



Our People. Our Stories. (620) 952-2787 No. 1—Thursday, October 1st, 2026—8 Pages \$ 1 Per Copy

FORECAST

Date	Hi	Lo	Wind
Wed	75	59	0-15 S
Thurs	64	53	5-15 N
Fri	69	50	5-15N
Sat	76	50	5-10N
Sun	73	49	5-15 E
Mon	76	48	0-15 E
Tues	83	54	5-15 N

Accumulated Moisture for 2026

1.06" Rain, 12 Inches of Snow

SHARE

Have you gone to an event, Would like to share a Letter to the Editor, Have an Engagement in the family, or a Birth Announcement send it in today to be considered for publication, Thank You for your Business!

Letters To The Editor are not the Opinion of SWKS News, We reserve the right to refuse submissions, and make minimum corrections. Deadline is Friday at 5 PM!

SWKS News- THE JOHNSON PIO-NEER

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Something Worth Printing

By: Tyler Hook

There was a time when the newspaper was simply part of life in Southwest Kansas. It sat folded on the kitchen table beside a cup of coffee, rode home from town on the pickup seat and waited at the post office. Publications such as *The Hutchinson News*, *Garden City Telegram*, *High Plains Journal* and our numerous hometown newspapers could be found in homes across the region. People opened those pages to learn what was happening in the world, but just as importantly, they opened them to discover what was happening here.

Somewhere along the way, that changed. News became faster and our world became larger, while coverage of home often became smaller.



Emerging Winter Wheat Photo By Tyler Hook

Today we can know within seconds what happened halfway around the world, yet sometimes struggle to learn what happened at the meeting down the street. **SWKS News begins with a simple belief:**

Southwest Kansas is still worth covering.

There is an incredible story unfolding every day across this region. It is being written by farmers planting another

See Printing, Page 4

Could Hemp Have a Future In SWKS

By: Tyler Hook

In recent years, the question facing Southwest Kansas farmers was how to make the most of the water beneath their fields. Increasingly, the question is what they can grow with less of it.

Declining groundwater supplies have prompted producers to weigh the future of irrigation and the crops built around it. Corn remains central to Kansas agriculture: Kansas State University reported that it occupied more than half of the state's irrigated acreage in data through

2021. But in western Kansas, where irrigated acreage has declined, farmers are considering what else might fit their land and their operations.

Grain sorghum, wheat, cotton and other crops are part of that conversation. This year, Morton County farmer Shaun Bowker tried a less familiar option by adding hemp to the operation.

Hemp has long been associated with marijuana because both come from the cannabis plant. Industrial hemp, however, is grown

for purposes that can include fiber, grain and oil. Federal law opened the way for its return to commercial agriculture in 2018, and Kansas farmers first grew it under the state's research program in 2019.

Bowker's crop offered a local look at what growing hemp can involve. After the field was cut it is laid down to be dried, the harvested material was divided into sections and will eventually be hauled to Wichita Falls, Texas, for further processing.

See Hemp, Page 7

Death Notices

Karen A. Shirk, 74, passed away Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at her home in Garden City. She was born September 27, 1951 in Hutchinson, Kansas; the daughter of Clement Miles and Leona Margaret (Wilkerson) Shirk.

Graveside Services will be held at 11:00 a.m., Friday September 25, 2026 in the Prairie View Church Cemetery of Friend, Kansas, with Reverend Donald Bedore as officiant. The family suggests memorial contributions to St. Mary Catholic Church or the Finney County Senior Center, both in care of Garnand Funeral Home.

Andrew Fira, 67, passed away September 22, 2026, at Hays Medical Center in Hays, Kansas. He was born August 14, 1959, in Jourdanton, Texas to Fidencio & Mary (Corella) Fira. He was raised with two sisters and two brothers.

Andrew found his career working in the agriculture field, starting at Collinwood Elevator and Grain. He then found interest in beef cattle feeding and livestock production at Kinsley Feeders then at Great Bend Feeding.

