

Wes McCoy A Heart of Gold - A Life of Service - A Kentucky Wunderkind



Wes McCoy considers himself a "Connector." Whenever he has seen a need, his instinct is to work on how to meet that need. He also knows people who can do the job. Wes grew up in Cloverport, Kentucky (population 1152 in 2010). He has always been a go-getter, beginning his first business venture—delivering Grit newspapers every week—at age ten.

Of the fifteen cents he collected for each copy, he got to keep a nickel. With his twenty subscribers, it meant that he earned a dollar every time he ran the route. In 1960, that was a considerable amount for a ten-year-old. A few years later, he had a paper route with 40 subscribers. He remembers riding with his father in the family car to make some of the far-flung deliveries. By age 15, Wes wanted to buy a

(Continued on Page 5)

Our Quintessentially Essential Battle That Changed the Course of the **American Revolutionary War**

And It Almost Did Not Happen!!
Would **You** Have Joined In?

Washington and the Continental Army **Crossing the Delaware.**

Imagine you are a soldier in the Continental Army during the American Revolution. You have been fighting for months against the mighty **British Empire** and its hired German mercenaries, the **Hessians**. You have suffered many defeats, lost many comrades, and endured many hardships. You are cold, hungry, tired, and demoralized.

More paintings below left & P. 10



(Continued on Page 10)

The Nazi's 'Nuclear' **SUBMARINE**



U-234 Carried Fissionable Materials

U-234 was a type XB submarine, the largest class of German U-boat ever constructed. Of the eight that had been built, only U-234 and U-219 remained. The other six had paid a heavy price for their slow speed and lack of mobility.

Lieutenant **Johann Fehler**, who had previously served on the infamous raider "Atlantis," was in command.

In addition to his crew, Fehler was responsible for an important group of passengers: monocled **Lieutenant General Ulrich** *(Continued on Page 5)*

OLATHE LINCOLN Ford

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48 Reaching a big city newspaper is like eating at a fancy restaurant—you pick and choose from what's offered. But reading a HOMETOWN paper is like eating one of Mom's Great Home-Cooked Meals—a fellow doesn't want to miss a thing... and gets seconds! Jan Clark

JOHNSON'S COUNTY GAZETTE

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Advertising Hot Line 913-782-3399 or email us at jocogazette@gmail.com See us at www.jocogazette.com

The Great Albino Skunk Chase

By Ethel Mae Brewer

Duane and Jane have been life-long friends of ours. Our daughters are close in age and consider themselves cousins. Heather and Steph are the same

age and Heidi is about 18 months older. Duane and family were visiting some of their relatives in and around Springfield, MO, one summer, when Heather got hurt *(Continued on Page 5)*

After crossing the Delaware R., Washington marched four hours in the dark in a brilliant surprise attack that changed the tide of war, causing the British to realize they probably could not beat us. *(Continued Page 10)*

Hessians had been warned by spies, but Germans claimed it ridiculous!

In This Issue:

Culinary Cuisinartist Beverly Wittenborn on Creme d' Menthe, Cherry Cake, Brownies, Frog Eye Salad **Single Mothers contributor RJ Blesman p. 4 David Highfill Sports ** Ethel Mae on The Great Albino Skunk Chase P. 1 ***Janine Clark-Barry on On Tidying Up P. 1. Ed Hayes = We Are Destroying Ourselves, Brown Recluse Spider P. 10 *** Aja Garcia on Will Sumo and Omelette Munch Allisons Bouglard on A Great Getaway P. 8 *** Send us your story ideas to jocogazette@gmail.com Please watch for Red Light runners ** Please thank store managers for allowing the Gazette racks.*** Extra As If Your Life Depends On It!!!

Please don't get ripped off by the huge ad budget plumbers. They may be good, but you pay a fortune. Shop for local guys who have good references. We use JoeJoe Plumbing 913-208-1509, landlords use Joe

Judged Olathe Area's Best Hair Care* Salons

The Hair Shop
Simply Great Family Hair & RETAILING CENTER
East Olathe Location
16120 W. 135th St (near Kohls)
Santa Fe & Brougham-Next to Olathe Library
397-9888 397-8808
K-7 (Parker) & Santa Fe near Price Chopper
West Olathe Location
829-6611 829-4868
51 Professionals in 2 Locations to Serve You
East Hours M-Thur 9-8:Fri 8-7 Sat, 8-5,Closed Sun.
Hours at Hair Shop West
Hours M-Th 8-8:Fri 8-7 Sat, 8-5,Closed Sun.
Based on Private Market Study 10-18

Chris Riddle has worked at the 2 Hair Shops over 30 years. "I have done hair for over 40 years, all here in Olathe. I enjoy all aspects of styling hair. My clients are not just my clients. They are my friends and family, also. I look forward to seeing you at the West Shop For that, I thank you all!"

Chris Riddle
EST. 1988

One

One tree can start a forest;
One smile can begin a friendship;
One hand can lift a soul;
One word can frame a goal;
One candle can wipe out darkness;
One laugh can conquer gloom;
One hope can raise your spirits;
One touch can show you care;
One life can make the difference,
be that **One** today.

~Unknown

I was reading an article about Robert Wadlow, the tallest man ever, and they showed me this pic...

Robert Wadlow, 41st from left. *Thanks, I wouldn't have picked him!

BY ROBERT A. CRONKLETON
FEBRUARY 09, 2024

Robert Wadlow, born 2/22/1918, died July 15, 1940, age 22, 8'11.1", 439 lbs. Alton, IL, pituitary gland, hypertrophy

Red Sox Jim Rice makes amazing life save!

THE HAYES REPORT
By Johnson County Deputy Sheriff Captain Ed Hayes, Retired

From "Officers Down Memorial Page,"
126 Dead, 12 in '24
Police Officers in 2023!
9 K-9's
(Continued on Page 10)

US MARINE LANCE CORPORAL DONOVAN DAVIS DIES IN CHOPPER CRASH

Olathe Crew Chief Among 5 Marines Killed In Helicopter Crash In California Mountains

Lance Cpl. Donovan Davis, a 21-year-old crew chief from Olathe, was one of the five Marines killed in a helicopter crash late Tuesday near San Diego. 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing/Facebook Davis' decorations include the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and a Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

His father said he was an "amazing young man who took his job seriously" *(Continued on Page 5)*

Great Moments in Baseball

August 8, 1982. A line drive foul ball hits a four year old boy in the head at Fenway. **Jim Rice**, realizing in a flash that it would take EMTs too long to arrive and cut through the crowd, sprang from the dugout and scooped up the boy. He laid the boy gently on the dug-out floor, where the Red Sox medical team began to treat him.

When the boy arrived at the hospital 30 minutes later, doctors said, without a doubt that Jim's prompt actions saved the boy's life. Jim returned to the game *(Continued on Page 5)*

Sam's Taste Treat (Hwy7&Elm) '95-2021. "It was Olathe's favorite home-owned fast food place, forever." kej

We ran into old friend Hugh Silvernale recently. The 27 year Army Veteran, was a Major in Engineers Corps, serving in Viet Nam (2 tours) Japan, Korea, Germany. He and lovely wife, Sueko, owned & operated Olathe's

Ad Content of Great Interest

Lexington, Mo Tours P. 11
Deciding on Nursing Home P. 1
Olathe Ford 50 Years P. 1
Dale's Lord's Prayer P. 12
Lecumpton P. 12
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Quality Structures P. 11
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Red China Infiltration P. 3
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Senior Care Counseling P. 5
Sunrise Tours P. 2
State Farm P. 8, 10
Clay County Museum P. 12

Olathe YMCA Global Mission

STRONGER

by Maggie Little
Executive Director
Olathe YMCA

The Olathe YMCA, rooted in the global mission of the YMCA to strengthen the mind, body, and spirit of the community, has been a beacon of support and positive influence in the local community since its establishment in 2001.

While offering traditional YMCA amenities such as a fitness center, swimming pool, and activities for older adults, the Olathe branch goes *(Continued on Page 7)*

Repeating World Champions

CHAMPIONS

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

When to Consider Moving to a Senior Care Community

Steve Kuker © 2024 Senior Care Consulting 2/7/24

Considering moving from your home to a senior care community is one of the most heart-wrenching decisions a person could ever make. Sometimes it is obvious that a move is necessary, however, most of the time it is not so obvious.

The most commonly asked question I have received over the last 20 years is "Steve, when is the right time to move?" I like to say the following should trigger that difficult conversation of considering moving from your home to a senior care community.

1. When there is a safety-related issue. *(Continued on Page 4)*



PARADE OF CHAMPIONS

Every study shows "just walking" cures depression, clears mind, builds stamina. Start doing this today!

Witt Signs Long-Term Contract With Royals

Bobby Witt, Jr. and the Kansas City Royals came to agreement on a 14-year contract extension (11 years) guaranteed worth 288.7 million.

(Continued on Page 5)

Tidy Up Time

It has been a cold and icy winter so far, but sunshine and green growth are a-comin'!

This is the time to get your trees and plants ready for their Spring debut. If you recall, I had mentioned that getting tree trimmers in at this time of year is the least expensive time to do it.

There is a caveat: they will be busy and expensive (much like summer) if they have a lot of storm damage to deal with. Hopefully you will have already planned for them to come this month and have an estimate for work in-hand.

If you have left it all for a moment of gumption, you may be disappointed.

Branch Bark Ridge
Branch Collar

Here is a resource to use when you do need to locate a professional:
https://mdc.mo.gov/trees-plants/tree-care/how-hire-arborist
Pruning trees and shrubs in winter helps shape the plant into what you visualize without *(continued on page 5)*

The Fun Forester

TREES ARE AWESOME!
By Janine Clark-Barry, B.S. Forestry

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OLATHE YOUTH BASEBALL

Family - Respect - Character - Integrity - Tradition

On-Line registration for Spring/Summer baseball begins November 1, 2023, and ends March 1, 2024, for Grades 3 and up.

Register @ www.olatheyouthbaseball.com with a team or as an individual!

Early Discount Prices Nov 1 - Jan 31:

- Grades 3 thru 6 = \$245
- Grades 7 and over = \$260
- Feb 1 - Mar 1 = price increases \$20
- Late Fee after Mar 1 = add \$10

3rd grade is player/coach pitch - no machine pitch. See rules on our website: www.olatheyouthbaseball.com

14-game schedule that runs late-April through mid-July includes:

- *Practices starting in April with permits *Game balls *Uniforms (if needed)
- *End-of-Season City Championship Tournament
- *All-Star games for all grades/ages
- *Coaching and pitching clinics through partnership with Royals Amateur Development (R.A.D.)

For more information call 913-393-9891 or email us at olathebaseball@sbcglobal.net - Manager Packets Available Now.

Olathe Youth Baseball is not affiliated with the Olathe Parks & Rec Department

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From The Publisher
 Community Information by Keith E. Johnson

Johnson's County Gazette

Since October 1977
 Johnson County's Only Locally-Owned Newspaper
 (913) 782-3399, (913) 782-1133 jocogazette@gmail.com

To those of you kind souls who see us delivering the paper, please and speak to us about how much we like the paper. We say, "Thanks so very, very much!"



Since October 1977 Olathe's Only Newspaper Call me with your news (913) 782-3399 / (913) 782-1133 We love to hear from our Readers. We want you to be in print.

The Gazette is a conservative publication which runs items of a conservative nature. We will welcome liberal and left-wing articles for consideration.

From The Publisher
 Bahamas dangerous, two Carnival Cruise passengers, raped on "safe beach"*** Be sure to read "Most Critical Decision in War", page one. ** Most foreclosures Gary, IN; Modesto, CA; Bakersfield, CA; ** If you're not watching Longmire on Netflix, you're missing one of the best on TV today. Thanks, Jane J. ** Josh at Westlake's sure knows how to sharpen your knives in store, not sent out. ** Criticizing KMBZ for running ads for the lame-brained gullible, California Psychics, ridiculous to run these, as bad, as the ads encouraging people to gamble on Fundnet, it's an addiction, few can ever break it off, cause of crime, theft, embezzlement. There were reasons why gambling was illegal in past days. ** When charging your gas purchase, tug on the card scanner and see if it's a fake to steal your identity, and credit. ** Thanks Megan & son, & other lady for helping me with the scanners when shopping. I must look pretty pathetic at 77 1/2 because people keep trying to help me, wherever I go. Don't get me wrong, I love the attention. It shows that there are a lot of people out there who are kind, decent and caring. ** Your eyes have receptors that tell brain to cut-off melatonin (makes you sleepy) when you wake up. ** 30 people a year die from a vending machine crushing them, after candy stuck. ** Funny stuff forgotten in hotels, dentures, prosthetics, glass eyes, witchcraft gear. ** Watch for red light runners, they're everywhere!!

