scott butchered a beef last week...The power company says to get a new iron. You will spend more money fixing them up than buying a new one. They have at the power house...BIRTHS: Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Heald have a girl...Wheat \$1.62, Ear Corn \$1, Shelled Corn \$1.08, Oats 70 cents...Peoples Cash Market, Bulleigh and Voorhees Props, have prime roast beef for 12 1/2 and 14 cents a pound also fresh oysters, per quart, \$1...City Barber Shop under Post Office, first class barber work, special attention to the latest bobs and shingles. Also have Abilene Flowers. H.M. Epperson...

### 75 Year JANUARY 12, 1950

The Clyde Blue Jays won two close games at Clyde Tuesday night. The second team score was 30 to 36, while the A team score was 39 to 45...Mr. and Mrs. A.C. Belisle and Margaret returned Friday from a trip to Oakland, Calif. for a visit with Dr. and Mrs. Rex Belisle...BIRTHS: Mr. and Mrs. Claud Bray of Hutchinson announce the arrival of a daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Adams have a son ... The County Line Club met at Mrs. Emma Fuller. The time was spent working on tea towels... ANNIVERSARIES: Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lavoie Sr. celebrated their 50th...Walter Carlile last week announced the sale of the Jamestown paper, the Optimist, to Stanley C. Smith. Mr. Carlile has owned and operated the paper since August 1, 1919... Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Lyne and Sharalyn attended the Pine Ridge 4-H Club meeting Jan. 4th. At Glenn Lyne’s...

### 50 YEARS JANUARY 9, 1975

The Miltonvale H.S. Girls won a basketball game against the Downs Girls 34 to 26. Peggy Foster was high point individual with 15 points...Wheat \$4.32, Corn \$5.80, Milo \$5, Oats \$5.60 and Soybeans \$6.50... Rainfall for the week .27...The B and B Tavern will have a Mountain Oyster and Fish fry Friday Jan. 10., 7 p.m., all you can eat for \$2...Beverly Fuller visited with the John Rough family in Puerto Rico. Beverly was there for a week...Mr. and Mrs. Emerson Chapman and the kids build an igloo. The engineering and most of the labor was done by Emerson. It was 10 feet long and six feet wide and 5’6” high...A filibuster is a speech about nothing by someone who knows it all...The Red Line road, was a gravel road so called before it was U.S. 40 and later 24 hwy. The poles along the road had a red strip painted on them. It is now Camp road west of Miltonvale...

### 25 YEARS JANUARY 13, 2000

Lady Warriors win at Downs 47 to 36. Elizabeth Pauls was the leading scorer with 17 points. The Lady Warriors Junior Varsity squad lost 15 to 14... Stack and Whack quilting class at the St. Anthoy’s Parish Hall. Contact Cynthia Ensign or Mara Dell DeMars... It is much better to give than to receive a holiday gift because you don’t have to bother with exchanging it... JANUARY 1900. At the age of something more than 60 years. Mr. J.M. Hageman has leased his Concordia Blade and will go to Cape Nome in quest of gold... It takes eight days for the raw material to be changed into binding twine at the new plant at the state penitentiary...

## FOLLOWING ON

PASTOR SAM FLICK

There’s a little face looking at me through the window. It’s cold outside. I just checked the temperature and it says that it’s 33°. I wouldn’t want to be outside at that temperature. He just wants to come in where it’s warm, because the inside of my house is 40° above the outside of my house and so he looks at me, asking to come in.

Sometimes, this world we live in can seem mighty cold. So many of life’s experiences have a winter’s edge to them. That time when you stood up and nobody else stood up with you - and you felt the cold fingers of winter brush against your arm. That time when you were blamed for somebody else’s mistake. That time when somebody failed to keep their promise. That time when you were kept on the outside while everybody else was being welcomed inside. Ah, there’s a touch of winter in all these things.

