



The Wakefield Times

Lighting the way



Issue No. 6 An online publication by The Clay Center and Clay County Dispatch serving Wakefield, Kansas

Thursday, October 1, 2026



Match Day raises around \$500K

By Ryan D. Wilson
Publisher

While it was down about \$150,000 from last year, this year's "Gather For Good" Match Day still brought almost half of a million dollars for local charities, as of Friday morning.

The Clay Center Community Improvement Foundation reported that as of Friday morning, the event has raised \$494,865.48 through 1,855 gifts to 64 funds. The final tally does not include mailed-in donations that CCCIF has not yet received or received past the day of the event.

The Clay Center Utility Park and Zoo brought in the most – \$58,900.38 to address animal welfare and improve the walking trails near the zoo; followed by the Clay Center Community Center (C4), \$38,317.00; Big Lakes Developmental Center, \$27,995.32; Light-house For Christ, \$18,994.01; CC-CIF Match Day Fund, \$18,607.13; Common Ground Ministries, \$18,475.84; Wakefield Museum Association, \$16,967.45; Clay County Hospital Foundation, \$16,629.69; Community Church Camp Committee, \$14,604.80; and the Wakefield Stage Project, \$14,526.04.

Other funds raising more than \$10,000 included Cultivate Church, which brought in \$14,304.27; followed by the Friends of the Clay Center Library, \$13,455.60; Clay Center Parks and Recreation, \$13,390.27; CCARE, \$12,479.67; Orange and Black Pack Booster Club, \$12,877.25; People Helping People, \$12,798.77; Clay County Educational Endowment Associa-

tion, \$11,282.10; and Clay County Comfort Corner, \$10,120.80.

Non-profits raising between \$5,000 and \$10,000 included CCUMC Youth Group, Clay Center Tiger Sharks, Clay County Arts Council, Clay County Historical Society, Clay County Task Force, Green Community Cafe, Meadow-lark Hospice, Presbyterian Youth Ministries, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Sts. Peter & Paul Parish Improvement and St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Causes and organizations raising less than \$5,000 included A Rural Movement, ACT Clay County, BPW Scholarship Fund, CCABA, CCYBA, Clay Center Christmas Festival, Clay Center Lions Club, Cowboys For Christ, Clay Center Presbyterian Manor, Clay Center Trap Shooting Team, Clay Counts Coalition, Clay County 4-H Youth Development, Clay County Fair Board Exhibit Hall, Clay County Long Term Recovery Fund, Clay County Wrestling Club, Clay County Youth Outdoor Leadership (Clay Center Eagle Scouts), Exploration Trails, Grow Clay County, Kansas Landscape Arboretum, Konza United Way, Little Learners Childhood Connections, Mental Health Matters, Morganville Improvement Foundation, Morganville Lions Club, North Central Kansas Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging, Pawnee Mental Health, Piotique Quilters Guild, Clay Center Rotary Club, Sunflower Children's Collective, Teammates of Clay County, USD 379 Excellence Foundation, Wakefield Birthday Bash Committee, Wakefield PRIDE, Wakefield Public Library and Youth Golf of Clay County.

Wakefield City Council discusses banning trailer parking on streets

By Ryan D. Wilson
Publisher

After an issue was brought to them concerning parking availability next to the VFW Hall on Grove Street, the Wakefield City Council discussed banning the parking of boat trailers and campers on city streets at a work session on Monday, Sept. 28.

The neighbor responsible apologized for creating an issue and stated it was their intent to move out of town to a property that would better accommodate them. He assured the council it was a temporary problem, as the property isn't set up from parking such vehicles in the driveway or in the back.

But council members noted they've seen this issue up and down Grove Street and all around town. At least one council member said he was in favor of banning boat trailers, campers and other such recreational vehicle from parking on streets throughout the city, not just

on Grove Street.

