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SWKS News

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New Development To Reshape Energy Sector

By: Tyler Hook

A major energy development taking shape across Finney and Kearny counties could represent one of the more significant infrastructure investments proposed for Southwest Kansas in recent years. Known as Home Range Clean Power, the project would combine wind turbines, solar generation, battery energy storage and natural gas-fired power generation into a coordinated energy development. Behind the proposal is Triple Oak Power, an energy development company working with local landowners and county officials as the project moves through planning, permitting and regulatory reviews. The development has also attracted interest because of discussions involv-



Logo Courtesy of Home Range Clean Power FB

ing a potential large-scale data center in the region.

The project began in 2021 as a wind energy development but has since expanded to incorporate several methods of electricity generation.

According to the developer, the combination is intended to provide power from multiple sources while addressing growing electricity demands. Wind and solar facilities

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Kansas Election Draws National Attention

By: Tyler Hook

With the November 3 general election approaching, Kansas voters are preparing to decide several closely watched races that could influence both state government and the balance of power in Washington. Among the most closely followed contests are Republican U.S. Senator Roger Marshall's reelection campaign against Democrat Adam Hamilton and the race between Republican Ty Master-son and Democrat Cindy Holscher to succeed term-limited Governor Laura Kelly. Alongside these contests, voters will decide congressional

and statewide offices, legislative seats and a proposed constitutional amendment concerning voter qualifications.

The U.S. Senate race has attracted particular attention because Kansas has not elected a Democrat to the Senate since 1932, when George McGill won election during Franklin D. Roosevelt's first presidential campaign. McGill remained in office until 1939, making him the last Democrat to represent Kansas in the Senate. Nearly 94 years have passed since that election, although recent polling indicates a considerably narrower contest than Marshall faced

during his first Senate victory in 2020, when he defeated Democrat Barbara Bollier by approximately 11 percentage points.

Polling conducted during September and October has shown Marshall and Hamilton separated by only a few percentage points. A September Emerson College survey placed Hamilton at 45% and Marshall at 43%, with Libertarian David Graham receiving 4% and another 8% undecided. An October New York Times/Siena survey also indicated a closely divided elec-

See Election, Page 4

Death Notices

With hearts breaking, we announce the passing of **Edward Lee Dowell** (76) with his wife, daughter and son by his side. He courageously fought a short battle with an aggressive, incurable cancer.

Services will be held in two places. On November 7, 2026 at Tecumseh, KS just East of Topeka. The Celebration of Life will be held at the Tecumseh Methodist Church from 2-4pm, located at 334 SE Tecumseh Rd. On Nov 14, 2026, a service will be held at New Beginnings Church in Ulysses, KS at 11am

Marsha Lynne (McNaught) Golay, 76, died Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at her home in Garden City, Kansas. She was born July 19, 1950, in Garden City, the daughter of Carl & Marian (Morphett) McNaught.

A lifetime resident of Garden City, Marsha attended Garden City schools, graduating from Garden City High School in 1968. She then attended and graduated from Garden City Junior College where she played in the pep band and jazz band. On August 7, 1971, she married Kenneth R. Golay in Garden City.

A Funeral Service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 28, 2026, at the Presbyterian Church in Garden City with Rev. Doris Evans officiating. Burial will follow at Valley View Cemetery in Garden City. Friends may call from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday at Garnand Funeral Home in Garden City. The family will be at the funeral home on Tuesday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to visit with friends. The family suggest memorials given to the Darin Golay Memorial Scholarship Fund or to the Presbyterian Church Utility Fund, both in care of Garnand Funeral Home, 412 N. 7th St., Garden

City, Kansas 67846.

Timothy (Tim) Russell Geary, 67, passed away on October 18, 2026. Tim was a man of few words, but his strength, determination, and unwavering grit spoke volumes. He lived life on his own terms, stood firmly in his beliefs, and never backed down from what he felt was right.

