The Wakefield Times
Lighting the way
Issue No. 7 An online publication by The Clay Center and Clay County Dispatch serving Wakefield, Kansas Friday, October 16, 2026

Transportation director asks for guaranteed hours for bus drivers

USD 379 Transportation Director Mike McCoy asked the school board last week to consider guaranteeing bus drivers a minimum of 20 hours on their paycheck regardless of whether they work that many hours driving their routes so they could qualify for benefits.

McCoy raised the issue when giving the board his annual transportation report. Inconsistent hours is a big reason they have trouble hiring drivers, he said, stating that he often has people interviewing who asked about benefits and when he tells the they start at 20 hours, he has to tell them getting 20 hours that it "depends on your route, depends on who rides" and he can't guarantee them 20 hours because they strive for a drive that's less than an hour in setting routes..

He said the average driver drives a route that is about an hour and a half a day, which falls just under the minimum threshold for benefits and a lot are very close to 20 hours. They try to accommodate those who need more hours for benefits by having them drive buses for activities, wash buses or help in other ways, but not everyone can do that. He recommended a guaranteed set amount of time they'd be paid. As an example, he said the Manhattan School district guarantees their drivers four hours a day.

McCoy said he thought the budget impact would be minimal, as it wouldn't greatly increase pay, and the drivers they have who want benefits are doing everything they can to meet the minimum hours required.

The proposal received mixed reactions from the board. Board member Tracy Claeys said he wasn't in favor of paying people for work they didn't do. He said they'd have to check to see how that would impact the budget on the benefits side and was concerned that it would cost more than they think it will, especially if more drivers decide to take benefits. He directed Superintendent Brett Nelson to look into the potential financial impact.

Nelson also said he was surprised that morr didn't have interest in benefits when they started offering benefits at 20 hours but, "it hasn't worked out that way." He said the minimum hours for benefits is set by a state statute, so they can't lower the limit. Usually such decisions are made when the board reviews the Classified Handbook in the spring, but they can make a change any time.

On other topics, he reported having coaches drive buses again helped alleviate the shortage for activity bus drivers, but they are still short and are seeking ways to attract drivers. Paying drivers every other week instead of monthly would also help, he stated.

In other board business:

– The board heard a report from Jessica Lindsley, Varney & Associates, on the 2025-26 audit, who reported a clean audit with no substantial findings.

– The board accepted as FFA sponsorships $100 from PrairieLand Partners; C & R Credit Union and KansasLand; $150 from Cott Family Farms and Nicholas Lehman; $250 from JLT Investments, Wilder Auto Body, Rodney or Kim Hoffman, BHS Construction and Benson Farms, Inc.; $275 from Jenell Jones; $500 from Willmann Ag, LLC and Five Creek Automotiv, LLC.

– The board accepted as donations $780 from Union State Bank for athletic equipment needs; $12,750 from Clay Counts Coalition for a one-year subscription to Cook Center for Human Connection - Mental Health Platform; $1,000 from Wakefield Booster Club to pay for a for Hudl account, $178 from the Lincoln Elementary PEP first-grade field trips, $545 from Wakefield JC Gymnastics, $287 from the CCCMS PEP for cheerleading uniforms, $1,000 from the Wakefield PTO for a mural in hallway to new gym, $50 from AGC of Kansas, Inc. DBA Build Up Kansas NCCER for classroom supplies to split between two accounts at CCCHS and a mural valued at $10,000 from A Mural Movement for a mural in the CCCHS gym.

– The board accepted a bid on the



On Friday, WHS seniors Bradyn Moenning and Nevaeh Gibson were crowned Homecoming King and Queen at the Bombers Homecoming game against Waverly. *(Photo courtesy of Jim Leatherman, Wakefield Alumni Association)*

Wakefield plans Fall Cleanup

In a brief meeting last week the Wakefield City Council set the city's fall cleanup for this weekend, Oct. 16-18, and approved a few other routine matters.

The council agreed to spend up to $3,000 to set up three dumpsters at Third and Cedar for residents to use this weekend. The dumpsters will be monitored with cameras and city staff and council members to ensure they are used by residents only.

Residents are encouraged to bring items to the dumpsters as soon as they can, as the dumpsters fill up quickly and they will be closed down once they are full. Residents are allowed only one load and are directed to dispose of items in dumpsters that are identified. No tires will be accepted, and violators will be fined.

In other items:

– The council donated $100 to Wakefield Pride for yard of the quarter and $500 toward the VFW for Wreaths Across America effort.

– The council changed language in the ordinance prohibiting short term leases of houses, most significantly changed the definition of a short-term lease from less than one year to less than 90 days.

– The council authorized spending up to $40,000 on a pickup for the city superintendent.

– The council set trick-or-treating for 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 31. Running the storm sirens will signal the start and end of trick-or-treating.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Our last edition:

As much as we have enjoyed producing *The Wakefield Times* as an online-only newspaper, unfortunately financial constraints have forced us to discontinue this experiment. We encourage you to find Wakefield news in our sister publication, *The Clay Center Dispatch.*

-- Ryan D. Wilson, Publisher

Mayo decides to run as write-in for county commission

County Commissioner Jerry Mayo announced he has signed documentation on Friday at the County Clerk's office to be a write-in candidate for County Commission District No. 1, the seat he currently hoolds, in the upcoming General Election. This enables them to count a write-in vote for him so long as they can determine the voter's intention.