Cremation has taken place. Graveside services will be held at 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at Great Bend Cemetery North with Pastor Victor Link presiding. Visitation will be 3:00 to 8:00 p.m., Monday, September 28, 2026, at Bryant Funeral Home. Those attending the service are encouraged to wear their favorite racing attire. In Lieu of flowers, memorials may be made out to Andrew Fira Expense Fund, in care of Bryant Funeral Home, 1425 Patton Rd., Great Bend, KS 67530.

Lorene Bell, 86, passed

away on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, in Moscow, Kansas. She was born on August 27, 1940, in Kismet, Kansas, to Harry P. and Gertrude "Babe" W. (Kiddoo) Moss.

A memorial has been established for Moscow Christian Fellowship Church, in care of Robson Funeral Home, PO Box 236, Hugoton, Kansas 67951.

Visitation will be held on Friday, September 25, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Robson Funeral Home in Hugoton, 314 South Van Buren Street, Hugoton, Kansas.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at Moscow Christian Fellowship, formerly Moscow UMC, 300 Main Street, Moscow, Kansas. Burial will take place at Moscow Cemetery, Moscow, Kansas.

Eldora Louise Kleysteuber passed away peacefully on September 26, 2026, at The Cottages in Garden City, Kansas. She was born on March 23, 1922, in Great Bend, Kansas, to Albert S. Ardery and Edna Jane Coffee. Eldora grew up in Haskell County, Kansas, where she attended the East Banner one-room schoolhouse. Along with her sisters, she often rode horseback to school after helping milk the cows.

Funeral Service will be at 2:00 PM Saturday at Bible Christian Church in Garden City with Rev Brian Faust officiating. Burial will be in Valley View Cemetery in Garden City. Friends may call from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM Friday at Garnand Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers memorials are suggested to Western Kansas Community Foundation in care of Garnand Funeral Home. Condolences may be posted at www.garnandfuneralhomes

GAMES

S	R	U	O	H	E	L	K	H	A	R	T	N	A
S	O	I	V	A	K	A	S	N	N	N	O	L	A
L	L	C	N	S	O	S	A	O	O	T	N	S	R
I	L	C	K	K	U	R	O	T	R	N	O	E	K
B	A	H	S	E	L	N	M	O	G	M	R	S	A
E	I	R	O	L	N	A	M	G	L	O	R	S	N
R	H	E	S	L	T	O	O	U	I	S	A	Y	S
A	T	N	A	N	C	M	T	H	S	C	M	L	A
L	G	R	A	N	T	O	S	L	T	O	I	U	S
H	O	T	N	O	N	N	M	Y	I	W	C	G	R
E	A	L	A	K	I	N	A	B	A	M	C	B	I
S	L	C	S	R	Y	N	R	A	E	K	A	Y	V
A	E	S	U	C	A	R	Y	S	S	S	L	H	E
A	S	E	O	E	S	T	A	N	T	O	N	M	R

Can you Find the 20 Words?

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

Riddle Me This

I have shoulders but no arms,
lanes but no swimmers,
and exits but no doors.

What am I?

ICE Operations Sweep Region

By: Tyler Hook

Late in the evening of September 21, reports began making their way across social media that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents had been seen in and around Garden City. Before long came reports of large transport buses, transit vans and federal personnel being spotted elsewhere across Southwest Kansas.

By the following day, it was evident that this was not an isolated operation. Federal immigration enforcement activity was taking place across a broad portion of the region, touching communities large and small and bringing one of the nation's most divisive political issues directly into the streets, workplaces and homes of Southwest Kansas.

On September 22, large aircraft arrived at Garden City Regional Airport. Videos circulated showing buses and individuals being escorted toward aircraft by federal personnel. One of the details that stood out in those images was how ordinary many of the people appeared. Some seemed to still be dressed for work, a small detail that illustrated the suddenness with which the events of the week unfolded.

