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The Gyp Hill PREMIERE

Independent and unbiased pursuit of the truth in Barber County!

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June 25, 2026

Commissioners: No New Jail for Now

BY JASON JUMP

Editor

Barber County commissioners said they were not interested in the possibility of building a new jail facility, nor the idea of remodeling the current facility during their meeting on Monday, June 15.

The board reiterated that sentiment during this week's meeting when discussing an update with Sheriff Richard Garza and Undersheriff Scott McCann. The commissioners asked the BCSO to seek out potential long-term contracts

with area jail facilities to see what the costs would be as compared to the \$1 to \$5 million estimates for remodeling the current facility with a potential add-on. Those estimates did not touch on building an entirely new facility.

McCann told the commissioners he had visited with Harper and Pratt counties. Both departments were interested in one-year contracts, but McCann said they were not able to provide estimates as of Monday.

The undersheriff also said there have been issues utilizing both of

those facilities in the past when Barber County inmates have medical issues that need to be tended to in the host's jail. McCann said a BCSO deputy has to travel to those counties to render aid whether it be administering certain medications or taking inmates to a medical facility for treatment.

Chairman Bryan Quick, who represents District 2, told the two BCSO officials he would like to see the contract include language that would allow for the host facility's employees to take care of any of the medical issues for

the county's inmates so a BCSO deputy doesn't have to make those trips.

Last week, Garza told commissioners that the lack of a "functioning county jail" is an ongoing operational concern for both the sheriff and his staff.

"Operating without a county jail creates daily challenges for the sheriff's office," Garza said via his text to voice app. "There have been occasions when surrounding facilities have been unable to accept our inmates, resulting in lengthy efforts to locate available

bed space."

Garza said there have been times when deputies have had to spend an hour or more locating a facility that was capable of housing a county inmate. Even worse, there are other times inmates have had to be released, according to the sheriff.

"There have also been situations where individuals were released on their own recognizance because suitable jail space could not be secured," Garza said. "The sheriff's

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Withrow Discusses City's Ongoing Plans to Sell Water to Google

BY JASON JUMP

Editor

Medicine Lodge City Administrator Brian Withrow spoke with Barber County commissioners Monday afternoon about the city's ongoing efforts to potentially sell water to Google for Project Helium – a data center development planned for just north of Sharon on Highway 160.

Withrow presented a letter approved by the city council and signed by Mayor Tom Lee and addressed to Google's Andrew Harnish, which said the city was "pleased to formally express our eagerness to begin the engineering phase for the Project Helium data center water project."

The city of Medicine Lodge is "fully committed" to supporting the development and is looking forward to moving ahead into the technical design, according to the letter.

"We are confident in our ability to develop workable concepts that meet Google's operational demands while ensuring the continued reliability of our municipal systems," the letter stated.

Google is seeking 22 million gallons of potable water for "domestic use" per year, according to Withrow. The tech giant will need 18.5 million gallons of wastewater services.

The city is already committed to providing 18 million gallons of water per year to Rural Water District #1, which is up 11 million

See **WATER** / Page 10

Natural Grass Mowers



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A herd of goats supplied by a farm from Kingman is helping Sun City tackle an ongoing yearly issue of overgrown grass and vegetation, which is a new initiative by Sun City Mayor Terah Murphy, along with the city council.

Goat Herd Helps Clean Up Properties in Sun City

BY FAITH COULTAS

Staff Writer

Sun City is utilizing a unique protocol to help with overgrown areas around town – goats!

Cottontop Farm based in Kingman is helping the city of Sun City fight overgrown vegetation throughout the city by loaning out their goats.

When Sun City Mayor Terah Murphy began her term in January, she began looking for ways to help improve the city and one of the most important things she felt needed improvement was the city's flood and fire prevention. The Sun City City Council has been working with Murphy to help prevent issues around the area and agreed that the priority for this year was fire and flood prevention.

Murphy began working with the Kansas Forest Service from Kansas

State University, and after receiving a complete risk assessment, it was determined Sun City is located in an area prone to wildfires. Due to the large amount of overgrown vegetation, mainly Johnson grass, which accounts for most of the problem, addressing that was determined to be a great place to start tackling the issue.

Murphy was given a list of possible ways to get rid of the overgrowth and at the top of that list was using goats, something Murphy had seen on social media and heard about through word of mouth before.

"I took over as mayor in January and the city set some priorities – fire and flooding were the top ones – with flooding being the first since we've had some pretty big issues with that, and then fire being next because we are in a wildfire area," the mayor said. "We contacted the Kansas

Forest Service at K-State to come out and do a community wildfire assessment, and it's a process where they assess the land around the city and make recommendations for specifically fire, wildfires and structure fires.

"Through that process one of the things they recommended was to reduce the vegetation in areas of the city which could fuel fires. Prescribed grazing with goats was top of the list of their recommendations."

Once she determined this was a feasible option, Murphy reached out to the city council and began discussing the possibility. Once the council approved to move forward, the mayor reached out to Lody Black, owner of Cottontop Farm.

Black got his first herd of goats in 2021 after purchasing the land that

See **GOATS** / Page 2

Barber County Development to Host Meeting on Data Center

STAFF REPORT

Barber County Development is hosting a data center public informational meeting on Tuesday, June 30 at the county's Annex building.

Area residents are invited to learn more about the growing role data centers are playing in the state of Kansas.

Paul Hughes, with the Kansas Department of Commerce, Headquarters & Megaprojects will be making a presentation outlining the various categories of data centers alongside their essential infrastructure requirements, focusing on power capacity, connectivity, land allocation and workforce needs.

Additionally, he will analyze the strategic advantages and potential challenges that local communities must weigh when pursuing data center developments.

The meeting is free and open to the public. The presentation will begin at 5 p.m.

Commissioners Discuss Public Comment Policy

STAFF REPORT

Barber County commissioners Monday afternoon opted to make no changes to the current policy regarding public comments during board meetings.

District 3 Commissioner Adam Mills said he felt like the five-minute time limit

See **COUNTY** / Page 7

Co. Commissioners Approve Vacation of Lone Tree Road With Stipulations

STAFF REPORT

Google officials have 180 days from Monday in order to purchase the ground on both sides of a section of Lone Tree Rd. in order for the county's unanimous, 3-0, vote to vacate a one-mile section will take effect. Commissioners voted in

favor of Google's request Monday afternoon after tabling the decision during the June 15 meeting. Chairman Bryan Quick, who represents District 2, where Google's Project Helium hyperscale data center is proposed, said he wanted to wait until the county heard

back from its engineer on potential water flow issues if the road was vacated.

A representative of Kirkham Michael, an engineering firm based in Nebraska, with five offices in Kansas, said his company did not have any reservations about flooding

concerns given the plans Google has presented to manage the water flow.

Google's Andrew Harnish presented the company's water study and mitigation plans during the June 15 meeting.

Quick did ask what would happen to the project if

the county decided to vote against the request. Harnish told commissioners Project Helium would move back to its original location, which would put the data center just feet off Highway 160 and closer to the city of Sharon.

The chairman said that

was his concern from the very beginning and that concern is ongoing.

If Google is unable to finalize the land purchases in that area, the company will then have to file another vacation request if it wants to continue with current plans.

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NEWS

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Jason Jump at (620) 886-5654 or email ghp@gyphillpremiere.com

GOATS

• From Page 1

would eventually become Cottontop Farm in 2020. When they moved to the farm, it was so overgrown that it was hard to do much with, so they began clearing the land by hand and ultimately decided to begin utilizing goats to help clear and maintain the land, particularly in areas it was hard to get larger equipment to, as it was something he knew would be an effective way to manage the overgrowth.

Black realized this was a service his farm could offer and in 2023, they began offering their goats to help with land management and they got their first job in the summer of 2024. He then increased his herd size this past spring adding about 15 more goats. The goats he added to his herd were all purchased as wethers, which are castrated male goats, and will be available for purchase and ready for market at the end of the summer.

After the sale of these wethers, Black will purchase more goats to continue growing his herd and continue on with his efforts in providing the use of his goats for clearing overgrown vegetation for those who decide to utilize this service

through Cottontop Farm.

Black had posted on Facebook that he had a herd of goats and was advertising them to be used to help with issues like what Sun City was facing so, after the council approved to look into this as being an option, Murphy reached out to Black who she knew was well respected and had experience in managing overgrown vegetation.

Black came to Sun City in February and worked with Murphy to map out the areas they felt needed tackled first. Once they mapped out the areas, Black gave Murphy his estimate and she took that to the city council. Once the council approved the bid, they began the process of getting the herd to Sun City and making sure they had everything set up that the goats and Walter the guard dog would need. They built the electric fencing and the first paddocks for the goats and on May 25, the goats and Walter arrived in Sun City and began the process of clearing the overgrowth.

Black's herd of goats consists of around 20 Nigerian Dwarf goats and they come accompanied by a Great Pyrenees named Walter as their guard dog. Black taught Murphy how to man-

age the animals by feeding them on a regular schedule and helping to move them from paddock to paddock.

"We are setting up the paddocks and the fences and Terah, the mayor there, is actually doing the daily care. We supply the grain for them and she grains them every day and she feeds the dog every day, waters them every day and she does a headcount daily to make sure everybody is there. We set up a paddock in front of the area where they are and then when it's time we drop the fence and move them into the new area and pick the old paddock up and move it to the next section," Black said about the goats.

Since beginning this process, Black came down to move the goats the first time, during this time he taught Murphy how to do it herself once the vegetation has been eaten down as much as possible in that area and she has been handling moving the goats from paddock to paddock each time they are ready to proceed to the next area.

The entire process includes using the goats to get rid of as much of the vegetation as possible, then going behind the goats and spraying the vegetation in order to fully kill it and

prevent it from re-growing, a process the Kansas Forest Service described as prescribed grazing with goats followed by herbicide application. The ultimate goal is for the goats, followed by the spray, to take care of enough of the overgrowth to allow for the city to easily mow those areas and continue maintaining them in the future. Although they do use some chemicals to help kill the vegetation, using the goats before spraying greatly limits the amount of chemicals needed, providing for a more environmentally friendly and safe way to eliminate the issue of overgrown areas in Sun City.

Each time the goats finish a section, they move on to the next, in a system that Black and Murphy have worked together on to find the most efficient way to keep the process moving smoothly. Before the goats move from a section, Black goes and sets up the paddock in front of them, allowing for a smooth transition from one area of the section to the next.