Mayo said he does not plan on conducting a campaign but several supporters asked him to run as a write-in. Mayo was narrowly defeated in the Primary Election by Renee Langvardt in a race with three candidates.

Advance voting starts today, Oct. 14 at the Clerk's Office in the Clay County Courthouse, which can be done during regular business hours until noon on the day before the General Election.

Lighting the way

The Wakefield Times

Meet our staff:

Ryan D. Wilson.....Publisher
dispatch.union.publisher@gmail.com
Lydia Kautz.....Associate Editor
dailyunion.editor@gmail.com
Rusty Connally.....ad rep. and circulation manager.
jcadrep@gmail.com
jcunioncirculation@gmail.com
Trich York....Ad/business director
dispatchadrep @gmail.com
Kay Johnson.....Social Editor
jcunionsocial@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook as "The Wakefield Times"

Around Town

► The Free Gift Closet at 808 Grove St., Wakefield has added more dresses. Stop by whenever the OPEN sign is on. They try really hard to be open every weeknight, usually by 5 p.m. and stay open until 8 p.m. and they are open most Saturday's.

► 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 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.

► The Wakefield Stage Committee has received nearly $20,000 in donations! Help them reach their goal of $150,000 to put a permanent stage in the city park for many more community events to come, They are hopeful to reach enough money to put in a FEMA approved storm shelter for Clay County Park, that provides additional stage equipment storage at the back of the stage. To donate, mail a check to "Wakefield Stage Project" c/o Farmers & Merchants State Bank, 711 Elm St., PO Box 26, Wakefield, KS, 67487

► Please consider becoming a Wakefield Booster Club Sponsor! The club offers four levels of sponsorship from $25 to $200, read more on how to become a sponsor on the club's Facebook page.

► Advance voting for the August

Around Clay County

► Advance voting starts Oct. 14 at the Clerk's Office in the Clay County Courthouse, which can be done during regular business hours until noon on the day before the General Election.

BOMBERS CALENDAR

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)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27
First quarter report cards released

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30
K-5 sing at nursing home
6:30 p.m. WJHS dance
7 p.m. — WHS Football, first round of district play-offs, TBA

SATURDDAY, OCTOBER 31
Halloween
6-8 p.m. — Trick-or-treating

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3
WHS choir at WSL Festival

Clay Co. TeamMates named TriState Chapter of the Year

The USD 379 School board congratulated the Clay County TeamMates mentoring program on being named "TriState Chapter of the Year fo the Kansas, Nebraska, and Missouri region. The program was honored with the ward at the TeamMates National Conference in June.

The program started with 57 matches in its first year in 2023, and has grown to 87 but they still have kids waiting.for mentors. Apply at teammates.org or contact Lisa Last (lisalast@usd379.org) or 785-632-3176 for more information.

Museum Notes

► The Wakefield Museum has received a donation of tribal artifacts which belonged to the Rev. Marion Ross Kirk, a decorated Army veteran and Green Beret chaplain.

The items were given to Kirk by the Montagnard people when he left Vietnam as a token of respect and appreciation for his role in training the tribe and establishing medical clinics in their villages. The efforts to establish trust with the Montagnard were considered a strategic success during the war as they proved to be capable fighters with knowledge of the highlands terrain. Kirk was a lifetime member of the Wakefield VFW.

Kirk passed away in 2021 at 84. Please visit the museum to learn more about this history of the war and the role he played.

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.

Sign up for

The Wakefield Times

Free e-mail subscription at union-dispatch.com/shop/ols/products/the-wakefield-ks-times or go on Facebook.

EDITORIAL FROM THE PUBLISHER

Noncitizens already can't vote.

Do we really need a Constitutional amendment?



By Ryan D. Wilson

Publisher, The Junction City Union and The Clay Center Dispatch

In a visit with Clay Country Republicans last week (see related story on our website union-dispatch.com), Secretary of State candidate Prat Proctor tried to make the case that we need to change the Kansas Constitution to ensure noncitizens can't vote.

As architect of the "Only Citizens Voting" amendment that's on the ballot in November, Proctor is concerned that language in the constitution stating "Every citizen can vote" isn't specific enough to prevent noncitizens from voting as more liberal states including Vermont, California and Maryland have interpreted the same language in their constitutions to allow some who aren't U.S. citizens to vote in their elections.

Apparently convinced that a blue wave of Democrats is coming, Proctor is concerned that if his opponent is elected, she will allow noncitizens to vote as she stated to a room of Douglas County Democrats a year ago that it's unfortunate that noncitizens can't vote. What she actually said is that some states allow noncitizens to vote in local municipal elections, and "that is not the case in Kansas, unfortunately."

But let's be real for a moment – despite Proctor's fear-mongering, it isn't likely Kansas is going to allow noncitizens even if that blue wave arrives.

But Proctor is right about this: some of us genuinely want people who are currently non-citizens to become citizens so they can vote because they contribute much to our communities. The solution we want isn't to let noncitizens vote; but to allow them to become citizens more easily, particularly if they've lived and worked in our community for most of their lives. Immigrants who became citizens are more likely to contribute more to the community's tax as well as add to the local economy. That's something we should welcome, not be afraid of.

Anyone who says that our state's and country founders didn't want immigrants to become citizens hasn't paid close attention to our history. Many of them and the biggest contributors to our country's accomplishment started as immigrants. That we welcomed anyone and everyone with "Send me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe breath" as the inscription on the Statue of Liberty shows what something made our country great.