Therefore we stand at the window looking inside wishing we could come into a place that is warm and welcoming. Did you know that God wants to be that place for you: that safe place where you are loved with an everlasting love? It’s warm inside God’s house.

In Luke chapter 9 Jesus went off to be by himself, but a large crowd learned where he had gone and sought him out. In Luke 9:11 the Bible says that the, “crowds learned he had gone to Bethsaida and followed him there.” Now listen to what Jesus did when he saw them. This verse says that, “He welcomed them, spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.”

So I saw this face at the window ... it was my cat Hidee. He was cold and wanted to come inside. So I opened the window just enough for him to hop through into an environment that is warm and welcoming.

That’s what Jesus did for a cold and lost humanity. He opened the window of heaven and invited us in. In John 10:7 Jesus says to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep ... I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”

Jesus welcomes you. It’s cold outside. Come inside where it’s warm instead.

**Thank You for Reading the Blade-Empire & The Miltonvale Area News!**  
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## OBITUARIES

### Ladonna Darlene Smoot March 30, 1936 – December 28, 2024

Ladonna Darlene Smoot (88) went to her heavenly father on December 28, 2024, in Hickory, N.C. She was born on March 30, 1936, in Miltonvale, KS, the son of Arthur Arson and Eunice Leone (McNeil) Lavoie. Darlene was raised in the Miltonvale community and graduated from Miltonvale Rural High School in 1954. She married William Duane Smoot on February 13, 1955. In 1956, Bill and Darlene made their home in Miltonvale. Darlene worked as a Tupperware sales lady, preparing taxes for Palmer & Phelps Insurance Agency, and 29 years selling Avon until she retired in 2002. Darlene was a former member of the Miltonvale Presbyterian Church and a current member of the Idana Presbyterian Church. She was preceded in death by her husband (Bill Smoot), her parents (Arthur and Eunice Lavoie), and a great-grandson (Blaze Smoot).



Survivors include sons, Terry and wife Bettina Smoot of Nebo, N.C., Doug Smoot and girlfriend Debbie Snyder, Clifton, KS, Reggie and wife Bobbie Smoot of Lincolnton, N.C.; sisters, Elaine Cyr, Clyde, KS, Brenda Pilcher of Salina, KS; seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral Services will be Saturday, January 4, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the F.C. Hill Memorial Wesleyan Church in Miltonvale, KS, with minister Rev. Scott Lingle.

Interment will be held immediately following the service at the Miltonvale cemetery.

Visitation will be held Friday, January 3, 2025, from 5-7 p.m. at Phelps Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to Miltonvale EMS or Idana Presbyterian Church  
Online condolences may be made at [www.nsrffh.com](http://www.nsrffh.com)

## MOUNT LIBERTY

VIRGIL & DAWN VESTERBERG

After doing this for at least 30 years with a Tuesday noon deadline, it is a little difficult to change gears and have it done several days before that. It’s even worse when there are holidays which makes the deadline even earlier. We just struggle along and do the best that we can.

\*\*\*\*\*

The weather forecasts can sometimes be off the mark and we hope it is this time. They are predicting some nasty weather coming our way but I guess it is January and we have had it pretty pleasant up to this point. We had to be out and about today and several highways had already been treated in advance. US24 had both lanes treated but Ottawa County is saving some money and spray for later. They just sprayed one swath down the middle of the highway. I guess if you can keep traction with one side of the car it may work out OK.

\*\*\*\*\*

The traditional way we usually celebrate the coming of the new year is by being sound asleep. Since I don’t sleep very well anymore I was actually awake when the new year came in. At near midnight I thought I might find something on the computer where the New Year was being celebrated. It then occurred to me that anything on there was an hour earlier than here. Earlier I tried to watch the 10 o’clock news on 13 but found it was some long musical show with people that thought they were singers performing. I hate to be the bearer of bad news but the little I saw sure wasn’t singing.

\*\*\*\*\*

Stay safe and be careful on the predicted ice, both driving and walking.