The goats have begun working on the south side of Sun City near the abandoned railroad tracks, one of the worst areas within Sun City for overgrowth. Even with the goats having begun this

process not too long ago, they have already proved to be a tremendous help to the area, clearing drainage pipes and allowing for water to flow freely out of Sun City and clearing large portions of vegetation already in the short amount of time.

"It couldn't be going any better. We are reducing fire risk and at the same time we are also solving some flooding issues we've had because the Johnson grass was so overgrown in the ditches of the water that needed to leave town and clogging up the big ditches where a lot of water flows out of town when we flood and now with that being gone now we have free flowing water leaving town when it floods," Murphy said.

"For years Main Street and other streets have flooded and we've worked with the county to replace a collapsed culvert. We extended that culvert, rebuilt ditches, and found some we didn't

even know we had. The goats cleared those out and now we can see what we have to work with and get the water flowing correctly."

The goats are expected to be in Sun City for a few more weeks at most to finish up their current job and this is something Murphy hopes the city can continue doing each year seeing as it has shown to be an effective way to manage the vegetation.

"In the future I would like to use the goats as our main source of getting rid of poison ivy, Johnson grass and brush in our area. I would like to continue using Cottontop Farm or maybe even partnering with them or something," the mayor said. "We haven't gotten that far ahead, but I can't imagine we could do it any better than they could."

EDITOR'S NOTE: To read the entire version of this story go online at gyphillpremiere.com.

OBITUARIES

DOROTHY ANN PARKER

Dorothy Ann (Hewitt) Parker was born nearly 90 years ago in Wichita, before Medicine Lodge had a hospital.

After graduating from high school in 1954, she attended Kansas State University until her sophomore year when she married Gary Parker; the ceremony was held in January of 1956 at the original Methodist church in Medicine Lodge. She then moved to Hays, where Gary finished his degree at Fort Hays State University in 1958.

Gary and Dorothy moved back to Medicine Lodge when he joined his father in the family business at Parker's IGA. After their children graduated from high school, Dorothy learned the "office" side of the business from Gary's dad, and she worked until they sold the business in 1993. The Parkers thoroughly enjoyed retirement when they purchased an RV to travel the country.

Dorothy had a rich childhood enhanced by the numerous and loving members of the Harbaugh family, especially cousin Christine (Gilmore) Hosey, as well as close friendships with JoAnn (Stone) Eaton, Ruth Ann (Gress) Railsback and Kathy (Eby) Stephenson. It was "destiny" when they were only five years old, Gary pulled his wagon down the street to Dorothy's house when she was outside playing. In the ensuing grade school years, Dorothy was always happy when the teacher would ask Gary to sing to the class. Gary's fourth-grade music book even featured a heart with "G.P. + D.H." drawn inside. Their courtship became official when they began dating their sophomore year of high school. This past January would have marked their 70th anniversary.

Friends and family remember Dorothy's very positive attitude. She always took time to listen, and her kids knew, that above all, she wanted them to feel loved and to love each other. She hosted birthdays, holidays and special occasions for her family, even when she was working full time. Her love of quilting was a major source of joy to her and her family and friends, and her work was exquisite.

Dorothy loved the community of Medicine Lodge and was a member of the Methodist Church, P.E.O. and the golf club, and she enjoyed many close friendships, especially her weekly bridge foursome. Her daughters recall that her original bridge partners were Betty Buell, Joyce Clarke and Betty Platt.

In 2013, Gary and Dorothy moved to Burlington to be closer to children and grandchildren, and Dorothy enjoyed playing bridge with friends there. After Gary's passing last summer, she moved into the assisted living wing of the Presbyterian Manor in Lawrence where she very much looked forward to playing bridge with residents and card games with family members on weekends.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her husband of 69 years, Gary; by her son, Brad Parker; parents, I.N. ("Jibo") Hewitt and Bess (Harbaugh) Hewitt; her in-laws, H.E. ("Bill") Parker and Ethel Marie (Gilyeat) Parker; and her sister, Marilyn (Hewitt) Hensley.

Dorothy is survived by her children: Julie Jones (Ken) of Midway, Utah; Amy Bradley of Lawrence and Bill Parker (Devra) of New Strawn; eight grandchildren: Jared Jones, Jason Jones, Lisa (Jones) Thompson, Ashley (Whelan) Heryer, Adam Whelan, Kate (Parker) Brown, Eli Parker and Noah Parker; and 15 great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Dorothy's life will be held on Saturday, Aug. 8 at 10:30 a.m. at the Methodist Church in Medicine Lodge. Memorials may be made in Dorothy's honor to the Medicine Lodge Methodist Church or to the Lincoln Library in Medicine Lodge.

RALPH RICHARD DICK

Ralph Richard Dick, 90, died June 19, 2026, at Parkwood Village, Pratt.

He was born on July 31, 1935, at Zenda, the son of Louis and Matilda Dick Burns. A longtime resident of the Isabel community, he was a farmer and stockman and had served as a Barber County commissioner.



Ralph was a member of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus, past member Isabel CO-OP board and the Valley Township board, a supporter of 4-H and was a veteran of the United States Air Force.

On Jan. 31, 1959, he married Myra Gerdes at Zenda. Other survivors include a son, Allen; daughter, Cynthia Rogers and her husband, Michael; brother, Walter; nine grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Ralph was preceded in death by sons Steven and Eugene; brothers Wayne, Harold, Leo, Delbert and Norbert; and sisters Marcella, Grace, Rosallen, Beatrice and Virginia.

Parish rosary will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 27 at the Holy Rosary Catholic Church followed immediately by the Mass of Christian Burial. The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, June 26 at the Livingston Funeral Home, Kingman. Burial will be in the Isabel Cemetery.

Memorials may be made with the Holy Rosary Catholic Church or Rivercross Hospice and mailed to Livingston Funeral Home, 1830 N. Main, Kingman KS 67068.

Tribute Party honoring Harry Edward Kimball



Sunday August 16th, 2026
2 pm to ?

Barber County Heritage Center
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NEWS

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Anthony's Historical Theatre to Host Free Showing of '1776' on June 27

PRESS RELEASE

Don't miss a night of history, humor and community. The wait is almost over.

On Saturday, June 27, at 7 p.m., the Historical Anthony Theatre will open its doors at 6 p.m. for a free showing of "1776".

All of Harper County and surrounding communities are invited to attend and help celebrate the United States' 250-year anniversary.

sary.

The Anthony Transient Guest Tax and HPCO HEART 4th of July Committee, along with the Historical Anthony Theatre, are making this an event about coming together with neighbors, families and friends to share a night of laughter, learning and patriotic spirit. History will come to life with humor, music and a room full of strong opinions.

The movie "1776" is based on a Broadway musical which was released to theaters in November 1972. The film has a strong cast – many came directly to the movie from the Broadway production. William Daniels as John Adams is passionate, stubborn and often very frustrated. Howard da Silva plays Benjamin Franklin, a witty, wise and humorous individual. Ken Howard

is Thomas Jefferson, a thoughtful and soft-spoken writer.

They are not just "historical figures" – they are portrayed as real people with humor, disagreements and strong opinions. The film is rated G (family-friendly).

This movie received an Academy Award nomination for Best Cinematography, a Golden Globe nomination for Best Musical and was

named one of the Top Films of the Year by the National Board of Film Review. Also, the Broadway musical won the Tony Award for Best Musical.

This special evening promises something for everyone, according to organizers: an engaging and entertaining film and free 1776 American flags for the first 50 adults attending the movie.

There is no admission charge, making it the perfect opportunity to enjoy a meaningful night out for the entire family.

Make plans now to attend. Arrive early and grab a box of popcorn and a drink. Then, plan be part of what is sure to be a memorable community celebration.

Let's fill the theatre and celebrate the spirit of 1776 – together.

JAIL

• From Page 1

office has identified the operational concerns and public safety impacts associated with not having a functional jail."

Garza told commissioners that he nor his staff were "architects, engineers, contractors or construction managers." He said his staff has laid out the issues and the concerns, but it was the job of the commission to decide what direction the county would go.

"The responsibility for determining whether to renovate, rebuild, continue housing inmates elsewhere or pursue another option rests with the commission," he said. "The information

has been provided. The operational concerns have been identified. The decision regarding the future of the jail now belongs to the commission."

Garza said regardless of the decision the board made, his staff was committed to "serving the citizens of Barber County" to the best of their ability.

Even with the renovation and/or add-on, Barber County could only house up to four inmates at a time and that would not address the concerns of separation of male and female inmates, juveniles and/or violent inmates.

Quick's concerns not only included the cost of the project, but also the indirect cost of having to add employees.

He said if the county was going to operate a jail it would need a full-time staff of jailers. The issue would be what to do with those staff members if the jail wasn't at capacity.

"What are you doing to do with those jailers," he asked. "You still have to pay them."

The chairman said deputies could double as jailers, but every minute they were in the jail means they wouldn't be out on the roads.

McCann said the medical issues are the department's biggest concerns, because right now the Cowley County jail facility is the only place that can handle medical needs in-house.

District 1 Commissioner

Mike Roe said he thought a long-term commitment for "x number of beds" was the county's best option.

"Whether it's Pratt County or Harper County or two in Pratt County and two in Harper County, and just budget for it, because you are going to pay it regardless," he said. "I'm not saying we don't need a place to put these people, but if we're looking at spending \$5 million for four people versus \$150,000 a year to put two in Pratt and two in Harper – I know the logistics are drastically different, you know, hauling them back and forth and brining them to court and things like that, but \$5 million versus around \$150,000 is kind of a situation that I can even

understand."

Quick referenced a study conducted by Wichita State University, which suggested it would be better for the county to continue operating as it has been as opposed to building a new facility or remodeling the current facility.

The chairman asked that the sheriff continue to

work with Harper and Pratt facilities to see what those contracts would look like. He also asked if Garza or McCann had reached out to Kingman County. The undersheriff said he would make contact with Kingman County Sheriff Brent Wood to see what the possibility is for housing inmates in Kingman.

MEDICINE LODGE POLICE BLOTTER

June 15

7:39 a.m., Dog at Large, N. Walnut St., Chief Defore.
10:12 a.m., Request to Speak to Officer, Hays PD, Chief Defore.

11:15 a.m., Be on Look Out, Baco, Officer Brown.
2:20 p.m., Animal Call, 414 W. Anthony Ave., Chief Defore.
5:40 p.m., Follow up Activity, 302 E. Washington Ave., Officer Brown.

6:50 p.m., Traffic Stop, W. 2nd Ave. and N. Cherry St., Officer Jackson.