It's easy to de-humanize foreigners, immigrants and noncitizens by using those terms. I know people who don't want noncitizens voting or want to keep immigrants from becoming citizens genuinely think they are protecting the country from a legitimate threat.

My great-grandparents who immigrated to this country to start a new life by farming weren't a threat – quite the contrary, actually. To those who say, "well, that's different," I ask them to seriously ask themselves how it's different. Life for the average American wasn't any easier then, nor were the threats from foreign adversaries any less dangerous.

You might find that "what's different" is something you don't want to admit, and that's my point.

Proctor is feeding on people's fears when he tells you that noncitizens shouldn't be voting when they already can't vote. Instead of passing an amendment we don't need we should be electing a Secretary of State who sees potential citizens as an asset, not a burden.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Why is this destruction, violence, so attractive to MAGA Americans?

EDITOR

Our 47th President is not only the most violent president we have ever had, but the most brazen.

He is openly proud of his destructive tendencies.

He said he would be a dictator on "day one," and he has never stopped being one down to this day.

He admits he has great affection for oppressive totalitarian leaders like Xi ("a great leader"), Putin, and Kim Jong Un.

He brazenly enriches himself and his family at every opportunity, in unlawful disrespect of the "emoluments" clause of the U.S. Constitution.

He is a proud and transparent usurper of Congress' powers: "I can do whatever I want, I'm the President."

He is very open about wanting to hurt people. He uses words like "exterminate," "obliterate," "annihilate," "erase," "kill," "completely destroy," "blast."

Why is all this so attractive to you, MAGA?

--Kimball Shinkoskey, Woods Cross Utah

Every citizen should vote

It is again time to think about who, we should vote for and then voting in the general election that is coming in less than a month.

Elections often change who is in what elected position. Because of this, elections can and often do change the way the people who spend our tax dollars look at us and our tax money to include how much will be spent. There seems to be an ever increasing number of people who believe that the taxpayers need to and must supply the difference between what they have and what they need or rather what they think they need.

Many politicians today know that we think we need and are entitled to much more than what we have right now, even if we could get it ourselves by saving over a period of time. They therefore promise us that they will change the law so that we can get it right now from the government. We forget about such facts as Kansas has 125 state representatives who vote on the bills. You need 63 or more of them to vote for passage of the bill. The bill then moves to the Kansas Senate where there are 40 Senators and you have to have 21 of them to agree to pass the bill. The bill then goes to the governor of Kansas to sign or not to sign. If signed the bill becomes law. That means there are some 84 or more people that have to agree with you out of 166. It should be noted that the numbers are even larger at the Federal Government level. So it doesn't make much sense for the politician to say they will change a law by themselves without help from a lot of other people.

But even with this, there are many recorded cases where just one vote of a citizen has changed or made all the difference when it came to a law. One vote by a citizen comes up somewhere in almost every election. That is when this candidate or that candidate is chosen by the flipping of a coin or some other game of chance when the results of the voting is a tie in some race.

Because of this, I wish that 100% of the United States citizens that are eligible to vote were registered to vote and that all the registered voters would vote. Then we would all know which way "We the People" want our schools and our cities and our counties and our states and our country to go.

In just a few weeks, we will be voting in a very, very important election. An election that can, and will change how the County, State and National Governments are being run. I personally would like the governments to change and maybe make "We the People" more responsible for our own lives, but I by no means have the final say.

--Gerald L. Gerloff, Junction City

County gives $5K to new Crossroads restaurant

A few weeks ago Clay County commissioners agreed to give a $5,000 grant to a local restaurant reopening on Lincoln Avenue in what used to be the 15-24 Brewhouse.

Anabel Vazquez, grant applicant, Grow Clay County CEO Hannah Hasbrouck and Grow Clay County employee Catherine Doster-Tipsword, discussed the grant application for Crossroads Bar and Grill, LLC. Vazquez started with a brief description about the restaurant and what it offers currently. They opened on Wednesday, had a soft opening and plan to have a grand opening in the future. They had some road bumps along the way, so they operated only on cash since opening.

Vazquez informed commissioners that they had such great attendance that they ran out of food on Saturday and were unable to open on Sunday. They are receiving their POS system today and will be able to take other forms of payment now. Overall, she was very pleased with the patience, support and kindness from the community, especially on a busy weekend. The restaurant will be open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. as well as Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11 a.m. to midnight They are currently preparing for specials to come. Their menu items range from chicken fried steaks and chicken, shrimp tacos, steaks, smash potatoes, and burgers. Currently the restaurant employs six individuals.

Commissioners agreed to accept the grant applications for the Crossroads Bar and Grill, LLC and award them the amount of $5,000.

Also according to the unofficial minutes of the Sept. 28 County Commission meeting taken by Deputy County Clerk Sierra Urban:

– Commissioners David Thurlow, Eric Carlson and Jerry Mayo were present at a regular meeting beginning at 7:45 a.m. The minutes and special meeting minutes were approved as printed. Payroll in the amount of $146,144.63 was reviewed and approved.

– The 4-H Ambassadors welcomed the community to National 4-H Week from Oct. 4 to 10. The Ambassadors consisted of Lila Sullivan, Jenette Begnoche, Addisyn Stapp, McKennon Lehman, Judy Stitt, Ambassador Advisor, Kenny Stitt, spouse, and 4-H Project Manager Melissa Baxter presented the 4-H Week Proclamation. Stitt thanked the board for all the support that has been provided to the 4-H community. Each ambassador stood and expressed what their favorite project was and years of service. Each commissioner then told what ties they had with 4-H. Deputy Clerk Sierra Urban read the 4-H Proclamation aloud to the room and Commissioner Thurlow and the youth. Stapp signed the document. The Ambassadors had a group photo taken with the commissioners.

