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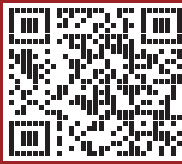
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Part Time Job Openings! Seasonal Grain Elevator Operator
Job Duties:
- Operate grain elevator equipment, including conveyors, scales, and grain dryers.
- Receive, store, and occasionally process grain
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Bereavement 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, NA.org, Al-Anon.org, and nar-anon.org., or meetings at 317 W 5th St, Concordia at the Freedom Club (HA).

AA MEETINGS (NS):
Sunday—Came 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

Garage Sale

To Advertise Your Garage Sale Call the Blade-Empire 243-2424

UPCOMING EVENTS

Avenue of Flags at Pleasant Hill Cemetery Schedule – Help needed any of these times!

- Saturday, May 24– 9 a.m. – Put Flags on Veterans’ and Auxiliary Members’ Graves.
- Monday, May 26 – 8 a.m.–Raise Avenue of Flags.
- Monday, May 26 – 11 a.m. – Memorial Day Service at American Legion Post, Everyone Invited.
- Monday, May 26 – 4 p.m. – Pick up Grave Flags.
- Monday, May 26 – 6 p.m. – Take down Avenue of Flags.

LAUNDRY LOVE

Free Laundry for the Community offered by OCCK Inc. and LaundryLove.org at 1548 Lincoln St., Concordia, Kansas. Laundry Love provides free access to washers, dryers, and detergent, helping participants wash work uniforms, school clothes, and other essentials. Events held twice a month: **The first Wednesday of each month : 8:30–10:30 a.m. and the third Wednesday: 4:00–6:00 p.m.**

3RD SATURDAY CHICKEN DINNER

• **Saturday, May 17** – Every 3rd Saturday of the Month from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. **American Legion Riders, Chapter 76 Concordia–All You Can Eat Buffet Style Chicken Dinner** (2nd meat option available). Dine In or To Go Orders. American Legion, 506 Washington, Concordia. (785) 243-9834.

COMMODITIES DISTRIBUTION

Cloud County Commodities distribution is scheduled for **Every 2 Months from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on the Third Wednesday of the Month**, at the First United Methodist Church, 740 W. 11th Street, Concordia, Kansas. 785-243-4560.

To be eligible your household’s total monthly income must be below •1 person, \$2,322 •2 people, \$3,152 •3 people, \$3,981, • 4 people, \$4,810. For each additional family member add \$830.

Scheduled date: May 21, 2025.

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• **Journey Through Grief**
May 21, 2025
Presenter: Janet LeDuc, CSJ
The death of a loved one and other losses change our lives forever. Grief is a journey that deserves attention, respect, and the support of others to heal. Journey Through Grief is a grief support group with eight sessions to help you understand and embrace the journey. Caring for your needs will help you discover the fullness of living and loving again. Every other Wednesday, 3:30–5:00 p.m. Cost: \$15 per session. To register, call 785-243-4428, email retreatcenter@mannahouse.org, or visit our website at manna house.org.

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• **Cornerstone Cafe, a Tabernacle Ministry** run by volunteers is located at the corner of M and 18th St., in Belleville, Kansas. Breakfast is served Mondays & Saturdays from 7am-10am. Smashburger Nights every 2nd Wednesday of the month from 5pm-8pm.

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Jewell, KS
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Memorial Day Service
Monday, May 26 - 11 a.m.
American Legion Post
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VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED AT ANY OF THESE TIMES AT PLEASANT HILL CEMETERY

Saturday, May 24, 9 a.m. - Small flags placed on graves.
Monday, May 26, 8 a.m. - Avenue of Flags raised.
Monday, May 26, 4 p.m. - Pick up small flags.
Monday, May 26, 6 p.m. - Take down Avenue Flags.

Thank you!
-Avenue of Flags Committee

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Now is the time to scout for bagworms

Experts say that insecticides may need to be applied for up to five weeks

K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION NEWS SERVICE
MANHATTAN, Kan. — State forestry and horticulture experts are urging patience and persistence when trying to manage bagworms, noting that caterpillars may emerge from eggs from late spring through early summer, depending on weather conditions.

Shad Hufnagel, forest health coordinator with the Kansas Forest Service, and Raymond Cloyd, extension specialist in horticultural entomology with K-State Research and Extension, advise that homeowners scout for bagworms from early- to mid-May and apply insecticides when young bagworms are present.