For many residents, particularly within the region's Latino population, the immediate result was fear.

Businesses closed or operated with reduced staffs. Some employees stayed home rather than risk traveling to and from work. Parents worried about sending children to school. Rumors traveled quickly from one community to another as residents attempted to determine where federal agents were operating and whom they were seeking.

Schools throughout the region found themselves dealing



On September 23, 2026 A Large Crowd Gathered in Ulysses to Protest of the ICE Operations throughout the Region

Courtesy Photo

with circumstances far beyond the ordinary concerns of education. Some issued statements recognizing that immigration enforcement could directly affect students and their families. In many households, immigration status is not uniform. A child may be an American citizen while a parent is not. One member of a family may be a citizen, another a permanent resident and another may have an unresolved immigration case.

Suddenly, questions that usually belong to the national political debate became very personal ones: Who picks up the children if a parent does not return home? Who is authorized to care for them? Where has a detained family member been taken? What happens to a household when one of its wage earners disappears without warning?

As reports spread, some of the initial frustration was directed toward local sheriffs, police departments and governments. Yet local officials

themselves were largely caught by surprise.

On September 23, officials in Dodge City, Garden City and Liberal said their governing bodies and law enforcement agencies had not received advance notice of the increased federal immigration enforcement. In many instances, local officials were learning about the operation through the same social media posts and community reports as everyone else.

The situation at the Finney County Fairgrounds became an example of that disconnect. Federal personnel had used the grounds for buses and staging, but fairgrounds officials said they had not initially been informed of the specific purpose for which the property would be used.

"The Finney County Fairgrounds understands that the presence of federal agents in a facility that serves as a gathering place for our community may understandably raise concerns among residents," the

fairgrounds said in a statement.

Officials said that after learning what was taking place, they asked the federal personnel to vacate the property Tuesday morning for the safety of the community. According to the statement, they complied and had left by late Tuesday evening.

It is important to understand the limits of local authority in a situation such as this. ICE is a federal agency. A county sheriff, police chief, mayor or county commissioner cannot simply order a federal immigration operation to stop. Whatever opinions residents may have about what occurred, many of the decisions were being made well beyond Southwest Kansas.

That lack of local coordination nevertheless drew concern from Kansas' U.S. senators.

Sen. Jerry Moran said he had been "stressing the importance of DHS working with our local law enforcement to safely execute these warrants." Sen. Roger Marshall similarly stated, "When ICE operates in Kansas, it needs to coordinate with our local law enforcement. Our sheriffs and police know these communities better than anyone, and working together keeps officers and residents safe."

As the operation continued into September 24, reports of federal activity extended into agricultural facilities, including dairies, while residents in communities across the region reported encounters with or sightings of federal agents.

Some U.S. citizens also reported being stopped and questioned. Those accounts contributed to fears among Latino residents that people were being approached because of their appearance or

Printing

Continued from Page 1

crop, teachers opening classroom doors, students carrying the names of their hometowns onto fields and courts, and business owners taking another chance on Main Street. It is found in our hospitals, churches, fire stations, county meetings, fairs, feedyards and machine sheds. These stories may never become national news, but here, they matter.

That is what we want SWKS News to be about. Our goal is to maintain high-quality journalism in Southwest Kansas while putting a modern outlook on traditional newspaper coverage. There will be serious stories, difficult questions, government meetings, agriculture, business and the issues affecting our livelihoods. But there should also be photographs of kids holding ribbons, wedding anniversaries, centennial farms, new businesses, Friday-night football and stories about the ordinary people doing the quiet work that keeps our communities moving.

A newspaper done properly is much more than words printed on paper.

It is a community talking to itself.

Our nation's founders understood the importance of a free press in allowing people to exchange ideas, question authority, disagree openly and understand the world around them. That responsibility remains today, perhaps even more so in an age when information moves faster than our ability to consider it.