– Commissioners approved an event approval for one employee of the Treasurer's Office to attend the NCK District Meeting in Russell.

– Urban presented a bill from JP Electric in the amount of $9,595.58 for the lights at the Fairgrounds raceway. The board reviewed it and agreed to pay for it out of the economic development fund. Commissioner Mayo seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The public notice concerning Kansas/Federal water pollution control permits and applications was presented to the board. This public notice will be posted in the clerk's office until the expiration date stated in the public notice itself.

– Interim Highway Administrator Jeff Germann and Melissa Goff, office manager, reported in the week prior they hauled rock, mowed, and did a small project on Meadowlark Road. Germann informed the board that one of the trucks was taken to Freightliner in Salina for intermittent behavior resulting in the vehicle shutting off while crossing a road. Another truck that was out for repairs was done and ready to be picked up. The department removed some trees off Broughton Road and trimmed around a stop sign for ambulance services to see better on K-82 going south. Goff presented the board with ad quotes from WIBW in the amount of $1,000 per month with a four-month commitment. After discussion commissioners directed Goff to research other alternatives such as Manhattan, Washington, and Abilene newspapers. Goff also presented that she had been in touch with an individual that wanted to vacate a road on Redwood between Sixth and Seventh Roads, but a portion of the road is blacktop. Goff asked how they would like to proceed on the matter. In the past there has been documentation to fill out and a public hearing to vacate properly. Commissioner Thurlow told Goff to let the individual proceed with the process.

– Jason Smith, Craig Parry, Randy Siebold, board members for a rural water district and Caleb Siebold, operator, joined the meeting to discuss a bill for a waterline that was hit by the county and repaired by another company. Smith presented the dispute of the 811 window and although it protects the county it also protects RWD. Smith presented his example in the form of a previous court case from Miami County. The lines were clearly marked and the locate was done by Caleb Siebold. Germann expressed that there wasn't a tracer wire and the waterline was only one foot deep. Commissioner Thurlow commented that the highway department did offer to help with the dig to make the replacement process smoother since the department was the one who damaged it initially. Both Germann and Goff stated that the bill in general should have been questioned for time rates and other charges before proceeding with payment. Also, that it could have been less had they followed up and had the highway department help with the digging portion of the job. Commissioners supported the idea of paying half of the bill. After more discussion commissioners agreed to pay $5,571.95 for the rural water district.

EMS Director Alec Trembath reported that the department is currently on run number 788, 31 more than the same point last year. Piotique celebration went well with only one call to be addressed with plenty of people who were available on scene. Trembath reported four different employees are at different stages of their schooling with paramedic school, clinicals, RN school, fire academy. Trembath revisited the image trend billing system with the board and signed an agreement, but the company no longer splits invoices. After informing the board of the current budget and expenses for the remainder of the year it would still leave the department with remaining funds. Commissioners agreed to pay the start-up cost and year service terms in the amount of $8,035 for the new billing system Image Tren. The following years will be $5,500 per year. Trembath said that multiple employees including himself would be involved in the training. Commissioners also granted permission for Trembath to purchase the Prodigy Program for $535 startup cost and $70 per person to be billed next year for the online continuing education platform. Trembath reminded commissioners that they will have four certified car seat techs and are continuing CPR classes.

– County Attorney Brenda Jordan met with commissioners to discuss several contracts and provide an update. She discussed multiple revisions to contracts that the board had prepared. Urban discussed a KORA request with Jordan. Sheriff Alan Benninga joined the meeting and discussed the law enforcement agreement for coverage during protective custody in better detail with Jordan and the commission.

– Benninga reported that he is still waiting for a bid from Friesen's before fully presenting all the bids. He hopes to have all bids collected to present at the next meeting. Benninga presented three bids for a Dell Pro Micro desktop computer. After reviewing, Commissioner Carlson made the motion to purchase the Dell Pro Micro Desktop from Networks Plus in the amount of $1,114.

– April Swartz, Varney and Associates, met with the board to discuss the county's audit. Swartz started by reviewing the audit letter in accordance with the KMAAG regulations. In reference to a particular paragraph in the letter the county did not have any violations or instances regarding the required management override. Swartz also said that she was accepted to be on the KMAAG board and was excited to report this to the board. Swartz then went over the financials regarding KMAAG, funds, receipts and expenditures and reviewed financials, the general fund and distributions.

– Landfill director Rhonda Carroll, and Clay Center Street Department representatives Ken Shivers and Shon Bloomdahl met with commissioners to discuss fall cleanup. Shivers discussed the upcoming fall clean-up is scheduled to start Oct. 13. In past years the board has picked up the cost of anything over the cost of $4,500. In 2024, the county paid roughly $1,198.00 that had exceeded the cost of $4,500. Shivers asked the board if they would be willing to do this again. Commissioners agreed to aid in the cost of fall cleanup that exceeds $4,500. Commissioners also congratulated Shivers on his upcoming retirement and thanked him for his service to the community. Carroll reported that the dump truck broke down and needs repairs to the rear axle differential. Carroll believes it can be driven wherever the board suggests she take the truck for repairs. Commissioner Carlson suggested calling Andersons out of Green to see what the availability was first and have Carroll report back with any updates. Carroll reported that the crawler is in Concordia and the skid steer needs some work as well.