Once bagworms are detected, they said, homeowners might need to treat with an insecticide weekly for up to four weeks.

Cloyd said that in addition to emergence over time, young bagworms can ‘blow in’ - called ‘ballooning’ - from neighboring plants on silken threads, thus increasing the importance of treating multiple times during the growing season.

“Once the caterpillars emerge from eggs, they begin feeding on the host tree or shrub, creating a protective bag, hence the common name,” Cloyd said. “The plant material fed upon is used to build a protective covering that provides protection from predators and insecticide treatments, which can influence the effectiveness of insecticide applications.”

Hufnagel added: “The larger and more robust the caterpillars and their cases become, the more difficult they are to control chemically.”

Bagworm feeding is commonly associated with such conifers as juniper, arborvitae, pine, and spruce, but Hufnagel said the caterpillars also feed on numerous deciduous host plants. Although defoliation of deciduous trees and shrubs typically does not result in long-term plant damage, extreme defoliation of conifers can cause significant plant stress and even plant mortality.

He said insecticides can be effective in mitigating damage to trees and shrubs. However, bagworm infestations are often cyclical; consequently, bagworm infestations may be low enough that spraying an insecticide may not be needed.

For increased effectiveness and to prevent bagworms from causing substantial plant damage, Hufnagel advises judicious treatment of windbreaks, Christmas trees, and ornamental landscape trees as soon as bagworms are present.

“Thorough coverage is important when treating for bagworms, including penetration into the interior plant canopy and upper branches,” he said. “Commercial treatments may be more effective for large trees or established windbreaks where applications from common household sprayers cannot reach the upper canopy of trees.”

Many insecticides are labeled for bagworms, but timing of application and thorough coverage will ensure the effectiveness of insecticides in managing bagworms. When bagworm caterpillars are small (1/8 to 1/4 of an inch long), products containing *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *kurstaki* (Btk) or spinosad as the active ingredient can be effective in managing bagworms.

Cloyd said the recommended insecticides have minimal direct impact on beneficial insects compared to broad-spectrum insecticides, which could lead to outbreaks of spider mites or scale insects that can cause damage to treated trees and shrubs.

If insecticides are not applied when bagworm caterpillars are 1/8 to 1/4 of an inch in length, then broad-spectrum insecticides -- including those containing malathion, acephate, or cyfluthrin as the active ingredients -- can be applied. Be sure to read the product label and follow directions.

Hand removing and destroying bagworm bags is an option for smaller infestations.

For more information on controlling bagworms, reference the publication, Bagworm: Insect Pest of Trees and Shrubs, written by Cloyd.

Cattle Chat: Deciding to keep or cull cows

K-State beef cattle experts share management and decision-making recommendations regarding cows that did not rebreed post-calving

BY LISA MOSER
K-State Research and Extension news service
MANHATTAN, Kan. — Managing a successful business often involves making a series of decisions with the end goal of providing a quality outcome at a profit.

In the beef cattle business, one of those decisions is what to do when a cow doesn’t rebreed and is considered open, said the experts at the Kansas State University Beef Cattle Institute.

“Every cow needs to have a calf every year or it is a loss to the operation, but even with those losses it is possible to recoup some value to the operation,” K-State veterinarian Brian Lubbers said.

Speaking on a recent Cattle Chat podcast, K-State veterinarian Bob Larson said cows that don’t rebreed or that calve late often are sold because they no longer fit into the management program of the operation.

Yet, while they may no longer fit into the management program for one producer, that doesn’t mean they won’t work for a different operation, Larson added.

“I’ve known more risk-tolerant producers who buy open or late-bred cattle and add value to them through the way they manage those cows,” Larson said.

If the cattle aren’t rebreeding because they are too thin, Larson said, improving the diet of the females adds weight economically, for example.

The key to the profitability of this management protocol is that they are buying cattle at a reduced cost, Larson said.

To know if the management strategy is financially feasible the experts agreed that is important to estimate the costs of maintaining an unbred cow until she is sold.

“You need to know what your feed costs will be because typically it costs \$2/day in feed expense to support a cow on hay and supplement during the winter,” Larson said.

Along with estimating feed costs, K-State agricultural economist Dustin Pendell said the cattle market prices will fluctuate depending on how many cattle are entering the system at one time.

“When deciding on whether or not to sell, figure out how long you think you’ll want to keep her and what potential value she would bring you versus what it would be if you sold her today,” Pendell said. “Also, it is important for the buyer and seller to communicate about how the open cow was managed so that the purchaser is making an informed decision.”