The council requested a recommendation for action from Mark Werbin, currently serving as the chief of police for Wakefield, who recommended turning Grove Street into an emergency route and banning parking on the east side. The idea is that limited parking would force residents on Grove Street to find other solutions for their recreational vehicles without outright banning them, and the council could allow parking in the no-parking zones on special occasions, such as when the VFW hosts their monthly breakfast.

Representatives from the VFW stated such a move would necessarily solve the parking issue, as they are short on parking for those events even without boat trailers and campers getting in the way.

No action was taken, as Monday's meeting was to be a session council members could discuss upcoming business that would be before them at the regular meeting on Oct. 5.

PRIDE asks for funds to give \$50 to yard of the month

The Wakefield PRIDE organization asked the Wakefield City Council for funds to give away \$50 to a yard of the month, which will be done quarterly instead of monthly.

The initial request asked for \$25 off water bills and a total of \$100 but, the concern was that may not be enough to incentive residents to clean up and decorate yards, particularly for Halloween, which is the first quarter the organization would like to start the yard of the month incentive.

Wakefield City Clerk Julie Murphy said \$50 off water bills would negate some people's bill entirely and could create an issue for their audit. She recommended their just give the yard owner \$50 out of another fund. The council briefly discussed how they could do that and agreed to put it on the agenda for Oct. 5.



CCARE offers low-cost spay/neuter clinic

Prairie Paws is coming back to CCARE with their mobile surgery trailer for another low-cost spay/neuter clinic in Thursday, Oct. 10.

The clinic costs \$85 per cat. The package includes spay or neuter, rabies vaccine, FVRCP vaccine and a freemicrochip courtesy of Fi Nano. Registration and payment must be completed through Prairie Paws at least one week before the clinic. As of Oct. 1, only applications for cats were available, as dogs were full.

SIGN UP AT: www.prairiepaws.org/ccare-low-cost-spay-neuter

Contact us at (785) 632-2127 • 950 Court St., Clay Center, KS 67432

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COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

ICYMI

• This month is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Mammograms play an important role in detecting breast cancer early, sometimes before there are signs or symptoms. If you're due for your screening, October is a great time to make your breast health a priority. Know your screening schedule. Know your normal. Know your health.

Early Detection Save Lives

Schedule your mammogram screening today!



(785) 630-2465

• The Tammy Walker Center will offer free cancer screenings from 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 10 and Oct. 17 at their Salina location, 511 S. Santa Fe Ave. Insurance is not required. University of Kansas Medical Center doctors will provide free skin and prostate screenings. Visitors can also receive take-home colorectal cancer screening kits and information about genetic counseling. To register, contact Daniel Craig at (785) 5452-4848.

Lighting the way

The Wakefield Times

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Around Town

► There's still time to get your shirt and support Wakefield Cheer's fundraiser for with proceeds going to the Susan G. Komen Foundation! The Pink Out Shirt order deadline has been extended to Oct. 5. Order a shirt by going to the link shared to the Wakefield School's Facebook page.

► The Wakefield Public Library will host a Sheet Pan Meals Class by K-State Research and Extension at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18. Call the library (785) 461-5510 to make sure you are on the list for the class. Registering in advance helps make sure they can prepare enough food and seating.

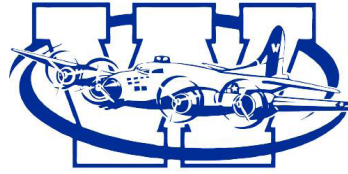
► Upcoming programs at the Wakefield Public Library include:

- Adult Crafts and Coffee on Saturday, Oct. 3, 9 a.m.
- Friendly Monster Story Time on Saturday, Oct., 10, 10-11 a.m.
- Adult Coloring on Monday, Oct., 26, 10-11 a.m.
- Family Bingo on Monday, Nov. 2, 4 p.m.
- Adult Crafts and Coffee on Monday, Nov. 9, 4 p.m.
- Adult Coloring on Monday, Nov. 30, 4 p.m.
- Adult Crafts and Coffee on Saturday, Dec. 5, 9 a.m.
- Free gift-wrapping station on Saturday, Dec. 12, 9 a.m.