From The Publisher
 I especially liked the VW Super Bowl commercial, the nostalgia, with the unmatchable voice of Neil Diamond made me want to run out and buy a VW. \$8 million for that ad is what VW paid. VW stands for Volkswagen which is German for People's Car. We bought one at the factory in Wolfsburg, Germany in '72. \$2,500 new and drove 4,200 miles thru 15 countries in 6 weeks. Ann only wanted to divorce me three times on our extended honeymoon. ** Ad agency friend Carl liked the Budweiser Puppy Bowl ad on Super Bowl! **

From The Publisher
 We at the Gazette especially salute all our school bus drivers in Gazette County. You guys and gals are saints to put up with the nonsense, abuse, and lack of discipline in our spoiled rotten young people. I don't know how you keep your sanity. And thanks for reading the Gazettes that they allow us to leave in the BusBarn!! Uncle Kenny (Kassen) our crack and crack(ed) Delivery Specialist 1st Class tells me how you drivers are feeling. God bless you all.!! *** Kia & Hyundai car thefts are up 1,000% from last year. Ouch!! *** San Francisco 49'ers mad about not understanding the Super Bowl 'overtime rule'. They screwed up, you always want to go second in that situation. They are the Forty Winers My dear departed Dad, R.T. Johnson would have said, "That's just Poor Coaching" ** Let's go for Number Three Next Year and make it a THREE-PEAT.

Greetings to New Friends & Old Ones David "The King" Highfill, Bill Cole, Becky Hernandez; All Our Readers: Tony Orosko, Sean Trammell, Ron Nelson, Captain Geis, My precious sister and second mother, Jan Johnson Clark, The Helwigs, Karen & Max Beets, Ken & Jean Kassen, Dale Applebaugh George White, Margaret Endicott, Bob Daniels, John Felts, John & Cheryl Calvert, Dave & Rosalie Sode, Bob & Lila, Bev & John Wittenborn, Ted Boone, Macy & Della, Tom & Katie Marsh, Dave & Deanne Carr, Bob & Carol Watson, Cristina at Fry's, Steve Hougland, Dee Millbern, Sue Langseth, Kiel & Nadine, Mick & Dave Murphy, Wes & Nancy McCoy, Phil & Patty Jay, Don & Gloria Bowman, Janice & Scott Tow, Joan McDaniel, Hannah Minguicci, Luke & Adrienne, Everyone at Dale's Body Amanda York, Charles Losh, Heather Schoonover, The Edgebombs, Cody at Sutherlands; The First Sergeant, "Hollywood". Chelsey at Dale's Tow, Ed & Pat Hayes, Mary & Floyd, Bill & Lois, Gene & Beanie, Stuart Stiles, Cassandra T, Becky Gilmore Davis, Booster

From The Publisher
 *** As we get older, we often are seeing someone for the last time. It is essential you give them a good lasting impression, not anger them, not hurt feelings. Works the other way, too. You want to be remembered as a nice person, agreeable, supportive, helpful, kind, thoughtful. You never know when you've said, "Good bye!" for the last time. Be remembered as a good person. *** DO NOT put checks in your mail box for the letter carrier to get. *** Our paper is FREE because of our advertisers who pay for the printing. So, it is essential that, if you use one of our advertisers, that you tell them you knew of them, because you read about their business in the Gazette. God bless you for reading our paper

From The Publisher
 * ** Need a quick approx. measure, a Dollar Bill is 6 inches long. ** Big trend in travel industry now for spouses to take separate vacations, increase of 46%, more men than women. ** Scape goat comes from Christian tradition, during Atonement, bearing of community's sins, second goat was allowed to have gone free meaning believers had been forgiven their sins. ** What does it mean to be a "sandbagger"? e.g. lying that you cannot play pool then beating the heck out of opponent because you actually knew how to play pool very well. ** Quality of life in Georgia, Iowa, only two US States better than Kansas in recent national rating based on housing cost, food, crime, density. ** Study shows women fall out of love faster than men do. If men did not have insane sex drive, race would have died out long ago. * No plastic bags in most stores in 5 years, will have to provide your own reusable bags, hard to remember to put them back in the car, then to take them into. ** The IRS Internal Revenue will never call you. Hang up! It's a fraud. Do not answer if IRS ID.

'Out & About'
 with Dave

In each issue, Dave Highfill will report on happenings, news items, coming events, points of interest to our readers.

NEW LOCATION FOR MIKE'S BARBER SHOP
 As of Dec. 13, Mike's Barber Shop is now located at 539 East Santa Fe in Olathe.

If you are looking for a great haircut at a good price see stylist Isaiah, Megan, Mindy, and Mackenzie at Mike's.

"I never stayed with the same barber shop til I came to this place. They are consistent and very talented. Highly recommend this shop. Isaiah is the best," said Gazette Sports Editor Dave Highfill.

Mike's is open Mon-Fri 8:30 to 5:30 pm and Sat. 7:30 am to 2 pm. Walk-ins welcome or call 913 764-9767 for an appt.

Green Sleeves Meaning
 A possible interpretation of the lyrics is that Lady Green Sleeves was a promiscuous young woman, perhaps even a prostitute.[8] At the time, the word "green" had sexual connotations, most notably in the phrase "a green gown", a reference to the grass stains on a woman's dress from engaging in sexual intercourse outdoors.[9]

Camping Knowledge
 (Serialized 12-15-23)
 * Effective January 1, 2014, you will actually have to enlist in the Swiss Army to operate a Swiss Army Knife.
 * In an emergency, a drawstring from a parka hood can be used to strangle a snoring tent mate.

Finally a parking spot for middle-aged men



with beer bellies who love to grill

Care Prayer Concern
 Dr Bob Hull, Donna Mead, Family of US Marine Lance Corporal Donovan Davis, Dave Tebbe, Robert "Bob" Edwards skin cancer & Sandhy Edwards, pneumonia; Becky Morgan, Bill Cole, Lyn Ketterman, Dennis Ficken, Alyssa Smith, Wanda Gourd, Nancy Carr, Anita Lofquest, Coach Dan Eakin, Peter Mitchell, Beverly Rainwater, Gary Osborn, Wes & Nancy McCoy, Dave Sode, Jason Prine, Jim Steele, Don Miller, Sgt E-7 Jerome, Deena Logsdon, Dolores Cortland, Dona Edwards, Gary Underwood, Lanny & Barb Smith, Ed Walter, Jim Kennedy, Rick Jones, Joyce Backus, Brenda Harris, Doris Bender; Michael Tuttle, Lucas Butler; Todd Lambert, Mark Swenson, Gary Wells, Robert Walker, Lee Hammond, Dave Harold, Sheila S, Caroline Cowden, Rachel Thornburg, Elvie Cain, Joe Marvil, The American Public & Its Leaders; Kenny McCoy, Anne Metcalf, Jack & Kelly Smith, Mary Ann Noll, Ricky Jo Bjorchard, Richard Kauffman, Mary Cochran, all bed-ridden Gazette readers,



"It's just a backup system for your pacemaker."

Comments Made in 1957
 (serialized 1/24)

Comments
 * "I'll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are, it's going to be impossible to buy a week's groceries for \$20."
 * "I'm afraid to send my kids to the movies any more. Ever since they let Clark Gable get by with saying 'damn' in 'Gone With The Wind,' it seems every new movie has either "hell" or "damn" in it.

Thought for today
 Be someone else's sunshine.
 Be the reason someone smiles today.


ILLEGAL ALIENS SENT \$56 BILLION IN CASH TO THEIR HOME COUNTRIES LAST YEAR ALONE.

THAT'S AFTER THEIR KIDS ENJOYED FREE EDUCATION, FREE LUNCHES, AND FREE MEDICAL CARE PAID FOR BY YOU!

Can a human fully sink in quicksand?
 NO That's because quicksand is denser than the human body. People and animals can get stuck in it, but they don't get sucked down to the bottom—they float on the surface. Our legs are pretty dense, so they may sink, but the torso contains the lungs, and thus is buoyant enough to stay out of trouble.

From The Publisher
 Shooting marred the end of the KC Chiefs Super Bowl Parade on Wed., Feb 14. At press time, 6-10 were shot. ** The coverage was better this time as there was more attempts by the announcers to identify the individual players. The players appeared to be feeling their beers, as several of them on the front row, appeared to be close to the edge of the stage. Mahomes and Chiefs' announcer Mitch Holtzhus appeared to be trying to hold several players to keep them from falling off the stage. Next year, they should have a railing on the front of the stage, so players could not fall off.
 Police said nearly a million Chiefs fans attended the rally on a perfect day, when temperatures reached the mid 60's. Let's repeat and go for a Third Super Bowl Win

I'M OLD SCHOOL
 I believe in having good manners, respecting my elders & helping others when I can.



Thought for today
 The only people who deserve to be in your life are the ones who treat you with love, kindness and respect.

Our Next Three Issues
 We operate on advertising dollars. We will print on March 8, 2024. The deadlines are one week prior, so any ad for the next issue, would have to be at our office by Future issues are March 8, March 29, April 19

Please send us your snapshots, your news items, and even your humor, by then. Mail to us at Johnson's County Gazette, 1616 E. Sunvale Dr.; Olathe, KS 66062 or send by email to jocogazette@gmail.com 913-782-3399/913/782-1133

Somewhere in the middle of our happy moments, we all sigh a little, in the memory of someone we miss.



THE MOST WONDERFUL PLACES TO BE IN THE WORLD ARE:
 IN SOMEONE'S THOUGHTS,
 IN SOMEONE'S PRAYERS,
 AND IN SOMEONE'S HEART.



DON'T JUDGE PEOPLE BY WHERE THEY LIVE.
 SOMETIMES THERE IS MORE LOVE IN THAT LITTLE HOME THAN YOU WOULD FIND IN A MANSION.

In life
 you will realize there is a role for everyone you meet. Some will test you, some will use you, some will love you, and some will teach you. But the ones who are truly important are the ones who bring out the best in you. They are the rare and amazing people who remind you why it's worth it.



The trouble with going out in the cold at my age is by the time I get all bundled-up, I've forgotten where I was going.

COME TO JESUS
 Forgiveness and Eternal Life Await You, Pray "God forgive my sins and heal my life. Amen"
 Post Office Box 23705 Shawnee-Mission, Ks 66283

Don't Fight in a Road Rage
 Call 911 immediately, stay in your car, get license numbers, witnesses license numbers. Stay in car. Rest assured prosecution rates are high for this crime, we hope.

City of Olathe Launches All-New OlatheConnect System

On Wednesday, Jan. 3, the City of Olathe will launch an all-new OlatheConnect system designed to provide a more streamlined and efficient experience for all users. The new OlatheConnect is designed to provide our residents, businesses, and visitors with a virtual City Hall, giving them the opportunity to access City Hall, 24-hours a day, 7-days a week, from a computer, mobile device, or the comfort of their own home. Users will need to create an account to access the new OlatheConnect, giving them more ability to track open requests and previous requests that have been closed. On Wednesday, Jan. 3, visit OlatheKS.gov/OlatheConnect to begin using the new system.



Charlotte O'Hara Gives Views on Matters in Johnson County



Johnson County District Three Commissioner Charlotte O'Hara. The following is testimony I gave at Senator Thompson's hearing on SB 446, February 7, 2024.

Nefarious

The enemy is among us, brought forth in stunning testimony by Christopher Wray, FBI Director, one week ago before a House Select Committee on national security. Director Wray succinctly and strongly advised the committee and the citizens of the U.S.A. of the malevolent intent of the Peoples Republic of China hackers through Volt Typhoon malware. He testified that the PRC/CCP is targeting to disable critical infrastructure: water treatment plants, oil and gas pipelines, electrical grid and transportation systems. This is not a test; these are facts that even the Biden Administration could not ignore. The FBI Director announced the disabling of this malware on hundreds of routers across the U.S. in his testimony on January 31st. A quote from Director Christopher Wray's testimony, "The PRC's cyber onslaught goes way beyond prepositioning for future conflict. Today, and literally every day, they're actively attacking our economic security-engaging in wholesale theft of our innovation

attacking our economic security-engaging in wholesale theft of our innovation and our personal and corporate data." And this theft of personal data has happened at the local level. In Johnson County, through our contract with Konnech for election services, personal data from many of our county election workers was sent to China, in violation of our contract with Konnech. Further Cnano USA (according to media reports is a subsidiary of Jiangsu Cnano Technology Jiansu, China) on 6/1/2023 received approval of a property tax abatement through a \$34 million IRB (Industrial Revenue Bond) with a PILOT of 30 cents a sq. ft. ...75-85% abatement, plus a sales tax exemption on all materials, fixtures and equipment on this 333,000 plus sq. ft. facility. Also, according to our county staff, Cnano USA, was established and registered May, 2022, in Delaware. Further, according to our county staff there was no vetting of this company for security or for economic viability. There is no deed recorded on this building with Johnson County Register of Deeds (as of Monday, Feb. 5th) only a transfer of the IRB from KCI NCCC Building A, LLC Project, who constructed the building, to Cnano, USA. Further per county records there currently is no mortgage on the property. The KCI NCCC Building A, LLC Project mortgage held by Commerce Bank, KC, MO, dated August 25, 2022 was released July 12, 2023, upon the apparent sale of the building to Cnano USA. This sale was announced to the BOCC by the Johnson County Manager, Penny Postoak Ferguson. According to Johnson County Tax records and verified by the corporate address on the transfer of the IRB, the corporate headquarters of Cnano, USA, Inc is at 2101 City West Blvd., Houston, Texas 77042 described as a coworking, flexible workspace facility. However, now on the Kansas Secretary of State site, Cnano USA's address is 16105 John Glenn PKWY. However, according to Johnson County Planning the building is not and cannot be occupied by Cnano be-

(Continued on Page 4)

EDUCATION



By Earl A Martin, Ed.D

Earl Martin, Ed.D. from Baker University, M.Ed. from Rutgers University; Special Education teacher, Principal of Countryside Elementary, and Director of Elementary Education in Olathe School District; retired as education instructor for Emporia State University.