To hear the full discussion, listen to Cattle Chat on your preferred streaming platform.

Chiggers in Kansas: K-State entomologist shares tips to avoid the itch

Scratching could promote a secondary infection, Cloyd says

BY PAT MELGARES
K-State Research and Extension news service
MANHATTAN, Kan. — Warmer days may lead many to itch for spring and summer, but a Kansas State University entomologist cautions against a small mite that is likely to give you a less-pleasing seasonal itch.

Chiggers are active beginning in April, says K-State’s Raymond Cloyd, and are usually found in areas with unmanaged vegetation, as well as parks, golf courses, sports fields and other grassy areas. The larvae attach themselves to humans, pets and other animals.

“Chiggers do not suck blood,” Cloyd said. “Rather, chiggers burrow and feed on dissolved skin. The larvae inject a saliva that causes the skin tissue to dissolve, and that is what the chigger larvae feed on.”

According to Cloyd, the larvae are difficult to see with the human eye. Humans often notice the presence of chiggers by a reddish-rash and itchy skin.

Cloyd cautions humans to resist the urge to scratch.

“You want to avoid scratching too often because you can promote a bacterial infection by opening wounds,” he said. “I’ve been bitten by chiggers many times, and I know it’s very tempting to scratch, but you don’t want to create a bigger problem.”

Cloyd said some topical ointments may help with the itch and a dermatologist may be able to provide recommendations.

Once attached, larvae feed for “a few days,” according to Cloyd, and then they fall off the host. The larvae become nymphs and then adults that reside in the soil. The nymphs and adults do not feed on humans or other animals. Instead, they feed on insects, mites, and their eggs in the soil.

The best advice, according to Cloyd, is to avoid getting bitten in the first place.

“If you’re going to go into an area where chiggers are likely to be, use DEET or other repellants, and then when you come back inside, immediately take a shower to help reduce the itchiness caused by chiggers,” he said.

Chiggers are usually active from Spring (late April) until Fall, or until the first frost. The species of chiggers found in Kansas do not transmit disease, Cloyd said.

Cloyd has written a publication, titled Chiggers in Kansas, with additional tips for protecting yourself from chiggers, including:

- Avoid walking into areas with tall grass and weeds.
- Do not sit, lie down or walk barefoot in areas that may harbor chiggers.
- Insert pant legs underneath socks.
- Mow turfgrass regularly and remove extensive vegetation, such as brush, shrubs, grass and weeds.
- Wash clothes using a hot water wash and rinse to kills chiggers that may be attached to clothing.
- Consult a physician about products that can be used to relieve discomfort and itching.

More information is available at local extension offices in Kansas.

Identifying poison ivy is important

K-State horticulture expert says poison ivy grows in various forms

K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION NEWS SERVICE
MANHATTAN, Kan. — Most people accept that avoiding poison ivy is good advice, but Kansas State University horticulture expert Cynthia Domenghini said doing so starts with correctly identifying the allergenic plant.

Domenghini said poison ivy grows in multiple forms with varying leaf appearances. Three varieties of poison ivy include erect woody shrub, climbing woody vine and groundcover.

“In the vining habit, aerial roots give the vines a fuzzy, rope-like appearance. As a groundcover, poison ivy is often confused with Virginia creeper or Woodbine,” Domenghini said. “Poison ivy shrubs can appear in fields, pastures, woods or even the home garden.”

Domenghini describes the many leaf margins as toothed, incised, lobed or smooth, but notes that poison ivy typically appears with leaves in groups of three.

“The leaf size can vary, but the middle leaflet is the only one with a long stalk and is larger than the other two. The other two leaves are closely attached to the petiole (leaf stem),” Domenghini said.

When removing poison ivy plants, Domenghini recommends wearing pants, long sleeves and gloves, and washing clothing and skin to remove traces of plant toxins when complete.

“In the groundcover form, direct spray or grubbing (digging) are common strategies for removal. Make sure the soil is moist before grubbing out the plants, including the root systems,” Domenghini said.

Herbicides may also be used on the shrub form of poison ivy.

“Direct spray is a common control method. For woody vines of poison ivy, cut the plant off at the base and treat the emerging sprouts with herbicide when they appear,” Domenghini said.

Domenghini and her colleagues in K-State’s Department of Horticulture and Natural Resources produce a weekly Horticulture Newsletter with tips for maintaining home landscapes and gardens.