## MILTONVALE HAPPENINGS

**Church Listings:**  
Catholic Mass @ 8:30 a.m.  
Christian Church Sunday School @ 9:30, Worship @ 10:30

Bible Methodist Sunday School @ 9:45, Worship @ 10:45 and 6:00  
Hope Church fellowship @ 9:00, Worship @ 9:30  
Wesleyan Sunday School @ 9:30, Worship @ 10:45, Bible studies @ 6:00, Thursday @ 9:00, Awanas 4:15-5:30 when school is in session  
Idana Presbyterian Sunday School @ 9:00, worship @ 10:15  
Mt. Liberty United Methodist @ 11:00  
Oak Hill Presbyterian @ 9:00

Thought for the day: Jesus is constantly interceding for us before the throne of our Father. We can follow suit and pray for others. Luke 22:31-32 says, “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

**Knot Hole News**  
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- “Watch out fer the feller who brings two cheese sandwiches to a picnic dinner, ‘N’ then makes off with half a fried chicken.”
- One stork said to the other : “ There is a mean streak in you, brother, or you wouldn’t leave triplets at the house where the washing machine has broken down.”

FIRST PRINTED IN THE MILTONVALE RECORD, January 12, 1950



# Extension Extra

## Kansas Radon Action Month

**MONICA THAYER,**  
FAMILY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT EXTENSION AGENT  
River Valley Extension District

January is Kansas Radon Action Month so now is a perfect time to check your home for radon. Radon is a tasteless, odorless, and colorless radioactive gas that is naturally occurring. One in four homes in Kansas have a high level of radon. Most counties in Kansas, including all four counties in the River Valley District, are known to have high radon levels. Testing is the only way to know the radon levels in your home.

Outdoors, radon is diluted and poses no problem. However, inside an enclosed space, radon can accumulate to dangerous levels. Radon can become trapped inside homes, schools, and workplaces through cracks and holes in the foundation. Breathing radon over time increases your risk of lung cancer. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. Nationally, the EPA estimates that about 21,000 people die each year from radon-related lung cancer. Only smoking causes more lung cancer deaths.

Winter is an excellent time to test your home. You can purchase a radon test at your local River Valley Extension District Office today for a small fee of \$7.50. Each test comes with everything you need, including detailed instructions on how to properly implement the test. You'll mail the completed test with no additional cost to receive your results.

Once you receive your test results, if radon levels are high, installing a radon mitigation system is the answer. The Kansas Radon Program has a list of certified radon service professionals who can install a radon mitigation system. If you are a do-it-yourself kind of person, the Kansas Radon Program even has information on how to complete this in-depth project. Both these resources can be found online at [www.kansasradonprogram.org](http://www.kansasradonprogram.org).

Additional resources, facts, and information on radon can be found online at [www.kansasradonprogram.org](http://www.kansasradonprogram.org), at your local Extension Office, or by contacting Monica Thayer, Family Resource Management Extension Agent, at 785-527-5084 or [mthayer@ksu.edu](mailto:mthayer@ksu.edu).

## SUPPORT GROUPS

### MONDAY

Bereavement Support Group, 6:00 p.m. Zion Lutheran Church parish hall (second Monday of the month) 785-614-9351.

### WEDNESDAY

TOPS (take off pounds sensibly) Weigh In from 7:45-8:30 a.m., Meeting 8:30 a.m. at North Central Medical Center, 155 College Drive, Concordia. Call 785-243-3730 for more info. Come join us!

### THURSDAY

Celebrate Recovery Christ-centered Recovery Program at the Wesleyan Church Sanctuary, 16th and Cedar St. (18 years and older) 7:00-8:45 p.m.

### CONCORDIA AREA

Do you know someone that has a problem with alcohol or drugs? For a listing of local AA, NA, OA, AL-ANON, or NAR-ANON meetings; go to [ks-aa.org](http://ks-aa.org), [na.org](http://na.org), [al-anon.org](http://al-anon.org), and [nar-anon.org](http://nar-anon.org), or meetings at 317 W 5th St, Concordia at the Freedom Club (HA).