A celebration of Tim's life will be held during the summer of 2027, bringing family and friends together to honor his memory and the legacy he leaves behind. Additional details regarding the date, time, and location will be announced at a later date. Memorial contributions may be given to Tim Geary Memorial Fund in care of Garnand Funeral Home, PO Box 715, Johnson, KS 67855. Condolences may be posted at www.garnandfuneralhomes.com.

Kelly "Shanon" Perry, of Hugoton, Kansas, passed away on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, in Hugoton at the age of 56.

He was born on March 4, 1970, in Hugoton to Wilmer Clarence and LaDonna Kay (Blackburn) Perry; he was a familiar and well-loved presence to many who knew him.

A memorial has been established to Pheasant Heaven Charities, in care of Robson Funeral Home, PO Box 236, Hugoton, Kansas 67951

A visitation book signing will be held on Friday, October 23, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Robson Funeral Home, 314 South Van Buren Street, Hugoton, Kansas.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, October 24, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Church of God, Hugoton, Kansas, followed by inurnment at Hugoton Cemetery, Hugoton, Kansas.

Garland Mason, age 90, died, Monday, October 19, 2026, at Capstone Healthcare of Perryton, Perryton, Texas.

Born October 23, 1935, in Jenks, Oklahoma, to Murray Ezra and Ruby (Taber) Mason.

Graveside Service and burial will be Monday, October 26, 2026, at 2:00 PM at the Ulysses Cemetery, Ulysses, Kansas, with Pastor Bergan Morris officiating. Visitation will be Sunday, October 25 from 2:00 PM until 5:00 PM at Garnand Funeral Home. Memorials may be given to Donor's choice in care of Garnand Funeral Home, 405 W. Grant Ave., Ulysses, Kansas 67880. Condolences may be posted at www.garnandfuneralhomes.com.

Brent Richard McMillan was born on May 30, 1973, to Daniel & Nancy (Hoeme) McMillan and grew into a cherished son, brother, and friend to those lucky enough to know him.

Brent was called home on Saturday, October 10, 2026, surrounded by his family and friends at St. Francis Hospital in Wichita, Kansas, after a brief illness.

Funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 22, 2026, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Garden City with Pastor Daniel Kinley officiating. A graveside service will be held at 2:00 p.m. Central Time, also on Thursday, October 22, at the Kendall Cemetery in Kendall,

Kansas. Friends may call from Noon to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday at Garnand Funeral Home in Garden City. The family suggest memorials given to Trinity Lutheran Church in care of Garnand Funeral Home, 412 N. 7th St., Garden City, Kansas 67846.

Kathryn Dell (Hatcher) Reiss, age 98, passed away peacefully on October 12, 2026. Kathryn was born on September 2, 1928, in Chat-ham, Mississippi, to Robert and Mabel Hatcher. Kathryn's family moved to a farm north of Kismet, Kansas when she was 2 years old.

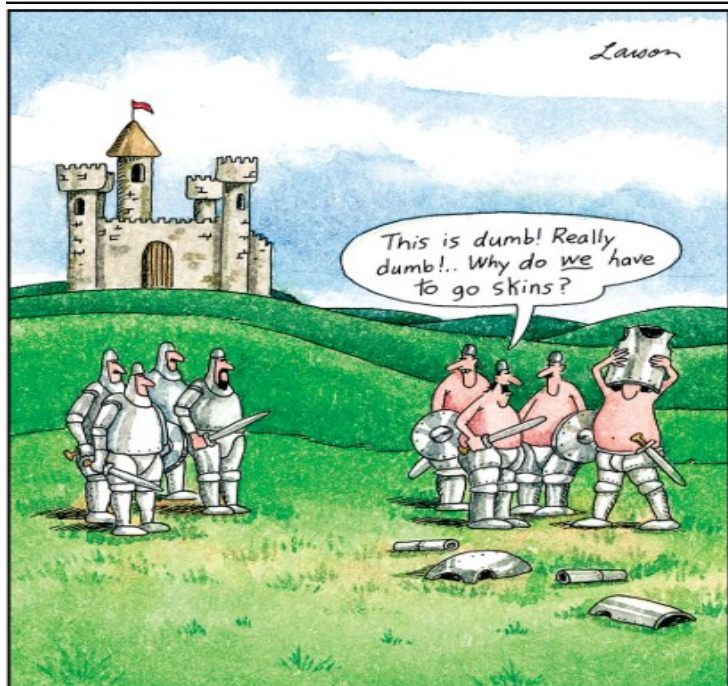
She attended school in Kismet where she met her future husband, Gerald Reiss. They both graduated in 1946 and attended Kansas State University. Kathryn and Gerald married in 1948 and moved back to Kismet to farm.

Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, October 24 at 10:00 AM at the Kismet Methodist Church, 806 Main Street, Kismet, Kansas. Pastor Buck Linton-Hendrick will be presiding.

Interment will follow at Restlawn Cemetery Liberal, Kansas.

Memorials can be made to Kismet Methodist Church or Mustang Farm Foundation in care of the Hornung Family Funeral Home, 1212 W. 2nd Street, Liberal, Kansas.

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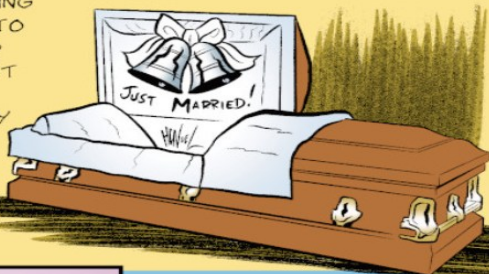
GAMES

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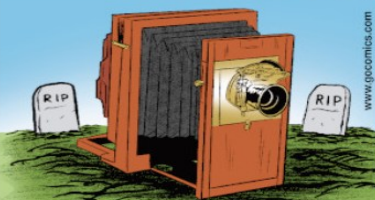
13 Types of Fruit

RIPLEY'S Believe It or Not!

AFTER THEIR WEDDING OFFICIANT FAILED TO SHOW, REAN AND ALEXIS WEBB GOT MARRIED AT A FUNERAL HOME BY ITS ORDAINED-MINISTER CO-OWNER.



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SUBMITTED BY
CHESTER TUMIDAJEWICZ,
AMSTERDAM, NY.

10-23

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

Sincerely,

Tyler Hook - Publisher

Angel

- Senior dog (in his golden years)
- Neutered male
- Enjoys walks and leisure time
- Needs to be an only dog

Ben

- 10 months old
- Shepherd mix
- Gets along with other dogs
- Enjoys playtime
- Calm and submissive

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for more information.

Election

Continued from Page 1

torate. While individual polls vary according to methodology and timing, the results illustrate the unusual competitiveness of this year's Senate contest.

Marshall, a physician and former congressman from western Kansas, has emphasized border security, conservative fiscal policies, economic development and his support for Republican priorities in Washington. Hamilton, a longtime Methodist pastor from the Kansas City area, has campaigned on healthcare affordability, agricultural concerns, immigration reform and reducing political division. During an October 21 debate, the candidates disagreed over the causes of rising diesel prices, federal spending and immigration policy. PolitiFact's subsequent review found that both candidates identified contributing factors in the diesel price increase, while several other economic and policy claims required additional context or correction.

For rural Kansas, agricultural operating expenses and healthcare have been particularly prominent in the Senate campaign. Hamilton has advocated changes to the H-2A agricultural guest-worker program, including provisions addressing year-round labor needs and legal status for existing workers. Marshall has emphasized federal measures intended to support rural hospitals, including funding provisions he argues will strengthen healthcare access. The candidates' disagreements over immigration, federal spending and healthcare policy provide voters with distinct approaches to issues affecting Kansas communities.

The governor's race is another major contest, with Republican Kansas Senate President Ty Masterson facing Democratic State Senator Cin-

dy Holscher. Governor Laura Kelly is prohibited from seeking a third consecutive term, leaving the office open. Both candidates have identified property taxes, education and economic development as priorities, although their proposals differ substantially.