Around Clay County

► Clay County Republicans will host Pat Proctor for Secretary of State at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 5 and Kris Kobach for Attorney General on at 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9. Both events will be held at the Clay County Museum, 518 Lincoln Ave., Clay Center. The public is invited.

► Clay County for Life is hosting the annual life chain event on Sunday, Oct. 4, starting at 2 until 3:30 p.m. Participants should meet at the First Baptist Church in Clay Center for a time of prayer and instructions. Signs will be provided and participants may bring lawn chairs. We will walk to the intersections of highways 15 and 24 and stand to protect life from the miracle of fertilization to the spiritual serenity of natural death. Refreshments and a time for fellowship will be held following the life chain. For more information please call Kathy Martin at (785) 463-5463 or Venita Rosenow at (785) 630-0528.



BOMBERS CALENDAR

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

4:30 p.m. — WJHS Volleyball at Bennington

6 p.m. — WJHS Football at Bennington

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

7 p.m. — WHS Football at Goessel

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

6 p.m. — WHS Volleyball at Solomon

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

4:30 p.m. — WJHS Volleyball at Peabody

6 p.m. — WJHS Football at Peabody

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

7 p.m. — WHS Football vs. Waverly (Homecoming)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

9 a.m. — WHS Volleyball at Wheat State League Tournament, Santa Galva

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

5 p.m. — WHS Volleyball vs Manhattan

6 p.m. — USD 379 Board of Education meeting

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

4:30 p.m. — WJHS Volleyball vs. Solomon

6 p.m. — WJHS Football vs. Solomon

6 p.m. — WHS volleyball vs Centre, Herington, Flint Hills

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

11:45 a.m. — Early dismissal, end of first quarter

7 p.m. — WHS Football at Rural Vista

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

9 a.m. — WJHS Volleyball at Wheat State League Tournament

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

School picture retakes

4-8 p.m. — Parent-teacher conferences

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

8 a.m. to 4: p.m. — Parent-teacher conferences and no school

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

No School

7 p.m. — WHS Football vs. Hartford (H)

Museum Notes

► Thank you to all who contributed to the museum through Gather for Good, and to Vice President Marilyn Sherbert who again this year represented the museum at the event. The final numbers are not in, but as of Oct. 1, 57 donations totalled \$17,427.45.



Did You Know....



Children reading the newspaper, gives lifelong benefits, enhancing their reading comprehension, building their vocabulary and expands their general knowledge.

It helps them distinguish fact from misinformation and it builds problem-solving skills and strengthens social and global awareness, all while limiting their screen time.

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times or go on Facebook.

EDITORIALS FROM THE PUBLISHER

We have to do better



By Ryan D. Wilson
*Publisher,
 The Junction
 City Union
 and The
 Clay Center
 Dispatch*

When Adam Hamilton first started exploring a campaign for U.S. Senate, we wrote that despite coming into the race late, he was a breath of fresh air by bringing a message that we should be kinder to one another and meet in the middle.

Even though we encouraged Democrats to vote for someone with more political experience in the Primary, we are pleased to see Hamilton step up since getting the Democrats' nomination. He has not only shown us where his opponent Sen. Roger Marshall has failed Kansans, he has done it in a way that speaks to the issues we're concerned about rather than the person behind those issues.

For six years Sen. Marshall has embarrassed Kansas. He has proven he's about as socially literate as a 3-year-old when it comes to the struggles that everyday Kansans go through. He has not cared about how expensive groceries have gotten or that we struggle to pay our bills. He doesn't care about the things we've had to do without just to get by.

Marshall's most egregious failure has been on healthcare – the one area he should have first-hand knowledge of as a former doctor. When Republicans axed the health care subsidies that made health care affordable he insulted us by saying that wasn't really the problem and claimed in his pricetags bill that the real problem was that we didn't know how much our healthcare was costing us and just needed to shop around.