**AA MEETINGS (NS):** Sunday—Come to Believe 10 a.m. (O); Tuesday—Concordia Gateway Group 8 p.m. (C); Wednesday—Brown Baggers' Meeting -Noon (O), New Beginnings for Women 5:30 p.m. (C); Thursday—Primary Purpose Group 7 p.m. (C); Friday—Brown Baggers' Meeting-Noon, Concordia Gateway Group 8 p.m. (O) - Speaker last Friday of each month and Sobriety Birthday Night; Saturday—Primary Purpose Group 7 p.m. (C)

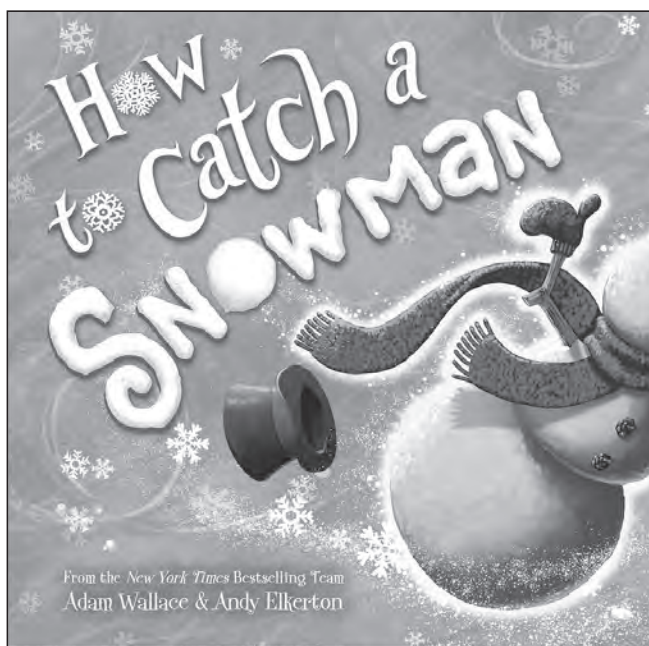
**NA MEETINGS (NS):** Sunday—New Freedom 6 p.m. (O); Monday—New Freedom-Noon (O) and 6:30 p.m. (O); Tuesday—New Freedom-Noon (O); Wednesday—New Freedom 8 p.m. (O, BS); Thursday—New Freedom-Noon (O); Saturday—New Freedom 5 p.m. (O)

**OA MEETINGS (NS):** Friday—5:15 p.m. (O)

**AL-ANON MEETINGS (NS):** Monday—6:30 p.m. (O); Tuesday—8 p.m. (O)

**NAR-ANON MEETINGS (NS):** Wednesday—6:30 p.m. (O)

NS—no smoking, C—closed to non-alcoholics/non-addicts, HA—handicapped accessible, O—open to all, BS—book study



## “How to Catch a Snowman” to be featured book

Come find out “How to Catch a Snowman” for our next story time! Join us at Neighbor to Neighbor in downtown Concordia on Friday, January 10, at 10 a.m.

The featured book is “How to Catch a Snowman” by Adam Wallace and Andy Elkerton. Charity Brown, will be the reader for this month.

Our heroes' entry for the snowman contest has magically come to life—and ran away! Can YOU help catch it? Get ready for snow much fun as you travel through a winter wonderland with running, skating, and bouncing through trap after trap to catch the snowman and claim the winning prize. Will the snowman teach our heroes a lesson they'll never forget? Who snows! This delightful picture book for ages 4-10 is filled with silly rhymes, fun art, and STEAM connections perfect for families and educators to enjoy this winter

Pre-registration is required to attend and each family will receive a copy of the book while supplies last. To register, call Neighbor to Neighbor at 785-262-4215 or email [neighbortoneighbor@csjkansas.org](mailto:neighbortoneighbor@csjkansas.org). Neighbor to Neighbor is located at 103 East 6th St.