7:34 p.m., 911 Hangup/open line, 2351 SW U.S. Hwy 281, Officer Jackson.

June 16

4:29 a.m., Traffic stop, Osage and Illif, Officer Jackson.

8:08 a.m., Driving While, Medicine Lodge, Chief Defore.

7:39 p.m., Traffic/Driving Complaint, Barber County State Lake, Officer Jackson.

June 17

2:59 a.m., Traffic Stop, Hwy 160 and 281 West Bound, Officer Jackson.

3:10 a.m., Traffic Stop, Osage and Illif, Officer Jackson.

11:20 a.m., Busy, Kingman, Officer McLemore.

11:39 a.m., Disturbance, Fight, Noise, etc., 203 W. Washington, Sharon, Chief Defore.

8:37 p.m., 911 Hangup/Open line, Medicine Lodge, Officer Miranda.

8:49 p.m., Dog at Large, 13th Street, Officer Miranda.

9:16 p.m., 911 Hangup/Open line, 121 Leslie St, Officer McLemore.

June 18

7:22 a.m., Dog at Large, Elm St. and Locust St., Chief Defore.

8:26 a.m., Funeral, General Escort, Larrison Funeral Home, Chief Defore.

1:43 p.m., Welfare Check/Adult, 319 N. Walnut St., Officer McLemore.

4:55 p.m., Reckless Driver, Medicine Lodge City Park, Officer McLemore.

June 19

7:09 a.m., Suspicious Vehicle, S. Cherry St and W. Eva St, Chief Defore.

7:34 a.m., Dog at Large, 922 Elm St., Chief Defore.

8:54 a.m., Unknown Trouble, Sonic (Closed), Chief Defore.

6:02 p.m., Domestic Disturbance, 303 W. Delaware Ave, Hardtner, Officer Jackson.

8:01 p.m., Vehicle Unlocked, Barber County State Lake, Officer Jackson.

June 20

10:35 p.m., Dog at Large, 203 S. Spring, Officer Jackson.

11:22 p.m., Welfare Check, 926 Robinson St., Kiowa, Officer Jackson.

June 21

3:06 p.m., Disabled Vehicle, N. 281 and 160, Officer Brown.

4:50 p.m., Animal Bite, Vicious, Medicine Lodge Memorial Hospital, Officer Jackson.

4:50 p.m., 911 Hangup/Open line, 212 E. First Ave, Officer Jackson.

10:25 p.m., Welfare Check, 509 Drumm St., Kiowa, Officer Jackson.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION

(First published in The Gyp Hill Premiere on Thursday, June 18, 2026) 3t

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that on the 4th day of August, a primary election will be held in the County of Barber, State of Kansas. Polls will be open at 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Polling places are Barber County Annex, 211 E. Kansas Ave, Medicine Lodge, KS 67104 and Barber County Ambulance Building, 740 Main St, Kiowa, KS 67070

UNITED STATES SENATE

Democratic: Damon Anderson-Shawnee, Christy Davis-Cottonwood Falls, Adam Hamilton-Stilwell, Jason Hart-Wichita, Kevin Latz-Mission Hills, Erik Murray-Kansas City, Sandy Spidel Neumann-Overland Park, Anne Parelkar-Overland Park, Patrick C. Schmidt-Topeka, Michael "Mike" Soetaert-Wellington, and Noah Taylor-Kechi

Republican: Roger Marshall-St. John and Pond Naramore-Lawrence

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE 4th DISTRICT

Democratic: Chris Carmichael-Andover, Cole Epley-Bel Aire, Ryan Gilbert-Goddard, and Katy Tynnell-Wichita

Republican: Ron Estes-Wichita and Frank A. McCollum-Fall River

GOVERNOR/LT. GOVERNOR

Democratic: Ethan Corson-Fairway/Renee Duxler-Salina, Cindy Holscher-Overland Park/KC Ohabosim-Wichita, and Curt Skoog-Overland Park/Jennifer Bacani McKenney-Fredonia

Republican: Ty Masterson-Andover/Jeffrey Klemp-Lansing, Charlotte O'Hara-Overland Park/Michelle Dombrosky-Olathe, Nick Reinecker-Inman/Katy Reinecker-Inman, Stacy L Rogers-Wichita/Michael W. Smith-Lansing, Philip Sarnecki-Overland Park/Joy Eakins-Wichita, Vicki Schmidt-Topeka/Joe Newland-Neodesha, and Scott Schwab-Overland Park/Ken Rahjes-Agra

SECRETARY OF STATE

Democratic: Jennifer Day-Overland Park and Samuel Lane-Shawnee

Republican: Pat Proctor-Leavenworth Attorney General

Democratic: Chris Mann-Lawrence

Republican: Kris Kobach-Lecompton State Treasurer

Democratic: Juan C. Luengo-Olathe

Republican: Steven Johnson-Assaria Commissioner of Insurance

Democratic: Dinah Sykes-Lenexa

Republican: Daniel Hawkins-Wichita

STATE HOUSE 116TH DISTRICT

Democratic: Nathan Bales-Pratt

Republican: Kyle D. Hoffman-Coldwater and Herb Landwehr-Sharon

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION 7TH DISTRICT

Democratic: Ann Zimmerman-Salina
Republican: Alana McWilliams-Abilene

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1

Democratic: None filed
Republican: Mike Roe-Medicine Lodge

TOWNSHIP CLERK

Democratic: Aetna-None filed, Deerhead-None filed, Eagle-None filed, Elm Mills-None filed, Elwood-None filed, Hazelton-None filed, Kiowa-None filed, Lake City-None filed, McAdoo-None filed, Medicine Lodge-None filed, Mingona-None filed, Moore-Shawn Simpson-Kiowa, Sharon-None filed, Sun City-None filed, Turkey Creek-None filed and Valley-None filed

Republican: Aetna-None filed, Deerhead-Kenton Marsh-Sun City, Eagle-Allan Maze-Medicine Lodge, Elm Mills-Rex A. Robinson-Sawyer, Elwood-None filed, Hazelton- Keith Rathgeber-Kiowa, Kiowa-Brent Diel-Kiowa, Lake City- Russell B. Lake III-Lake City, McAdoo-None filed, Medicine Lodge-Ted Colborn-Medicine Lodge, Mingona-None filed, Moore-None filed, Sharon- Jeff England-Sharon, Sun City-Teena Thurber-Sun City, Turkey Creek-Sammye Hoss-Coats and Valley-Andrew Waggoner-Isabel

PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN AND WOMAN

Democratic: None filed in any precinct
Republican: Aetna-None filed, Deerhead-None filed, Eagle-Allan Maze-Medicine Lodge, Patricia A. Maze-Medicine Lodge, Elm Mills-None filed, Elwood-Wesley King-Hardtner, Barbara King-Hardtner, and Helen (Annie) Meyers-Hardtner, Hazelton-None filed, Kiowa East-None filed, Kiowa West-None filed, Lake City- Michael Stull-Lake City, and Jeff Woods-Lake City, Courtney Pilkington-Lake City, and Gina R. Woods-Lake City, McAdoo-None filed, Medicine Lodge One-Dr. Steve Garten-Medicine Lodge, and John D. Platt-Medicine Lodge, Sherry Colborn-Medicine Lodge, and Tina Wolgast-Medicine Lodge, Medicine Lodge Two-Michael Roe-Medicine Lodge, Lorelei L. McFarland-Medicine Lodge, and Christine Roe-Medicine Lodge, Medicine Lodge Three-Michael Sill-Medicine Lodge, Amy Sill-Medicine Lodge, Medicine Lodge Four-Rick Fitzgerald-Sharon, Yvonne D. Colle-Burden-Medicine Lodge, and Susan M. Fitzgerald-Sharon, Medicine Lodge Five-Richard L. Swayden-Medicine Lodge, Betty Jo Swayden-Medicine Lodge, Mingona-Jeff J. Clarke-Medicine Lodge, Robbie Clarke-Medicine Lodge, Moore-Paul Harbaugh-Kiowa, No Committeewoman filed, Sharon-Larry D. Conner-Sharon, and Herb M. Landwehr-Sharon, Billie Jo Fischer-Sharon, and Dee Saddler-Sharon, Sun City-Brendon Woods-Sun City, No Committeewoman filed, Turkey Creek-None filed and Valley-None filed

GOT NEWS TO SHARE?

Call us at (620) 886-5654 or email ghp@gyphillpremiere.com!

BARBER CO. DEEDS

D152-360 - Quit Claim Deed: Jimmie and Donna Elmore to Jimmie and Donna Elmore, Trust, Grantee.

D152-362 - Warranty Deed: Jerry Holt to Bryan Investments, LLC, Grantee.

D152-364 - Warranty Deed: BOD, LLC to DSK, LTD, Grantee.

D152-366 - Warranty Deed: A&S Farms, LLC to Mikell Fries, et al, Jackson Fries, et al, Wendy Fries, et al, Jonathan Fries, et al, Grantee, Mineral Conveyance/Reservation, Mineral Right.

D152-368 - Warranty Deed: Silver Arrow Farms, LLC to Mikell Fries, et al, Jackson Fries, et al, Wendy Fries, et al, Jonathan Fries, et al, Grantee.

D152-370 - Warranty Deed: Kenneth W. and Prudence L. Lewton to Lewton Family Trust, Grantee.