– Emergency manager Jim Bogart presented bids for two American Standard toilets in the amount of $158 each for the Emergency Management building from Clay County Lumber and Supply. Commissioners agreed to purchase the two toilets for $316 from Clay County Lumber and Supply. Bogart is still working on the Emergency Operations Plan. Bogart was updated and has been in contact with Derrek Parker on Kansas Planner. The Kansas Planner is going away on Sept. 30 and Bogart has begun preparations to acquire any previous information saved through the Kansas Planner for our county. Bogart has also been referencing/ researching other counties who are using AI for their EOP's. Some counties have submitted plans to the State and are awaiting review. Bogart was intrigued to know the outcome after submission for these counties.

– The meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

CLAY COUNTY COMMISSION

Delinquent tax rate dropped in 2025

Last week County Treasurer Christine Swaim reported to the Clay County Commissioner that the delinquent tax rate dropped in the last year. She provided a report showing that the uncollected property tax rate for the 2024 tax year was 0.90 and for the 2025 tax year it was 0.79.

The upcoming delinquent tax sale will be held on Oct. 23, at 10 a.m. in the County Commissioner Room with four properties being sold. The bidding registration will open on Oct. 9. After this sale, Swaim will begin the process for the next sale with the 2022 taxes that are due. This process will begin with 35 parcels that are delinquent.

Swaim also reviewed the interest earned so far in 2026. As of Oct. 1, there has been $346,507.28 interest earned and deposited into the General Fund.

Also according to the unofficial minutes of the Oct. 5 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 $481,219.66 were reviewed and approved.

– Ryan West, County Maintenance, raised an issue with the sump pump at the bottom of the handicap ramp. Currently there is a pump that has to be placed by hand if there is rain that is predicted. Commissioners decided that they would like to place one in the hole permanently and do away with the one that is temporary. This will make it a lot more convenient for those using the ramp.

– Interim Highway Administrator Jeff Germann and Melissa Goff, office manager, reported that they started the asphalt project from US-24 to the city limits of Green and would be finished by Oct. 7. The department has picked up the first dump truck from Salina that was in the shop with a repair bill of $13,747.39 for a new DEF System and the second dump truck is in the shop with an estimated repair bill of $19,377.90, which commissioners approved. In the week prior, the department started crack sealing on the Longford Road, placed a new driveway pipe on Fourth Road, hauled rock, mowed roadsides, graded roads, worked rainy days in the shop and made sure that the salt spreaders were ready for winter. The paint crew is expected to arrive over the weekend. This will be for yellow and white lines to be painted on all new asphalt and for the center line to be placed on the roads that were chip sealed this summer.

– County Health Director Dana Rickley reported that she has been contacted by the City of Clifton about the process of condemning a house within the city limits. She informed them that since they are a corporate city that the mayor and city council will need to make this decision. On Oct. 26 through Oct. 30 Clay County Health Department will be hosting a health fair. Anyone interested will need to call and make an appointment to participate in this event.

– Sheriff Alan Benninga presented the two bids with a couple of options for a new patrol pickup. Commissioners agreed to purchase the 2027 Dodge 1500 Tradesman Crew Cab 4x4 Pickup and the Thunderstruck bumper in the amount of $50,303 from Friesen Auto.

– Commissioners provided a signed letter of support for Big Lakes Developmental Center to include with a grant application with Kansas Department of Transportation. The requested KDOT funding includes a $10,000 operating grant for transportation services necessary for essential access to their services and the community. They also signed the agreement between Clay County and Big Lakes Developmental Center, Inc. for the year 2027. The commissioners are desirous of providing services for the intellectually/developmentally disabled residents of Clay County and have determined to contract with a nonprofit corporation for such services.

– Fair Board President Mike Argo and Fair Board Treasurer Karen Yarrow, met with commissioners to discuss the income and expenses on the cost of the Fair. Every year the costs of everything to hold the Fair have increased. The county has allocated $14,400 to put towards the Fair. For over 20 years and the last few years it has not been enough. This year the Fair's Premiums Fund was $3,191 short in covering the cost of the Fair. Yarrow stated that they were able to cover the extra expense out of other funds but this year it was larger than they expected. Argo asked commissioners to consider an increase in the amount that is allocated towards the Fair in the upcoming years.

– Michelle Tessaro informed commissioners Cloverton will possibly be returning to Clay Center for the Christmas concert again this year if the funding can be raised. She thanked commissioners for all of the support that they have provided in previous years for the music concert. The concert will be held on Dec. 19 and she will be asking for donations from several other entities. She asked if commissioners would be willing to make a donation similar to the one that they made in 2024. Commissioners agreed to donate $1,000 out of the Alcohol Fund to the Cloverton concert.

– Commissioners approved the donation of 24 hours of sick leave to an employee of the Highway Department and 76 hours of sick leave to an employee of the County Health Department. Both of these donations were made from the Clay County Sick Leave Pool.

– Commissioners approved the repairs on the dump truck at the landfill to be done at an estimated cost of $5,000 to $6,000 by Anderson Repair.

