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# The Harper Advocate

Advocating for truth in Harper and Harper County

Volume 141 / Issue 46

Official Newspaper for the Cities of Danville and Harper and USD 361

November 16, 2023

## USD 361, Teachers Still Negotiating Agreement

Teachers, Supporters Attend Board Meeting; Board Reviews Latest Proposal

BY BOB MORRIS  
Managing Editor

A number of teachers, students and community members attended the USD 361 board of education meeting Monday, to show support for teachers in their ongoing negotiations with the district and school board.

The two sides have been unable to come to terms on a negotiated agreement that covers salary schedules and benefits.

Two teachers who spoke to *The Harper Advocate* before Monday's meeting

said that the sides recently met before a mediator but were unable to come to terms. They said the district is now about to enter a "fact finding" stage, which would involve hiring an attorney, for which the costs would be split between the district and the Kansas National Educators Association.

"We would like to settle because fact finding is expensive," said Anthony Elementary teacher Dana Hall.

The school board met in executive session regarding negotiations but took

no action after the session. However, board member Jarrett Schmidt reviewed in open session what the district plans to offer the teachers. Schmidt said the board did so to ensure the community knows what the district is offering, given conflicting information that is out there.

None of the teachers or others who supported them spoke during the meeting. The teachers would have to vote on any proposal the district presents to them.



BOB MORRIS / The Advocate

A number of USD 361 teachers, along with students and community members, attended Monday's board of education meeting to show support for the teachers in ongoing negotiations with the district regarding salary schedules and benefits. The two sides have negotiated since May and have been unable to come to terms, though the board of education did present details about its latest proposal during Monday's meeting.

See 361 / Page 2



STEPHANIE JUMP / The Advocate

Christmas decorations are going up in the park in downtown Harper, thanks to the efforts of multiple volunteers. Longtime volunteer Tim Johnson retired from the task but Deputy City Clerk Karen Befort has help lead an effort to bring new volunteers together to get the display together.

## Many Volunteers Helping Put Up Christmas Display

BY STEPHANIE JUMP  
Staff Writer

Deputy City Clerk Karen Befort updated the city council about the progress being made on the Christmas decorations in the downtown park.

Befort and many other volunteers have begun the process of setting up the Christmas display after longtime volunteer Tim Johnson retired after many years of dedication to the annual display.

"The downtown park is going well," said Befort. "We had a workday on Saturday and we actually had several show up to help us out. Tim has been spending a lot of time down there as well."

Befort said the sorority will be making cookies again this year and they will make them into goody bags for the kids.

"It won't be as extravagant as years past but we will have the display," said Befort.

Councilman David Earls asked who all was helping and Befort said several people had volunteered including some kids from Chaparral down there as well.

"That is awesome," said Earls. "Thank you all."

Visitors this year will not only get to enjoy the beautiful Christmas lights but will also be able to enjoy the new mural that was painted downtown as well.

In other council news, the city council voted to appoint Marla Wedman and Brittan Blanchat to the Harper Recreation Commission board to fulfill the unexpired terms of Andrew Kirkpatrick and Jenny Johnston.

## Council Gives Owner More Time to Clean Up House

BY STEPHANIE JUMP  
Staff Writer

Harper City Council members once again addressed the issue of homes that have been deemed unsafe and dangerous in the city limits.

On Sept. 11 the council passed a resolution that the owner of the structure should appear and show cause why the structure should not be condemned, and Monday evening, the owner of 206 W. 7th St. appeared before the council, making his case.

Stephen Moore, the new owner of the property, came before the council and shared information regarding the structure and what his plans were to make the home habitable for a new owner or renter.

Moore owns several properties and brought evidence to council what he has done in the other homes he has rehabilitated.

"I purchased this house at the tax sale," said Moore. "I went to the tax

sale to buy this home in Anthony and have been working on it. But I was at the sale and I had seen this one on Seventh Street and I had not gone in it because it said no trespassing so I thought 'a thousand dollars, OK,' so I bought it."

Moore said he then got a letter from the city and that everything seemed to start going wrong with the house.

"I had my contractor out and he said it is worth saving to him, but whatever you guys want to do is fine," said Moore.

Moore went on to explain what all he has already done with the home by pumping out water, securing doors and tarping it because he said the metal roof disappeared.

Moore said, before he invests more money, he wants to know what the council would like to do.

He said he would have several thousand dollars invested in the house once it is fixed but that he can't do all the repairs in a month or so.

"This was my goal," said Mayor Scott Blubaugh, "If they sell out at a tax auction, see if we can get someone like you to come in and fix it up."

Council members voted unanimously, 6-0, to pass a new resolution that certain repairs will be made or completed by April 8.