From voting against the release of the Epstein files, to supporting the Iran War no matter how much it drives up the price of fuel to backing the president all the way on stupid trade war that has not only cost farmers markets but also lost Kansas jobs, Sen. Marshall has proven time and time again that his biggest priority isn't Kansas, but in being President Trump's biggest cheer leader. And while we understand that as a Re-

publican an alliance with Trump was probably a necessary evil, the moment that alliance hurt his constituents is the moment Sen. Marshall should have started representing us instead of Trump.

But rather than recognize that Trump is the problem – as many Republicans seeking re-election have started to do – or addressing those issues he's failed to address before, Sen. Marshall does what all crooks inevitably resort to. He decides his chances of success are better if he attacks his opponent with lies about his faith and where his funding comes from and to paint him as ultra-liberal who wants to turn your kids gay.

Hamilton's response to these attacks has been spot on. He doesn't let it deter him from talking about the issues. He doesn't stoop to Senator Marshall's level with attacks of his own. Instead, he responds to every lie told about him by answering it with the truth in a measured voice. And just about every time he speaks, he says, "Roger, we have to do better."

Speaking of doing better, here's a few of Hamilton's positions you might not have known about:

HE'S AGAINST ICE: He said federal enforcement should focus on serious criminalizations and Kansas families shouldn't live in fear.

HE'S VERY PASSIONATE ABOUT EXPANDING HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION: As a pastor he funded a mobile dental clinic and donated thousands of books to children and schools. He has a plan to lower costs and fix the broken healthcare system. Healthcare is one of his top three priorities.

HE'S AGAINST THE WAR IN IRAN: And not just because it's costing us at the pump. It's also a top priority. He has promised to end the war in Iran.

HE'S ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT RISING COSTS: Addressing rising costs is another one of his top three priorities. He broke with other Democrats in saying they should have supported the Farm Bill. He also opposed Republicans in their support of tariffs, including the decision to ban Bombardier from selling in the U.S., a company that has factories in Wichita.

Hamilton is right. Kansas has to do better than Roger Marshall.

Clay Center coach's behavior led to decision to end in-person sports coverage in USD-379



By Ryan D. Wilson
*Publisher,
 The Junction
 City Union
 and The
 Clay Center
 Dispatch*

It is with a heavy heart that we've come to the decision to permanently cease in-person coverage of sports indefinitely.

This decision was made following coverage of the first home football game during which we were told not to cover the game from the team box, which is something we've been allowed to do in the past. Although we've disputed the rule, we agree it is a bonafide rule, just one that has not been enforced in the past.

However, our decision to stop in-person coverage is a direct result of how our photographer (myself) was treated in enforcing that rule. The coach directing me to leave spoke to me in a manner you would not have wanted a coach to speak to a player or in front of one. The coach and district administration deny that occurred; however it does not change what I experienced. Not only do the coaching staff not want us there, district administrators have proven time after time they will not protect us when things go wrong.

This is not the first problem we've had. A few years ago we quietly stopped covering softball and baseball in person after a visiting patron complained we were in their way, even though

we were in the designated area that media are directed to shoot photographs. Principal Greg Ferguson, at that time the athletic director, would not back us then. Ferguson also would not support us when a similar incident occurred with a visiting bus driver complaining we were in their way watching a basketball game, which is why we stopped covering winter sports in person last year. We do our best to stay out of the fans' way, but sometimes it is just not possible.

We intend to cover certain special events in person as exceptions, such as Winter Homecoming. For now, it's best not to put my safety or a staff member's safety at risk any more than that.

The decision is also based on limited resources and staff to cover sports. Newspapers dropping sports coverage is the trend across the state, as online traffic shows it is the content we produce that is the least viewed. Despite that, we've enjoyed doing it as a service to the community over the years.

Despite the decision, the only change you'll see in our sports coverage is no more photos that are taken by us, aside from team photos at the beginning of the season. Coaches, online sports tracking and other sources help us cover sports pretty well without having to be there, and we intend to keep doing that.