There is tremendous power in putting words onto a page, and that power should never be handled carelessly. Good journalism should make people feel, think and occasionally see something familiar through different eyes. It should pre-

serve stories that might otherwise disappear and give readers something worth carrying with them after they turn the page. Above everything else, it should seek the truth, even when that truth is complicated.

history and the people of the High Plains. I have watched our communities succeed, struggle, change and repeatedly find ways to move forward. I believe Southwest Kansas has a future worth investing in,

the success of the community is personal. A story about a student, farmer, business, family or community event matters even when nobody beyond Southwest Kansas recognizes the names involved.

We know them. That's enough.

But this newspaper cannot become what I envision through the efforts of one person. Send us the photograph. Tell us about the anniversary. Let us know about the student who accomplished something remarkable, the neighbor who deserves recognition, the business opening its doors or the piece of local history in danger of disappearing. Tell us about the difficult issues, too. And when we get something wrong, tell us that. A community newspaper should never simply speak at its readers; it should listen to them.

My hope is that years from now someone can open an old volume of SWKS News and find an honest record of who we were—the victories and losses, droughts and harvests, businesses that opened, landmarks that disappeared, championships won, debates we had, people we welcomed and those we said goodbye to. All those seemingly small moments, bound together, become the story of a generation.

Someday, today's news will become tomorrow's history. We intend to make sure ours is written down.

This is the beginning of SWKS News: locally owned, locally produced and dedicated to the communities of Southwest Kansas. There are thousands of stories scattered across this corner of the state waiting to be told. With your help, we are going to tell them.

Welcome to SWKS News

— Enjoy!



One can only imagine what the early Pioneers thought when they arrived in the Western reaches of Kansas all those years back. I consider myself fortunate to come from a long line of people who put their hands to use and made it work. It is this hard work and perseverance I intend to bring to SWKS News.

(Top)- My Moore Side of the Family stacking hay in 1941 taken by Irving Rusinow (Bottom)- One of my favorite times of year Wheat Harvest Taken by Tyler Hook



My name is Tyler Hook, and while SWKS News may be new, my connection to this region is not. My family's roots stretch through generations of Western Kansas history, and I have spent years writing about agriculture, industry,

and I believe its story deserves to be told by people invested in that future.

That is why local ownership matters. When the people responsible for a newspaper live here, work here, shop here and travel these same highways,

Connecting The Communities Of SWKS

By: Tyler Hook

Anyone who has heard a Pioneer Communications advertisement about a farmer stringing wire along fence posts may recognize the image: one neighbor finding a way to reach another across miles of prairie. In the Big Bow community, that idea has a local history. Long before telephone service reached every farmstead, neighbors built a line of their own.

The story begins in the 1910s, when homes in the area were separated by long stretches of open country. Christian Schweikhard, a farmer living in the Sand Arroyo Creek area, set to work connecting his house to the farmstead of his neighbor, John Jones. It was a practical answer to isolation. A conversation that once required a trip across the prairie could now travel along a wire.

The first connection did



*Members of the Big Bow Community at Pilgrim Holiness Church
Tyler Hook Family Photo*

not remain a line between two households. Other farms joined, and the neighbors' barbed-wire party-line system eventually grew to 21 miles. Each addition brought another household within reach. The line also extended about half a mile to a farm in Grant County, giving rise to the local claim that it was the "world's smallest two-county line."

For the families who used

it, the value of the system was more than novelty. A shared line let neighbors pass along news, check on one another and call for help without making the journey in person. It depended on the people it served, who had taken the initiative to build a connection where none had been provided.

Eventually, the Big Bow line gained a connection beyond its circle of farms

through the Border Telephone Company in Johnson. By then, rural telephone service across Southwest Kansas was changing. Pioneer Telephone Association formed in 1950, and the company's history records plans in 1955 to serve a newly created Big Bow exchange. According to local accounts, Pioneer's lines replaced the aging neighborhood system in 1958.