## Card shower

The family of Larry Shuler is requesting a card shower to help celebrate his 70th Birthday on January 15, 2025.

Cards may be sent to 612 E. 2nd St., Concordia, Kansas 66901.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Friday, January 10, 2025—Neighbor to Neighbor will host story time at 10 a.m.** The featured book is “How to Catch a Snowman” by Adam Wallace and Andy Elkerton. Charity Brown, will be the reader for this month. Pre-registration is required to attend and each family will receive a copy of the book while supplies last. To register, call Neighbor to Neighbor at 785-262-4215 or email [neighbortoneighbor@csjkansas.org](mailto:neighbortoneighbor@csjkansas.org). Neighbor to Neighbor is located at 103 East 6th St.

**Tuesday, January 14, 2025—Christian Women's Outreach Meeting at 9:30 a.m.** The special feature will be Warehouse 315 and the featured speaker is Jennifer Vesterberg. Cancellation/Reservations by January 10. For questions call 785-243-6874, Sharyl Swenson.

### Puzzle Solutions

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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| 5 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 8 |
| 8 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 6 |

# Man arrested in Belleville infant death

**NATALIE TURNER**  
Kansas Bureau of Investigation  
[natalie.turner@kbi.ks.gov](mailto:natalie.turner@kbi.ks.gov)

REPUBLIC COUNTY – The Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) has secured the arrest of a man connected to the death of a Belleville infant.

On Thursday, Jan. 2 at approximately 11 a.m., William McLaughlin, 23, of Belleville, was arrested on a KBI warrant for first-degree murder and felony abuse of a child. The charges are connected to the death of McLaughlin's three-month-old daughter.

The infant was initially brought to the Republic County hospital on Dec. 25. She had suffered fatal injuries and was pronounced dead in an Omaha hospital on Dec. 29.

Following the arrest, McLaughlin was booked into the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Jail in Nebraska. The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office assisted in the arrest. The investigation is ongoing.

Previously reported, the Belleville Police Department contacted the KBI on the morning of Thursday, Dec. 26 to investigate after an unresponsive three-month-old infant was transported from the Republic County hospital to an Omaha hospital.

The child's parents brought her to the Republic County hospital on Dec. 25, and hospital staff later contacted the Belleville Police Department.

A pediatrician at the Omaha hospital indicated the child has no brain activity due to severe injuries she had sustained.

Investigation is ongoing.

## SENIOR CENTER

### Menu

**Thurs., January 9** - HAMBURGER on a BUN, chips, potato salad, fruit, cupcakes.

**Fri., January 10** - CABBAGE SOUP, crackers, fruit, brownie.

**Mon., January 13** - BISCUITS and GRAVY, scrambled eggs, hash browns, pudding.

**Tues., January 14** - FRIED CHICKEN, mashed potatoes, green beans, fruit, cookie.

**Wed., January 15** - ENCHILADAS, Spanish rice, corn, fruit, jello.

Includes choice of milk, iced tea, coffee, or water.

Available for Meals on Wheels, to-go/pick-up, as well as in-house.

Meals start around 11:45 a.m., to-go/pick-up meals by 11:30 a.m.

All ages welcome to dine-in or pick-up a meal. Ages 60 and above—\$5. Ages 59 and below—\$6.

### Activities

**Thurs., January 9** - Pool (Billiards) 7:45 a.m., Puzzles anytime.

**Fri., January 10** - Pool (Billiards) 7:45 a.m., Exercise 10 a.m., Cards 1 p.m., Puzzles anytime.

**Mon., January 13** - Pool (Billiards) 7:45 a.m., Exercise 10 a.m., Puzzles anytime.

**Tues., January 14** - Pool (Billiards) 7:45 a.m., Bingo 1 p.m., Puzzles anytime.

**Wed., January 15** - Coffee Club 9 a.m., Exercise 10 a.m., Cards 1 p.m., Puzzles anytime.

Come down to the Concordia Senior Center at 109 W. Seventh Street, Concordia. Call 785-243-1872 for more information or to reserve.