Moore said he will be putting a new roof, new garage doors, clean up the yard and make the home look presentable and no longer an eye sore to the community. Then, he said, he would be back in the springtime to finish.

Moore said the rentals he has do generate income and also bring income to the community where the workers will be purchasing gas, food and other items in town, plus provide another rental option for anyone looking to move to Harper.

The council was also slated to hear from the owner of 216 W. 7th St. but that owner did not appear before the council.



DON HOLT / The Advocate

## CHS Musical: Chaparral Singers Put on a Show

The Chaparral singers presented the musical production "Wonderland: Alice's Rock and Roll Adventure" to parents, friends and community members this past weekend at the Chaparral High School auditorium. Pictured are the cast members and stage crew who put together the production.

## Why a 'Super El Niño' Could Help Drought-Stricken Kansas This Winter

BY ALLISON KITE  
Kansas Reflector

The phrase "El Niño" can conjure up images of horrendous weather: severe storms in the southern U.S. and droughts in Asia and Africa.

But for Kansas and Missouri, El Niño, a months-long weather pattern that typically brings warm winters and extra precipitation to the central U.S., brings hope.

Both states have been stuck in a stubborn drought, slashing farm

yields and shrinking ponds for livestock. Aaron Harries, vice president of research and operations for Kansas Wheat, said the possibility of more rain and snow brought on by El Niño was welcome news.

"Anything better than what we've had the last three years is good news," Harries said.

El Niño is a naturally — though irregularly — occurring phenomenon when the ocean's surface warms in parts of the Pacific, bringing more rains to some areas of the globe while depriving others.

Prevailing winds at the surface weaken and can reverse.

The National Weather Service declared the globe had entered an El Niño period in June and predicts it could last through the spring.

The National Center for Atmospheric Research predicted the current period would be a "Super El Niño," which, for Kansas State climatologist Matthew Sittel, creates an image of a "meteorological superhero."

"As it turns out, a Super El Niño could indeed be a hero for Kan-

sas," Sittel wrote in a report about the phenomenon this week.

Sittel's counterpart in Missouri, Zack Leasor, said the possibility of more precipitation was cause for optimism. Over the course of the drought, Missouri has built up long-term precipitation deficits, he said, so it needs significant rain or snow to catch up.

But Missouri sits on a divide between the south, which typically gets above-average precipitation in an El Niño year, and the north, which sees less, making it difficult

to know whether the state will see drought relief.

"So hopefully that forecast does hold because that would be good news for drought improvement," he said.

Kansas and Missouri have both struggled through a months-long drought.

A year ago, more than half of Kansas was in an "extreme" or "exceptional" drought, the most severe label given by the U.S. Drought

See DROUGHT / Page 2

# NEWS

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Jason Jump at (620) 896-7311 or email jjump@theharperadvocate.com

## Veteran Service Representative to Visit County

### PRESS RELEASE

Nicholas McCammon, a veteran service representative for the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs, will be in Harper County one day a month to assist veterans and their family members file claims for various veter-

an benefits.

On Tuesday, Nov. 21, from 1 to 3 p.m., McCammon will be at the Harper County Health Department, 123 N. Jennings, Anthony.

The Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs is a state agency that pro-

vides free assistance to veterans and their families with veterans' benefits.

If you are or any of family members are in need of assistance with veteran benefits, call the Harper County Health Department at (620) 842-5132 to schedule an appointment.

### 361

• From Page 1

Hall told *The Harper Advocate* that the teachers have been in negotiations with the district since May but still haven't come to terms on an agreement. She said the differences come down to salary increases and a student growth measure the district proposed as part of an agreement.

She and Anthony Elementary teacher Julie Jahay provided to *The Harper Advocate* a copy of the teachers' concerns about the district's offer.

They noted that the board usually allocates nearly 40 percent of available salary funds to teachers. The district has proposed a 2.5 percent increase, but that only represent 22 percent of salary funds.

Also, the district's early offer about health insurance would have resulted in some

teachers taking home less pay, given the increases in insurance.

They also noted that there are more than 30,000 people in the state with teacher licenses who are choosing not to teach and there are shortages in many districts. They noted that Kansas Commissioner of Education Randy Watson has advocated that districts pay a base salary to teachers of \$45,000, but the board's offer delays that longer for USD 361 teachers.

Per information the teachers shared, the difference between the teachers' request and the board's offer is about \$50,000.

Hall and Lahay said that they don't believe the two sides are that far apart on everything but it boils down to a couple of issues.

"On some, we just aren't there," Lahay said.

During the board meeting, Schmidt reviewed the district's proposal for those

in attendance. The meeting was also live-streamed via Zoom.

The district has offered to match 50 percent of any health insurance obtained through ESSDACK Blue Cross-Blue Shield, increasing the match from \$506.50 per month to \$576 per month toward the highest deductible single policy.