The old party line is gone, but its beginning remains a remarkable part of Big Bow's history. Schweikhard and Jones did not wait for a company to connect them. They started with two homes, a wire and a willingness to work together. Over time, their neighbors carried that connection across miles of prairie — and even across a county line.

Pumpkin Paradise To Return In 2027

Families planning a fall trip to Pumpkin Paradise will have to wait another year. The pick-your-own pumpkin patch and corn maze northeast of Sublette has announced it will not open for the 2026 season after its pumpkin crop failed.



full-time farmer, plants more than 100 varieties of pumpkins, gourds and squash each year and designs the maze himself.

The family says it is already looking ahead to 2027, with ideas that include new playground games. In their

Owners Steve and Janet Weidner said heat and drought kept the plants from producing pumpkins. "We are so disappointed!" they wrote in their announcement. It is only the second crop

failure the family has experienced since opening Pumpkin Paradise in 2002.

The attraction began when the Weidner family turned Steve's pumpkin-growing

hobby into a half-acre pumpkin patch and half-acre corn maze open to the public. Over the years, it grew to 12 acres of pumpkins and produce and a four-acre maze. Steve, a fourth-generation

message to visitors, the Weidners thanked the people who have made Pumpkin Paradise a fall tradition: "You are the reason we love what we do!"

ICE

Continued from Page 3

ethnicity. Such allegations deserve careful distinction from established fact; at the time of this writing, the full criteria used in individual stops and the complete immigration or criminal status of everyone detained had not been publicly documented.

That uncertainty became one of the defining characteristics of the week.

Rumor frequently traveled faster than verified information. A photograph, Facebook post or secondhand account could make its way across several counties before anyone knew precisely what had happened. Some of those reports were subsequently confirmed. Others remained difficult to verify.

In circumstances like these, both residents and newspapers have an obligation to recognize the difference.

By Wednesday and Thursday, the effects were beginning to extend beyond individual households.

Drovers reported disruption in the regional cattle industry as workers stayed home and cattle shipments were delayed. USDA estimated Wednesday's cattle harvest at 94,000 head, about 8,000 fewer than the previous week. Industry organizations reported workforce disruptions affecting processors, feedyards, dairies, grain companies and transportation.

It would be misleading to say that all 8,000 head were lost solely because of ICE activity; several factors can affect daily slaughter totals. But the disruption demonstrated how closely immigration and agriculture have become connected in this region.

That relationship did not develop overnight.

Hispanic influence on the Great Plains predates the modern political boundaries themselves. Later, as commercial

feedyards, meatpacking plants, dairies and intensive agriculture expanded across Southwest Kansas, those industries developed an enormous demand for labor.

Much of that labor came from immigrants.

Some followed the legal immigration process, eventually becoming permanent residents and American citizens. Some arrived through refugee or humanitarian programs. Others entered the country without authorization or remained after visas expired.

Regardless of how they arrived, something happened over the passing decades that cannot be overlooked: many stopped simply being newcomers.

They became neighbors.

They bought homes and opened businesses. Their children attended local schools and played on local athletic teams. They joined churches. They became nurses, teachers, business owners, agricultural workers and community leaders. Children became parents and parents became grandparents.

The story of immigration in Southwest Kansas gradually became part of the story of Southwest Kansas itself.

Yet recognizing that history does not eliminate the difficult question at the center of the debate.

The United States has immigration laws.

Many Americans believe strongly that those laws must be enforced. Their argument is straightforward: if a person entered or remained in the country unlawfully, there must eventually be consequences or the legal immigration system loses meaning. They also point toward immigrants who spent years completing paperwork, paying fees, attending hearings and waiting for permission to enter or remain in the United States legally.

That argument deserves to be heard.

There is another argument that deserves to be heard as well.