Parent-Teacher Conferences Are Important

by Dr. Earl A Martin

"Ho-Hum" represents some people's reaction to Parent-Teacher Conferences. In fact, some parents consider it a time to take a mini-vacation and skip them altogether. Especially in a time when Parent Rights in Education is a hot political topic, we should take Parent Conferences seriously.

Parent-Teacher conferences are important. It is true that some parents don't think they get much out of them, and it is true that some teachers don't plan conferences for the maximum benefit. As a parent myself, I have experienced some less than inspirational times with teachers whose vision of conferences was to show you your child's grades and ask if you have any questions. I'm hoping this is a minority of conferences.

To make conferences work, both teachers and parents have a role to play. In my elementary principal days in the Olathe School District, I was (and am) a strong advocate for "Student-involved" Conferences. That's different from "student led conferences." Student involved conferences simply means that the students are present at the conference; they don't necessarily lead it. It's a three-person conversation (Parent-teacher-and-student), not a two-person conversation. The conference would go very much like normal, except that the student is there to be a part of the talk about grades, quality of work, social skills, and goal-setting. I have never understood why we would ever want to exclude students (no matter what age) from THEIR progress report.

It would be like a business leaving your personal work evaluation without you being there. A student led conference is one where the student actually leads the conference, usually with a presentation. This can be a powerful leadership experience for just about any age kid and it buys ownership of responsibility and growth in school. This, too, can mirror a career growth report in work situations. In my opinion, it is the school's and the teacher's responsibilities to create meaningful conference formats that authentically recognize the student's ownership of his own learning and behavior.

It is the parents' responsibilities to fully participate in conferences, to come with questions, and to support school efforts to improve their child's learning and behavior. Those "helicopter parents" who blame the school for any difficulties their child is having only make things worse for everybody, and their efforts to shield their child from any growth challenges only stunt the process. In cases where teachers do not invite student participation, parents should insist on involving their child in the conversations. After all, if improvement has to be made, who has to do the improvement? The child.

Very often, students are involved in elementary conferences but not secondary conferences. I can never understand this. It's usually because the high school kid doesn't want to, but why should that matter? They don't usually want to mow the lawn either. But there's some growing up to do - and being in charge of your own learning is critical.

Parent-Teacher conferences are important. Let's make them count.

Opinion

What's The Matter With Kansas? It's Me, Hi, I'm The Problem, It's Me. By LeEta Felter, Kansas State Legislature Republican, Olathe, KS 2/3/24

Leadership in Topeka continues to block Medicaid expansion, while failing to find alternative solutions for the 150,000 Kansans in the insurance gap. This sucks-to-be-you (for those in the gap) mentality has persisted for nearly a decade, with leaders staunchly refusing to compromise or offer up plans to meet the need, some likely relieved they too aren't stuck in the gap because of state benefits they receive due to their elected position.

In his 2004 book, "What's the Matter with Kansas?", Thomas Frank chronicles the rise of political conservatism and the bitter divide between moderate and conservative factions within the Republican party in Kansas, claiming that Kansas espouses policies that do not benefit the majority of people in the state. It is through this lens that I join Frank in asking, "What's the matter with Kansas?"

When congress passed the Affordable Care Act ("ACA") in 2010, they provided subsidies for people living in poverty and a provision for the expansion of Medicaid in every state to cover the poorest among us. A 2012 SCOTUS ruling left the Medicaid expansion decision to the states. The federal government pays 90% of each state's costs for the expanded coverage.

Since that time all but ten states have adopted Medicaid expansion. Despite broad support, Kansas has not expanded Medicaid, leaving an estimated 150,000 Kansans in the health insurance gap earning too much to qualify for Medicaid, but not enough to purchase their own insurance or receive a ACA subsidized policy.

Last month, in her 5th attempt to expand Medicaid, Governor Kelly introduced a bill that includes elements that should make it attractive to her Republican counterparts: a poison pill that will claw back expansion should federal funds dry up, abortion restrictions, work requirements, revenue from drug rebates off-setting state costs making the initiative revenue neutral, and provisions addressing concerns critics have raised in prior legislative sessions.

Modeling the great leadership that Kansans have craved for years, Governor Kelly has worked exceptionally hard to build consensus, touring the state for months, meeting with farmers and ranchers, healthcare workers, business and faith leaders, and people from all walks of life across our amazing state. The state is primed and ready to support Medicaid expansion, with enough votes in both governing bodies if rumors are accurate, if only Senate President Masterson, and House Speaker Hawkins will allow the bill to come to the floor for debate.

A landmark study 2 found that Medicaid expansion saved the lives of over 19,000 adults between the ages of 55-62 between 2014-2017, and conversely that more than 15,600 older adults died premature deaths due to state decisions not to expand Medicaid. This same study ranks Medicaid (Continued on Page 5)

Opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the Gazette ownership, its staff, or its advertisers. Letters to the Editor are welcomed from all our readership. In a FREE country, we encourage people to voice their opinions without fear of government censorship. If you have a viewpoint and wish to express it, please send your Letter to the Editor to us at jocogazette@gmail.com or The Johnson's County Gazette; 1616 Sunvale Drive; Olathe, Kansas 66062-2109. We will not publish any Letter to the Editor that opens us up to libel or slander.

Inspired by Philip R. Johnson (1932-2015)

Now in our 48th Year Serving Johnson County Founder, Editor and Publisher -Keith Edwin Johnson

The Gazette was founded in 1977 by Keith E. Johnson and is published 22 times a year to serve the Johnson County, Kansas with an emphasis on Olathe. It is distributed at over 150 locations including 15 area Price Choppers, Hy-Vee, 3 Hen Houses, restaurants, retail, public buildings, libraries, Olathe Medical Center waiting rooms, breakrooms, offices, and other high traffic locations in Olathe, Overland Park, Lenexa, Spring Hill, Gardner, Lawrence, Oswatimie, Hillsdale, Soto, Paola, Shawnee, Louisburg. Every issue printed is picked up by someone. None are ever destroyed without being read. There is no waste. See us on the web at www.jocogazette.com

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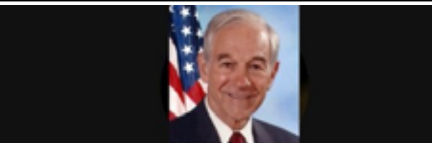
Top 5 News and highlights from Johnson County Government - Jan. 2024

Interested in some of the ways Johnson County Government is benefiting your community? Here are the Top 5 Things to know from Jan. 2024! You can learn more about all of these by visiting jocogov.org. Be sure to sign up for our JoCo Monthly e-newsletter while you are there! 1) The application window opened on Jan. 15 for the Senior and Disabled Veteran Property Tax Relief program. Johnson County residents who are 65 or older or are a disabled veteran and who meet income and other requirements may now apply for up to \$200 in property tax relief. Learn more at jocogov.org/PropertyTaxRelief.

2) The Johnson County Department of Health and Environment and Raising JoCo, a child care coalition, announce funding opportunities for individuals wanting to start a new home child care business or open a new child care center in Johnson County. To learn more, visit jocogov.org and search for "child care provider funding."

3) Merriam Plaza Library, the newest Johnson County Library branch, will open on March 20, 2024. The address is 6120 Slater Street, located on a shared campus with the Merriam Community Center. It replaces the Antioch Library branch, which opened in 1956 as the Library system's first official location.

4) The Johnson County Board of County Commissioners allocated a combined \$950,000 of federal Coronavirus funds to three pilot programs. 1) \$200,000 to a program that gives incentives to landlords for accepting Housing Choice Vouchers; 2) \$250,000 to cover costs of local licensing requirements for new and renewing child care providers and 3) \$500,000 to provide rental assistance for those participating in the Eviction Mediation Program. 5) Adam Norris started as the county's new assistant county manager. He has 20 years of executive leadership and management experience in government, and most recently worked for the city of Independence, Mo.



"If we stuck to the Constitution as written, we would have: no federal meddling in our schools; no Federal Reserve; no U.S. membership in the UN; no gun control; and no foreign aid. We would have no welfare for big corporations, or the "poor"; no American troops in 100 foreign countries; no NAFTA, GAT, or "fast-track"; no arrogant federal judges usurping states rights; no attacks on private property; no income tax. We could get rid of most of the agencies, and most of the budget. The government would be small, frugal, and limited."

-RON PAUL

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Notes from Idiots to Teachers, Bosses and Others

Headline: Kids Make Nutritious Snacks.

Please excuse Jane Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. She had an absent tooth.

Please excuse my daughter's absence. She had her periodicals.

"And now this tip from the American Red Cross. In case of drowning lay the girl ... lay the drowning victim on her back, and try mouth-to-mouth breathing ... (Gulp) breathing."

Attend today and you will hear an excellent speaker and have a healthy lunch.

"Couple number 3. What Beetle song reminds you of your wedding night? "It's Been A Hard Day's Night!"

POINTS TO PONDER (serialized 12-15-23)

- 12. I am a nobody, and nobody is perfect; therefore I am perfect.
13. Everyday I beat my own previous record for number of consecutive days I've stayed alive.
14. How come we choose from just two people to run for president and 50 for Miss America?
15. Isn't having a smoking section in a restaurant like having a peeing section in a swimming pool?
16. Why is it that most nudists are people you don't want to see naked?
17. Snowmen fall from Heaven un-assembled.
18. Every time I walk into a singles bar I can hear Mom's wise words: "Don't pick that up, you don't know where it's been!"

Rules for Being Human (serialized 12-15-23)

- 7. Others are merely mirrors of you. You cannot love or hate something about another person unless it reflects to you something you love or hate about yourself.
8. What you make of your life is up to you. You have all the tools and resources you need; what you do with those resources and tools is up to you. The choice is yours.
9. Your answers lie inside you. The answers to life's questions lie inside you; all you need to do is look, listen and trust.

Vendors Wanted for Sip & Shop Events in Downtown Olathe

The City of Olathe has announced a new Sip & Shop event at the Johnson County Square this summer. Visit the square from 5 to 8 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month from May to October for a family-friendly pop-up market featuring local makers, food trucks, music, and more.

Visit https://go.olatheks.gov/4bsERYo to apply to be a vendor. Visit OlatheKS.gov/SpecialEvents to learn more about Sip & Shop and all other City of Olathe special events.



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Whispers of Hope
by RJ Thesman



During February, the retail focus is often on Valentine's Day. And isn't it fun to help our kids pick out Valentines or fill their tummies with heart-shaped treats. We hear lots of messages about love, so it is helpful to remind ourselves that we, too, are loved by God.

But love is something we need to focus on during every month of the year. To teach our children how to show love to their siblings, to their friends, even to us. And to constantly remind our kids how much we love them.

Love for others includes showing compassion for those less fortunate and empathizing with those in pain. It includes daily acts of kindness within the home and when we go out.

How we treat the waitress who serves us. How we give of our time and money for a worthy cause. How we guard our tongues during social events or political discussions. How we respond on social media sites.

All these daily opportunities for kindness become examples of love to our children. We cannot say we truly love God unless we can also love others. And our children will follow our example. So let's practice showing love throughout every month of the year.

RJ Thesman is the author of 25 books and 800+ articles. She is also a writing coach and an editor. Thesman lives in Olathe with her adult son and a spoiled cat. She enjoys gardening, reading, and cooking, especially anything with blueberries. Follow her blog at: <https://RJThesman.net>

Charlotte O'Hara
(Continued from Page 3)

because the building is not complete and therefore an occupancy permit has not been issued. So where are they??? Somewhat iffy, in my opinion.

I could go on and on, but these are facts: the FBI is in a daily battle with the PRC/CCP to stop their state sponsored hacking into our critical infrastructure. Has the craze of "economic development" so blinded us at the local and state level that it has driven us to ignore the reality of our subsidizing entities with ties to hostile foreign entities, such as the PRC/CCP?

Therefore, I support SB 446 knowing full well that through accounting acrobatics and straw men it will not be worth the paper it is written on, unless there are serious penalties associated with any violation, should this bill become Kansas State Law.

RANDOM THOUGHTS....
1-7-24

Skinny people irritate me! Especially when they say things like, "You know sometimes I just forget to eat." Now I've forgotten my address, my mother's maiden name, and my keys. But I've never forgotten to eat. You have to be a special kind of idiot to forget to eat!