The district has also offered a base salary increase of 2.5 percent, which would increase the base salary for all teachers from \$42,142.18 to \$43,195.73. There would also be a step increase of 1.4 percent and a column increase of 1.85 percent. The steps pertain to years of experience while the columns pertain to education received beyond a bachelor's degree.

The district would also increase the 4033 monthly match from \$20 to \$25, adapt a new supplemental salary schedule with

increased pay, increase the district's tuition reimbursement from \$10,000 to \$15,000 and increase activity pay from \$10 per hour to \$12.50 per hour.

The district has also pulled the student growth measure as originally proposed, but additional wording was added to the agreement about meeting district goals. It reads as follows:

"A compiled list of grade band team goals would be shared with the board of education at the October meeting, a progress update report of grade band team goals at the February board of education meeting and a final report of grade band team goals progress at the June board of education meeting. Goal areas are selected from a developed list of examples."

The board didn't offer any further comments after Schmidt read the district's latest proposal.

### DROUGHT

• From Page 1

Monitor. While it has eased, most of the state is still experiencing some level of drought.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reported in July that Kansas' winter wheat

production fell 15 percent from 2022. Bushels of wheat per acre fell from 32 to 27.

On Thursday, the agency reported sorghum, a more drought-tolerant cereal crop, was planted in much higher quantities this year and the harvest was forecast to be 47

percent larger than last year's. While the situation is not as severe in Missouri, just over half of the state remains in a lingering drought.

A recent survey released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported 62% of livestock producers in

Missouri are short or very short on hay and roughage supplies, and 43% are short or very short on stock water.

Huge swaths of the state have soil moisture levels far below historical averages. Corn yields are down 10 percent compared to 2022.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION RIDES AVAILABLE

The Public Transportation Service assists all Harper County residents of any age to stay independent with transportation to work, medical appointments, shopping, errands, Patterson Health Center and locations less than 70 miles away. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Every Harper County resident can ride with public transit regardless of age or mobility. Rides are first come, first served. Equal access is provided to the public. Call (620) 842-5104 for ride reservations and rates

## OBITUARY

### AURORA DICK

Aurora Dick, 89, died Nov. 6, 2023, at the Attica Long Term Care.

She was born June 11, 1934, at Redwing, Colo., the daughter of Juan and Rosenda Salazar Martinez.

A longtime resident of the Zenda community, she was a former CNA at the Attica Hospital, worked for the Zenda Library and the F&D restaurant.

Aurora was a member of the St. John Catholic Church, the Altar Society and D of I, all of Zenda; she was a former 4-H leader, and a member of the EHU.

On Sept. 11, 1954, she married Paul Dick at Ft. Collins, Colo.; he died Dec. 8, 2017. Survivors include five sons and their wives, Mark and Rhonda, Ed, Chris and Michelle, Patrick and Tammy, and Greg and Pam; 12 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by a brother Ben; sisters Sadie, Mary, Ceria, Eloida, Julia, Adeline and Bertha; grandson Jed; and daughters-in-law Teri and Sheila.

Parish rosary was Saturday, Nov. 11, at the St. John Catholic Church, Zenda followed by the Mass of Christian Burial. Burial was in the St. John Catholic Cemetery outside Zenda.

Memorials may be made with the St. John Catholic Church, Country Care Hospice and the Zenda Museum, all in care of Livingston Funeral Home.



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# Turkey

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Drawing will be on November 17th!

## the Harper Advocate

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# NEWS

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Jason Jump at (620) 896-7311 or email jjump@tharperadvocate.com

## HOSPITAL DISTRICT #6 BOARD MINUTES, Sept. Meeting

**PRESENT:**  
Board of Directors – Kara Bello, Jan Lanie, Stan Wedman, Tim Penner, Kristen Stoughton.  
PHC – Sarah Teaff, CEO; Lori Allen, COO; Sandra Owen, CFO; Paige Wise, Senior Executive Assistant.  
Guests – none  
**CALL TO ORDER:** Lanie called the meeting to order at 5:21 pm.  
**BOARD EDUCATION or PRESENTATIONS:**  
Owen provided Board members with a documented series on Hospital Finances published by the Kansas Hospital Association. The series included a review of hospital revenue and costs (terminology, definitions, etc.) that show how hospitals operate in a unique and challenging economic environment. Kansas hospital statistics were also provided that show what challenges all hospitals are facing from reimbursement to costs.  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None  
**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes of the August 24, 2023, regular board meeting was presented for approval. Motion by Penner; seconded by Lanie to approve minutes as pre-