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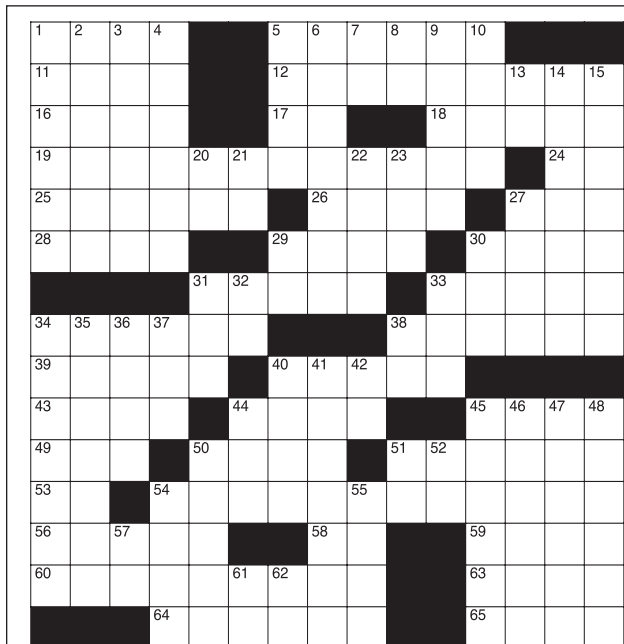
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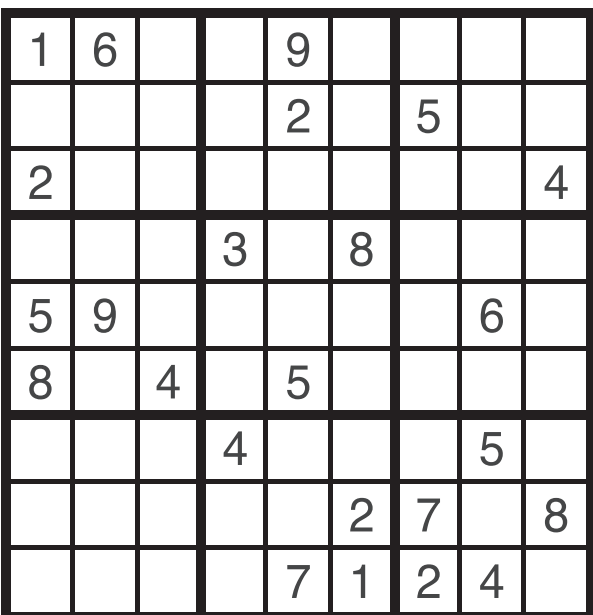


CLUES ACROSS

1. Nocturnal S. American rodent
5. Requesting
11. Give temporarily
12. Excitedness
16. Armed Forces branch
17. Actor Harris
18. Middle Eastern capital
19. Air hostesses
24. Partner to "Pa"
25. Percussion instrument
26. Popular computers
27. Reduce light
28. Asian mountain range
29. Every one of two or more
30. Absence of difficulty
31. A public announcement of a proposed marriage
33. Whittles
34. Impact
38. Serviceman
39. A French river
40. Prehistoric people
43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
44. ___ Clapton, musician
45. Ancient Greek sophist
49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
50. Singer Hansard
51. A way to disentangle
53. Atomic #93
54. Manifesting approval
56. Indigo bush
58. Former AL MVP Vaughn
59. Off-Broadway theater award
60. Fencers
63. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
64. Relating to passerine birds
65. Arrange systematically

CLUES DOWN

1. Colorless fluid
2. Of a main artery
3. Photographer's tool
4. Blues Traveler hit "But ___"
5. Grew older
6. Not the leader
7. ___ Lang (country singer)
8. A driver's license is one
9. Nests of pheasants
10. Wildebeests
13. Equal to one quintillion bytes
14. Japanese three-stringed lute
15. Type of cat
20. It cools your home
21. The ancient Egyptian sun god
22. Pouches
23. German trigraph
27. Form of Persian
29. Measurement unit
30. Body part
34. Snack food
35. Front part of a quadruped
36. Locate
37. Pitching statistic
38. ___, myself and I
40. City in Utah
41. They play in the trenches
42. "Can't Touch This" rapper ___ Hammer
44. Type of tree
45. Performers
46. Slang for mistake
47. More open
48. Most slick
50. Needles
51. University of Dayton
52. Atomic #11
54. Large fish of the mackerel family
55. Not any
57. ___ and behold



A H A Y E G S G E A S V P B H A M B G B
 N I M Y R F B L F M B F I M R G G C E N
 E R F T F O T S B I H H Y A N C N A F C
 C T I T M E T A U M Y P I M G V L G V
 T E B M E A O A M B M I G A H A I N H Y
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 R P S I Y L I V I G R D U C H P V O U C
 T A N T E N N A E O I P C T P G L T H U
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 D E U Y M E P I P N H M L L N R V H T I
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FATHER'S DAY WORD SEARCH

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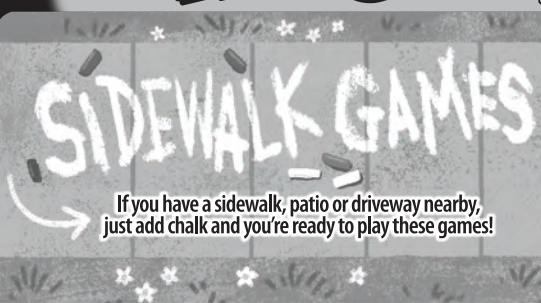
GUESS WHO?

I am a singer born on June 22, 1953 in New York. I embraced bright hair and edgy clothing during my teen years. That paved the way for my style throughout much of my musical career. In addition to pop music, I created the soundtrack to a Broadway show and changed the history of World Wrestling Entertainment.

Answer: Cyndi Lauper

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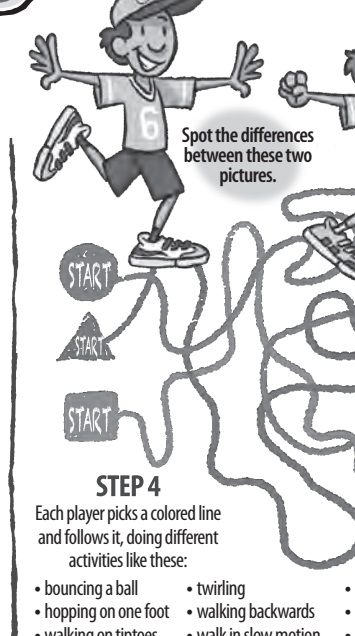


Make a Hopscotch Challenge!



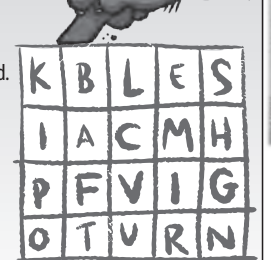
Maze Mix-Up!

- STEP 1**
You need three different colors of chalk for this game. Start by making three shapes lined up in a row to be START spots.
- STEP 2**
Move forward at least 10 feet and make a matching-colored shape to be the END spot.
- STEP 3**
Draw a crooked line between each pair of START and END spots of the same color. Be sure to have some of the lines cross over each other.



Monster Word Game

1. Draw a large grid with squares that are large enough for you to stand in. The grid should have at least four squares on each side.
2. Write a letter inside each square on the grid. Be sure to include at least four vowels, but not in a row.
3. Take turns stepping from one letter to another to create a word. You can jump over a square if you need to. Write each word that is spelled out in chalk on the sidewalk. What is the largest word someone can make?



Standards Link: Spell grade-appropriate words correctly.

Play Four Square

- Find three friends. Draw a big square and then divide it into four smaller boxes of the same size.
- You and each friend stand in a different square.
- Find a bouncy ball and start serving and returning the ball from square to square.

Number Words

Look through the newspaper for five numbers under 100. Rewrite each spelled out with letters of the alphabet. Use chalk if you have it!

Standards Link: Spell out whole numbers from zero up to ninety-nine.

Kid Scoop Puzzler



Double Word Search

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

ART
CHALK
COLOR
DRAW
FOUR
FROG
GRID
HOP
JUMP
LINE
PLAY
RED
SHAPES
SPIN
SQUARE
TRACE

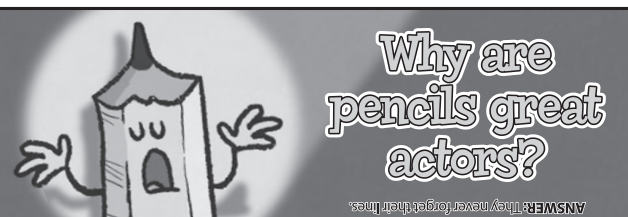
Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

Places to Play

Look through your newspaper for places in your community where it is safe for children to play. Write a letter to the editor with your opinions about these places and whether or not your community needs more like them.

Standards Link: Write letters that link opinions to factual evidence.



Kid Scoop Together Masking Tape Masterpiece

- STEP 1**
Use masking tape to create a square on cement.
- STEP 2**
Add more strips of masking tape to create a design.
- STEP 3**
Color the spaces in the design.
- STEP 4**
Carefully remove the tape.
- Standards Link: Reading: Follow simple, written directions.

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Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **DRIVEWAY**

The noun **driveway** means a road that leads from a street to a building, such as a house or a garage.

We can fit two cars on the driveway at my aunt's house.

Try to use the word **driveway** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

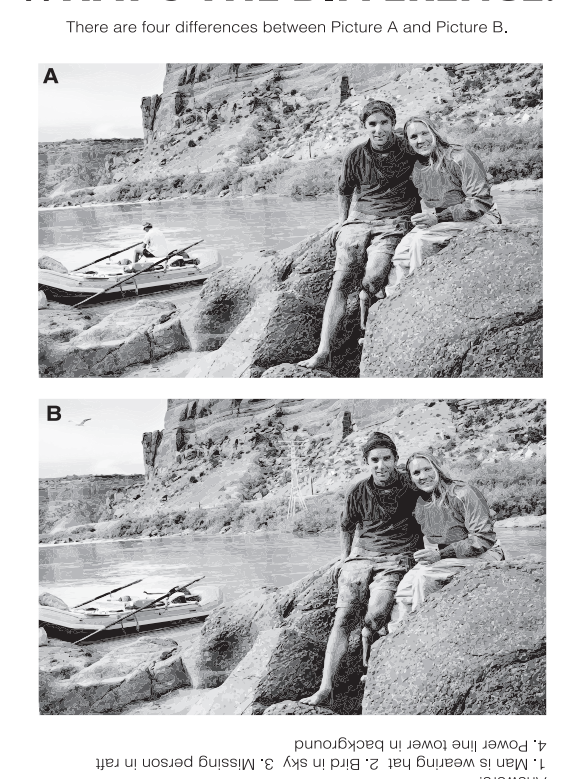
Write On!

What Makes You Smile?

Write two or three sentences about one or more things that make you smile.

Standards Link: Self-reflect to identify personal sources of joy (SEL).

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?