Many undocumented immigrants have lived in American communities for years or even decades. They have worked, paid taxes, raised children and built lives here. Some have American-born children who are U.S. citizens. Supporters of immigration reform ask what justice should look like when enforcing the law means separating those families or removing someone who has spent most of his or her adult life in the United States.

Neither question has an easy answer.

Even determining how many undocumented people live in Kansas is difficult. The Migration Policy Institute estimates that approximately 87,000 unauthorized immigrants lived in Kansas in 2023, but that category itself includes people in several different circumstances. What cannot responsibly be established is the locally repeated claim that one out of every five residents in communities such as Liberal, Dodge City or Garden City is undocumented. Reliable data simply does not support stating such a number as fact.

That distinction is especially important during a week like this one.

Hispanic does not mean undocumented.

Latino does not mean undocumented.

Immigrant does not mean undocumented.

A person's surname, accent, occupation or skin color does not tell us his or her citizenship status.

Perhaps underneath everything that happened this week lies an uncomfortable contradiction America has wrestled with for generations.

For decades, this country has argued about immigration while simultaneously depending upon immigrant labor.

Agriculture has depended

upon it. Meatpacking has depended upon it. Construction, hospitality and numerous other industries have depended upon it. Businesses received workers, consumers received products and communities received new residents.

At the same time, the United States has struggled to build an immigration system capable of balancing the demand for labor, border security, humanitarian obligations, family unity and a reasonable legal pathway for those wishing to work and live here.

We can acknowledge that immigration laws matter.

We can acknowledge that national borders matter.

And we can acknowledge that the human beings caught within that system matter.

Those ideas do not have to be mutually exclusive.

Perhaps that is what becomes difficult when a national political argument suddenly arrives on our doorstep.

From Washington, immigration is discussed in millions: millions of border encounters, millions of immigrants, millions of visas and billions of dollars.

In Southwest Kansas this week, immigration looked more like an empty chair at the supper table.

It looked like a child whose parent might not come home.

It looked like a business without enough employees to open.

It looked like cattle waiting to be shipped.

It looked like a citizen wondering why he or she had been questioned.

It looked like a local police officer being asked to explain an operation his department did not plan.

And it also looked like a federal officer carrying out laws and orders established far above his own position.

Public policy may be written in statutes, regulations and

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Hemp

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That trip illustrates a practical question for any new crop: growing it is only one step. A producer also needs a buyer and a workable route from field to market.

Hemp can be processed into a range of products. Its stalk contains fibers that can be used in paper, textiles and insulation, while hemp grown for seed can supply grain and oil. The variety a farmer plants, the way it is harvested and the market it serves all matter.

Its potential in Southwest Kansas comes with an important qualification. Hemp may withstand difficult con-

ditions, but it is **not a crop that grows without water.**

A 2026 Kansas State University study found that hemp's water use was similar to that of other crops grown in the central Great Plains. However as Bowker noted even with shutting down the irrigation well the hemp didn't have any problems waiting on water as it stayed Green and alive.

How hemp performs on any one farm will depend on rainfall, available soil moisture, the variety grown and the yield a buyer requires. But it gives a welcomed flexibility to moisture.

That makes Bowker's crop an experiment worth watching, rather than an answer to

the region's water problem. Its value to the operation will depend on production costs, harvest and hauling expenses, and what the processed material brings. Those are the same hard calculations farmers make when considering any alternative to an established crop.

Southwest Kansas agriculture has changed before, and its next chapter is unlikely to rest on a single plant. However field's such as Bowker's shows what that future may look like in practice: a farmer willing to try a new crop, follow it through harvest and processing, and see whether it earns a lasting place in the rotation.



This Week's Edition of the Elkhart Tri-State News was special due to the fact that it was published on Hemp Paper. Interestingly enough printing on Hemp Paper dates back to the Gutenberg Bibles!

executive decisions, but its consequences arrive one human being at a time.