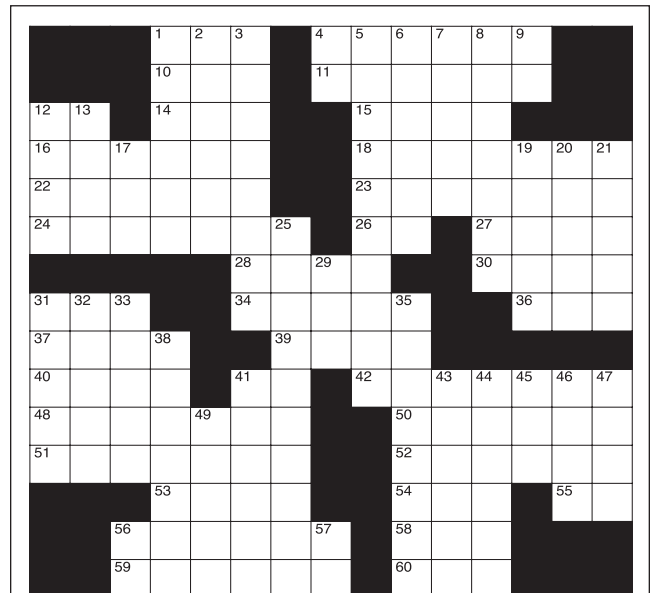
sented. Motion carried unanimously.  
**DEPARTMENT REPORTS, POLICY REVIEW & APPROVAL:**  
1. Quality Report  
a. Amber Speer made a quality report that was brought to the board through Sarah Teaff. COVID numbers are slightly spiking in the county, but not enough to put Harper County in any alarm. Speer went over the five goals of the hospitals through quality and how we are doing with the goals. The hospital is on trend for the goals.  
2. HR Policies  
a. Kim Barwick brought two policies to the board, one new and one revised policy. Barwick created a policy based on the fit testing that new hires do and annual reviews for employees. The second policy is a revised policy of the tuition assistance policy for employees. There was a cap put on the semester amount paid and a requirement of employment in exchange for tuition assistance. Along with the policy there was an application made for those employees interested in assistance to fill out.  
Motion by Bello; seconded by Penner to approve minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.  
**MEDICAL STAFF AND CREDENTIALING REPORT:**  
Credentialing appointments, reappointments and resignations were presented as approved by the Executive Medical Staff on September 27, 2023 – there were two new appointments, two reappointments, and two resignations. The board approved the medical staff and privileges as presented. Motion by Lanie seconded by Bello. Motion carried unanimously.  
**OPERATIONS REPORT:**  
COO:  
-Lori Allen provided some Medicare Advantage information pages for the hospital to hand out to the community to be more informed about Medicare Advantage. Patterson was going to hold an education session for the community, but after learning that who we were going to have given the presentation would be a conflict of interest with Medicare Advantage, so that it's no longer going to be held.  
-JR, the contractor interested in the old Harper hospital property for

See **HOSPITAL** / Page 4

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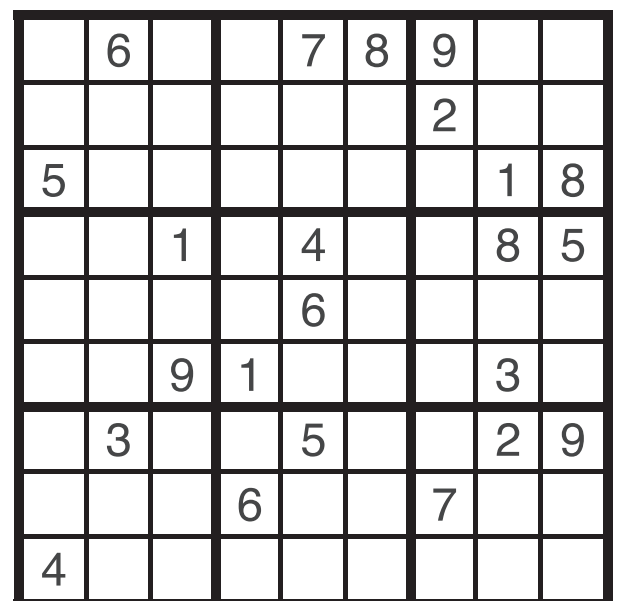


### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Beats per minute
- 4. Hindu deity
- 10. Polynesian garland of flowers
- 11. Not chained to
- 12. Metric ton
- 14. Tall, rounded vase
- 15. Musical composition
- 16. St. Francis of
- 18. Discover the location of
- 22. Compact group of mountains
- 23. Mend
- 24. Not current
- 26. Atomic #64
- 27. Young hawk
- 28. Or
- 30. Pouches
- 31. Southern Thailand isthmus
- 34. Mends with yarn
- 36. Downwinds
- 37. One of two equal parts of a divisible whole
- 39. Italian archaeological site
- 40. Cold appetizer
- 41. Yes
- 42. Peninsula
- 48. Of that
- 50. A way to divide
- 51. Relating to the physical senses
- 52. One who makes money
- 53. Spumante (Italian wine)
- 54. Inconvenience (abbr.)
- 55. South Dakota
- 56. Snow sport
- 58. The products of human creativity
- 59. Change mind
- 60. Born of