A friend of mine confused her valium with her birth control pills. She had 14 kids, but she doesn't really care.

Olathe Reporter - "Community News"
- Please contact Tom Kearney. - Submit an article to highlight an activity/event. The article should include: 1) Important information about the event (who, what, where, why, when, and how). 2) A brief history of your organization. 3) Activities your organization has undertaken in the past. 4) Any recognitions you have received for your work. - *Send articles in Word to: t.kearney@rocketmail.com - If you need any further information, contact me at t.kearney@rocketmail.com or call 913-461-9328.

February 24 Olathe Junior Service League- Pirates, Princesses and Pancakes Pancake Breakfast. 8am-10am. Longhorn Steakhouse 16689 W 119th St. Olathe. \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door. Order at ojsl.org

March 2 Saturday Olathe Noon Lions - 34th Annual Health Fair to be held at the Olathe Indian Creek located at 16100 W 135th Street on the first Saturday of March. Please consider nominations for the Milbern-Reddy Community Achievement Award by sending name and how they have helped the Olathe community to: jym-fees@gmail.com

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Marilyn Mae Stiner Wolff, 91, of Paola, formerly of Olathe, passed away Jan. 10, 2024 at her home. Marilyn requested cremation with no service or visitation. Arrangements: Heartland Cremation and Burial Society. Condolences may be sent to heartlandcremation.com. Marilyn was born May 9, 1932 in Frankfort, KS to Merl Stiner and Nellie Theis Stiner. Marilyn graduated from Centralia High School and attended 1 year at Kansas State University. She married William L. "Bill" Wolff on Feb. 17, 1952 in Centralia, KS and they moved to California, where Bill was in the Navy. They moved to Olathe in 1959 and were the owners of Julien-Flaming Furniture. Marilyn worked as a bookkeeper for Hollis, Kuckelman, and Van De Veer and Julien-Flaming Furniture. She retired in 1985. They lived in Paola since 2007 to be near family. Marilyn was a wonderful wife, mother and grandmother. She loved having her family nearby, was always supportive and there for them, and baked the best apple pies. She will be missed. Marilyn was preceded in death by her husband, parents, brothers Linnea, Loren, and Ross. She is survived by her children W. Todd and Stacey Wolff, Tucson, AZ; Terri and Carl Cooperrider, and Tim and Carolyn Wolff all of Paola; five grandchildren Michelle Parke (Erick), Zach Wolff, Melissa Bonecutter (Robert), Leah Owen (Chris), and Lauren Wolff (Sarah); and six great grandchildren; brother John; many nieces and nephews.

A Toast to General Washington

The Mahaffie family enjoyed celebrating General George Washington's birthday and you're invited to join the fun on Saturday, Feb. 24. The stagecoach will pick you up at the Heritage Center and take you to the Mahaffie house where you will be welcomed with a bonfire, popcorn, tavern games, treats, and drinks to sample. This event is for adults 21 and older. Tickets are \$15. Choose your arrival time when you purchase a ticket. Visit Mahaffie.org to learn more and purchase tickets.

LEGO Showcase at Indian Creek Library

Come check out the KC Brick Lab Showcase on Saturday, Feb. 24, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Indian Creek Library. There will be displays of LEGO creations built by members of Kansas City's Adult LEGO User Group. You'll be amazed at what these master builders create from LEGO bricks. Visit OlatheLibrary.org to learn more.

Pirates, Princesses and Pancakes

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Feb. 24
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16689 W 119th St

Olathe Junior Service League
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Pictures with Pirates & Princesses

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APRIL 6, 2024
2-4 p.m. at Indian Creek Library

Join us for tea and light refreshments, creative table settings and giveaways. Tickets will go on sale for \$20 at the Indian Creek Library on Saturday, March 9 at 10 am. After March 9, tickets will be on sale in the Indian Creek Library bookstore until sold out.

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David Von Drehle is Deputy Opinion Editor and columnist for The Washington Post, writing on a wide range of topics. The Book of Charlie spent several weeks on The New York Times Best Sellers list.

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When to Move to Nursing Home
(Continued from Page 1)

You simply cannot stay at home when it is no longer safe to live there. Examples include leaving the stovetop burners on, wandering away from home, malnutrition and dehydration, not taking medications properly, frequent falls/injuries/hospitalizations, and elder abuse.

2. The health and wellbeing of the caregiver are in decline. This includes physical health, mental health, emotional health, and spiritual health. Stress is a very powerful force and unfortunately, I have seen the caregiver pass away before the person they are caring for due to the heavy weight and tremendous stress of being the caregiver. This is such a tragedy because this can be easily avoided, and now they are not here to watch over the person they loved so much.

3. In-home support costs too much. This could be a financially driven decision. I am a huge proponent of homecare services; I believe that having support from a homecare provider can help you remain independent at home for years to come. However, when the need for homecare rises to 24-hours per day, it will cost \$25,000-\$30,000 per month and that is not sustainable for most people for very long. By contrast, moving to assisted living costs \$6,000-\$8,000 per month.

4. When you just can't keep up. If you can no longer meet the needs of your loved one, it's time to choose a senior care community to provide care. Once you choose a place, you can return to your traditional role as the loving spouse, daughter, or son. This will be a trying time for all, but for the majority of families I have helped, it works out much better than they ever expected.

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(Continues above right)

EVERYBODY READS THE GAZETTE
The Great Albino Skunk Chase
 (Continued from Page 1)

somehow on the farm and had to have hip surgery. On top of that she somehow got an infection in the hospital and had to have IV therapy for several days.

Heidi was quite the "tomboy" and was not thrilled with just sitting in the hospital all day. When Duane called to give us an update on Heather, Heidi asked to talk to us. Naturally, he let her, not knowing she that she would blurt out, "Uncle Terry, Aunt Mae, please come get me out of here."

We told her to hang on and we would be there the next day. We loaded up the camper and van and headed to "rescue" Heidi. We picked her up the next day and headed on to Branson, so the kids could have some fun. One evening the girls wanted to go on an adventure. That usually meant, that they would go to the playground or walk the lap around the campground.

Little did we know that there was a notice in the clubhouse that an albino skunk had been sighted around the edge of the campground. A \$100.00 reward was for anyone who caught the skunk and brought it in alive. It also stated that there was no need to worry because they could not spray like other skunks. ("WRONG!!!!!!") The girls were on an adventure for sure!

After an unsuccessful attempt to find the skunk, they came back to camp to tell us of their great adventure. I was grateful that it was unsuccessful, but they were not.

That night, as the girls were in their bed looking out the camper window, they spotted the skunk going behind our camper in the wooded area. They flew out of bed and convinced Uncle Terry to help them catch the prize skunk.

It wasn't long and they came back with a slight skunk aroma.

Some boys had caught the skunk, but let it go immediately after being sprayed. Fortunately, after a shower and change of clothing, the girls had a good night's sleep satisfied with just the memory of a great adventure.

L/Cpl Donovan Davis
 (Continued from page 1)

ly and was proud to be a Marine."
 "There are no words to describe how saddened we are by his tragic loss. We grieve for the fact that his life ended so prematurely and tragically."
 A 21-year-old crew chief from the Kansas City area was one of the five Marines killed, when a CH53E helicopter crashed during a storm near San Diego, according to a news release from the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

The Marine Corps confirmed on Friday afternoon that Lance Cpl. Donovan Davis from Olathe died in the crash.

The other Marines killed in the crash were identified as Sgt. Alec Langen, 23, a crew chief from Chandler, Arizona, Capt. Benjamin Moulton, 27, a pilot from Emmett, Idaho, Capt. Jack Casey, 26, a pilot from Dover, New Hampshire, and Capt. Miguel Nava, 28, a pilot from Traverse City, Michigan

The Sawyers' Living on Wheels for 21 Years



RV Gurus Gail & Fran Sawyer

A rich young woman sat beside a poor elderly man on a plane. She alerted the flight attendant upon taking her seat.

The flight attendant answered warmly, when the woman abruptly said, "Please find me another seat immediately." The flight attendant responded, "I'm sorry Ma'am, but the economy cabin is fully booked."

The rich woman replied, "But I'm not going to travel beside a worthless bum. Do something."

While the elderly man stared in disbelief, the flight attendant responded, "I'll talk to the Captain about this." The flight attendant went to the Captain and asked, "Captain, a woman feels uncomfortable sitting beside a poor elderly man. What should we do?"

Surprisingly, the Captain's face changed. He looked amused and said, "This woman is interesting. I've never encountered an issue like this before. I have a plan. Listen."

And the Captain relayed to the flight attendant what he wants to do. The flight attendant was stunned at his plan. In fact, she was amazed.

A few minutes later, the flight attendant returned. "The Captain said we could use an open seat in First Class."

He also wants to apologize for having to travel with such a terrible person."

As the woman rose out of her seat, the flight attendant reached out her arm towards the poor elderly man. "Sir will you please follow me?" To which the plane applauded.

Never look down on other people. We are all equal in God's sight. Regardless of what you have achieved in life, stay humble. Keep your feet on the ground. The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot.

Thought For The Day - You know you are getting old when the candles on your birthday cake start to cost more than the cake itself.
 Jerry Walter

Really?

- When an actress saw her first strands of gray hair she thought she'd dye.
- Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.
- Marathon runners with bad footwear suffer the agony of defeat.

Tidy Up The Time
 (Continued from page 1)

harming the plant itself. Dormancy means that they have pulled down all of their life juices to store underground where it is safe from the wilds of weather. Cutting on a branch will be more of a fingernail trim than severing an arm. Below is a short explanation of the current best-practice for trimming tree branches. You'll find the whole article here:] <https://www.russelltreeexperts.com/arbor-ed/2021/6/30/pruning-3-cuts>

Step by step: The 3 Cut Method
1st Cut / Bottom cut
 Create a cut on the underside (undercut) of the branch roughly 1/3 of the way through.

This is a crucial step in the branch removal process as it eliminates the risk of the branch peeling down and further harming the tree.

2nd Cut / Top Cut
 Next is a second cut on top of the limb (further from the trunk) to remove the limb (top cut).

3rd Cut / Final cut
 Now, with only a stub remaining, is when you should identify where the branch bark ridge and branch collar are. This will be the site for your final cut that will eventually seal properly as long as the tree is healthy and capable.

Something else to consider at this time of year is the damage that comes from using a lot of salt or ice melt products. MDC has information about this on their website: <https://mdc.mo.gov/trees-plants/tree-care/established-tree-care/ice-melter-damage>

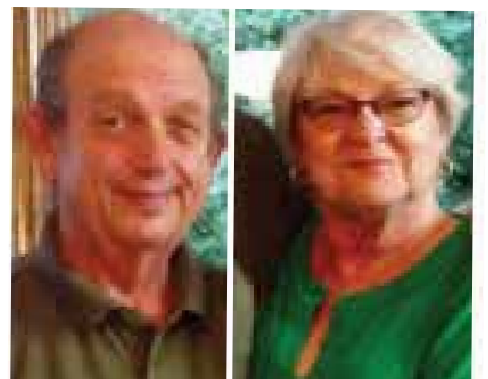
The main point on this is be very judicious in how much if any ice melt to use around your trees or plants. "Popular ice-melting salts — common table salt, calcium chloride, ammonium nitrate, and urea — can damage plants, making them grow slowly, become deformed, succumb to disease, or die."

In my opinion, if you can possibly not go out when it's icy, that is best and there is no need to apply anything. If you do, cut it with sand for grip and use less salt.

Happy Tidying!



Janine Clark-Barry lives with her family in southwest Missouri



Gazette Senior Special Feature Editor Don Bowman, his lovely wife, Gloria, & daughter have been Olathe residents for 40 years. They enjoy gardening, traveling and each other.

The \$288.7 Million Man
 (Continued from Page 1)

Witt elevated his game last season. He became the first Royals player to post a 30-30 season and made major league history with 20 homers/30 stolen bases in each of his first two professional seasons.

The signing solidified a strong off season. The Royals will be competitive with the signing of pitchers Seth Lugo, Michael Wacha and Kyle Wright. Also acquired relievers Will Smith, Nick Anderson and Chris Stratton.

Veterans Hunter Renfroe, Adam Frazier and Garrett Hampton also became Royals.

A Little Bit of Everything ... and I love them all
 (serialized 9-1-23)

Then there was the time Fruit of the Loom took Hanes to court... it was a brief case.
 How much does a chimney cost? Nothing, it's on the house.
 My friend said she wouldn't eat cow's tongue because it came out of a cow's mouth. I gave her an egg.



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Le Etta Felter
 (Continued from Page 1)

Medicaid expansion with other major public health interventions in terms of saving lives, "If all states had expanded Medicaid, the number of lives saved just among older adults in 2017 would nearly equal the number of lives saved by seat belts among people of all ages."