## MANNA HOUSE OF PRAYER

323 E. 5TH ST. CONCORDIA

### Manna House of Prayer to offer Bread-making Retreat

Hosted by Manna House Staff and Directors: Sisters Mary Jo Thummel and Betty Suther.

#### Kneading Life: Bread for the Soul

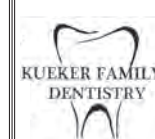
Come for a creative retreat at Manna House of Prayer at 323 E. 5th in Concordia on January 17 through 19, 2025. This long weekend retreat is a unique program designed to explore the therapeutic aspects of bread-making while fostering community and family connections. Participants will engage in hands-on activities that not only teach the art of bread-making but also promote emotional and spiritual well-being. Begins Friday, 5:00 p.m. and closes Sunday, after brunch. Cost: \$165. Please call 785-243-4428 or visit [www.mannahouse.org](http://www.mannahouse.org) to register.

### JANUARY 2025 - NICOL HOME MEALS ON WHEELS

| SUNDAY | MONDAY  | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY |
|--------|---|--|--|---|--|----------|
| 5      | 6<br>Spaghetti, Italian Salad, Garlic Bread, Brownie                            | 7<br>Swedish Meatballs, Egg Noodles, Corn, Ice Cream | 8<br>Ham, Baked Potato, Candied Carrots, Frosted Cake    | 9<br>Country Fried Steak, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Peas, Bread Pudding     | 10<br>Fish, Mac & Cheese, Green Beans, Mandarin Orange Fluff | 11       |
| 12     | 13<br>Chicken w/ Onion Gravy, Stuffing, California Veggies, Apple Streusel Cake | 14<br>RESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY LUNCH                      | 15<br>Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Creamed Peas, Lemon Bar | 16<br>Pork Roast, Corn Casserole, Green Beans, Pineapple Upside Down Cake | 17<br>Tilapia, Rice, Mixed Veggies, Roll, Per Crisp          | 18       |

### Dr. Abbey Allen joins Matthew Kueker Family Dentistry

We're excited to welcome Dr. Abbey Allen (formerly Abbey Anderson), along with her husband, Tanner, and their three children—Locke (4), Myles (2), and Crew (2)—back to North Central Kansas. Starting in February 2025, Dr. Allen will join the Matthew Kueker Family Dentistry team, bringing her passion for high-quality, compassionate care to everyone who walks through our doors.



Dr. Allen and the team are now accepting new patients of all ages. Call (785) 243-2212 to learn more and schedule an appointment today. Dr. Allen is thrilled to be back home and looks forward to caring for your family's smiles!

135 W. 11th Street | Concordia | 785-243-2212



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Glasco | Miltonvale Schools

## JANUARY Events

| Sunday | Monday   | Tuesday | Wednesday   | Thursday | Friday  | Saturday |
|--------|--|---------|---|----------|---|----------|
| 5      | 6<br>No School<br>Teacher Workday                                  | 7       | 8   | 9        | 10  | 11       |
| 12     | 13<br>No School<br>6:00pm: Board of Education Meeting @ Miltonvale | 14      | 15<br>8:00am: Glasco Preschool Visit<br>Breakfast & Lunch | 16       | 17<br>Robotics @ MGS<br>12:30 p.m. w/ all SC students | 18       |

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### Misc.

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INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT? Don't Accept the insurance company's first offer. Many injured parties are entitled to cash settlements in the \$10,000's. Get a free evaluation to see what your case is really worth. 100% Free Evaluation. Call Now: 1-888-920-1883

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WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-877-586-6688. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

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NEED NEW WINDOWS? Drafty rooms? Chipped or damaged frames? Need outside noise reduction? New, energy efficient windows may be the answer! Call for a consultation & FREE quote today. 1-866-766-5558 You will need to have your zip code to connect to the right provider.