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Similar to the color of a clear unclouded sky
- 2. Former name of Iran
- 3. Made smaller
- 4. Type of meter
- 5. Revolt
- 6. Killed with rocks
- 7. Gregory \_\_, US dancer
- 8. Nullifies
- 9. Home to the Flyers
- 12. Female parent
- 13. Pre-1917 Russian emperor
- 17. Outsourcing (abbr.)
- 19. Regal
- 20. Line
- 21. Hermann \_\_, author of "Siddhartha"
- 25. Clearing up
- 29. No seats available
- 31. Leaves of an Arabian shrub
- 32. Groove in organ or tissue
- 33. Not of this world
- 35. Cooking device
- 38. Forget
- 41. Operational flight
- 43. Actress Danes
- 44. Poke holes in
- 45. A way to discolor
- 46. Shouts of welcome or farewell
- 47. Pharrell's group
- 49. Red fluorescent dye
- 56. Jr.'s dad
- 57. Electronics firm



J U P Q E S G N N O L A C I H T E D O U  
N R E U U X P O R S Q U A N A G E V V C R  
H C E D W U A P R C T Y A F C C M W K G  
L Q M R P A A R M C N E L O D P S J C F  
E M G Y O F W O U A O E N L C F A R C K  
G T G R I D C D I I N S N P I C U W A E  
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M W L J M R A J L M G I Y F B L M A E O  
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F V H H F U P N I T A L E G K D K G U C  
Y Q T P N D M C G A J W J V E D G V A S  
H S R P W G E C E H F J N K V U O U F L  
Q K A X A Y T E X A A Q L Y Q B B P A P  
K C J U R Y X E H G T S E I T A N N B A  
J N U T R I T I O N A L Y E A S T A A P  
S I H E A L T H G H G L Y V D A S M R P

### VEGAN LINGO WORD SEARCH

ANIMAL, AQUAFABA, BUDDHA BOWL, BY-PRODUCT, CAROB, CASEIN, CONSUMPTION, ETHICAL, FAUX, FLEGG, FLEXITARIAN, GELATIN, HARDLINE, HEALTH, JACKFRUIT, LEGUMES, MOCKMEAT, NUTRITIONAL YEAST, PAREVE, RAW, SEITAN, TEMPEH, VEGAN, WELFARE

## PUBLIC NOTICE

(First published in The Harper Advocate on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023.)21

### CITY OF HARPER REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**PROJECT:** Library Awning  
RFP ID: 2023-06 ISSUED: November 15, 2023  
**I. PROJECT BACKGROUND**  
The City of Harper is seeking bids to construct a 82'8" x 6' upper and lower awning on the north side of the Harper Municipal Library located at 710 W. 14th St. Harper, Kansas.  
**II. SCOPE OF WORK**  
The contractor shall supply all labor, material, supervision and equipment necessary to complete the project. All work shall be in accordance with contract documents, specifications and drawings, and all relevant codes, regulations and requirements as deemed necessary by the City.  
**III. PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS**  
a. Remove existing gutter and door awning.  
b. Post may be 3" square tubing, post to center on 8'2" centers #10 post, fasten to concrete.  
c. Roof and soffit sheet must be 3' x 6'; brown to match existing building.  
d. Framing inside of awning can be steel or wood. Be sure to specify in the bid.  
i. For steel – must be supported with 3" angle iron; 2" square tubing welded in place with C-purlin to support sheeting. Each end must also be covered with wood. 2x6 beams to support front main beam, 2x4 on truss, 1x4 for purlin; each end must be covered.  
e. The north wall is 10' tall. Bottom end of awning must have an 8' clearance. Approximate 2' slope. Roof must be sealed to the north wall to stop any water.  
f. All 3" posts must be painted to match roof.

g. Must have trim on corners and rate to match building. Alternate design solutions may be presented for consideration.  
**IV. CONTENT AND FORMAT OF PROPOSALS**  
The submittal shall include the following:  
1. Company profile including but not limited to  
a. Firm name, business address, telephone number and email address  
b. Experience similar in nature to the requested service  
2. Project Proposal  
a. Cost  
b. Design Drawing with Measurements.  
c. Projected Date of Commencement  
d. Days to Completion  
e. Project Schedule  
f. Warranties – labor and materials  
3. Submit a certificate of liability insurance.  
a. The Contractor will need to name the City as additional insured and meet the following liability limits if awarded the service contract: \$1,000,000 personal injury; \$1,000,000 aggregate coverage.  
b. Workers Compensation – Statutory Limits (If Applicable)  
i. If there are no employees, must complete the Workers Compensation Waiver.  
4. It is recommended, but not required, for contractor to do a site visit to the project location, 710 W. 14th St. To schedule a site visit please contact Harper Library 620-896-2959.  
5. All bids should be submitted to City Hall 201 W. Main Street Harper, KS 67058 in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Library Awning".  
6. Bids are to be submitted by December 11, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. to be opened and read publicly at City Hall on December 11, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the regularly scheduled council meeting.