– Commissioners adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Find us on Facebook:
www. facebook.com/claycenterdispatch
Photos * Stories * Community Posts

Improvements made to church

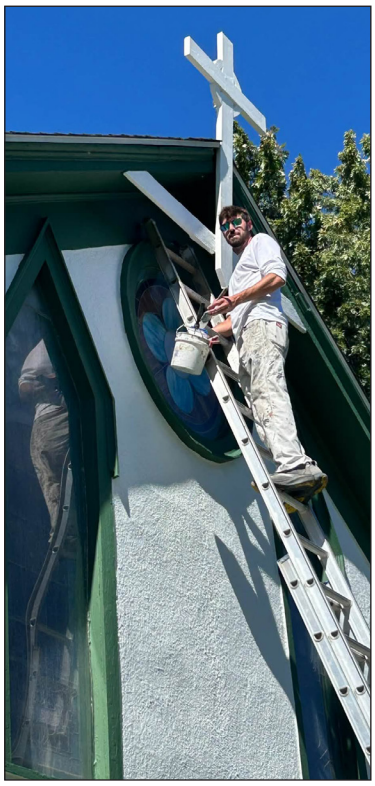
The Wakefield Museum is in the process of making improvements to one of its properties, the St. John and St. George Episcopal Church. Jackie has posted several pictures on the Wakefield Museum Facebook page - you might want to check them out.

Two WHS alums have played a big part in those improvements. Museum volunteer, Randy Colp (Class of 1977), in addition to refabricating the cellar door on the south side of the church and doing some landscaping. Ge also made modifications to the existing ramp, in preparation for two special events to be held there within this next week. Later this month, this existing ramp will be replaced by a new concrete one.

In the picture below, John Yenni (Class of 2015), puts the finishing touches on the cross atop the east side of the church. John is the son of Chris Yenni, Wakefield's fifth-grade teacher and another valuable museum volunteer. John's company, Royalty Painting, has almost completed the exterior painting of the church.

This gem is the oldest public building in Wakefield. St. George was built on this site in 1886. St. John was built four miles west of town in 1876, but moved into Wakefield and connected to St. George in 1930.

-- From the Wakefield Alumni Association Facebook page.



BOMBER NEWS

Judy named USD 379 Elementary Teacher of the Year

Lisa Judy has been named the Clay County Schools ~ USD 379 Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Judy has been a steady influence in the Wakefield elementary wing over the past 11 years. Her nominator's essay best represents everything that makes her great:

"Lisa is dedicated to creating a calm, welcoming, and fun learning environment where students feel comfortable being themselves and excited to learn. She understands that before children can truly learn, they need to know that they are cared for, and she makes sure every student feels that care each day. Her patience, compassion, encouragement, and dedication help her students grow not only academically, but also socially and emotionally.

What makes Lisa especially deserving of this recognition is the lasting impact she has on her students. Her influence does not end when they leave her classroom. Even years later, students who have moved on through elementary school, middle school, and high school continue to stop by to see her, check in, and share what is happening in their lives. The fact that students continue to seek out Lisa all the way through their senior year is a true testament to the relationships she builds and the difference she makes in their lives.

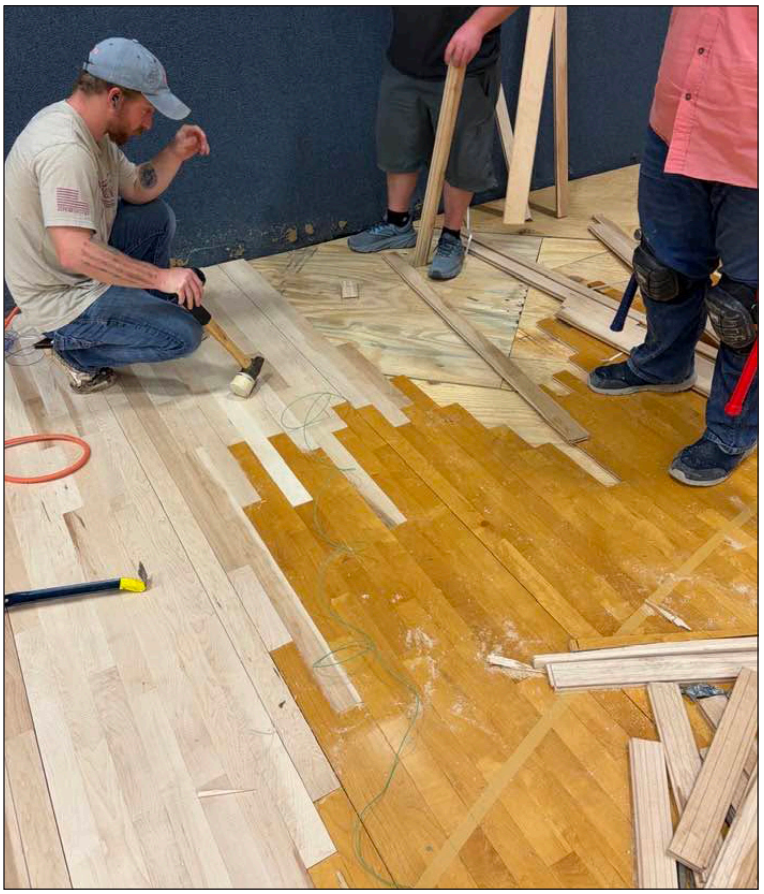
Lisa's big heart extends beyond her students. She is a constant source of encouragement, kindness, and support for her coworkers. She celebrates others, offers a helping hand, and contributes to making the school a positive place for everyone."



On Wednesday Superintendent Brett Nelson and Wakefield Principal Robert Leis informed Lisa Judy she has been named Elementary Teacher of the Year.