I love Kansas. It is my sincere hope that our leaders can work together to pass Medicaid Expansion, and we can begin reaping the benefits other states have experienced after expansion. In order for Kansas to thrive, we need to grow. Showing that we can work together to find solutions for the persistent challenges that face our state is a good step in showing the nation that Kansas is a great place to live, work, play, raise a family, and retire.

If our state leadership continues to block the common sense solution proposed by Governor Kelly, we should vote them out of office next year when every state house and senate seat will be up for election. If we continue to invite obstructionists back to our legislature we have no one else to blame but ourselves.

LeEtta Felter, (R) Kansas State Rep.

Resources
 1 A recently released public opinion survey conducted by the Docking Institute at Fort Hays State University shows that 70% of Kansans support the expansion of Medicaid, up from 64% in 2020 with the identical poll (Kansas Speaks, 2023).
 2 National Highway and Transportation Safety Administration and Miller et al., "Medicaid and Mortality," 2019

Great Moments in Baseball
 (Continued from Page 1)

in a blood-stained uniform. A real badge of courage. After visiting the boy in the hospital, and realizing the family was of modest means, he stopped by the business office and instructed that the bill be sent to him.

After earning his degree from *Murray State* in Kentucky in 1973, Mr. McCoy came to Olathe, where he opened an insurance agency. He continues to serve clients to this day—some 48 years later. He is proud to have built his business "The old-fashioned way," one client at a time. The Golden Rule has been a guiding light in business, and in life.

Wes McCoy learned not only the value of hard work from his parents, but also the value of service to others. This began early, through church. Then there was the Boy Scouts, and other school and civic organizations. Mr. McCoy's sense of service has followed him ever since.

At *Journey Bible Church* (formerly *Olathe Bible Church*), Mr. McCoy was one of the leaders of the Youth Group, which has undertaken mission trips to Mexico. Through *Woodland Charities*, Mr. McCoy has helped to provide water filters for thousands of homes in *Guatemala and Panama*. In 2010, he was named Peace Ambassador by the Guatemalan government.

Even today, he is active in service organizations. Mr. McCoy has been a Rotary Club member for 30 years, and served as *District Governor in 2003-2004*. He has been recognized as a *Paul Harris Fellow*, and has received "Point of Light" commendations for his promotion of reading and literacy programs. The club distributes dictionaries—including Spanish-English dictionaries—to area schools.

He also mans, "Bucket Brigade," one of the service organizations sponsored by *Journey Bible Church*, which collects and distributes coats to those in need. Mr. McCoy also volunteers at *Bread of Life*, which partners with *Panera*. Bread of Life collects, unused food from Panera restaurants and distributes it to food pantries. That, "Connector" superpower is most evident here.

Service to the community took a new direction for Mr. McCoy when he was elected to represent Ward 3 in the Olathe City Council in 2013. The profile of downtown Olathe has been transformed by the City Council's foresight. Mr. McCoy points to the high-rise Arrello apartment complex, which stands where the old downtown library once stood. Both new libraries—Downtown and Indian Creek, across from Kohl's—are a testament to the Council's vision for Olathe. Mr. McCoy has been Councilman-at-Large for the past three years.

In Olathe he also found—and married—Nancy Wells.

"The love of my life," he confesses.

Wes and Nancy just celebrated their 48th anniversary this past Valentine's Day. Joining them were their two children, and four grandchildren—all of whom live in Olathe. Aiden, their oldest grandson, is 16, and considering a career in the Air Force. He is a member of the Civil Air Patrol, and next year plans to apply to the Air Force Academy. The tradition of McCoy family service continues.

Wes, you are a community treasure the likes of which we rarely see anymore. God bless you for your thousands of kindnesses spread all over the world.

German Nuclear Sub !!!
 (Continued from Page 1)

Kessler of the Luftwaffe; Colonels Sandrat and Neishling, also of the Luftwaffe; civilian rocket and jet experts; and most mysterious of all, Lieutenant Commanders Hideo Tomonaga and Genzo Shoji of the Imperial Japanese Navy.

Fehler's mission: transport personnel and materials to Japan to support its war against the Allies. The final days of the Reich might be at hand, but what assistance could be provided Japan, would be provided.

With a mission of such importance, Fehler had to avoid any possible contact with the enemy; U-234 ran deep and continuously submerged for two weeks after leaving Kristiansand. Only after making it through the English Channel into the Atlantic did Fehler feel sufficiently confident to surface for two hours each night.

But events were at work beyond Fehler's control. On May 10, the U-234 picked up a fatal shortwave transmission, Doenitz's announcement of Germany's surrender: "My U-boat men...you have fought like lions...lay down your arms." Instructions were given to proceed to the nearest allied port, but U-234 was so positioned that several possible destinations existed. Fehler decided to head to the United States. Unwilling to be captured, Hideo Tomonaga and Genzo Shoji committed suicide. On May 14, an American boarding party took over and directed the U-234 to Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Despite tight security, the arrival of U-234 at the docks became a major news event. Considerable coverage was devoted to the ship's most illustrious passenger, Ulrich Kessler, e.g., "typical Hollywood version of a German general... as he strutted off the gangplank he casually looked around... and swaggered to a waiting bus. He wore a long leather great coat which reached to his ankles, highly polished leather boots and an Iron Cross."

Much of U-234's top secret cargo, 240 tons of documents and war materials, was shipped to Washington and opened out of sight of the press's cameras. A good deal was what might be expected, e.g., armor piercing anti-aircraft shells. There were surprises, e.g., two Me-262 jet fighters. But, the biggest surprise of all came when 10 containers marked "Japanese Army" were opened. They contained 560 kg of uranium oxide.

What was the intended purpose of these 560 kg of uranium oxide? Were the Japanese working on their own nuclear weapon, atomic bomb. We may never know. We may have averted a nuclear bomb going off in the USA.

Light, Color, Reflection
 (By Halley Kasten)

Colors dance across frosty ground
 Golden sunlight reaching far corners
 Dusty shadows filling unseen crevices
 Painting the land with magic and wonder

Beauty danced before us teasingly
 "Have you seen an enchantress such as I before?
 It sang out crisply
 "And will you view me yet again?"

These, the questions of day and night
 Every moment the earth would turn
 The sunlight changes yet again
 Every angle producing a new sight to behold

One would not expect
 Such a simple thing
 As the science of light, color, and reflection
 To fill an afternoon for three

And yet
 Bonded by the tranquility
 The infinite, photographable possibilities,
 And the ever-changing joy, were we



Wes McCoy - A Heart of Gold
 (Continued from P 1)

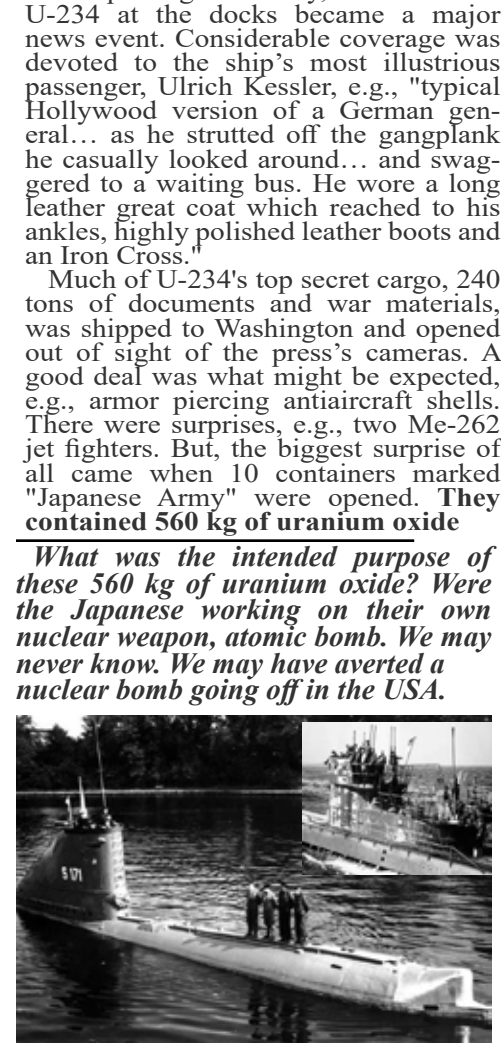
Le Etta Felter
 (Continued from Page 1)

Great Moments in Baseball
 (Continued from Page 1)

German Nuclear Sub !!!
 (Continued from Page 1)

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New Text Abbreviations for Seniors

ATD: At the Doctor's
BTW: Bring The Wheelchair
BYOT: Bring Your Own Teeth
CGU: Can't Get Up
FWIW: Forgot Where I Was
GGPBL: Gotta Go, Pacemaker Battery Low!
GHA: Got Heartburn Again
IMHAO: Is My Hearing Aid On?
LMDO: Laughing My Dentures Out
LOL: Living On Lipitor
WAITT: Who Am I Talking to?
WATP: Where Are The Prunes?

Top Ten Reasons Why Men Prefer Guns Over Women

from Dale Applebaugh

- #10 - You can trade an old 44 for a new 22.
- #9 - You can keep one gun at home and have another for when you're on the road.
- #8 - If you admire a friend's gun and tell him so, he will probably let you try it out a few times.
- #7 - Your primary gun doesn't mind if you keep another gun for a backup.
- #6 - Your gun will stay with you even if you run out of ammo.
- #5 - A gun doesn't take up a lot of closet space.
- #4 - Guns function normally every day of the month.
- #3 - A gun doesn't ask, "Do these new grips make me look fat?"
- #2 - A gun doesn't mind if you go to sleep after you use it.
- And the Number One reason Why Men Prefer Guns over women:
#1 - You can buy a silencer for a gun.

The longer I stay home, the more homeless I look



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Young Gulls

Many of you may not be aware that the Kansas City Zoo is shared by Kansas City, Kansas, and Kansas City, Missouri. A part of the zoo is on each side of the state line. All the fish are on the Missouri side and the birds are on the Kansas side. Several years ago, attendance was falling at the aquarium so it was decided to start a marine show like the one at Sea World in San Diego. Their porpoises were trained to do all the usual tricks, such as jumping over barriers, throwing balls and so forth. Attendance quickly increased.

One day a problem arose; the porpoises began to do sexually explicit acts during the show.

The zoo director called a meeting of the aquarium personnel. A trainer suggested, "Let's do something to distract the porpoises, like feeding them something extra during the show. What do porpoises eat besides fish?"

"I've noticed them eating small sea gulls," another trainer answered.

"That's it! I'm sure we can get fledgling seagulls from the aviary," the first trainer said.

The director of the bird house confirmed that there was a surplus of young sea gulls. Before the next porpoise show, one of the trainers went over to the bird house. He filled a container with fledgling gulls and headed back for the aquarium.

As he crossed the line dividing Kansas from Missouri, he was stopped by the highway patrol and arrested. The charge was: Transporting young gulls across the state line for immoral porpoises!



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"YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY..."
from Dale Applebaugh
"EVERYTHING COMES IN THREES" - Not true. In reality, everything comes in ones. Sometimes, when three "ones" come in a row, it seems like everything comes in threes. By the way, in medieval times, it was widely believed that everything came in twenty-sixes. They were wrong, too. It just took them longer to recognize the pattern.

"YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU (when you die)" - Well..., that depends on what it is. If it's your dark blue suit, you can certainly take it with you. In fact, not only can you take it with you, you can probably put some things in your pockets.

"YOU LEARN SOMETHING NEW EVERY DAY" - Actually, you learn something old every day. Just because you've just learned it, doesn't mean it's new. Other people already knew it, Columbus is a good example of this.

"YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR" - Clearly this is not true. Have you been shopping recently? Only a very naive person would believe that you get what you pay for. In point of fact, if you check your purchases carefully, you'll find that you get whatever they feel like giving you. And if corporations get any more powerful, you soon might not even get that.

"NICE GUYS FINISH LAST" - Not true. Studies have shown that, on average, nice guys finish third in a field of six. Actually, short guys finish last. By the way, in medieval times, it was widely believed that nice guys finished twenty-sixth. You can see how limited those people were.

Thought for today
It's a new day, a new week, a new month!
Take life day by day, and be grateful for the little things.
Don't stress over what you can't control.

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YMCA is ESSENTIAL

(Continued from Page 1)

above and beyond to address specific community needs. Recognizing that community well-being extends beyond physical fitness, the Olathe YMCA actively engages with critical issues affecting Johnson County. Some of the largest issues that the local community faces is the lack resources, food, and loneliness. In response to these challenges, the Olathe YMCA has taken innovative steps to make a meaningful impact.

Collaborating with Harvesters, the Olathe YMCA hosts a monthly mobile food drive and maintains an in-house food pantry. However, understanding the importance of addressing food insecurity comprehensively, the YMCA has gone a step further by implementing a sustainable solution. The addition of 8 raised garden beds and a greenhouse not only supplements food resources with fresh produce but also creates opportunities for community engagement and volunteerism.

The garden beds and greenhouse initiative serves a dual purpose: addressing food insecurity and combating social isolation. Beyond providing fresh, locally grown produce, these additions create a platform for community members to come together through a shared interest in gardening. The act of volunteering in the garden not only offers a sense of purpose but also helps alleviate feelings of depression and loneliness by fostering meaningful connections within the community.