We hate that we have to give up in-person coverage and hope you understand our reasons for doing it now. As always, we thank you for your support.

Don't let yesterday take up too much of today.

– Will Rogers

CLAY COUNTY COMMISSION

County outlaws public nudity

In giving his weekly report to the Clay County Commission last week, Sheriff Alan Benninga stated that his department had to deal with an individual at South Timber Creek last weekend that was naked.

He presented a resolution that he asked the commission to consider signing. It states that nudity in a public place is prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly intentionally or recklessly appear in a state of nudity in a public place. After a couple of changes were made to the resolution, commissioners agreed to adopt it.

This resolution will go into effect once it has been published in the paper.

Also according to the unofficial minutes of the Sept. 14 Clay County Commission meeting taken by County Clerk Kayla Wang:

— Commissioners David Thurlow, Eric Carlson and Jerry Mayo were present for a regular meeting beginning at 8 a.m. The minutes were approved as printed. Payroll in the amount of \$142,551.96 was reviewed and approved

— Landowner Bob Wietharn discussed with commissioners the submission of the grant application with the State Cost Sharing Program. Wietharn stated that he has received the support letters that he was waiting for. Wietharn stated that he is willing to go up to \$500,000 out of pocket for his share. The county will be responsible for the engineering cost, the mobilization fee and the work on the road preparing it for the overlay. This is an estimated cost of \$450,000 for the county. Commissioners agreed to pursue the grant submission.

— Interim Highway Administrator Jeff Germann reported in the week prior the department hauled rock, mowed roadsides, hauled the cold mix asphalt to a stockpile, replaced several pipes in multiple locations, removed a concrete box and replaced it with a pipe. Three employees from the Highway De-

partment attended the Caterpillar event in Abilene. Germann stated that they had started patching the blacktop roads and bridges in the locations that needed the cold mix asphalt. The mix is working well.

— County Health Director Dana Rickley stated that she had an employee that would be having surgery and would need to use some time from the sick leave pool. Commissioners stated that they must use the time that they have accrued and then they can come and talk to them.

— EMS Director Alec Trembath reported that on the first 14 days of the month of September they had 49 emergency runs and out-of-town transfers. The department has created an inventory check list for the trucks from a template off of Image Trend. This checklist seems to be working smoother and is easier to follow. Trembath stated that there are some insurance billing changes coming and they are researching their options to see what will work best for them. There may be changes made to the system that they are using because of strict time restraints that are being put into effect.

— Commissioners approved a bill from Civic Plus for the annual website cost of \$7,043.78 to be paid out of the County General Fund.

— Commissioner Thurlow reported that he attended the Clay County Park Board meeting last week in Wakefield. The culvert that they received the complaint on does belong to the park and people are turning the corner too short and driving over the end causing the pipe to bend down. This will be fixed and then a delineator will be placed at the end of the pipe.

— Landowner Darcy Muster-teiger discussed the valuation on her land here in Clay County with commissioners and County Appraiser Danny Mesalles. She stated that she had received the RNR statement and vocalized that she could not believe that

her taxes had gone up 10 times in amount. The total parcel consists of 22 acres with pastureland and a new 32'X28' shed that has water, electricity and a kennel business inside. Mesalles asked how much she had in the garage, and she stated \$35,000 in material with no labor. Then Mesalles stated that he could have valued it for more since her building report only included the materials and not the labor like it requests. Also, since it is being used as a kennel business, they will need to have a zoning meeting and rezone it to a commercial classification. Commissioners stated that they will not be making any changes to the values through them, they support the County Appraiser in his job.

Landfill Director, Rhonda Carroll asked permission for repairs to be done on the roll off truck. The repairs have to do with the clutch that was worked on recently and should be covered under warranty. Commissioners granted permission to go ahead and have the repairs done. Carroll reported that she has received an email from Jared Brooks, Schwab Eaton that he has finally got a response from KDHE Compliance, Assistance and Enforcement Unit that the deadline date of Oct. 12 has been given for the Clay County Landfill to have the violations addressed.