By Thursday evening, residents gathered in communities including Liberal and Ulysses to publicly express their opposition to the week's immigration operations. Elsewhere were people who supported the enforcement, believing that immigration laws are meaningless if the government is unwilling to enforce them.

Those disagreements are real, and they will not disappear when the federal vehicles leave Southwest Kansas.

But there is something else worth remembering.

There is a difference between believing immigration laws should be enforced and assuming every Hispanic person is unlawfully in this country.

There is a difference between opposing the manner in which an enforcement operation is conducted and condemning every officer assigned to carry it out.

There is a difference between disagreement and hatred.

And there is a difference

between justice and vengeance.

Perhaps an old piece of Scripture offers some wisdom particularly suited for a moment like this:

***"Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath."* — James 1:19**

The verse does not tell us what America's immigration policy should be. It does not answer questions about border security, deportation, asylum or citizenship.

Instead, it tells us something about how we should treat one another while we attempt to answer them.

Eventually the federal vehicles will leave.

The aircraft will depart. The social media posts will slow. National attention will move somewhere else. Businesses will reopen and schools will settle back into familiar routines.

But the people who lived through this week will remain.

We will meet one another in grocery stores. Our children will sit beside one another in classrooms. We will work together in packing plants, dairies, hospitals, restaurants, oil

fields, feedyards, farms and businesses. We will sit together at ball games and county fairs. We will worship together. Someday, we will attend one another's weddings and funerals.

Whatever conclusions each of us reaches about immigration policy, those relationships remain.

Law matters. Citizenship matters. Due process matters. Public safety matters. Economic stability matters.

Human dignity matters, too.

One does not have to erase the others.

The courts will determine individual immigration cases. Federal officials will determine how immigration laws are enforced. Congress and presi-

dents will continue debating what America's immigration system ought to look like.

Most of those decisions will be made far away from the people standing on Main Street in Garden City, Liberal, Ulysses, Johnson, Rolla or dozens of other communities across Southwest Kansas.

But one decision remains entirely our own.

When all of this is over, **how will we treat the person standing beside us?**

Perhaps, when the buses are gone and the arguments have quieted, the answer to that question will say more about our communities than anything that happened this week.

Are you or your business looking for a time tested & proven method for Advertisement or Job Listings reach out to SWKS News today, Deadline is Friday's at 5 PM!

Newspaper Advertising is a Quiet Thing.... It Only Makes Noise Around The Cash Register.

Make a Quiet Investment Every Week...You'll be Able to Stand the Noise!

Grant County Fall Fest October 3rd

The Grant County Chamber of Commerce will host Fall Fest on Saturday, Oct. 3, along Main Street in Ulysses. The daylong celebration is scheduled to run from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m., with food, shopping, games and activities for all ages.

Safety Fest begins at 10 a.m., alongside a Touch-A-Truck event that runs until 2 p.m. Other daytime activities include axe throwing from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., games, a cornhole competition and a Tiger egg hunt at 3 p.m. Children taking part in the hunt should bring a basket or bag.

The Fall Fest Car Show will be held from 3 to 7 p.m. and will welcome cars, trucks, motorcycles and side-by-sides. Food trucks and vendors will be on hand throughout the festival, and Knights of Columbus Council 5781 plans to serve brats and burgers.

The evening will close with a free Main Street concert by Jake Gill from 7 to 10 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring a lawn chair and a jacket. For more information, contact the Grant County Chamber of Commerce at 620-356-4700.



Grant County Fall Fest & Safety Fest 2025

See the Get Ulysses Facebook page to stay up to date with the happenings and events!

Satanta Fall Fest October 3rd

Satanta Fall Fest will bring an evening of shopping, food and community gathering to Apache Park on Saturday, Oct. 3. The event is scheduled from 5 to 8 p.m. at 500 Arapahoe in Satanta.

The vendor lineup includes handmade crafts, clothing, candles, jewelry, home goods and other gifts. Visitors will also find a range of food and drinks, including

Mexican dishes, burgers, baked goods, ice cream and sweets.