Furthermore, the greenhouse extends the growing season, ensuring a more consistent and reliable source of fresh produce throughout the year. This forward-thinking approach not only addresses immediate needs but also contributes to the long-term

Olathe North Football Players Sign Scholarships

Olathe North Coach Chris McCartney has so far announced the following players signing football scholarships. Congrats from the Gazette!

- Aiden Bruce HutchCC
- Braden Hales Colo St.
- Caleb Taylor HighlandCC
- MJ Mack McPherson
- Xavier Woods Benedictine
- TJ Porter, Nate Gunderson and Daniel Vann are still not committed.

Shot Clock Approved For Trial Run In High School Basketball

A 35-second shot clock has been approved on a trial basis by the KSHSAA Executive Board for the 2024-25 basketball season.

All KSHSAA member schools will have the option to use the shot clock for all home girls and boys basketball games at the varsity level. The trial will only be for the regular season. If a school chooses to use the trial they must do so for all boys and girls varsity games they host.

Schools opting in will be required to fill out a short survey after each game to collect data on the experience of using the shot clock. Data is to include score, number of violations, number of officials conferences to discuss shot clock issues, noted problems and anecdotal information about impact of shot clock to game's outcome.

The KSHSAA will collect data and observations throughout the season before deciding implementation following the 2024-25 season.

Area Football Players Named To Shrine Bowl Roster

Several area football players have been named to the 51st Kansas Shrine Bowl East All-Star 2024 team.

The Kansas Shrine Bowl will be played on June 29, at Welch Stadium in Emporia.

"We are excited to invite this group of young men into the Kansas Shrine Bowl family," Brice Kessler, Executive Director of the Kansas Shrine Bowl said. They had tremendous careers on the football field and earned this opportunity to use their talents, blessed with to play the game they love for a bigger cause."

Local players on the East roster are Declan Battle, Louisburg quarterback, Justyce Betts, Bishop Miege, OL, Mark DeBiak, Gardner Edgerton, DL, Elijah Hakim, Olathe South wide receiver, Sage Huffman, BV West, RB, Bryce Noernberg, Olathe South, ATH/P, Carson Kraft, St. Thomas Aquinas, OL.

We were driving in my friend Gary's new car. I asked him about its features. He listed the usual, then added, "It tells me to slow down as I approach the speed limit. It warns me when I have to stop. It points out solid no-passing lines."

I expressed my amazement. "But," he explained, "these features work only when my wife is in the car."

Tournament Champions!
Posting a perfect 3-0 record the Heritage Christian Academy boys basketball team won their home invitational tournament in December.
Team members listed above photo by Anita Albert

Heritage Christian Boys Win Home Invitational Basketball Title

- Front Will Fisher
- Biruk Dietz
- Timothy Dietz
- Coach Burns
- Liam Beard
- Freddie Cook
- Back Coach Fisher
- Noah Albert
- Landon Eekhoff
- Miles Buhrle
- Landon Pittman
- Lucas Prado
- Declan Schoff
- Spencer Cook
- Ben Chatter



HCA Boys Win Home Invite Basketball Title Posting a perfect 3-0 record, the Heritage Boys Basketball team won their Home Invitational basketball title in December.
SUBMITTED BY ANITA ALBERT



Hulse To Be Inducted Into Hall Of Fame

Former Olathe East coach Jeff Hulse will be one of five individuals to be inducted into the Kansas State High School Hall of Fame Class of 2024.

Awards will be presented during 2024 in conjunction with a KSHSAA-sponsored state function/championship, or locally at the inductee's request.

The honorees were chosen from nominations reviewed by a selection committee. To be eligible for the Hall of Fame, an individual must have made an unusual contribution in inter school activities, either as a student with exceptional talent, or as an adult working with youth (such as a coach, director or sponsor, an official or contributor).

Hulse coached three sports at Olathe East High School establishing a tradition of exceptional success for the Hawks.

Hulse coached softball (17 years), girls tennis (22 years), and girls basketball (14 years).

Accomplished in all three sports, Hulse etched his name in girls softball history. From 2000-2014, East softball had a record of 332-23 and a winning percentage of .935.

He guided the Hawks to seven KSHSAA State softball titles and 13 regional championships. He was Kansas Coaches Association Softball Coach of the Year in 2004, 2009, and

2013. Sunflower Coach of the Year six times and Midwest Sectional Coach of the Year in 2004. He was also NFSHS Coach of the Year Region 5. Hulse was Kansas Tennis Coaches Association Coach of the Year in 1999, 2006, and 2012 and taught Physical Education in the Olathe School District 40 years.

Area Officials Earn National Awards

Chad MacFarland and Will Meier of Olathe were recently recognized as 2023 state high school officials of the year by the National Federation of High School and Kansas State High School Activities Association.

Both made significant contributions to high school officiating as registered KSHSAA officials.

Meier was recognized in boys basketball while MacFarland in boys baseball.

Others receiving 2023 State Officials of the Year were: Rodney Palen-Beloit Doug Richter-Garden City-Girls basketball Phil Lombardi-Kansas City-football Chris Johnson-Wichita-Boys Soccer

Joe House-Topeka-Girls soccer Van Schaeffer-Lawrence-Boys Track and Field Eric Deitcher-Berryton-Girls Track and Field Cameron Chandler-Sterling-Softball

Karen Thornton-Garden City-Volleyball Andy Hutchinson-Manhattan-Wrestling John Comstock-Kansas City-Gymnastics

Olathe East Players Sign College Football Scholarships

The following Olathe East players recently signed college football scholarships. Congrats to Coach Courtney Porter and the Olathe East Hawks

- Brett Carroll - University of Minnesota
- Ray Smith III - Northwest MO State
- Craig Hartung Jr. - Kansas Wesleyan
- TaVeon Bell-Robinson - Hutchinson Community College
- Damarion Green-Burk - William Woods
- Jalen Proctor - William Woods
- Gerard Reed III - Butler Community College
- Daylen Mburu - Coffeyville Community College
- Jalen Grace - not yet
- Zion Wayne - not yet



MNU Head Football Coach Paul Hansen Has 48 Kids Signed 39 from Kansas, Mo Great New Stadium Ready Late October

The stadium is really good. Right now scheduled to open Oct 19th for our homecoming game. Here is the story from our signing day. <https://mnusports.com/news/2024/2/7/FB020724.aspx> We signed 48 kids. 39 of them are from Kansas and Missouri. Very excited about the future of MNU Football.



OLATHE, Kan. - The MNU Football team is excited to announce the 2024 signing class. The class welcomes 48 new signees to the Pioneer family. Ten different states are represented among the new signees.

"This is my fifth recruiting class since taking over at MNU," says head coach Paul Hansen. "Going into this recruiting season, we wanted to get bigger on the Offensive and Defensive lines. This class gives us even more depth, so we can continue to win conference championships and make a run in the national playoffs. I'm very proud of how hard our staff worked to land such quality student athletes."

Defensively, some key signees at the defensive line position will help add to a unit that returns nine starters next year. "Transfer Prince Okitama and Tariq Laurent will add speed and quickness to the defensive line," says Coach Hansen. "Look for Elijah McFadden, Kenyon Minnis, and Dominic Rue to be key players that can help our defensive secondary immediately."

On the offensive side, George Dennis, Elloy Mendoza, and Carter Devore all look to be key signees that add size to the offensive line. "For us to win another conference championship and make a run in the national playoffs, we will need to win the line of scrimmage," says Hansen. "We return eleven starters on offense next year, so getting good depth behind those guys were a key. Players like Luke Hardman, Donovan Grier, Anthony Keller, and Zayden Snapp will look to be key players that can help the offense."

"Overall, I am very satisfied with this recruiting class. We signed 39 local kids from Kansas and Missouri. We want the best local kids right here in Olathe. This class is the future of MNU Football, and they will lead us for the next four years," says Hansen.

The Pioneers open the 2024 football season September 7th at Culver-Stockton.

Shrine Bowl Adds Wrestling Event

The Kansas Shrine Bowl has added wrestling to its all-star offerings. An East vs. West senior all-star wrestling event is in conjunction with the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association.

The KWCA Kansas Shrine Duals are set for March 17, at Fugate Gymnasium on the campus of Newman University in Wichita.

The event will feature some 60 of the state's top wrestlers, boys and girls, competing in an East-West dual format.

All net proceeds will benefit Shriner's Children's, previously known as Shriner's Hospitals for Children

KU Football To Play Conference Home Games At Arrowhead

Due to ongoing renovations at David Booth Memorial Stadium, the KU football team will play its home games at GEHA Arrowhead Field this fall.

However, two nonconference games against Lindenwood and UNLV will be played at Children's Mercy Park in Kansas City, Kansas. Conference home games with Missouri, TCU, Colorado, Iowa State and Houston will be played at Arrowhead.

MNU Girls Basketball Coach Hits 300 Wins, MNU's Anthony Brown Hits 3,000 Points

Coach Jon Lewis (Women's Basketball) with hitting 300 wins last night, Anthony Brown (men's Basketball) with hitting 3000 career points earlier in the season, from Kristina Bonner



MNU Girls Basketball Coach Jon Lewis has reached the amazing goal of 300 career wins. photo courtesy: Kristina Bonner



MidAmerica Nazarene basketball player Anthony Brown has reached the phenomenal goal of 3,000 career points. photo: Kristina Bonner

GET A QUOTE

Ann & I have lived at 1616 E. Sunvale Drive in Old Havencroft since 1991. We have touched up the paint here and there, but sadly, realistically, being self-employed, busy as a beaver has meant, I haven't had time for preventative maintenance. This is where third generation, long-time family friend Sean Trammell and his crews comes in. "Keith, it's been a long time since we painted your house, do you want a bid?" "Yes, sure", I said. What happened next, after they arrived was the most conscientious, thorough-going transformation of our long neglected ranch to a brand-new looking house! First, they carefully removed everything that needed to be moved, plants, trellises, broken downspouts, damaged gutters, rotten fascia boards, et al. Then, they power-washed. That alone made me feel better about our home. It was amazing what dirt & fading had done over those many, many years. Then, when dry, the courteous, thoughtful crewmen started the over 300 hundred or more feet of caulking, patching, replacing hardware, and more. Then, they removed windows, masked everything off and began the brushing, the spraying and the trim paint. I told the crew members they were not painters, they were truly ARTISTS fully restoring a 1967 vintage house to its former elegance. I rest my case. If you're ready for the Best at a Reasonable Price, do yourself and your home a favor, call Sean today! Keith & Ann Johnson

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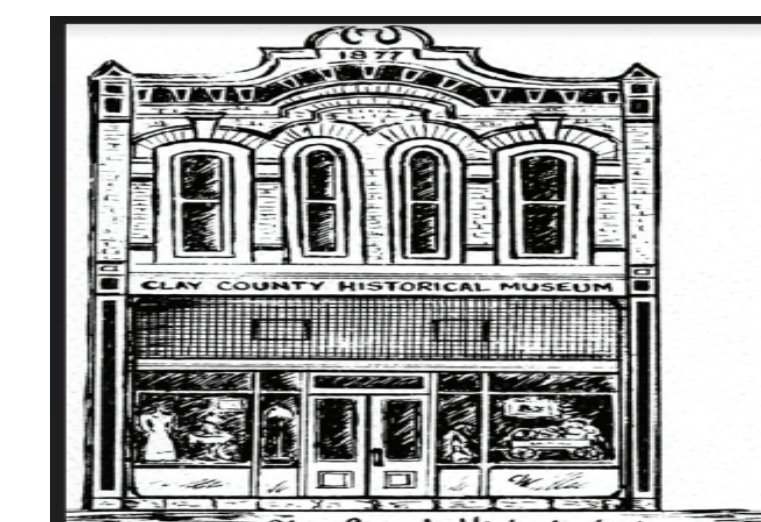
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Thank You for Being You!



There are certain people who change our lives in a hundred little ways. Most of the time they don't even realize the difference they have made with a smile or an encouraging word of comfort. I want to be sure you know just how much brighter my world is because you are in it. Thank you for being you!

Top 10 Reasons Eve Was Created

10. God worried that Adam would frequently become lost in the garden because he would not ask for directions.
9. God knew that Adam would one day require someone to locate and hand him the TV remote.
8. God knew that Adam would never go out and get himself a new fig leaf when his seat wore out and would therefore need Eve to get one for him.
7. God knew that Adam would never be able to make a doctor's, dentist or haircut appointment for himself.
6. God knew that Adam would never be able to remember which night to put the garbage on the curb.
5. God knew that if the world was to be populated, men would never be able to handle the pain and discomfort of childbearing.
4. As Keeper of the Garden Adam would never remember where he left his tools.
3. Apparently, Adam needed someone to blame his troubles on when God caught him hiding in the garden.
2. As the Bible says, It is not good for man to be alone! And finally, the number ONE reason that God created Eve...
1. When God finished the creation of Adam, He stepped back, scratched His head and said, "I can do better than that." Now, you just KNEW that one was going to be in the list, right?