## LEGAL NOTICE

(First published in The Harper Advocate on Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023.)31

### IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF HARPER COUNTY, KANSAS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF NICKI RAE ROOF

Case No: HP-2023-PR-300001

#### NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:  
You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Michael Roof a/k/a John Roof as heir of Nicki Rae Roof, deceased, praying:  
Descent be determined on all property owned by the deceased located in Harper County, Kansas to-wit:  
A part of the E/2 of the SW/4 of Section 16, Twp. 34 South, Range 9 West of the 6th P.M. in Harper County, Kansas described as follows:  
Beginning at a point on the North line of Survey described herein, marked by an iron pipe set in the ground 4 inches below the surface, 18 feet 10 inches due North of a hedge state set in cement, under the fence and 142 feet Northwest of the Southeast corner of the scales of the Kansas Mill and Elevator Company, this being the starting point of a survey of C.E. Merriam, made June 15, 1920 and running Northwest with said Survey line 57 feet to an iron stake by the side of a concrete state, running thence West 124 feet to a point marked by an iron stake 6 inches East of the Southwest Corner of a barbed wire fence, enclosing the bulk station of the Standard Oil Company, running thence North 138 feet to the Right-of-Way of Missouri Pacific Railway Company,

thence Northwest with Right-of-Way of Missouri Pacific Railway to a point 22 rods and 16 feet from where said Right-of-Way crosses the West line of E/2 of SW/4 and which is the NE corner of tract of land deeded by D.B. Kaup to John W. Ford, on June 5, 1904, which deed is recorded in Book 31, Page 523, running thence South 787.5 feet, running thence East 115.5 feet, thence North 82.5 feet, running thence East 214.5 feet, running thence North 360 feet to an iron pipe set in cement by the side of the fence, running thence West 150 feet to an iron pipe (sand point) set in cement, running thence North 189 feet 11 inches to a hedge stake set in cement under the fence, running thence North 18 feet 10 inches to beginning.

and other Kansas real estate or personal property owned by the decedent at the time of his death and be assigned pursuant to the laws of intestate succession.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 7th day of December, 2023, at 9:45 A.M. of said day, in said Court, in the City of Anthony in Harper County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard.

Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said Petition.

Michael Roof a/k/a John Roof  
Petitioner

ISERN & CARPENTER  
Attorneys at Law  
1909 Lakin Avenue  
P. O. Drawer 1626  
Great Bend KS 67530  
620-792-5388  
admin@attorneysgb.com

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# NEWS

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Jason Jump at (620) 896-7311 or email jjump@theharperadvocate.com

## HOSPITAL

From Page 3  
housing, has reached out to let Allen know the company is no longer interested in the property as of now. There was land provided by Harper that they feel would be a better fit for them now.

-Anthony building is done being demoed, but they are finishing up cleaning the site. Once it is finished, we will be billed the last 10% of our bill. The project should be completed in the coming weeks.

-The Community health needs assessment; we are required to do it every 3 years. Allen reached out and got several quotes from different companies to perform the assessment for us. Allen recommends moving forward with VVV Consultants due to the lower costs. Motion made by Lanie, seconded by Penner. Motion carried unanimously to go with VVV Consultants.

CEO:  
-Sarah was able to attend an event with Governor Kelly last week for Medicaid Expansion. Kelly wants to expand Medicaid within the next couple of years throughout the state.

-The hospital is getting

ready for several surveys at the facility. The CLIA survey will be held mid-October in our Lab, and a Rural Heath Clinic survey will be held sometime in October as well. The Lab is gearing up for their CLIA survey and preparing all that they can for them to come. The RHC survey will be to re-accredit the on-site clinic and add on our mobile clinic.

-The hospital got to test the emergency response plan for the water outage that occurred last week. The hospital was out of water for approximately 8 hours. Operations ran as normal with the water outages. There was an after-action meeting afterward to review the event. There were some places that the group saw room for improvement, but for the most part it went better than expected.

-DME got their certificate of accreditation. Passed their survey with flying colors.