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NEWS

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BARBER COUNTY SHERIFF BLOTTER

June 8

5:59 a.m., Deputy Manning conducted extra patrol in Hazelton
 6:27 a.m., Deputy Manning conducted extra patrol in Hardtner
 6:29 a.m., Deputy Manning, Medicine Lodge Ambulance, Fire, and Police responded to a structure fire in the 100 block of W. Stolp Avenue, Medicine Lodge
 6:42 a.m., Deputy Manning responded to a vehicle unlock in the 1200 area of River Road, Medicine Lodge
 7:56 a.m., Deputy Manning attempted to serve civil process in the 4600 area of Falcon, Sawyer
 8:41 a.m., Deputy Manning conducted extra patrol in Lake City
 8:52 a.m., Deputy Manning attempted to serve civil process in the 7000 area of Lake City Road, Lake City
 9:09 a.m., Deputy Manning conducted extra patrol in Sun City
 10:10 a.m., Deputy Manning initiated a traffic stop 300 block of S. Iliff Street, Medicine Lodge, citation issued for speed
 10:14 a.m., Deputy Manning responded to an animal call in the 200 block of N. Missouri Avenue, Sharon
 10:46 a.m., Sheriff Garza and Sergeant Fisher responded to a reckless driver call on W. U.S. Highway 160
 11:26 a.m., Deputy Manning responded to an animal call on U.S. Highway 160 and Pageant Road, Medicine Lodge
 12:00 p.m., Deputy Manning returned a request to speak to officer call, Sharon
 12:34 p.m., Deputy Manning conducted extra patrol in Sharon
 12:53 p.m., Sheriff Garza and Deputy Manning conducted traffic control for Biking Across Kansas, W.

U.S. Highway 160
 1:18 p.m., Sheriff Garza and Deputy Manning responded to a reckless driver complaint on U.S. Highway 160 and mile markers 204 - 208
 2:12 p.m., Sergeant Fisher served civil process in the 300 block of E. Washington, Medicine Lodge
 4:53 p.m., Deputy Manning served civil process in the 300 block of W. First Avenue, Medicine Lodge
 5:18 p.m., Deputy Manning attempted to serve civil process in the 500 block Forrest Street, Medicine Lodge
 5:20 p.m., Deputy Manning responded to a non-injury crash in the 6300 area of State Highway K8, Kiowa
 6:20 p.m., Deputy McNally returned a request to speak to officer call, in the 100 block E. Central Avenue, Hardtner

June 9

7:20 a.m., Deputy Manning conducted traffic control for Biking Across Kansas U.S. Highway 160 and county line
 8:27 a.m., Deputy Manning responded to a 911 open line in the 3400 area of U.S. Highway 281, Hardtner
 8:38 a.m. Undersheriff McCann and Deputy Manning conducted funeral escort, Medicine Lodge
 9:02 a.m., Deputy Manning conducted extra patrol in Hardtner
 9:37 a.m., Deputy Manning conducted extra patrol in Hazelton
 9:59 a.m., Deputy Manning conducted extra patrol in Sharon
 12:35 p.m., Deputy Manning returned a request to speak to officer call, Kiowa
 1:47 p.m., Deputy Manning initiated a traffic stop U.S. Highway 281 and mile

marker 14, citation issued for speed
 2:14 p.m., Deputy Manning conducted a business check at the Kiowa City Pool and Park, Kiowa
 2:31 p.m., Deputy Manning conducted a business check in Kiowa Library, Kiowa
 3:37 p.m., Undersheriff McCann initiated a traffic stop U.S. Highway 160 and Gyp Hill Road, verbal warning for speed
 4:02 p.m., Deputy Manning initiated a traffic stop U.S. Highway 281 and mile marker 21, verbal warning for speed
 4:59 p.m., Deputy Manning attempted to serve civil process in the 900 block of N. Cedar Street, Medicine Lodge
 5:07 p.m., Deputy Manning served civil process in the 800 block of N. Oak Street, Medicine Lodge
 5:10 p.m., Deputy Manning returned a request to speak to officer call, Medicine Lodge
 7:53 p.m., Deputy Hyrst conducted extra patrol in Hardtner
 8:28 p.m., Deputy Hyrst responded to a dog at large in the area of Robinson and 5th Streets, Kiowa
 8:44 p.m., Deputy Hyrst conducted extra patrol in Kiowa
 9:15 p.m., Deputy Hyrst responded to a noise complaint in the 400 block of Dickinson Street, Kiowa
 9:54 p.m., Deputy Hyrst conducted extra patrol in Hazelton
 10:23 p.m., Deputy Hyrst conducted extra patrol in Sharon
 10:30 p.m., Deputy Hyrst returned a request to speak to officer call and assisted Medicine Lodge police officers in the 500 block of Forrest Street, Medicine Lodge
 11:03 p.m., Deputy Hyrst

conducted extra patrol in Isabel
 11:42 p.m., Deputy Hyrst conducted a business check in the 100 block of E. Washington Avenue, Medicine Lodge
June 10
 2:06 a.m., Deputy Hyrst conducted extra patrol in Sun City
 2:28 a.m., Deputy Hyrst conducted extra patrol in Lake City
 6:13 a.m., Deputy McClellan removed a traffic hazard in the 200 block of N. Chickasaw Street, Hardtner
 8:38 a.m., Transport Deputy McNally escorted two inmates to the Barber County Courthouse, Medicine Lodge
 9:43 a.m., Sheriff Garza and Deputy Manning conducted Barber County Sheriff's Youth Safety Camp, Kiowa
 11:12 a.m., Deputy McClellan responded to a 911 open line in the 12000 area on Apex Road, Medicine Lodge
 11:17 a.m., Deputy Manning conducted a business check at the Kiowa Pool and Park, Kiowa
 12:26 p.m., Deputy McClellan initiated a traffic stop U.S. Highway 281 and Grandview Road, Sheriff Garza and Sergeant Fisher responded, 1 female arrested on active warrant, Medicine Lodge
 1:43 p.m., Sergeant Fisher returned a request to speak to officer call
 4:06 p.m., Deputy Hyrst conducted a VIN inspection in the 600 block of E. Second Avenue, Hazelton
 5:49 p.m., Deputy McClellan and Deputy Luck conducted a suspicious person call and extra patrol in Hardtner
 9:04 p.m., Deputy Luck responded to a vehicle vs.

deer crash on U.S. Highway 281 and mile marker 12, Medicine Lodge
June 11
 10:08 a.m., Sheriff Garza, Sergeant Fisher, Deputy Manning and Deputy McClellan conducted the Barber County Sheriff's Youth Safety Camp at the Lincoln Library, Medicine Lodge
 10:42 a.m., Sergeant Fisher returned a request to speak to officer call, Medicine Lodge
 12:41 p.m., Deputy McClellan initiated a traffic stop Main and Central Streets, Medicine Lodge written warning for speed
 3:00 p.m., Undersheriff McCann and K-9 Loki responded to a citizen request for assistance in the 100 block of Creek Street, Hardtner
 4:27 p.m., Deputy McClellan returned a request to speak to officer call, Winfield
 5:14 p.m., Deputy McClellan assisted Medicine Lodge police on a domestic disturbance in the 200 block of E. First Avenue, Medicine Lodge
 7:36 p.m., Deputy Luck responded to a business alarm for Medicine Lodge police in the 100 block of S. Main Street, Medicine Lodge
 9:09 p.m., Deputy Luck responded to cattle out U.S. Highway 281 and mile marker 21, Medicine Lodge
 9:24 p.m., Deputy Luck responded to cattle out Isabel Road and Albee Road
 9:25 p.m., Deputy Luck responded to cattle out Hillside Road and Halstead Road, Sharon
June 12
 2:30 a.m., Deputy Luck responded to cattle out U.S. Highway 281 and 4 miles south of U.S. Highway 160
 8:40 a.m., Deputy Man-

ning conducted extra patrol in Sharon
 8:48 a.m., Undersheriff McCann and K9 Loki conducted routine K9 tracking training to maintain and enhance tracking proficiency
 10:01 a.m., Deputy Manning conducted extra patrol in Isabel
 10:46 a.m., Deputy Manning attempted to serve civil process in the 4600 area of Falcon Road, Sawyer
 10:58 a.m., Undersheriff McCann responded to cattle out at Driftwood Road and Hardtner Shortcut, Hardtner
 11:57 a.m., Deputy Manning conducted extra patrol in Lake City
 12:09 p.m., Deputy Manning served civil process in the 7000 area on Lake City Road, Lake City
 12:39 p.m., Deputy Manning conducted extra patrol in Sun City
 2:48 p.m., Deputy Manning attempted to serve civil process in the 900 block of N. Cedar Street, Medicine Lodge
 2:59 p.m., Deputy Manning attempted to serve civil process in the 100 block of E. First Avenue, Medicine Lodge
 3:17 p.m., Deputy Manning attempted to serve civil process in the 500 block Forrest Street, Medicine Lodge
 4:06 p.m., Deputy Manning responded to a motorist assist on U.S. Highway 281 and mile marker 14
 4:18 p.m., Deputy Manning conducted extra patrol in Hardtner
 4:46 p.m., Deputy Manning attempted to serve civil process in the 200 block of N. 10th Street, Kiowa
 4:53 p.m., Deputy Manning conducted a business check at Kiowa Swimming Pool, Kiowa
 5:11 p.m., Deputy Manning conducted extra patrol in Hazelton

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(First Published in The Gyp Hill Premiere June 11, 2026) 3t

In the Matter of the Trust Estate of
MARY ANN RYNERSON, deceased
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 You are hereby notified that Mary Ann Rynerson died in Medicine Lodge, Barber County, Kansas, on May 7, 2026. At the time of death, Lisa Withrow was Trustee of the Mary Ann Rynerson Living Trust dated November 14, 1990, and amendments thereto.
 All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the Trust Estate within four months from the date of first publication of this Notice, as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred. Demands are to be submitted in writing to the Trustee at the address shown below and to the attorney for the Trustee.
 Mary Ann Rynerson Living Trust
 Lisa Withrow, Trustee
 PO Box 114
 Medicine Lodge, KS 67104
 Alan C. Goering
GOERING & SLINKARD
 P.O. BOX 366 / 201 S. Main
 MEDICINE LODGE, KS 67104
 (620) 886-3751
 agoering@gs-law.net
 Attorney for Trustee

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SPORTS

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Three Locals Win Events at McPherson Rodeo

STAFF REPORT

Paxton Clark of Kiowa won the bareback riding event at the McPherson Saddle Club Rodeo Saturday, while Jared Schlegel of Hardtner and Justin Binder of Kiowa won the team roping event.

Clark was one of five contestants in bareback riding and scored 71. One other cowboy had a qualifying ride as Luke Tippman scored 68.

Schlegel and Binder had a time of 5.6 seconds in the team roping event. The next best time was 7.0 seconds by Brant Mahanay and Raylen Stueve. There were 24 teams who competed.

Rebekah Etheridge and Emalee Etheridge of Sharon competed in barrel racing but their results were not available. There were 51 contestants who participated in that event.

Schlegel and Binder are set to compete in the Edmond Libertyfest Rodeo this Friday at Edmond, Okla.