The older you get the closer eternity seems. You never know when the sand is going to run out of the hourglass. So I just wanted to say, live well, be kind to others, and love and appreciate your family and friends. I'm going to challenge just one person out of my family and friends to put this on their wall. Tomorrow is promised to no one.

A Few Religious Definitions

- AMEN: The only part of a prayer that everyone agrees with.
- BULLETIN: Your receipt for attending church.
- CHOIR: A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the congregation to lip-sync.
- BAPTISMAL WATER: A liquid whose chemical formula is H2OLY.
- HYMN: A song of praise usually sung in a key three octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.
- JONAH: The original "Jaws" story.
- JUSTICE: When kids have kids of their own.
- MAGI: The most famous trio to attend a baby shower.
- MANGER: Where Mary gave birth to Jesus because Joseph wasn't covered by an HMO.
- PEW: A medieval torture device still found in churches.
- RECESSIONAL HYMN: The last song at church often sung a little more quietly, since most of the people have already left or are putting on their coats.
- USHERS: The only people in the parish who don't know the seating capacity of a pew.

USDA to Issue \$306 Million in Final Payments to Producers Impacted by 2020 and 2021 Natural Disasters

Disaster \$\$\$\$ Relief Available Now to Eligible Crop Producers

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6, 2024 - The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is issuing final Emergency Relief Program (ERP) payments totaling approximately \$306 million to eligible commodity and specialty crop producers who incurred losses due to natural disasters in 2020 and 2021. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will begin issuing these additional payments to eligible producers this week.

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The Hougland Team



Steve Hougland Susan Lowe Allison Hougland

With the bitter cold days we have been experiencing, you might be looking for something to keep you busy inside instead of braving the elements outside! If you are thinking of putting your home on the market this spring now would be an excellent time to get started on the prep. To get the most money for your home in the shortest amount of time, you will want to have it looking ready for someone to move into immediately. Below are a few helpful hints for the successful sell of a home.

- **DECLUTTER** – you are going to be moving so start packing up the extra and get it ready to go, out of the way. This includes closets. It is impossible to tell the size of a closet when it is crammed full of stuff.
- **THOROUGH CLEANING** – Make your home shine! If need be, bring in a cleaning service, it is worth the cost.
- **MINOR DRY WALL REPAIR** – Potential buyers are not impressed when they see a lot of repairs that they will need to do to move in, unless of course they think they are getting a deal. If you want top dollar you need to present your home in its best light.
- **CLEAN WALL TO WALL CARPETS**
- **TOUCH UP OR REPAINT PROBLEM WALLS** – This includes the front door. The potential buyers have time to really look over the front of your home while the realtor is retrieving the key. It is the first impression they have of your home. Make sure that they carry a positive feeling inside.
- **REMOVE PERSONAL ITEMS** – It is best to remove personal pictures etc. Many people have a hard time picturing themselves in a home that is overdone with other people's pictures.
- **REGROUT THE SHOWER**
- **IMPROVE/CLEAN UP LANDSCAPING** - This goes back to that first impression. I've had buyers not even go into a home, when

Keller-Williams
"Ann & I used Steve Hougland for two real estate transactions and were very pleased."...Keith and Ann Johnson

Contact **Steve Hougland at 913-449-9920**
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February

Bev grew up on a farm in Carbondale, Ks., just south of Topeka, is a Kansas State graduate, in Home Economics Education. She is the Mother of 2 sons, married to former TWA, Ozark, and American Airlines Captain, US Air Force Lieutenant Colonel John Wittenborn; grandmother of three; who is a former Betty Crocker Award Winner and former Olathe Mayor Pro-Tem.

Bev Wittenborn
Gazette Culinary Cuisinartiste
"At Your Service Recipes"

"At Your Service" Cookbooks are available for purchase at Feeney's Hallmark, Mahaffie Heritage Center, Junque Drawer Boutique, & Rhoades Family Dentistry. Or contact me, Beverly Wittenborn, at 782-6442.

It's February 2024! We now have January behind us, it was such a fun month! Not! It started off pretty good, but then the snow and ice came in and really made a mess of everything. Lots of days off from school for the kiddo's. We celebrated some family birthdays in January, just lumped 3 of them all together into one celebration! Kind of like Christmas all over again, good food, fun gifts, and good times for all! We have a 15 year-old, a 45 year-old, a 12 year-old. The candles were placed on the cake like that, so one grandson said it's 154,512 years old we're celebrating! Okay, enough on January.

Now, let's talk February and Leap Year! Why is it Leap Year every 4 years? Why is there an extra day added to the calendar every 4 years? We do Leap Year so our calendar doesn't get out of whack. Research tells me that it has something to do with the sun and the earth. It takes the Earth about 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 45 seconds to circle once around the sun. So do the math and find out why there is an extra day added to the shortest month every 4 years. And for those folks born on February 29th, when do they celebrate? Every 4 years, or day before or day after? We do have some friends that got married on Leap Day.

Enough on Leaping or Leapers, let's talk about food! What is special in February? February 1st is National Dark Chocolate Day. That sounds like a good way to start off the new month! Then we celebrate Valentine's Day on the 14th! Always a good time with candy and chocolates of any type. February 19th is Chocolate Mint Day, and February 27th is Strawberry Day. We can't forget the Presidents who have birthdays in February either. That brings cherries into the month! Let's see what I can come up with to make in February that makes certain days really special! Can't forget the 29th, *Hoppy Leap Day!* What recipe can be a little bit "froggy". Stay tuned! Check out these ideas for your February special day delight!

Bon Appetit!

Crème de Menthe Brownies

1 box brownie mix
1/2 c. butter or margarine, softened
2 c. sifted powdered sugar
1 1/2 Tbsp. crème de menthe
1 c. semisweet chocolate chips
6 T. butter or margarine
Prepare brownie mix according to directions on box. Bake in 9x13" pan for 30 minutes. Cool completely before adding next layers. In mixing bowl, beat 1/2 c. butter at medium speed until creamy; add powdered sugar and crème de menthe, beating until smooth. Can add 2 to 3 drops of green food color if desired. Spread over cooled brownie layer. In microwave, melt chocolate chips and 6 Tbsp. about 1 minute and then stir, return to microwave about 20 seconds more until smooth. Let cool about 5 minutes and spread over crème de menthe layer. Cover and chill at least 1 hour. Cut into bars.

Bev Wittenborn Creation

Cherry Dessert

Graham Cracker Crust:
1 pkg. graham crackers, crushed
3 to 4 Tbsp. powdered sugar
1/4 c. margarine or butter
Filling:
8 oz. cream cheese
2 c. milk
1 small pkg. instant vanilla pudding
1 can cherry pie filling for topping
Crust: Mix together and flatten into dish.
Filling: Mix cream cheese, milk, and pudding together until thickened and pour over crust. Top with 1 can cherry pie filling.



From Olathe City Beautiful Cookbook

Strawberry Cake

Mix together:
1 box white cake mix
1 box strawberry gelatin
2/3 c. oil
1/2 c. cold water
Add and mix in gradually:
4 eggs, added one at a time
1/2 box or 1/2 c. thawed frozen strawberries
Drops of red food coloring to suit
Bake as directed on cake mix box in a 13x9 inch pan or 2 (9 inch) round pans, or equivalent.



Strawberry icing—Mix together

1 box powdered sugar
1/2 c. frozen strawberries
1 stick softened butter
Pinch of salt
Drops of red food color, if desired
Can add more or less powdered sugar and strawberries to make desired consistency.

Carol Chartrand

Frog Eye Salad

1 1/2 c. acini de pepe pasta
1 (20 oz.) can pineapple chunks, drained and reserve 1/4 c. juice
1 1/3 c. milk
1/4 c. white sugar
1 (3.5 oz.) pkg. instant vanilla pudding mix
3 c. miniature marshmallows
2 (11 oz.) cans mandarin oranges, drained
2 c. frozen whipped topping, thawed
1 (8 oz.) can crushed pineapple
1/2 c. flaked coconut
Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Cook acini de pepe in the boiling water, stirring occasionally until tender yet firm to the bite, about 11 minutes. Drain and rinse well with cold water. Beat reserved pineapple juice, milk, sugar, and pudding mix together in a large bowl for about 2 minutes. Stir pineapple chunks, marshmallows, mandarin oranges, whipped topping, crushed pineapple, and coconut into the bowl with the juice mixture. Cover and refrigerate at least 5 hours to overnight.

Borrowed from Internet

"At Your Service" cookbooks are available for purchase at Feeney's Hallmark, Mahaffie Heritage Center, Junque Drawer Boutique, and Rhoades Family Dentistry. Or contact me, Beverly Wittenborn, 913-269-6302.

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The Gazette Women's Page

Girls can't remember where they left their hairclip



But they remember what you said 5 years ago on Friday at 4:20 pm

When women get to a certain age, they start accumulating dogs!



This is known as Many Paws

Some Words Redefined

COMMITTEE...A group that keeps minutes and wastes hours.
CONCEIT...A form of "I" strain.
DIET...Something to take the starch out of you.
DIPLOMACY...Saying, "nice doggy," while you're looking around for a rock.
EGOTISM...The art of seeing qualities in yourself which others can't see.
...That which enables a man who is in a rut to think he's "in the groove."

Bumper Stickers for Women

from Dale Applebaugh
- And your point is?
- Warning: I have an attitude and I know how to use it.
- Of course I don't look busy. I did it right the first time.
- Do not start with me. You will not win.
- You have the right to remain silent, so please shut up.
- All stressed out and no one to choke.
- I'm one of those bad things that happen to good people.
- How can I miss you if you won't go away.

GOOD QUESTIONS

If someone with multiple personalities threatens to kill himself, is it considered a hostage situation?

Where do forest rangers go to "get away from it all?"

What do you do when you see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant?

Why do they lock gas station bathrooms? Are they afraid someone will clean them?

If a turtle doesn't have a shell, is he homeless or naked?

When older people say, "Enjoy them while they are young." They are talking about your knees and hips not your kids.

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2024

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Recent Truly Heroic Americans Who Died in the Line of Service Over the Last Few Weeks



North Carolina Deputy Sheriff Chris Johnson, killed in car crash



Tennessee Deputy Sheriff McCowan shot, killed during a traffic stop



Deputy Sheriff Jeremy Malone shot, killed during a traffic stop.

Crossing the Delaware

You are camped along the Delaware River, waiting for the winter to end and the war to resume.

Now imagine that on Christmas night, your commander-in-chief, George Washington, tells you to get ready for a surprise attack.

He plans to cross the icy river in the middle of a storm, march for hours in the dark, and launch a dawn raid on the enemy garrison at Trenton, New Jersey.

He says this is your only chance to turn the tide of the war and secure your independence.

Would You Follow Him? That's exactly what Washington did on December 25-26, 1776. And it might be the best decision in history ever made.

Why? Because it worked. Washington's crossing of the Delaware was a daring and risky move that caught the Hessians off guard.

The Continental Army attacked with such speed and ferocity that they overwhelmed the enemy in less than an hour.

They killed or captured more than 900 Hessians, seized valuable supplies and weapons, and boosted their own morale and confidence.

They also inspired more people to join their cause and convinced France to ally with them.

Washington's crossing of the Delaware was not just a military victory. It was a political and psychological victory that changed the course of the war and the fate of a nation.

It showed that Washington was a brilliant leader who could outsmart and outfight his enemies.

It showed that the Continental Army was a force to be reckoned with, despite its lack of resources and training.

It showed that the American Revolution was not a hopeless rebellion, but a noble struggle for freedom and democracy.

Anything is possible if you have the courage, determination, and vision.

It was a moment that defined what it means to be an American.

A Gazette Feature Column:

Toward Being a Deputy Sheriff

Captain Edward (Ed) Hayes (Ret.) Johnson County Sheriff's Dept.

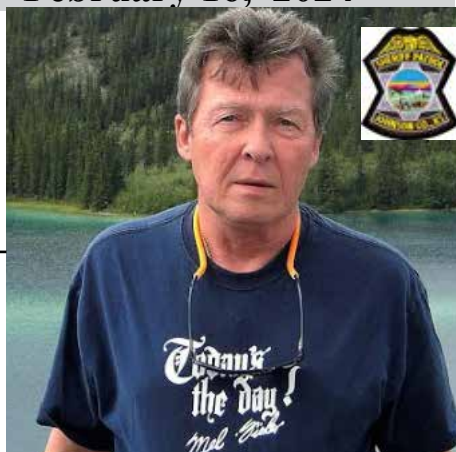
Ed Hayes (Continued from Page 1)

BROWN RECLUSE SPIDERS

Identification Look for a dark brown violin-shaped marking on the spider's carapace

Bites Seek medical help if you believe you were bit by a brown recluse spider

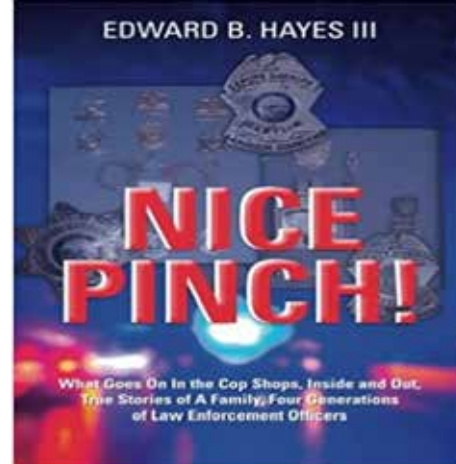
Management • Reduce clutter • Vacuum frequently • Use sticky traps



Captain Edward (Ed) Hayes (Ret.)