— Jake Young asked commissioners permission to use the Fairgrounds for the Annual Ian Roetman Memorial Ball Tournament on Oct. 3 at the Clay County Fairgrounds. Young also asked permission to have a beer garden there. He stated that the tournament will be similar to one held previously. There will be fencing placed around the garden to make the area contained. It will be a fun filled day with several teams signed up to play ball. Commissioners granted him permission to use the Fairgrounds with a beer garden for the Ian Roetman Memorial Ball Tournament.

— Commissioners adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Medicare Supplements 101 to be held in first weeks of October

If you're enrolled in Medicare or approaching Medicare eligibility, you may have heard about Medicare Supplement plans, also known as Medigap plans. Understanding how these plans work can help you make informed decisions about your healthcare coverage and costs.

Our Medicare Supplements 101 course is designed to help participants better understand Medicare Supplement insurance, the role it can play in covering out-of-pocket healthcare expenses, and the process of obtaining coverage. Participants will learn how Medicare Supplement plans work alongside Original Medicare, when enrollment opportunities are available, and important factors to consider when comparing plans.

Whether you are new to Medicare or simply reviewing your current coverage, Medicare Supplements 101 can help you become a more informed healthcare consumer and make confident decisions about your coverage options.

To make attendance convenient, the class will be offered at multiple locations throughout the River Valley Extension District. You only need to attend the session that works best for your schedule.

Upcoming Sessions:

- Thursday, Oct. 8, at 2 p.m. — Washington Public Library, 116 E. 2nd St., Washington
- Tuesday, Oct. 13, at 2 p.m. — Cloud County Co-op Distribution Center Meeting Room, 1401 E. 6th St., Concordia
- Wednesday, Oct. 14, at 10 a.m. — Belleville Public Library, 1327 19th St., Belleville
- Wednesday, Oct. 14, at 10 a.m. — 4-H Conference Room, 213 S. 12th St., Clay Center

To register, please contact any River Valley Extension District office: Belleville: (785) 527-5084; Clay Center: (785) 632-5335; Concordia: (785) 243-8185; Washington: (785) 325-2121.

For more information about Medicare or upcoming educational programs, contact Extension Agents Monica Thayer at (785) 527-5084 or Jordan Schuette at (785) 325-2121.



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RIVER VALLEY EXTENSION

The science behind fall color



**By
Brooke
Ohlde**
*Horticulture
Agent,
River Valley
District*

There's something about the first signs of fall color that makes us slow down and pay attention. The green leaves of summer begin turning yellow, orange, red and sometimes even purple, before eventually falling from the trees. But have you ever wondered why? The answer has a lot to do with what is happening inside the leaf.

During the growing season, leaves appear green because they contain a well-known pigment called chlorophyll. Chlorophyll is responsible for capturing sunlight and using that energy to help the plant make food through photosynthesis. Because chlorophyll is constantly being produced during the growing season, its green color hides many of the other pigments that are also present in the leaf. As days become shorter and temperatures begin to cool in the fall, trees start preparing for winter. One of the first steps in this process is that the production of chlorophyll slows down and eventually stops. The chlorophyll already in the leaf breaks down, and the green color begins to disappear.

Once the green fades, we get to see some of the pigments that were there all along.

Yellow and orange colors come primarily from pigments called carotenoids. These pigments are also responsible for the yellow and orange colors we see in foods such as carrots and corn. Unlike chlorophyll, carotenoids are present in the leaf all throughout the growing season but are usually hidden by the much stronger green color.

Red and purple colors come

from another group of pigments called anthocyanins. Unlike carotenoids, anthocyanins are often produced in the fall rather than simply being revealed when the chlorophyll disappears.

So why are some autumns filled with brilliant reds and oranges while others seem rather dull? Weather plays a very important role. Bright, sunny days combined with cool—but not freezing—nights can encourage the development of brilliant fall colors, particularly reds and purples. Moisture conditions throughout the growing season can also influence the intensity of fall color. Drought stress or an early hard freeze can cause leaves to drop before they have a chance to develop their full range of colors. The timing of fall color also varies from year to year and from one location to another. Different tree species have different schedules, and factors such as temperature, daylight, moisture and even the tree's health can affect when leaves begin to change.