Masterson has advocated limits on increases in local property tax collections, expanded parental choice in education and changes to how educational funding is distributed. Holscher has emphasized increasing state support for special education, arguing that inadequate state funding shifts expenses onto local school districts and taxpayers. She also supports Medicaid expansion, while Masterson favors adjustments to reimbursement rates and other healthcare financing measures rather than expanding eligibility under the federal program.

The candidates have also addressed the growing interest in large data centers and industrial energy development. Holscher has called for greater scrutiny of potential effects on electricity rates and water resources, while Masterson has emphasized local decision-making and ensuring developers bear their own energy costs. Both supported legislation providing certain tax exemptions for large data center projects, illustrating how economic development proposals can involve areas of agreement even when candidates differ over implementation and oversight.

An October 18–21 survey conducted by Global Strategy Group found Holscher and Masterson tied at 47% each, with 6% undecided among 600 likely voters. The pollster has primarily worked for Democrats, an important consideration when evaluating the findings. An earlier September Emerson College survey showed Masterson at 51% and Holscher at 44%, illustrating differences between surveys

taken at different points in the campaign.

Beyond the two major statewide contests, Kansas voters will also select representatives to the U.S. House. In the sprawling First Congressional District, which includes much of western Kansas, incumbent Republican Tracey Mann faces Democrat Lauren Reinhold and Libertarian Steven Jacob. In the Second District, Republican incumbent Derek Schmidt faces Democrat Don Coover and Libertarian John Hauer. Democratic incumbent Sharice Davids faces Republican Eric Jenkins in the Third District. Voters will also decide legislative and local races according to their districts.

Other statewide offices include attorney general, secretary of state, state treasurer and insurance commissioner. Republican Attorney General Kris Kobach faces Democrat Chris Mann, while the secretary of state's contest includes Republican Pat Proctor, Democrat Jennifer Day and United Kansas candidate Scott Morgan. Republican Steven Johnson, Democrat Juan Luengo and Libertarian Eric Lund are competing for state treasurer. The insurance commissioner contest includes Republican Daniel Hawkins, Democrat Dinah Sykes and Libertarian Ric Koehn. Kansas voters will also consider judicial retention questions, including two Kansas Supreme Court justices.

One issue appearing statewide is a proposed constitutional amendment concerning citizenship requirements for voting. The measure would change the Kansas Constitution to explicitly state that only United States citizens are eligible to vote in Kansas elections. Federal law already prohibits noncitizens from voting in federal elections, and Kansas law already establishes citizenship requirements. A vote in favor would add the explicit restriction to the state Constitu-

tion, while a vote against would retain the existing constitutional language.

Supporters argue that the amendment would strengthen and clarify voter eligibility protections by placing the citizenship requirement directly into the Constitution. Critics question its necessity because noncitizen voting is already prohibited and express concern that the amendment could provide justification for additional documentation requirements affecting eligible voters. The proposal itself does not establish a new documentary proof-of-citizenship procedure. Any future changes to registration or verification requirements would involve separate legislative or administrative action.

With economic pressures, agricultural concerns, healthcare access, taxation and voting laws among the issues under discussion, the November election presents Kansas voters with decisions reaching well beyond individual candidates. Advance voting began October 14, and Election Day is Tuesday, November 3. Voters can review their registration status, polling location and sample ballot through the Kansas Secretary of State's [VoterView system](#). As the campaigns enter their final days, the decisions made at the ballot box will determine the direction of Kansas government and its representation in Washington for years to come.

"I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend," - Thomas Jefferson April 22, 1800

BLOCK Grant To Transform Downtown Liberal

By: Tyler Hook

Downtown Liberal is preparing for a major transformation following the announcement of a \$500,000 grant from the Kansas Department of Commerce. The funding, awarded through the state's inaugural BLOCK grant program, will support redevelopment along the west side of the 200 block of Kansas Avenue, where aging storefronts and underutilized properties will receive improvements intended to attract businesses, encourage investment and create opportunities for community gatherings.