Heike Bybee's Career and Life Planning Class at WHS is working on a unit about checking and savings accounts. They have learned how to balance a checkbook, write checks, and create a budget. On Wednesday, they visited the Farmers & Merchants State Bank in Wakefield to learn about money transfers and the ATM. They also got a good look at the vault. Josh Martingave a tour and answered many questions students had. *(Photos courtesy of Wakefield School)*



Work is underway to repair water damage in the large Wakefield gym. Should be a few days before it is ready for basketball. The entire floor will be sanded and refinished this summer so that everything matches.

DPA AUCTIONS

Fall Auctions Filling Up!
CONSIGN TODAY



NEXT AUCTION
OCT. 20th at 10 AM
NOV. 3rd at 10 AM
DPAauctions.com

AVERY LIVE WEBCAST AUCTION

(350+ Lots of Guns, Knives, Military and more)

Saturday, October 17 at 9 a.m.

306 Dogwood St, Scanolli's Banquet Hall, Wakefield, KS 67487

SELLER: Property of the Late Richard Avery

350+ GUNS TO SELL LIVE & ONLINE: **PISTOLS:** COLT (Lightening Pistol Nickel, .38/c; "Lord" Derringer Set .22 Short; .45, 1911 Government; 32-30 WCF Revolver; Smith & Wesson .500 Mag & .460 mag; Magnum Research 45/70 Gov; Ruger Super Redhawk, .454/.45 Colt & .44 mag; Ruger New Vaquera .45 & .357; Taurus (38spc; .40cal; .45; .357); Ruger MK II Target Model .22; Desert Eagle Magnum Research .50ae; Chiappa Rhino 40DS .357; **RIFLES:** .45Cal Tommy Gun; Remington .458 Mag; Henry .44 Mag; Browning A- Bolt, .243WSSM; Remington Mod 770, 7mm; Mossberg .338 Patriot; Interarms .300 Win; Stevens Model 1915 Favorite .22; Mossberg Manliker .22; .22 Remington Nylon 66 Brown and Black x2; H&R Single Shot (.308, 25-06, .22 Hornet, .357); New England Arms (.243, 30-06, 12ga, .280, .204 ruger, .45/70, .410/45 colt); Norinco Model 4, .22 Clay Center; **LEVER ACTION:** Winchester Model 94 (XTR Lever .375 Win; Wells Fargo; Canadian Centennial; Wild Bill Comm.; Centennial '66 Comm.; XTR, .22; 30-30 Win x2); **SHOTGUNS: (DOUBLE BARREL):** Stoeger Uplander 28 ga; Stoeger Condor .410ga O/U; Winchester 20ga Mod 101 O/U; Stevens Model 311A, 16ga & .410ga; Kassner 10ga SxS; J Manton Co 12 ga SxS; American Gun Co 28ga &12ga SxS; Wolverine Arms Co12ga SxS; Stoeger Condor I, 12ga O/U; Browning 12ga O/U; Riverside Arms 12ga SxS; **(STANDARD SHOTGUNS):** Browning A5 12ga &16ga; Browning Twelvette 12ga; Mossberg Model 590 (20ga & .410 ga 14"; Remington 870, 12ga; Winchester 16ga Mod 37 2; Winchester Model 12 (12ga & 20ga); Winchester Mod 1912 16ga; Browning 10ga Field Model; Iver Johnson Champion: (16ga, 20ga, .410, 12ga); Crescent Firearms Peerless: (12ga, 16ga); Diamond Arms: (.410, 12ga); **MILITARY:** Enfield No.4 MK1, .303 British; Mosin Nagant 7.62x54r; US Springfield Model 1898, 30-40Krag; US Rifle Springfield Armory M1 ,30 cal; Romanian SKS 7.62x39; Carl Gustaf 1904, 6.5x55 swed; China SKS 7.62x39; M-1 Carbine Plainfield Machine 30cal; AR-15: DPMS 5.56; Diamondback D8-15, .223; Sharps Bros (HOG 450 Bushmaster; SKULL 300blk; Hellbreaker .223); Aero Precision .410 Model X15; This is a partial listing, all state and federal gun laws apply, see website for full listing, terms & more photos at www.GriffinRealEstateAuction.com

Chuck Maggard, Realtor/Auctioneer 620-794-8824
Andy Phipps, Auctioneer 620-794-1673

GRIFFIN
Real Estate & Auction

Donate Your Vehicle

Call (866) 773-7885 to donate your car, truck, boat, RV, and more today!

How it Works:

1. **Contact Us**
Call (866) 773-7885

2. **Schedule Pickup**
We'll pick up your vehicle for FREE - at a time and place convenient for you.

3. **Receive Top Tax Deduction**
You may qualify for a tax deduction.



- Support Veteran Nonprofits.
- Free Pickup & Towing.
- Top Tax Deduction.

Donate Your Vehicle Today
866-773-7885
www.veterancardonations.org/dnt173

Veteran Car Donations

While we appreciate every donation, in some cases, we find that we are unable to accept certain vehicles, watercraft, and/or recreational vehicles due to the prohibitive costs of acquisition. If you have any questions, please give us a call at (866) 773-7885.