If you would like to know more about Johnson County, the metropolitan area, as well as law enforcement history, all branches, buy my book, "Nice Pinch."

AND REMEMBER, PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY! OUR ENEMIES ARE WORKING 24/7 TO DESTROY US! IN GOD WE TRUST."



have an obligation to those who sacrificed so much to give us what we had? I'm surrounded by ghosts urging me on: the Union soldiers who held Cemetery Ridge at Gettysburg, the battered bastards of Bastogne, those who served in the cold hell of Korea, the guys who went to the jungles of Southeast Asia and came home to be reviled or neglected.

This is the nation that took in my immigrant grandparents, whose uniform my father and most of my uncles wore in the Second World War. I don't want to imagine a world without America, even though it becomes increasingly likely.

During Britain's darkest hour, when its professional army was trapped at Dunkirk and a German invasion seemed imminent, Churchill reminded his countrymen, "Nations that go down fighting rise again, and those that surrender tamely are finished."

The same might be said of causes. If we let America slip through our fingers, if we lose without a fight, what will posterity say of us? While the prognosis is far from good, only God knows if America's day in the sun is over."

About the Brown Recluse Spider



A brown recluse spider At any time of the year, this is worth reviewing. Show the pictures to your spouse, your kids, grandkids, and friends. It could save their lives. Remember what this Spider looks like and be careful while cleaning, as mentioned below.

It's anytime cleanup is going on. Be careful where you put your hands. Spiders like dark spaces & woodpiles. Also, cool areas in the basement or attic. It is reported that the Brown Recluse Spider is the most dangerous spider that lives in the USA. People can die from its bite. We all should know what the spider looks like.

Areas the folks are digging around, doing yard work, cleaning, in their basement, attics, and storage areas etc., beware, please be careful. Spider bites are dangerous and can have permanent and highly negative consequences. They like the darkness and tend to live in storage sheds or attics or other areas that might not be frequented by people or light.

If you would like to learn more about Johnson County, the metro area and law enforcement history, buy my book, "Nice Pinch" available in paperback and kindle, at Amazon or order at Barnes & Noble. Ed Hayes can be contacted by email at americanpatriots@sbcglobal.net, or 913 620 0771.

From Officer's Down Memorial Killed in the Line of Duty This Year, 126 last year, many seriously injured

The thanks they/we get in Kansas. Our retired first responders, that's police and fire, have not been given a raise (COLA) since the 1990's. During their entire careers, they were required to pay 7% a paycheck into the KP&F system.

So now we have this: They, (the do-nothing legislators) just gave themselves a raise, nearly \$28,000 a year for rank-and-file, boosting their total compensation to nearly \$58,000, an increase of 93%. 93%!

The state and counties continue to raise our taxes every year so here's yet another question you should ask. Why, when the state has a combined surplus of 4.5 billion dollars and the reserve for education is 1.25 Billion, why did our property taxes increase 25% plus or minus! The numbers are from the Kansas Policy Institute.

Now this: Johnson County District Atty Steve Howe and head commissioner guy, Mike Kelly should have paid attention to my articles on election fraud in the December 15th issue of the Gazette. They both are in the group that believes that the last election was honest. What has happened to common sense?

AUTHOR UNKNOWN: "Men, like nations think they're eternal. What man in his 20s or 30s doesn't believe, at least subconsciously, that he'll live forever? In the springtime of youth, an endless summer beckons. As you pass 70, it's harder to hide from reality... as you lose friends and relatives.

Nations also have seasons: Imagine a Roman of the 2nd century contemplating an empire that stretched from Britain to the Near East, thinking: This will endure forever... Forever was about 500 years, give or take.... not bad, but gone!!

France was pivotal in the 17th and 18th centuries; now the land of Charles Martel is on its way to becoming part of the Muslim ummah.

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, the sun never set on the British empire; now Albion exists in perpetual twilight. Its 96-year-old sovereign is a fitting symbol for a nation in terminal decline.

In the 1980s, Japan seemed poised to buy the world. Business schools taught Japanese management techniques. Today, its birth rate is so low and its population aging so rapidly that an industry has sprung up to remove the remains of elderly Japanese who die alone.

I was born in 1945, almost at the midpoint of the 20th century - the American century. America's prestige and influence were never greater. Thanks to the 'Greatest Generation,' we won a World War, fought throughout most of Europe, Asia, and the Pacific. We reduced Germany to rubble and put the rising sun to bed. It set the stage for almost half a century of unprecedented prosperity.

We stopped the spread of communism in Europe and Asia and fought international terrorism. We rebuilt our enemies and lavished foreign aid on much of the world. We built skyscrapers and rockets to the moon. We conquered Polio and now COVID. We explored the mysteries of the Universe and the wonders of DNA...the blueprint of

(continues at right)

If we're going to keep the country we started with, we're gonna have to really fight for it, because there are millions out there in the US now, that want to destroy what our Founding Fathers created.....KEJ

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Advertisement for 'One Night in Memphis' musical performance at Ottawa Memorial Auditorium.

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Saturday, March 23, 2024
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

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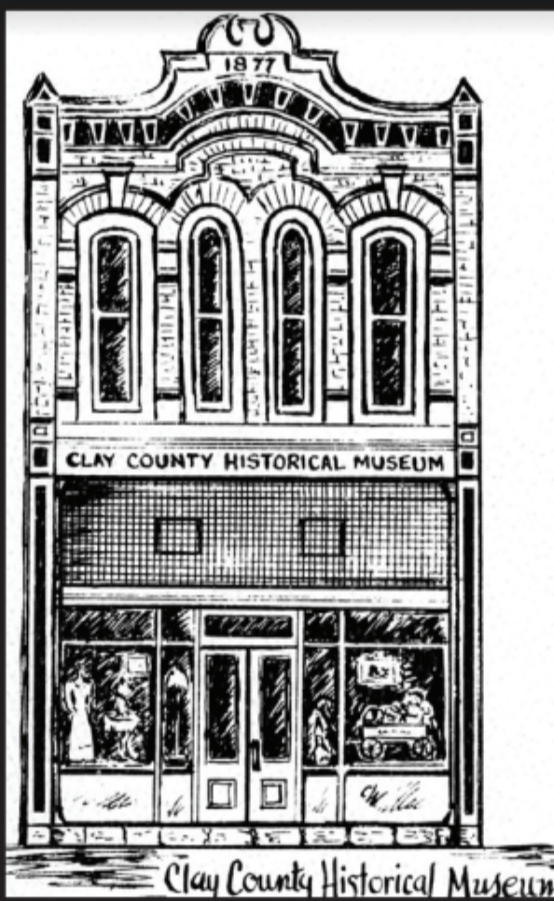
PROGRAM SERIES 2024

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2 p.m. Sundays • Suggested donation \$5 adults

A series of talks and dramatic interpretations over the issue of slavery in Kansas and the nation, 1854 to 1865

- JANUARY 28 "Kansas Day"**
with David Toland, Kansas Lieutenant Governor and Kansas Secretary of Commerce; Patrick Zollner, Executive Director, Kansas Historical Society; Bridgette Jobe, Director, Kansas Tourism; Aiden Najafizadeh, student, Bishop Seabury Academy
- FEBRUARY 4 "Sitting on the Fence: Living in Bleeding Kansas Between the Factions"**
by Kendall D. Gott, retired senior professor, Combat Studies Institute, Ft. Leavenworth and author. Book signing.
- FEBRUARY 11 "John Brown, Man of Action"**
by Grady Atwater, Administrator, John Brown Museum State Historic Site, Osawatimie
- FEBRUARY 18 "A Monopoly on Misfortune: An Immigrant Regiment in the Crucible of Civil War"**
by Dr. Brian Matthew Jordan, Associate Professor of History and Chair of the Department of History, Sam Houston State University. Book signing.
- FEBRUARY 25 "Abolitionist of the Most Dangerous Kind: James Montgomery and His War on Slavery"**
Todd Midfelt, author and retired Kansas public school educator and David D. Schafer, author and retired Park Ranger, National Park Service. Book signing.
- MARCH 5 The Lecompton Reenactors present "Bleeding Kansas"**
voices from Kansas Territorial characters Clarina Nichols, John Brown, Jim Lane, Charles & Sara Robinson, David Atchison, Samuel Jones, Mahala Doyle.



Clay County Museum

YOUR ADVENTURE INTO THE PAST AWAITS!

Three floors of artifacts dating from the early 1800s thru the late 1900s. Visit various vintage room displays like an early 1900s doctor's office.

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* Check website for upcoming events

Located at 14 N. Main St., Liberty, MO on the Historic Liberty Square



ClayCountyHistoricalSocietyMuseum.org



38th Annual Quilt Show

presented by Ottawa Sunflower Piecemakers, Ottawa KS
Saturday, April 27, 2024 • 10 am - 5 pm

Live Auction of Miniature Quilts at 2:30 pm

Auction proceeds to benefit altruistic projects in Franklin Co. and Ottawa Sunflower Piecemakers

Vendors, Craft & Gift Sales, Opportunity Quilt, Demonstrations, Approximately 200 Quilts

\$5 Admission,

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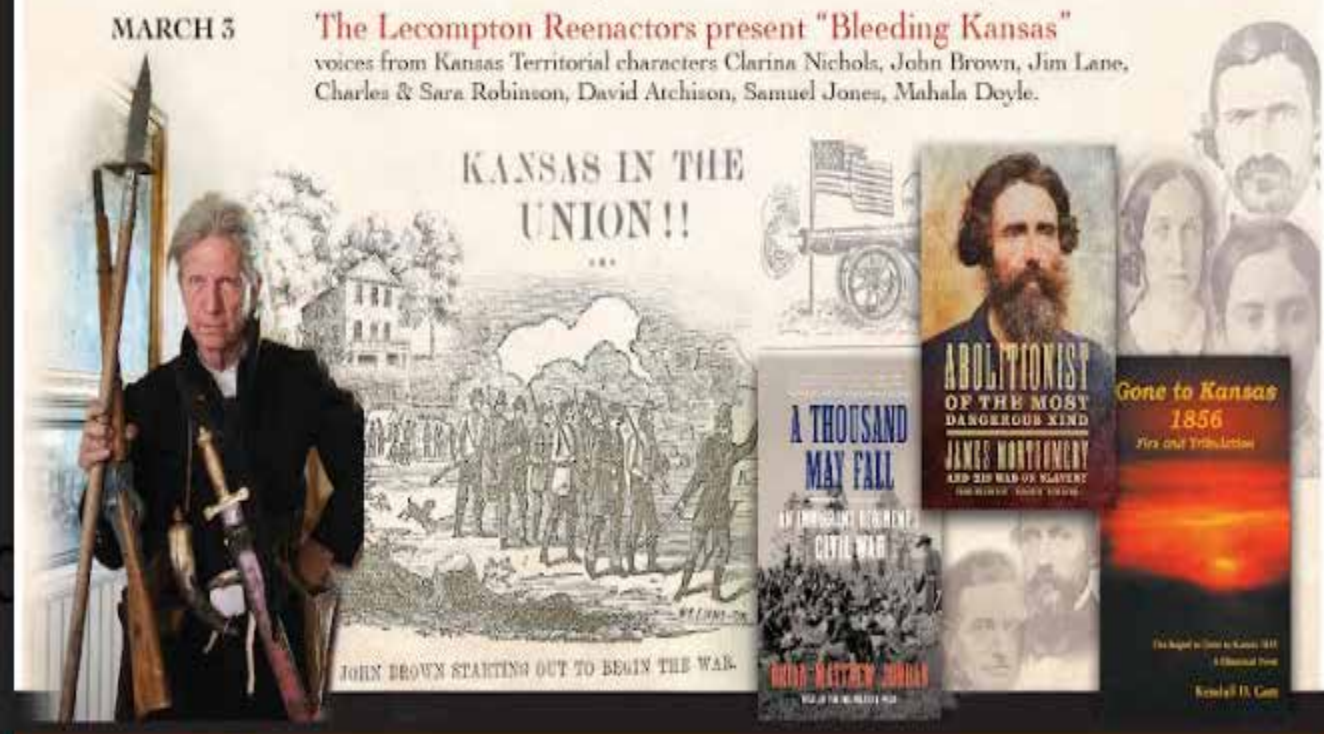
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Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Matthew 6:9-10, 12-13

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