(Published in the Concordia Blade-Empire on January 9, 2025)

### Ordinance No. 2025-3232

On January 2, 2025, the City of Concordia adopted Ordinance No. 2025-3232 for the purpose of rezoning a tract located at 302 East 19th Street in the City of Concordia. A reproduction of this ordinance will be available for not less than one week following the publication of this summary of the ordinance at the website address of the City of Concordia, <http://www.concordiaaks.org>. This summary is certified by the city attorney to be legally accurate and sufficient.

1th

(Published in the Concordia Blade-Empire on January 9, 2025)

### Ordinance No. 2025-3233

On January 2, 2025, the City of Concordia adopted Ordinance No. 2025-3233 vacating the entire alley way in Block 4. A reproduction of this ordinance will be available for not less than one week following the publication of this summary of the ordinance at the website address of the City of Concordia, <http://www.concordiaaks.org>. This summary is certified by the city attorney to be legally accurate and sufficient.

1th



An 'Arctic outbreak' sent a chill through much of the U.S.

## POLICE DEPT.

### December 30, 2024

At 9:04 p.m., officers responded to the 400 Block of West 17th Street for a welfare check.

At 10:13 p.m., officers conducted a traffic stop at the 1200 block of East 6th St. during the traffic stop, officers cited and released the passenger, William Kindel of Aurora, KS, with minor in consumption.

### December 31, 2024

At 12:04 p.m., officers took a theft report at the police department- 401 West 6th St.

At 5:11 p.m., officers responded to the 100 East College Dr. for a Non-Injury Accident.

At 9:38 p.m., officers conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of 11th St. and Lincoln St. Upon investigation, officers cited and released Oliver Delano, of Council Bluffs, IA, for driving while suspended.

At 11:36 p.m., officers responded to the 800 Block of 5th St. for a report of a hit and run. Upon investigation, officers arrested Dakota Arndt of Concordia, KS, for aggravated domestic battery, battery and criminal damage to property. Arndt was transported and booked into Cloud County Corrections.

### January 2, 2025

At 8:46 a.m., officers responded to the 700 Block of 8th St. for a report of theft of services. Charges for theft of services have been sent to the Cloud County Attorney.

At 10:50 a.m., officers responded to the 2100 Block of Lincoln St. for a motorist assist.

At 1:04 p.m., officers responded to the 200 Block of 14th St. for a medical emergency. While officers were on scene, they noticed drug paraphernalia in plain view. Officers conducted a search warrant and found drug paraphernalia and marijuana. Kristine Keyser-Cushing, Edward Keyser, Travis Keyser, all of Concordia; were cited and released for possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

### January 3, 2025

At 10:05 a.m., officers responded to the 600 Block of East 5th St. for a welfare check.

At 2:28 PM, officers responded to the 400 East 5th St. for a report of a fight in progress. Upon investigation, officers arrested Shianne Miller of Concordia, for domestic battery and criminal threat. Miller was transported and booked into Cloud County Corrections.

At 3:36 p.m., officers responded to the 1100 Block of Cedar for a report of a non-injury accident.

### January 4, 2025

At 12:04 p.m., officers responded to the 100 Block of East College Dr. for a report of a Non-Injury Accident.

At 2:43 p.m., officers responded to the intersection of 18th and Lincoln St. for a report of a non-injury accident.

### January 5, 2025

At 10:54 p.m., officers responded to the 300 Block of West 5th St. for a suspicious activity. Upon investigation, officers made contact with the suspicious individual who was identified as Jordan Hart of Harvey County. After running his name through dispatch, he had an active warrant out of Harvey County. Hart was arrested and transported to Cloud County Corrections where he was booked in for a warrant with the original charge being probation violation - theft.