-There is an IT Director position open currently. We have received a couple of applicants for the position, most that we have received are out of our budget but there is one good candidate that we have brought in for interviews. This candidate

will have another interview with the IT team involved.

-Dialysis is sitting at around \$88 thousand raised for the project. Sarah brought that next month will need to be thinking about if PHC is ready for purchasing some equipment. Still in the process of looking for a dialysis nurse.

### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Owen reported on the August 2023 Financials. August's activity in cash accounts was reviewed that included payments received and expenses paid out. Revenue included the 2022 Medicare Cost Report Settlement of \$621,769.00 along with Retro Payments in the amount of \$361,500.00. Payments received from insurance and patients were \$1,597,971. August included three payrolls paid but two recorded on the profit and loss statement due to accrual basis. Days Cash on Hand remain strong at 185 days; current average for other Kansas hospital is 119 days. Patient Accounts Receivable increased with a total AR balance of \$2,752,407.00 and AR Days at 31. Gross Patient Revenue for Septem-

ber was \$2,221,290, achieving the Board's monthly goal of \$2 Million. There is a YTD increase of Gross Patient Revenue of \$510,661 compared to August 2022. Outpatient service lines saw a significant increase in total revenue in August at \$1,498,835. Cost centers that continue to grow in patient volume are Lab, CT, Sono, Wound Care, Pain Management, and others. Total Operating Revenue for August was \$2,034,950; with a YTD increase of \$751,033 or 5.55% over August 2022. Total Operating Expenses increased by \$17,286.00 for the month with a total of \$2,102,814; YTD shows an overall decrease in expenses of 3.46% or \$597,004. A Net Profit of \$65,159 was reported for the month of August with a YTD Loss of \$1,214,626.

Accounts payable for August was \$2,065,879.40. Motion by Bello seconded by Wedman to approve accounts payable. Motion carried unanimously.

Owen reported that the Provider Relief Fund Single Audit was completed by Forvis/BKD. The audit included compliance requirements and internal controls

relating to COVID expenditures from July 1, 2021, to December 31, 2022. The audit related to ensuring that COVID expenditures were allowable costs and met the reporting requirements. A sample of COVID related expenditures were provided for the audit. An Unmodified Opinion was issued meaning that all compliance requirements and expenditures met the Provider Relief Funds program requirements.

### HARPER COUNTY HEALTH FOUNDATION (HCHF):

-Beth gave 15% of sales towards dialysis through her sales last week.

-Bed races at the red fish fest are next weekend in Harper. The health foundation is going to be doing a test run with the hospital bed to publicize the event.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:  
1. IT Redesign  
a. PHCs IT products are coming to end of use dates. There has been a group that has investigated this and come up with some options. The two choices are to purchase the equipment or to lease the equipment. The totals would equate to

the purchasing would be the cheaper option overall. Our IT department has suggested purchasing the equipment instead of leasing the equipment. There are some Cerner funds that have been set aside for events such as this.

2. November & December meeting times.

a. Wise brought to the group the need to reschedule the November board meeting and potentially December due to holidays. November meeting would fall exactly on Thanksgiving, so the board moved it to November 30th at 5:15. December meeting will stay as scheduled on the 28th of December at 5:15.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:  
At 6:42 p.m. members entered executive session until 6:47 p.m. to discuss non-elected personnel. Motion made by Lanie; seconded by Penner. Motion carried unanimously. The open session resumed at 6:47p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned to 6:48pm. Motion made by Bello; seconded by Wedman. Motion carried unanimously.

## PUZZLE ANSWERS



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

J U P Q E S G N N O L A C I E T E D O U  
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C E D W A P C K Y A F C H K M G  
L O N R P P A R K C E L O D P S C F  
R G Y O R V O L A E H C F A K C K  
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S T H E A L T H G R G L Y V D A S N R P