Eventually, the tree forms a special layer of cells where the leaf stem connects to the branch. This layer gradually cuts off the flow of water and nutrients to the leaf. Once the connection is weakened enough, the leaf falls. This process may look like the tree is simply "dying back," but it is actually an important survival strategy. Dropping its leaves allows a deciduous tree to conserve water and energy during the cold winter months.

As you enjoy the changing colors this fall, take a closer look. Those yellow, orange and red leaves aren't just a sign that winter is coming. They are the result of several different plant pigments, changing weather conditions and a tree carefully preparing itself for the season ahead. The weather each year helps create a different display, making fall color one of nature's most impressive seasonal shows.

County submits grant application

A grant application was submitted to the state a couple weeks ago after it was reviewed by the Clay County Commission.

Brady Hedstrom, project manager of BG Consultants and land owner Bob Wietham, met with commissioners to review the 2026 Fall KDOT Cost Share Program.. Wietham discussed the support letters that have been received and the project name that will be used on the grant application. The name that will be used is Riverscreen Growth and Retention Project.

The KDOT grant application has a due date of Sept. 24. Hedstrom stated that he will have it submitted on Sept. 22.

The county will keep the remaining dirt that is left from the ditch cleaning after the building of the road and haul it to the Clay County Landfill. This will be used for the berm that KDHE is requiring around the cell.

Also according to the unofficial minutes of the Sept. 21 Clay County Commission meeting taken by County Clerk Kayla Wang.

— Commissioners David Thurlow, Eric Carlson and Jerry Mayo, were present at a regular meeting beginning at 8 a.m. The minutes were approved as printed. Account Payables in the amount of \$41,409.55 were reviewed and approved.

— Interim Highway Administrator Jeff Germann and office manager Melissa Goff reported in the week prior the department laid asphalt on the approaches of the concrete box on Utah Road between 22nd and 23rd Roads, replaced planks on several bridges, worked in the shop one day, and had the patcher out on the blacktop roads. Germann reported that they did purchase an additional 31 tons of cold mix asphalt that was approved earlier. KC Striping will be here in a couple of weeks to paint the white lines on the newly laid asphalt and yellow lines on the chip sealed roads. Germann reported that he was called out on Saturday evening for trees down and storm damage that had to be removed from roadways. One of the low boy trailers is in the shop for repairs. Goff reported that the battery backup in the office has stopped working and received permission to purchase a new one. She also stated that they had to purchase a new vacuum sweeper for the office.

— EMS Director Alec Trembath and EMS Billing Specialist Ambur Cannizzo reported that Cannizzo was present for a demo on a billing bridge image trend and she was able to ask several questions about the software program. Currently they are using Central Square and pay an annual fee

of \$4,250. Image Trend has everything in one spot from Discovery that searches current insurance, a clearing house that will send everything electronically and save on postage and the turn around time should be shortened from 30 days to approximately 14 days. The cost of Image Trend is one time pay of \$2,500 for setup and to provide training and then an annual fee of \$5,535. Commissioners asked Trembath if he had the budget to purchase the software. Trembath stated that he was not sure that he could handle the purchase this year but would be able to after the first of the year. He will do more research on his budget and will report back next week. The department is currently on number 764 of emergency runs and out-of-town transfers for the year.

— Emergency Manager Jim Bogart reported on the damage from the storm that came through on Saturday evening. The National Weather Service stated that there were between 65–80 mph winds that caused the damage to several buildings. Bogart stated that he is continuing to work on updating the Kansas Emergency Operations Plan. This week he will be attending a Homeland Security meeting in Salina and a KDEM meeting in Lincoln County.