## Sales Calendar

• **Saturday, March 22, 2025 – 39th Annual Optimist Club Auction** located at the Coud County Fairgrounds, on Industrial Road- East Side of Concordia, Kansas. Farm & Construction Equipment, Trucks, Cars, Shop Tools, Household Goods and Estate Items.  
**For Questions Call:**  
• **Gale Longenecker - 785-243-5598** or  
• **Mike Cleveland - 785-826-7897.**

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## COMMUNITY SUPPER

• **Wednesday, February 5, 2025 – Cloud County Community Supper** from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Free Hot Meal, All Are Welcome! Concordia National Guard Armory, 2115 Blosser Drive. Curbside Pick Up Only! For information, call (785) 614-0148.

## COMMODITIES DISTRIBUTION

Cloud County Commodities distribution is scheduled for **Every 2 Months from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Third Wednesday of the Month**, at the First United Methodist Church, 740 W. 11th Street, Concordia, Kansas. Scheduled date: January 15 & March 19, 2025.

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## USD #333 SCHOOL NEWS

### CONCORDIA JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

January 10—State KMEA Live Instrumental Auditions  
January 11—State KMEA Auditions @ Salina  
January 17—Winter Sports Crowning & Dance  
January 20—M. L. King Jr. Day - NO SCHOOL  
January 30—JAGK Day @ the Capital

CJSHS will be having a Winter Sports Crowning and Dance on January 17, 2025. There will be a all school assembly starting at 2:30 p.m. Followed by the Crowning Ceremony at 7 p.m. Dance at 10 p.m.

### CONCORDIA MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

January 8-9—Cosmosphere Outreach  
January 20—M. L. King Jr. Day - NO SCHOOL  
January 21 & 22—Kansas Corn 5th Grade

The Frank Carlson Library, starting in January, will have Maker Mondays at 4 p.m. Maker Monday is for all school-aged children, kindergarten through 5th. It will be overseen by Shelby Neville, the children and teen librarian. Legos, crocheting, experiments and more. Shelby also assists with CMS' crochet club every Wednesday and Friday after school. If you want to learn how to crochet or advance your skills, ask your teacher how you can join!

### CONCORDIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

January 10—Panther Pride Day  
January 20—M. L. King Jr. Day - NO SCHOOL  
January 27—PIE 5:30 p.m.

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Amber Lambertz, Agent



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| <br>2021 Ford Explorer Hybrid Limited<br><del>\$30,995</del> \$29,995 | <br>2017 Lincoln MKX Reserve<br>\$23,995       | <br>2015 Toyota Rav4 XLE<br>\$13,995                             | <br>2020 Ford Fusion SE<br><del>\$14,995</del> \$13,995 | <br>2020 Ford Ranger XLT<br><del>\$30,995</del> \$29,995 |
| <br>2024 Chevrolet Colorado WT<br>\$28,995                            | <br>2016 Ford F-150 XLT<br>\$22,995            | <br>2022 Ford Maverick XL<br><del>\$26,995</del> \$22,995        | <br>2018 Lincoln Navigator Premier<br>\$32,995          | <br>2023 Ford Bronco Black Diamond<br>\$39,995           |
| <br>2021 Lincoln Corsair Reserve<br>\$27,995                          | <br>2016 Jeep Renegade Limited<br>\$10,995     | <br>2017 Lincoln MKX Black Label<br><del>\$24,995</del> \$23,995 | <br>2018 Ford Edge Titanium<br>\$15,995                 | <br>2016 Ford F-150 XLT<br>\$22,995                      |
| <br>2018 Ford Explorer Limited<br>\$19,995                            | <br>2021 Ford Edge ST-Line<br>\$22,995         | <br>2017 Ford Edge Sport<br>\$21,995                             | <br>2019 Ford F-150 XLT<br>\$25,995                     | <br>2014 Ford Explorer XLT<br>\$11,995                   |

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