The City of Liberal announced the award October 24, describing the project as an important step toward revitalizing the historic downtown district. Plans include demolishing a large building to create a future outdoor community space suitable for public events, while four surrounding business facades will undergo extensive renovations. The project is being administered through the Seward County Development Corporation in cooperation with the city, property owners, contractors and design teams.

What makes the project particularly unusual is its accelerated construction schedule. Rather than completing renovations over several months, contractors will carry out facade improvements within two weeks using an "extreme makeover" approach. Considerable construction activity is expected along Kansas Avenue in the coming weeks, with the city anticipating a dramatically different appearance downtown by Christmas.

Liberal was selected from 15 applicant communities competing for the inaugural award. The program, formally known as Building Local Opportunity through Coordinated Kansas-Investment, or BLOCK, was created to

demonstrate how concentrating resources on several properties within a single downtown block could produce more noticeable results than renovating individual buildings separately. Kansas Commerce officials hope the pilot program will encourage private investment and provide a model for similar projects elsewhere in the state.

Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland announced the award October 23, emphasizing the importance of a community's appearance in attracting businesses and investment. State officials believe the condition of downtown commercial districts can influence how prospective business owners, investors and visitors perceive a community. The BLOCK initiative is intended to address deteriorating properties while strengthening the economic potential of traditional business districts.

Seward County Economic Development Director Eli Svaty expressed enthusiasm about the award and its potential benefits. He explained that several properties within the selected block have been vacant or underutilized for more than a decade, making substantial improvements necessary to restore their appeal. According to Svaty, the proposed redevelopment was already generating interest among prospective buyers and businesses before the grant application was completed.

"We had prospective buyers and new businesses come to the table ready to join this historic block while we were still in the process of writing our BLOCK application," Svaty said. "We haven't even picked

up a toolbox yet. That's how much excitement this project idea and program have already generated in our city."

That early interest is encouraging for development officials, who hope improvements

will extend beyond the buildings receiving renovations. By updating neighboring storefronts simultaneously, the project aims to create a more consistent and inviting

commercial environment. The planned outdoor gathering area could provide opportunities for celebrations, special events and activities that bring residents and visitors downtown.

Kansas Commerce Assistant Secretary of Quality Places Matt Godinez said Liberal distinguished itself through its readiness to coordinate property owners and community partners around a common redevelopment plan. The selection process considered community support, innovation, planning and the ability to complete improvements within the short construction period. Applicants were expected to demonstrate that property owners, contractors and financial partners were prepared to move forward.

The BLOCK program requires a one-to-one matching investment, meaning the \$500,000 state award must be supported by an equivalent amount of eligible contributions or investments. These may include qualifying public and private expenditures and certain documented in-kind contributions. The requirement is intended to encourage local participation and extend the impact of state funding.

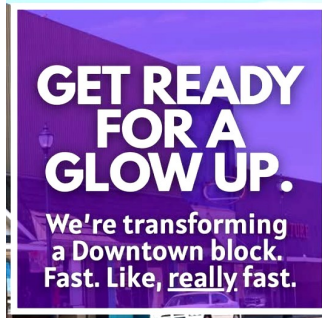
Under state requirements, the principal construction and rehabilitation work must be completed within 14 days,

with the overall transformation finished no later than December 15, 2026. Certain preparatory activities, including eligible demolition or sign removal, may occur beforehand, although work completed before the designated construction period cannot be reimbursed through BLOCK funds. The rapid timeline will require coordination among contractors, property owners and city officials.

Kansas Commerce plans to evaluate the Liberal project to determine whether the BLOCK approach could benefit other communities. Officials will examine implementation, property-owner participation, private investment, business activity and the overall physical transformation. Those findings could help shape future downtown revitalization programs, particularly where older commercial buildings have struggled to attract reinvestment.