FILE PHOTO

Kiowa's Paxton Clark holds on for an eight-second ride at the recent Gyp Hill Roundup rodeo in Medicine Lodge. The South Barber High School student won the bareback riding competition at the Central Plains Rodeo event in McPherson held last Saturday.



FILE PHOTOS

Barber County residents Jared Schlegel and Justin Binder teamed up to win the team roping event at the McPherson Saddle Club Rodeo last Saturday with a time of 5.6 seconds. The pair are seen above at this year's Gyp Hill Roundup rodeo in Medicine Lodge.

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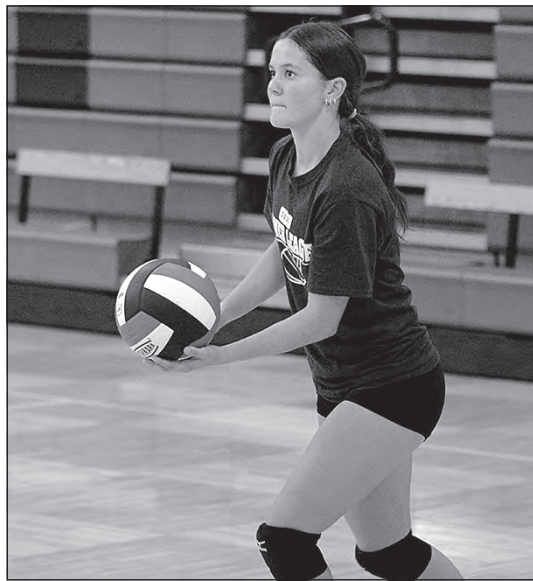
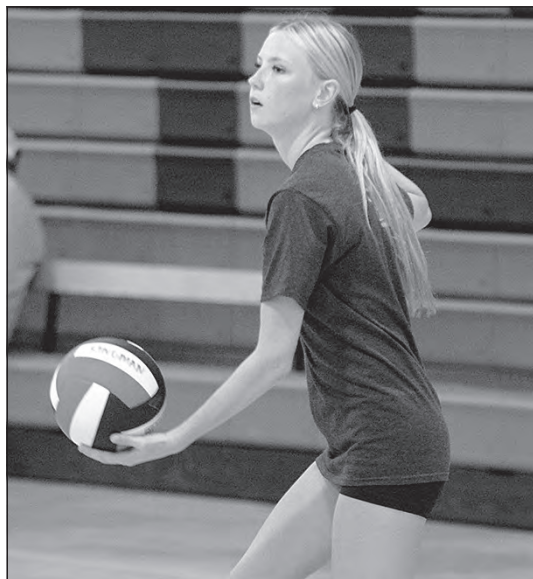
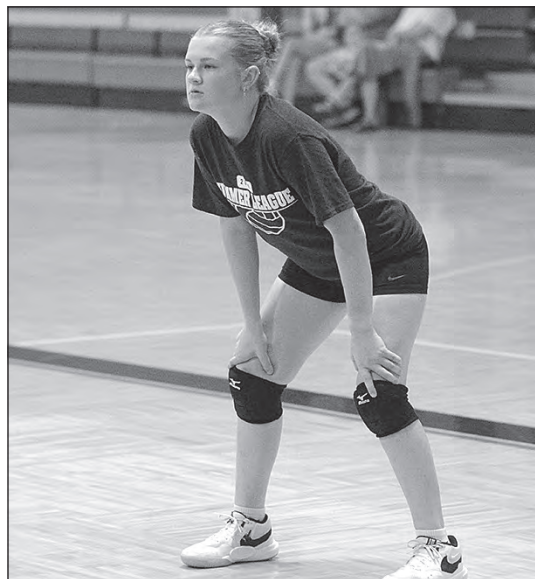
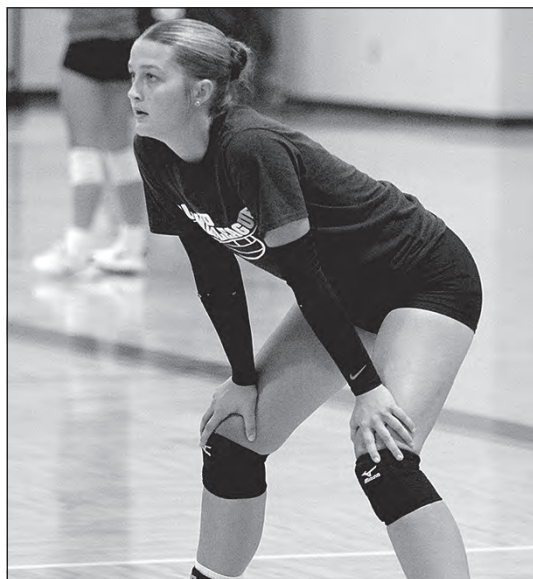
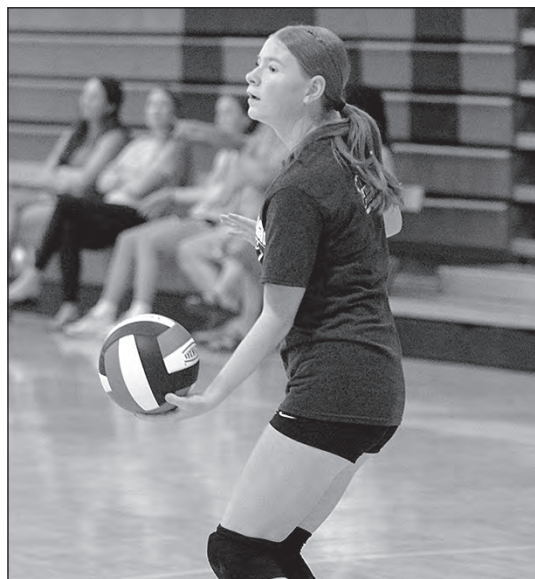
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Photos by Bob Morris



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COUNTY

• From Page 1

was a little constricting. He told fellow commissioners that a 10-minute window would provide a better opportunity for residents to share what's on their minds.

Chairman Bryan Quick said he was aware of discussion about potentially having four public comment speakers, where two would be pro-data center, while the other two could provide comments against the project.

Mills said he was concerned about having the county ask someone which side of the fence they were on to determine whether or not they could speak.

Currently, the county is limiting the public comment portion of the meeting to 15 minutes. In the most recent meetings, there have been three speakers that have had five-minute time limits, although the commissioners have said more speakers could utilize that time frame if someone wasn't going to use the entire five-minute allotment.

Slots are first come, first served, and speakers must formally be asked to be put on the agenda prior to the meeting.

District 1 Commissioner Mike Roe said having three people with a five-minute time limit is "sufficient." He said if you add more people or extend their

allotment then you are just making the meetings longer.

Quick also said something to think about was not allowing the same speaker to address the board two meetings in a row, which would allow more variety and give others a chance to speak.

Three people addressed the commissioners this week, including Sharon native Martina McBride, who weighed in on the potential data center. McBride said she has been speaking out against a proposed center near the zoo in Nashville. The country musician asked the commissioners to make sure they were taking their time to do their due diligence in asking the proper questions and then having the patience to wait for the answers to see if this was actually going to be a good fit for the county and local residents.

Local business owner Allan Maze shared his concerns regarding potential water issues the county could face.

Maze said water was a very important topic for his family and his business.

Jeff Woods discussed the findings of a recent Gallup Poll, which said 71 percent of Americans now oppose building data centers in their local areas.

He said nearly half of those surveyed opposed data construction anywhere in the United States.

City Attorney Addresses Role of City Councilmembers

BY FAITH COULTAS
Staff Writer

The Medicine Lodge city council introduced a new segment to its agenda – Council Education – during its meeting on Thursday, June 18.

City Attorney Hannah Molz wanted to bring this segment to the council to help keep them up to date on information regarding city matters.

The subject of last Thursday's segment was council members and city workers. It was brought to the attention of Molz and Mayor Tom Lee that some of the council members have been communicating with city employees, giving them day-to-day instructions even though the matter is not in the employee's current job description.

The role of the governing body is to establish policy, adopt ordinances and resolutions, set priorities, approve budgets, evaluate department heads' performance, but not manage the day-to-day operations of city employees, according to the city attorney. Molz suggested if an issue is brought to the attention of a council member, that board member should either discuss it with the city administrator or the department head associated with that area of the city.

She stated that both employees and council members do this to protect council members, as well as the city employees or a citizen bringing that issue to light. Mayor Lee also mentioned that he encourages and wants other council members to encourage citizens to come to the council meetings and speak during public comments when they have an issue that they feel needs attention.

Last Thursday's meeting began with a presentation by Jordan Nisly and Steve Nisly regarding negotiations between the city and

Nisly Brothers, Inc. for a renewal of the city's contract with the Hutchinson based company, as well as discussing plans Nisly has to help prevent exponentially raising costs for residents in Medicine Lodge.

During this presentation, Steve Nisly announced that he will be retiring in September, as well as making several proposals to help improve their service while helping to maintain reasonable costs for local residents. The company proposed removing eight commercial recycling accounts due to the large increase in cost the company pays to send out recyclable materials, allowing for Nisly Brothers to be able to continue to provide services at a reasonable cost.

They proposed two contracts as well that would go into effect in April of 2028 once signed. The company presented a seven-year contract with an increase of \$1.85 and an unlimited annual CPI increase. The second contract proposed was a 10-year contract with an increase of \$1.50 and an annual CPI increase capped at 4 percent.

Nisly also discussed the possibility of independently billing the commercial accounts who use their services rather than the city billing for those services through the city in combination with sewer and water.

Council President Matt Forsyth made a motion to move forward with negotiations and working towards establishing the 10-year contract with Nisly, which would begin once the current contract expires. The motion was approved unanimously, 5-0.

Contract negotiations will begin between Nisly and the city within the next month to iron out the details.

Council members also discussed a letter to be sent from the city to Google. The letter essentially stated that the city pledges to give the

needed support, specifically providing water to the data center.

The council, with the guidance of Molz, along with Mayor Lee and City Administrator Brian Withrow, decided that they would not sign that letter and instead made some changes to the tone and wording of the letter based on Molz's suggestions due to the fact that they have not yet agreed to anything and are still in the discovery phase as to whether or not the city even has the ability to provide services to the data center while also maintaining the resources being given to the residents of Medicine Lodge as the citizens are the top priority for the city.

The council ultimately decided to change the wording to state that the city would continue advancing its engineering and exploring the possibility of potentially providing water and support to the data center, ultimately committing to continuing the testing but not yet agreeing to provide services to the data center or Google.

The council discussed a Sales Tax Audit performed by the state. This audit was performed back in February and went back to 2022.