Interested persons can subscribe to the newsletter, as well as send their garden and yard-related questions to hortsupport@ksu.edu, or contact your local K-State Research and Extension office.

Author shares simple ideas for improving rural communities

Deb Brown, co-founder of SaveYour.Town, speaks during K-State’s First Friday e-call

BY PAT MELGARES
K-State Research and Extension news service
MANHATTAN, Kan. — When Deb Brown hears rural residents resisting change in their communities, she tends to ask a few questions.

Such as:

Don't you want your kids to move back here and start their own business?

What didn’t work the last time you tried to change your community?

What is it that you have liked about your town?

Brown is co-founder of SaveYour.Town, rural experts that specialize in low- or no-cost, practical solutions to help even the smallest of towns.

“Changing a town is not necessarily inviting 2,000 new people to move to your community,” Brown said. “You might just be making the sidewalks a little wider.”

Brown was the featured speaker during the April 4 First Friday e-Call, a monthly online series hosted by K-State Research and Extension that helps to nurture small businesses and inspire entrepreneurship in Kansas. The online discussions, which routinely host dozens of Kansas citizens from the public and private sectors, are available free each month.

When residents have ideas for improving their towns, Brown said, “you need to gather your friends (and) your own crowd. Speak with a lot of people and share your idea..”

Brown recently published a book, titled ‘From Possibilities to Reality: Save Your Small Town with These Uniquely Do-able Ideas, Projects, and Success Stories,’ on simple ways that residents can bring more life to their communities. In the book, she shares stories from communities that were successful, “stories,” she says, “you can take and use in your town.”

“The book is a workbook,” she said. “First of all, it makes you write things down, and it’s also a great way to bring your community together and work toward a common goal or a big idea.”

Brown shares such examples as a home-based photography business in Minnesota asked to display some of his pictures on an empty wall in a coffee shop. Or, a South Dakota community in which two high school students who set up garden sheds, with the help of the shed seller, on an empty lot to create a Christmas shopping village. Two of the temporary businesses eventually turned into full-time local shops.

“These ideas are for anyone who wants to see a brighter community, and anyone who’s willing to try their ideas out,” Brown said. “These are ‘new school’ thinkers, perhaps business owners, chamber of commerce or city officials, retirees, students and others. These are people just like any of us.”

Brown urges those who dream about progress in their community to start small: “Jackson County, Kentucky cleaned up an empty lot and held a pop-up fair for local crafters during the local car show. That’s a small step. You could have young students pair with senior citizens to make snow flakes to decorate empty buildings.”

“These are all small steps that you could go home and start today.”

For more information on her book, interested persons are urged to contact her by email, deb@saveyour.town, or visit her website: www.Building Possibility.com/BuyTheBook

Brown’s full talk and other First Friday presentations are available online from K-State Research and Extension.

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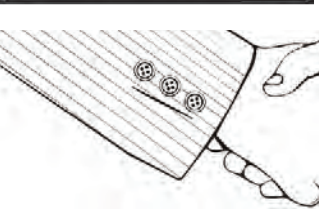
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CHAMBER CORNER

By Annie Bergmann, Chamber Director

Please join us on May 20, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. for our weekly Chamber Coffee at 207 W. Sixth St., downtown Concordia.
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
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.

Our Chamber Coffee Sponsor for May 20, 2025, is the Brown Grand Theatre.

About the Brown Grand Theatre – Established in 1907, the Brown Grand Theatre is dedicated to enhancing cultural life in North Central Kansas. We are preparing to celebrate the Brown Grand’s 118th birthday this fall - officially on Wednesday, September 17, 2025. As a vibrant, majestic opera house, the theatre hosts between 45-55 events a year and over 8,000 patrons visit the Brown Grand annually. Come to Chamber Coffee on May 20th to hear more about our upcoming season and to learn about the projects we have been working on this year - as well as what we have planned for future projects. To see a full schedule of upcoming events, to rent the space, and to join our mailing list please visit: www.browngrand.org or call 785-243-2553. Follow us on Facebook at “Brown Grand Theatre” and on Instagram @BrownGrand1907.

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Thank you to all our friends and family who have been by our sides through this difficult time. We have also been supported by the EMTs, law enforcement and the staff at Chaput-Buoy. The memorials, food, flowers and phone calls have shown us how much Steve was cared for. Thank you.

- *The family of Steve Ediger*

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