— County Health Director Dana Rickley and In-Home Service Director Valarie Droege Mueller met with commissioners to give the weekly report. Rickley reported that she continues to work on the Pathway Grant that is through Grow Clay County.

— Sheriff Alan Benninga presented a proposal from Network's Plus on a replacement computer. Commissioners asked Sheriff Benninga to get a quote from Central Office Service & Supply on a similar computer and return next week with the quotes. Commissioners signed an event approval for an employee of the Sheriff's Department to attend training in Hutchinson.

— Interim Highway Administrator Jeff Germann reviewed a bill that he had received from Rural Water District No. 1 on a repair to a water line that the Highway Department had damaged. Germann agreed that they had damaged a line but were within 20 days of the 811 ticket that was placed for the project. Germann also felt that the bills attached may be incorrect concerning the amount of time to fix the issue and the hourly rate not being consistent between the two bills. The commission stated that if they were within the 20-day period for the 811 placement, then the county is not responsible for the cost of the repairs.

— Commissioners adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

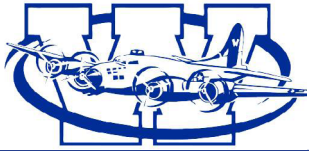
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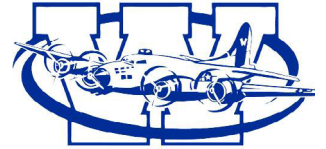


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BOMBER NEWS



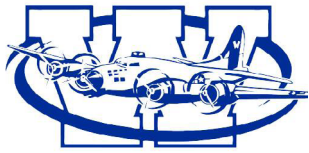
Stephanie Ehlers moved from 3rd grade to 6-12 ELA this year and has transitioned seamlessly! Today, she introduced her 6th graders to Mark Twain and his contributions to American Literature. Then, they read *The Prince and the Pauper*. (Photo courtesy of the Wakefield School)



Last week cheerleaders got the spotlight in Mr. Gower's Media Tech Experience class during his students' Media Day project they've been continuing on. (Photo courtesy of Wakefield School)



In mid-September, freshmen in Mrs. Woolever's science class had a lab identifying different plants found on the Tallgrass Prairie to prepare for the upcoming Eco-Meet, (Photo courtesy of Wakefield School)



SPORTS

Solomon defeats Bombers 12-22

Wakefield suffered its first loss of the season against a very strong Solomon team on Sept. 18. The first quarter and most of the second quarter were pretty even. The Bombers had cut the lead to 22-12 before several costly mistakes gave Solomon the opportunity to take a sizable lead into halftime.

"We knew we didn't match up well with their size. Our team speed was our biggest asset going in and early on we were able to use that to our advantage. Eventually, they just wore us down. I thought our guys did a lot of good things. We know there are areas we need to improve and are looking forward to the prep week. Lebo is a similar team that likes to run a lot of power."

Offensively, Nick Freeman and Bradyn Moenning split

rushing yardage, with Freeman get 84 yards over 17 carries and Moenning with 80 yards over 15 carries. Freeman also caught three passes for a total of 49 yards and scored both touchdowns. Ryan Copenhaver also caught a pass for 20 yards and Brody Osborne caught one for 14. Freeman returned three kick-offs for a total of nine yards and Moenning, four punts for a total of 108 yards.

Defensively, Moenning and Freeman both got six tackles and two assists and Moenning also got a sack that resulted in a two-yard loss. Copenhaver got five tackles and one assist; Tim Bybee, three tackles, two assists; Landen Anderson, four tackles; Dash Francis, two tackles and two assists; Brody Osborne, one tackle, two assists; and Logan Gonzales-Gackle, two tackles.

Lebo shuts out Bombers

The Bombers fell to Lebo 0-46 on Sept. 25.

Lebo dominated the first half, scored 16 points in the first quarter and another 30 points in the second quarter. Neither team scored in the second half.

The Bombers play at Goessel tomorrow and their homecoming game will be against Waverly on Oct. 9. Look for information on Homecoming candidates in our sister paper, *The Clay Center Dispatch*.

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