## CLASSIFIEDS

## REAL ESTATE

### HOMES FOR SALE

<b>6.3 ACRES</b> Freeport Country home w/4 Bedrooms, 3 Bath, Basement, Farm Bldg	<b>New Listing</b> Harper Charcoal Renee 12-Unit apartment Building. Great Investment	<b>2.3 Acres</b> 1114 Central 2-Unit apartment	<b>801 Meadow Ridge</b> Klown 2.3 ACRES on edge of town, 3 Bedroom, 3 Bath, Fireplace, Garage
<b>\$64,900</b> Medicine Lodge 510 N Adams Bldm, 2 Bath, Covered Porch, Basement, Att Garage, Corner Lot	<b>Under Contract</b> Anthony 5 Diamond Ct Gorgeous Family Home, 4+ Bdr, 2 Bath, Basement Cov Patio, Garage	<b>707 N Jennings</b> Anthony Spacious 5 Bdrm, 2 Bath, Office, Basement, Covered Porch, Garage	
<b>New Listing</b> Attica Brick Ranch w/4 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, Full Basmt, Att Garage	<b>705 N Main</b> Medicine Lodge Ranch 3 Bdrm, 2 Bath, Fireplace Detached Garage	<b>3/2 Acres - Brick Home</b> Hazelton 112 Acres w/ Brick Home, Farm Bldg, Ponds, Oil & Gas Income	
<b>303 W Kansas</b> Medicine Lodge 303 W Kansas 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath, Full Basement, Fenced yard	<b>805 Jackson St</b> Harper Corner Location w/5 Lots, Nice 3 Bdrm, 2 Bath, Oversized Garage		<b>Gerlene Rd</b> Gary Grigsby, Broker Phone: 620-886-0766 Email: c21grigsby@aol.com

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in the Harper Advocate on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023)1t

### RESOLUTION NO. 867-23

A RESOLUTION FINDING THAT THE STRUCTURE LOCATED ON LOT 02 AND THE EAST HALF OF LOT 03 IN BLOCK 06 OF ORIGINAL ADDITION TO THE CITY OF HARPER, HARPER COUNTY, KANSAS, COMMONLY KNOWN AND REFERRED TO AS 206 W. 7TH ST. HARPER, KANSAS, IS UNSAFE AND DANGEROUS AND DIRECTING THAT THE STRUCTURE BE REPAIRED AND THE PREMISES MADE SAFE AND SECURE, AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 864-23.

WHEREAS, the Enforcing Officer of the City of Harper, Kansas did on the 12th day of September, 2023, file with the governing body of said City a statement in writing that a certain structure, herein-after described, was unsafe and dangerous; and,

WHEREAS, the governing body did by Resolution No. 861-23 dated the 11th day of September, 2023, fix the time and place of a hearing at which the owner, his or her agent, and lienholders, any occupants and all other parties of interest of such structure could appear and show cause why such structure should not be condemned and ordered repaired or demolished, and provided for giving notice thereof as provided by law; and,

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 861-23 was published in the official city paper on the 14th and 21st days of September, 2023, and a copy of said resolution was served upon all persons entitled thereto as provided by law; and,

WHEREAS, on the 23rd day of October, 2023, the governing body did conduct the hearing scheduled in Resolution No. 861-23 and took evidence from the following: the enforcing officer on behalf of the city. The owner, nor any party of interest appeared on behalf of the property. Upon closing the public hearing, the Governing Body found that the property was unsafe and dangerous and directed the structure be removed and the premises made safe and secure.

WHEREAS, Stephen Moore, owner of record, did appear before the Governing Body on November 13, 2023 and presented a plan of repairs to rehabilitate the dangerous structure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF HARPER, KANSAS, THAT:

1. The governing body hereby finds that the structure located on:  
Lot 02 and the East half of Lot 03 in Block 06 of the original addition to the City of Harper, Harper County, Kansas and commonly known and referred to as 206 W. 7th St., Harper, Kansas, is unsafe and dangerous and directs that such structure is to be repaired and the premises made safe and secure. Repairs to be made and completed are:

Replace the roof, replace doors and windows, and clean the yard.  
2. The owner of such structure is hereby directed to commence the repair of the property not later than the 1st day of December, 2023, and to have the repairs completed not later than the 8th day of April, 2024. Provided, that upon due application by the owner and for good cause shown, the governing body, in its sole discretion, may grant the owner additional time to complete the repair of the property.

3. If the owner fails to commence the repair of the structure within the time stated herein, or any additional time granted by the governing body, or fails to diligently prosecute the same until the work is completed, the governing body will cause the structure to be razed and removed and the costs of razing and removing, less salvage if any, shall be collected in the manner provided by K.S.A. 12-1,1115, and amendments thereto or shall be assessed as a special assessment against the lot of parcel of land upon which the structure is located or by both, all as provided by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the owner fails to commence the repair of the structure within the time provided herein or fails to diligently prosecute the same, the governing body may take such further action as it deems necessary to raze and remove the structure without further notice to the owner or other parties in interest.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the orders established in Resolution No. 864-23 are hereby amended.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk shall cause this Resolution to be published once in the official city paper and mail a copy to the owner, agents, lienholders, occupants, and other parties in interest.

Adopted this 13th day of November, 2023.

Scott Blubaugh, Mayor  
(SEAL)  
ATTEST:

Tiffany M. Hartson, City Clerk

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## BENEFIT IN THE BARN

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SOUP DINNER  
PIE AUCTION  
SILENT AUCTION

SILENT AUCTION IS VIRTUAL  
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CLOSING NOVEMBER 18TH AT 8 PM)

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the arts center

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