Jim's Metal Roof Coatings
Leak Repair, bin tops,
Quonset roofing metal/galvanized
Asphalt Shingle roof coating
Painting exterior steel or aluminum
Statewide service - Free Estimates
785-201-7622

Serving Kansas and Western Missouri
Honesty & Fair Prices
Built To Last Generations
Sold by local reps, built by skilled local crews

SCAN ME



Ref: 261006

QSI
Richmond, KS | Haven, KS

Garages | Shops | Ag Buildings
800-374-6988
QualityStructures.com

Your Premier Window Covering Store



Drapery World and Blinds LLC

317 Poyntz Ave., Suite B Manhattan, KS 66502
(785) 537-4260
M-F: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
www.draperyworldandblinds.com

Mayo's

717 5th St. Clay Center
785.632.2656

Ladies & Men's apparel & Infantswear
Tuxedo-Suit rentals & sales
Custom Framing

Mon-Friday 9:30-5:30 Wed & Sat 9-5

HORIZON FARM & RANCH REALTY, LLC

www.horizonfarmranch.com 1-888-825-1199

AG LAND

*285 Ac +/- Pott. Co. Pasture @ Westmoreland. **Call Samantha!**
*80 Ac +/- Mitchell Co. Tillable @ Glen Elder. **Call Levi!** 785.275.2285
*308 Ac +/- Mitchell Co. Pasture, Hunting, Ponds @ Delphos. **Call Ray!**
*155 Ac +/- Jewell Co. Tillable @ Glen Elder. **Call Levi!** 785.275.2285
*770 Ac +/- Jewell Co. Tillable/Pasture/Hunting @ Mankato. **Call Ray!**
*304 Ac +/- Clay Co. Tillable/Pasture/House/Outbldgs @ Oak Hill. **Call Ray!**
*193 Ac +/- Cloud Co. Pasture @ Miltonvale. **Call Larry!** 785.243.5150
*115 Ac +/- Cloud Co. Timber/Hunting/Tillable @ Miltonvale. **Call Larry!**
*155 Ac +/- Cloud Co. CRP/Tillable/Hunting @ Glasco. **Call Ray!** 785.752.8498
*159 Ac +/- Cloud Co. Tillable @ Glasco. **Call Larry!** 785.243.5150
*39 Ac +/- Dickinson Co. Pasture @ Hope. **Call Samantha!** 785.577.9878
*48 Ac +/- Dickinson Co. Hay Field @ Abilene. **Call Amanda!** 925.895.3405
*157 Ac +/- Dickinson Co. Pasture/Tillable @ Carlton. **Call Ray!**
*156 Ac +/- Dickinson Co. Pasture/Tillable @ Carlton. **Call Ray!**
*25 Ac +/- Dickinson Co. Mixed Use @ Enterprise. **Call Samantha!**
*151 Ac +/- Dickinson Co. Tillable @ Solomon. **Call Ray!** 785.452.8498
*160 Ac +/- Ottawa Co. Tillable @ Solomon. **Call Ray!** 785.452.8498
*160 Ac +/- Ottawa Co. Pasture @ Culver. **Call Grant!** 785.829.8481
*322 Ac +/- Lincoln Co. Tillable/Pasture @ Sylvan Grove. **Call Clint!**

COMMERCIAL

*292 14th Rd, Miltonvale, KS. Lodge w/ 5 Ac pond & 157 ac of grass. **Call Larry!** 785.243.5150
*304 E 16th St, Concordia, KS. New Storage shed, Power, Blacktop Frontage. **Call Larry!**
*417 S 6th St, Clay Center, KS. 1.2 AC +/- Commercial & Industrial Property. **Call Larry!**
*121 Starr Ave, Miltonvale, KS. Bar built in 1900 in Great Shape! **Call Larry!**
*515 6th St., Clay Center, KS. Feed Mill/Warehouse. **Call Larry!** 785.243.5150
*104 N. Nelson, Bennington, KS. Newly renovated showroom. **PENDING by Ty!**

HORIZON HOMES

*13325 Brush Creek Rd, Westmorland, KS. Farmhouse, Duplexes & Apartments. **Call Samantha!**
*951 N 170th Rd, Minneapolis, KS. 2 Bed, 3 Bath on 5 +/- Ac. **Call Samantha!** 785.577.9878
*118 W. School St, Lincoln, KS. 1972 2 Bed, 1 1/2 Bath. **Call Samantha!** 785.577.9878
*291 10 Rd, Jamestown, KS. 5 Bed, 1 Bath w/ full basement. **Call Levi!** 785.275.2285
*3266 Dove Rd, Abilene, KS, Premier Horse/Livestock Facility w/ Executive Home, Guesthouse, 10 Stall Barn on 32 Ac +/-. **Call Samantha!** 785.577.9878
*482 N. 290th, Miltonvale, KS. 3 Bed, 2 Baths, 68 +/- ac. **Call Larry!** 785.243.5150
*1465 170 Rd. Belleville, KS. 3 Bed, 2 Bath on 5 +/- Ac, Walkout Basement. **PENDING by Levi!**
*107 E Bartlet, Clifton, KS. 3 Beds, 2 Baths, Detached Garage. **PENDING by Larry!**

Scan the QR code to explore all of our available listings!



Larry Koch
Sales Agent
(785)243-5150

SCAN ME

Contact Us Today!
www.horizonfarmranch.com



Levi Herrman
Sales Agent
(785)275-2285



NEW COMMUNITY PROGRAM

This new community program provided by Meadowlark and a dedicated group of volunteers that offers **free** programming open to adults of any age in the Flint Hills region affected by cancer.

CANCER IS DIFFICULT.

FINDING SUPPORT SHOULDN'T BE.

We provide: clear, accessible education; trusted resources you can count on; and a community that understands.

Cancer doesn't follow a straight path. Your role may shift from patient to caregiver to survivor — sometimes all at once. Our programming is designed with that reality in mind.

STAY INFORMED

Join our mailing list for program updates. Use the QR code to learn more or visit *www.meadowlark.org.*