This issue was addressed by City Clerk Kandi Williams when she discovered the city had not received any sales tax distribution from the state in February of this year. She then contacted the state to find out what had happened. The state ultimately refunded overpaid sales tax to three vendors who overpaid their sales tax since 2022 totalling \$16,972.88 thus not sending any sales tax to the city that month.

This proved to be an issue as the city gives 2/3 of the sales tax distribution it receives from the state to the Medicine Lodge Memorial Hospital each month. The city then found

out that, according to the state, it had overpaid the hospital \$11,315.26 since 2022 which in turn began a discussion of what the city should do, ask for the money back or not.

On average, the city gives the hospital around \$20,000 a month but in February 2026 due to the city not receiving its sales tax revenue, officials did not plan to pay the hospital for that month.

The city discussed asking for a budget report from the hospital to help make the decision and ultimately unanimously decided to table the discussion until the council is able to gather more information from the hospital itself.

The council then discussed an upcoming meeting for council members from across the state that will take place in Wichita. Williams discussed urged the local council members to let her know if they will be in attendance as soon as possible. Council members were highly encouraged to attend.

The council also discussed hiring a part-time code officer to help enforce city ordinances and codes that are in place, such as the feral cat ordinance to help alleviate some of the strain on city employees and police officers. That will be included in the budget discussion in an upcoming meeting along with hiring additional public works employees.

Councilman John Hagood also brought up discussions he has had with Google representatives and county commissioners regarding Project Helium. He stated that there is no official "go/no-go" date for the data center, but the window that they are willing to wait is closing as Google has other options of places to go with the project if developments continue being delayed.

The council also discussed the police department regularly putting ordinances on its Facebook page to highlight the measures and to help serve as a reminder to residents what those ordinances entail in hopes of getting that information out so residents can be better up to date.

Public Works Director Wayne Ostrom updated the city on efforts to patch potholes throughout the city. He said he has purchased more needed materials for that project and is continuing to patch the holes as fast and efficiently as the employees can.

Ostrom also stated that there had previously been an issue with a filter at the pool and there is a crack in that system between the filter and the filter room. That will require the city to rip up part of the concrete in order to access the area that needs fixed.

Ostrom said the last person to utilize the drive-in did not properly store chairs and did not close the gates therefore allowing several goats to wander into the area.

He also updated the council on the preliminary testing of the fire hydrants that was done on Wednesday, June 17.

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130 Years Ago

Taken from the June 26, 1896 files of the *Medicine Lodge Cresset*

H. H. Case's bird dog jumped out of a window in the third story of the Medicine Lodge roller mill yesterday, lit on his feet and is alive and able to wag his tail in answer to questions. He is a little stiff in his joints on account of the leap, but otherwise appears to be all right.

Up to the last hour before going to press the most diligent inquiry failed to disclose even a trace of the man who assisted Burke to escape. Our readers will excuse our persistence in endeavoring to locate this criminal – if such a criminal exists. The man who aids a horse thief to escape is as bad as the thief and should be brought to justice. Either some villain aided Burke to escape or The Barber County Index printed a lie. If Burke was assisted to escape, the assister should be punished; if the Index lied, the lie should be nailed.

It is to be hoped the present disagreement among the Index partners will result in the public learning the names of the individuals making up the co-partnership so the taxpayers will know the parties to whom the pop commissioners contributed the \$800.00 on the county printing deal.

120 Years Ago

Taken from the June 22, 1906 files of the *Medicine Lodge Cresset*

The case against R.S. Bisby for breaking into the residence of Mrs. Hattie Green about two weeks ago came up in the city police court Tuesday. After reading an affidavit made by Mrs. Green wherein she stated that she did not desire to prosecute the case, J.N. Tincher, attorney for defendant, asked that the case be dismissed and that was done.

Jack Fishburn has demonstrated time and again that a man cannot walk on air without serious results. The last demonstration took place on last Saturday in A.B Wilkins & Co.'s store. Jack stepped off into their cellarway at the back of the store and fell several feet. Though not seriously hurt he was almost unconscious when picked up by Mr. Wilkins.

Mr. Ed. L. Peckham advises us that he has just received word from the steel mills that they will roll for his Company twenty three hundred tons of steel rails between June 22nd and 25th. Mr. Peckham states that track laying between Kiowa and Medicine Lodge will commence July 1st, and with no accidents, trains should be running into Medicine Lodge by August 1st.

Otho Backus, who is charged with the killing of John Mills at Harper, was brought over from Anthony Tuesday night by C.D. Cutler, Sheriff of Harper Co. and lodged in jail, as the jail in Anthony has been condemned.

We are glad to hear of the success and prowess of former Barber County boys and it is with pleasure we note in the Bangor (Maine) Daily Commercial that Walters Hill, son of E.W. Hill and wife, formerly of this city, is quite an athlete. In an athletic contest between the Y.M.C.A. of Bar Harbor and Bangor, Maine, Walters was a member of the Bar Harbor team and carried off the individual honors as well as assisting the team to which he belonged in winning almost a complete victory. He was second on the high jump; first in running broad jump with 18 feet; first in 100 yards, 200 yards, 440 yards and half mile races. Walters Hill was born in this city about 17 years ago and is showing them what a native Kansan can do "way down in Maine."

110 Years Ago

Taken from the June 29, 1916 files of the *Medicine Lodge Cresset*

August Achenbach's combination header and thresher arrived from California, Monday and will be in operation as soon as his wheat is ripe enough to harvest and thresh at the same time. This will be the first machine of its kind ever introduced in this part of Kansas and if it proves to be practical it will be a great factor in the business of wheat farming. They have been in successful operation in California for many years, and should now be in the ideal practical state. – Hardtner Press

Misses Frances Shaw, Ruth Long and Mona Dobson departed Monday evening for Colorado to spend the remaining summer months in different resorts in that state.

No wonder the price of paper has advanced so rapidly. If President Wilson doesn't call a halt on his writing pretty soon, the supply of letter paper will become exhausted.

The community was very much saddened Wednesday afternoon upon receipt of a telegram conveying the news of the death of Mrs. T.J. Best in the St. Francis Hospital in Wichita, where she was being treated, having undergone an operation there several weeks ago. The operation was a very dangerous one owing to Mrs. Best's weakened physical condition and the doctors gave but little hopes for her recovery at that time. However, the patient had rallied from several dangerous sinking spells until her relatives and friends had strong hope that she would recover. Her husband, T.J. Best, and her sister, Mrs. A.D. Shaw, had been at the bedside most of the time until Monday morning, when her condition was apparently so much better that they were advised to return home for a few days' rest, which they did. On Wednesday noon they received a telephone message bidding them come to Wichita that evening as Mrs. Best's condition was becoming alarming. Shortly after noon another message came stating that the sick lady could not live but a short time. Mr. Best and Mrs. Shaw immediately started for Wichita in an auto by way of Harper where they intended taking an Orient train into Wichita. They had only been gone a few minutes when a telegram was received announcing Mrs. Best's death. The message was sent on to Harper where it was given to Mr. Best upon his arrival there.

85 Years Ago

Taken from the June 26, 1941 files of *The Barber County Index*

A stubborn tractor at the H. W. Skinner Elevator and Grain Company resulted in one man getting two dislocated bones and another a fracture in his right arm Tuesday morning while attempting to crank the machine. Walt Winters first broke his arm in giving the crank a spin and Norman Beck who was then called to repair the machine received a "kick" that dislocated the two bones.

Charlie Bane and Miss Nadine Newton drove to Arkansas City on Sunday where they visited her uncle, R.E. Wright. Miss Betty Jane Preston and her mother accompanied them home.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Knox of St. Joseph, Mo., visited here from Wednesday until Sunday with his mother, Mrs. Winnie Knox. They visited the Salt Lake dam near Jett, Okla., Friday and this was especially interesting to Harold, who had been one of the engineers working on it when the dam was first started.

Mrs. O.T. Thom left Monday for a two weeks visit in Evansville, Ind., with her sisters. Her daughter, Mrs. Bessie Read of Cushing, Okla., came Sunday to keep house while Mrs. Thom is away.

70 Years Ago

Taken from the June 28, 1956 files of *The Barber County Index*

The worst apparently is over for Cheri Lee Harbaugh and the 7-year-old girl is making a marvelous snap-back to recovery after complications from a recent heart operation put her on the University of Kansas Hospital's critical list. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pat Harbaugh is now able to walk regularly and take part in children's play activities at the hospital. Biggest relief to her relatives and attending physicians is that a heart infection which set in soon after her major operation May 26 has subsided. Doctors for a time feared that the girl might not pull through. Relatives reported this week that she started making her rapid recovery last Sunday. Although she has been taken off the critical list, the young girl still is not quite ready to come home. She is getting heavy doses of antibiotics to avoid a recurrence of the heart infection.

Into each life some rain must fall, and we here in the dry country want to know when? Sworn in to Medicine Lodge Army Engineer Unit at the federal inspection by a Fifth Army Officer last week were these men, Dick DeLano, Cleo Angle, Eldon Cook, John Patterson, D.L. Fowler, Jr., Raymond Davis and Ralph McKanna. First Lt. Burt McKinley, unit commanding officer, administered the oath. Fowler, formerly with Nixons Mens Wear, has been accepted as the unit's full-time administrative sergeant.

The Phillips Oil Company pumping station near Aetna received about \$60,000 damage from an explosion and resulting fire at 3:30 a.m. June 17, according to Glen Cole, foreman. A bearing failure caused a shaft to break, and the sparks from the broken ends ignited the gasoline. O. E. Gist, on duty at the time of the explosion, saw the sparks and shut down the engine, then went for a fire extinguisher. He was out of the danger area when the explosion occurred, and was not injured.

Cynthia Anderson, 14 months old, is recovering from burns on her feet. She had managed to turn on the hot water in the bathtub, causing the burns, June 21. She has been to the doctor every day since then, for treatment, and the burns appear now to be healing satisfactorily. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andy Anderson. She was hospitalized for two days.

60 Years Ago

Taken from the June 23, 1966 files of *The Barber County Index*

A story which may at least have a "sign" of truth in it is making the rounds in Medicine Lodge. It seems that a youth, fleeing a pursuing patrol car on his motorcycle recently crashed the vehicle when he fled down a dead-end road. The youth, according to the story, has now offered to pay for a "dead end" sign for the city!