With dozens of vendors listed, Fall Fest offers a chance to enjoy an evening out while supporting local makers, small businesses and food vendors. The event's invitation sums it up simply: "Shop • Eat • Celebrate."

VENDOR DIRECTORY

FOOD • DRINKS • HANDMADE GOODS

Abide & Bloom Candles • self-care • gifts • foods	Hollys Crochet & Cross Stitch Crochet items • cross-stitch keychains	OH MY!! Creations Apparel • drinkware • bags • hats • gifts
Adriana's Handcraft Hair bows	House of Hornes Houseplants • décor	Picosita Chamoy • pickles • pistachios • miché mix
B's Blooms Houseplants & More Houseplants • plant accessories	Inspired by You Boutique Ladies' clothing	Polar Ice Cream Ice pops
Bake & Bloom Sourdough goods	J's Sip N Slurp Dirty sodas • energy • coffee Matcha • lemonades • green tea	Prickly Pear Acres Tallow balm
Berry Balance Acai bowls	Jem's Boutique Dresses and Accessories Dresses • squishy trenes • cups • purses	Punky Grace Creations Tumblers • can glasses • bags • accessories
Books and Blessings Boutique Gifts • books • apparel	Johnson's Enjoy Coffee and More Food and beverage truck	Rheagan Witt Pickles • charcuterie • desserts
Chucherias Mexicanas Snacks Spiral potatoes • esquites • chips	Josie's Flautas y Mas Flautas and more	Ridley's Bead and Squishy Stand Beaded items • squishy toys
Creations by Ardis & Co Potholders • toppers • crocheted scrubbies	Kaben Kandles Candles • wax melts • car diffusers • sprays	Rojitas Chihuahua Mexican food
Crumb and Company Cakes!	KB Pastries Aguas frescas • horchata • fresas con crema	Sara Fehr Variety of breads
Cutting Corners Crafts formerly Outnumbered Creations Sewn crafts	L's Cookies Guadalupe Robledo Cookies • cinnamon rolls • banana bread	Sinaloa en tu Mesa Quesadillas
Doerksen Girls Quick breads • spicy pretzels • cake pops	Lalas Catering Aguas frescas	Sip & Swirl LLC Lemonades • limeades • infusions • acai
Easy Street Treats Trelawney & Ainsley Horinek Hot meals	Lesley Funko Pops • anime items	Soto Salsa Salsa
Elotes El Fuereño Elotes • chicharrines • Tosti-elotes • raspados	Linda Keeney Crochet items	The Sweet Spot Cake pops • poke cakes • Dubai tier cakes
España Accessories Tumblers • keychains • purses • 3D prints	Lz's 3D Prints 3D-printed items	Tia's Kitchen Sofia Salas Mexican food
Fizzy Lemonade & Dirty Soda Lemonades & dirty sodas	Made by Tati Bag charms • phone charms • bead bar	Wagon Wheel Food trailer
Flautas on the Go Flauta cups with toppings	Mama Hen's Kitchen Baked goods	Wyldflour Bakery Sourdough • baked goods • wood goods
Freshies Factory Leticia Rodriguez Car fresheners • diffusers • sprays	Mary's Boutique Maria Eulenia Colorado Jewelry • crochet flowers • keychains	Yummy Yum Burgers • hot dogs • shawarmas • mocktails
G&H Personalized Designing Drinkware • apparel • home decor		

Thank You For Reading the first Edition of the SWKS News, we hope you enjoyed it and look forward to your continued patronage!

Sincerely,

Tyler Hook - Publisher

MORTON COUNTY Chamber of Commerce

On October 3rd the Morton County Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Golf Tournament Fundraiser. They are seeking 3 Person Teams with an entry fee set at \$300 per team. There will be a shotgun start at 10 AM. A Meal is provided, Hole Prizes will be given, and Mulligans are available.