A 1956 Chevrolet station wagon owned by Ed Jones of Medicine Lodge was completely destroyed in a blaze at the city dump recently. Police said Jones' car apparently rolled into some burning trash while the driver was away from the vehicle. Jones tried unsuccessfully to drive the car from the burning trash, before flames engulfed the vehicle.

A trailer truck loaded with wall board sustained light damage early Saturday evening as it plunged over an embankment and into the driveway of a Medicine Lodge motel. Officers said the driverless truck was parked on an incline on the parking lot of the Joe Hill Oil Company on West Fowler Street when apparently a leak in the air brakes caused the vehicle to roll forward and over the six-foot embankment. While only light damage was sustained by the vehicle, officials said its load of wall board, valued at more than \$2,000 would be a total loss. It took workmen more than four hours to unload the truck and clear the driveway of the Copa Motel. No one was injured in the freak mishap. Local law enforcement officials said, had there been a car in the driveway below the concrete embankment, the accident could have been much worse.

Karen Rolf of Isabel, was elected governor of the 1966 Sunflower Girls State held recently on the campus of Kansas University at Lawrence. Miss Rolf was one of three Barber County girls attending the function. Glenda Frisbie and Barbara Blackwell of Medicine Lodge also attended.

50 Years Ago

Taken from the June 24, 1976 files of *The Barber County Index*

Honored With Reception – Joan Farrar, Grand Martha, was honored with a banquet and reception Thursday, June 17. Special guests included Kenneth Moses, Worthy Grand Patron; Joan Dunn, Worthy Grand Matron; Mrs. Farrar; Betty Ott, Worthy Matron; and Robert Ott, Worthy Patron.

Mr. and Mrs. Alf Reed of 409 N. Main have been selected as this week's PRIDE Yard of the Week. When Bobby Swinehart, Chairman of the Medicine Lodge PRIDE Committee informed Mrs. Reed of the honor, she remarked, "Well, I'll work even harder."

Mark Dickey, 17, son of Commander and Mrs. James A. Dickey of Annapolis, Md., and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Dickey of Medicine Lodge, just won the Maryland-Delaware State Time Trial Championship on bicycling for the second year in a row.

Repainting – Bobby Swinehart, chairman of the Medicine Lodge PRIDE committee, repaints the "Open" sign for the Stockade and Museum. Volunteers worked Monday and Tuesday evenings, doing minor repairs to the Stockade and Museum. Activities included repairs to the tower near the Museum building which had been closed, weeds cut, cracked boards around the wall replaced, the log cabin cleaned and bedding and dresser scarves taken home to be laundered, the gyp house cleaned and rearranged, items in the museum cleaned and rearranged, and the wishing well painted. Helping with the work Tuesday evening were Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Nixon, Barbara Lonker and children, Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Simpson and family, Rose Mary Shoemaker, Audie Stackhouse, Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Swinehart and family, Rob Wright, Merlin Fluke and daughter, Dub Rickard, Mark Morgenstern and curators of the Stockade and Museum, Mr. and Mrs. A. I. Gigstad.

LeRoy W. Conaway has filed for the office of Sheriff of Barber County, on Monday, June 20. Conaway is a native of Barber County, is 30 years old, married and father of two children. He is presently employed at the Medicine Lodge Police Department as a Police Sergeant.

Construction began last week at the Copa Motel in Medicine Lodge. Ron Burbridge, owner, told the Index that ten more units were going to be constructed at the back of the existing structure. The east drive into the motel is also going to be widened to permit access to the rear units.

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- NEW-516 S. 8th St. Kiowa-4BR/3Bath, 1939sqft w/Basement \$135,000.00
- UNDER CONTRACT-824 Marvin St., Kiowa-4BR/3Bath, 2212sqft Ranch, \$168,500.00
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MEDICINE LODGE

PUBLIC NOTICE



Mayer Specialty Services, LLC of Goddard, Kansas will be cleaning the sanitary sewer collection system
Weekdays 7am to 7pm
in the yellow areas highlighted on the map.

General Date(s) of Work	General Area
Friday June 19th	HWY 281 - Illif St & North of Washington Ave
Monday June 22nd - Friday June 26th	Between 1st Ave / Lincoln Ave & Illif St / Cedar St
Monday June 29th - Wednesday July 1st	South of Lincoln St between HWY 281 - Illif St & Spring St

Please note that dates may vary from those listed; individual yellow notification tags will be placed on front doors at least 24 hours in advance of work in the area. When you receive notification is the only time during the project that you will need to follow the listed recommendations for your residence.

It is possible they may need to access a city manhole through your property and temporarily park equipment in your driveway/yard. All equipment will have a company logo on the side and all employees will be wearing safety green uniform shirts.

We ask that you unlock all gates, secure pets indoors and have the city's easement accessible on the dates listed on the yellow tag.

Water and drains may be used as normal during the project; you most likely will not even notice that any work is being done.

We appreciate your cooperation

Please call Medicine Lodge Public Works Department with questions 620-886-3908

LEGAL NOTICE

(First published in The Gyp Hill Premiere on Thursday, June 18, 2026) 3t

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT, BARBER COUNTY, KANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

In the Matter of the Estate of:
VIOLET L. JACOBS, deceased.

Case No. 2026-PR-000014

(Petition Pursuant to Chapter 59 of K.S.A.)

ORDER FOR HEARING

NOW ON THIS ELECTRONICALLY SIGNED DATE, it is ordered that the Petition for Determination of Descent of this property of estate of Violet L. Jacobs, deceased; filed by Jana

S. Bollman, petitioner, be heard on the 16th day of July, 2026, at 1:30 o'clock p.m. by this Court at the courthouse in Medicine Lodge, Barber County, Kansas; and that notice of the time and place of the hearing be given pursuant to K.S.A. 59-2209.

SUBMITTED BY:

/s/ Hannah L. Molz
Hannah L. Molz, #27626
PO Box 148
124 E Kansas
Medicine Lodge, KS 67104
Telephone: (620) 886-5611
office@bclawks.com

(First published in The Gyp Hill Premiere on Thursday, June 18, 2026) 3t

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT, BARBER COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of:

CONNIE SUE BOGGS, Deceased.

Case BA-2026-PR-000013

ORDER FOR HEARING

NOW ON THIS ELECTRONICALLY SIGNED DATE, it is ordered that the Petition for Determination of Descent of this property of the estate of Connie Sue Boggs, deceased; filed by John Boggs, petitioner, be heard on the 16th day of July, 2026, at 1:00 o'clock p.m. by this Court at the courthouse in Medicine Lodge, Barber County, Kansas; and that notice of the time and place of the hearing be given pursuant to K.S.A. 59-2209.

IT IS SO ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED. SUBMITTED BY:

/s/ Hannah L. Molz

Hannah L. Molz, #27626
124 E Kansas
PO Box 148
Medicine Lodge, KS 67104 (620) 886-5611
(620) 886-5560 (facsimile)
office@bclawks.com Attorney for Petitioner

LEGAL NOTICE

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QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Jason Jump at (620) 886-5654 or email ghp@gyphillpremiere.com

WATER

• From Page 1

gallons over the normal 7 million used by the district in the past.

Withrow said the city embarked on two “comprehensive reviews” of the current water and wastewater systems in place. He told commissioners he hopes to have those results back toward the end of the summer, but the city administrator said it could be early fall before the city sees the final numbers.

Withrow said while the city has “competent professionals” on staff the project size of Google’s data center has the city needing outside help from industry experts. Medicine Lodge is working with Wichita’s PEC and Pratt’s EBH Engineering.

“These multi-disciplinary engineering teams are providing us with the technical assistance we need to insure we meet the challenges of this project,” the city administrator said.

The city is looking at the following “challenges”:

- The condition and future serviceability of our current water well fields;
- The sufficiency of our state water allocation for serving the needs of our current and future water users;
- Exploring innovative technologies that will increase the availability of potable water;
- Procuring additional water allocation through the Kansas Department of Water Resources;
- Protecting our wastewater from per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (forever chemicals) and other contaminants;
- Improving our current water and wastewater infrastructure, as well as increasing it to accommodate

the needs of Rural Water District #1 and Project Helium.

Withrow said the city is planning for the worst, but hoping for the best when it comes to the water issues.

The city’s water supply comes from ground water sources, which are dependent upon rainfall to replenish the city’s wells.

“None of our water comes from an aquifer system, river or lake,” Withrow said. “So, the resulting system emerging from this project will ensure sufficient water even during periods of extended drought.”

Withrow said the city is communicating with Google on a daily basis and has had frequent face-to-face meetings, although Harnish said during the meeting he did not recognize Withrow,

which Barber County Commission Chairman Bryan Quick, who represents District 2, where the data center is proposed, said was “interesting.”

“So much for the face-to-face meetings,” he said.

Withrow went on to say the city has had talks with National Gypsum, the city’s largest consumer of water, about the development of a “water reuse system” which could enable the city to reuse 50 million gallons of potable water per year, which is currently being discharged into Elm Creek via a permit.

The city administrator said based on the city’s analyses conducted officials are “confident” the city will be able “to meet the residential, commercial and industrial demand for water.”

SUNFLOWER 4-H REPORT, June Meeting

The Sunflower 4-H Club met on June 19 at the Walstead Schoolhouse.

Roll call was answered by, “Where do you want to go on summer vacation?”

For June community service the club decided to help the fairboard at the fairgrounds work day.

Boyd Banks gave a project talk on his market steer, Cash. One of his favorite things about Cash is that he is always happy.

Callan Smith had music so he did fun facts about the *Star Spangled Banner* since it is America’s 250th Anniversary. Did you know the song became the National Anthem over 100 years after the song was written?

Tex Smith demonstrated how to make a cool patriotic drink using fruit punch, blue powerade, a bombpop popsicle, cool whip and cherries.

Jancey Goodno gave a program on NBA trivia. Did you know that height of the hoop is 10ft?

Tex Smith led us in singing *Home on the Range* for his music program.

Asher Brittain sang his ABC’s for music.

Kye Settle told the club animal jokes for his other program. “What insect is in the FBI? A spy.”

Jada Brittain gave knock knock jokes for her other program.

Club tour committee

members, Jancey Goodno and Braylee Waggoner, will plan the club tour for July. Club Tour is always a lot of fun getting to go see everyone’s projects and hang out; everyone is looking forward to it.

For song Braylee Waggoner led us in singing *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*.

For recreation Blaine Waggoner led us in playing hot potato. It was really fun, and we used a real potato!

For refreshments Mike Marshall brought cookies (I’m guessing his wife made them because they were too pretty for his baking skills) and juice boxes. Till next time.

– Paisley Marshall



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