For Liberal, the award presents an opportunity to address longstanding downtown property concerns through a coordinated effort. City officials thanked the Liberal City Commission, Seward County Development Corporation, participating property owners, contractors, designers and Kansas Commerce for helping bring the proposal together.

While the long-term economic effects will take time to measure, the immediate changes should become visible before year's end. For residents accustomed to the familiar storefronts along Kansas Avenue, the coming weeks promise a considerable transformation. Local leaders hope the investment will encourage additional businesses, property owners and residents to participate in the continued redevelopment of downtown Liberal.



Sam Wood: Helped Build Kansas And Died In Its' Last Frontier War



KSHS

From abolitionist and newspaper publisher to politician and frontier town builder, Samuel Newitt Wood lived a remarkable life that ended in violence on the streets of Hugoton.

By Tyler Hook

On the morning of June 23, 1891, a man who had helped shape Kansas from its earliest territorial days arrived in Hugoton to appear before the court. He had survived the violent struggle over slavery, served in the Civil War, helped write the laws of a new state and built a career that carried him into some of Kansas' most bitter political disputes. Yet, at 65 years old, Samuel Newitt Wood was about to meet a fate that would bring his extraordinary life to a sudden and bloody end.

Wood was born December 30, 1825, in Mount Gilead,

Ohio, to David and Esther Wood, a Quaker family deeply committed to abolition, temperance and social reform. His mother was an early advocate for women's voting rights, and young Samuel grew up surrounded by discussions of liberty and equality. By 19, he was already chairman of his county's Liberty Party committee, despite being too young to vote himself. He studied law, participated in the Underground Railroad and developed a reputation for standing firmly behind his convictions, regardless of the opposition.

In 1854, shortly after being admitted to the bar, Wood headed west into the newly organized Kansas Territory. The Kansas-Nebraska Act had opened the territory to settlement while allowing residents to determine whether slavery would be permitted. What followed became known as "Bleeding Kansas," a bitter and often violent struggle between proslavery and antislavery factions. Wood quickly became involved in the Free-State movement, helping escaped slaves and participating in the political efforts that eventually brought Kansas into the Union as a free state.

His activities frequently placed him in danger. Wood was arrested twice in connection with efforts to rescue antislavery prisoners, and his outspoken opposition to slavery

made him a recognizable figure in territorial politics. In 1856, he attended the national convention associated with the formation of the Republican Party. When Kansas achieved statehood in 1861, Wood was among those who had helped lay its political foundations.

But politics was only one part of his remarkable career. Wood was also a newspaper man.

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In 1859, he established the *Kansas Press* at Cottonwood Falls, later moving his publishing operations to Council Grove. A June 1, 1894, account in the *Council Grove Republican* recalled that Wood could produce enough editorial material for an entire week's newspaper in a single day. His wife, Margaret, managed the operation during his frequent absences, serving as business

manager, editor and proofreader. The account described her as exceptionally particular about accuracy, much to the frustration of printers operating the cumbersome hand presses of the era.

Wood's newspaper interests eventually extended across Kansas, including publications in Emporia, Topeka and the future Stevens County. He understood the power of the printed word in shaping public opinion, promoting settlements and influencing elections. His editorial work was closely connected to his political ambitions, and he rarely hesitated to use the press to advance a cause.

During the Civil War, Wood served with Union forces and rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel. His political career continued afterward, including service in both houses of the Kansas Legislature, a term as speaker of the House and an appointment as a district judge. He championed women's suffrage and other reforms, while his political affiliations evolved through several movements. Few men of his generation participated in so many different chapters of Kansas history.

By the middle 1880s, however, Wood had turned his attention toward the rapidly developing southwestern corner of the state. Stevens County was attracting settlers, specula-

Woodsdale, Kansas Courtesy of Hugoton Hermes



tors and businessmen eager to establish towns along the expanding frontier. Wood helped establish Woodsdale, a community intended to become the county seat. But a rival settlement, Hugoton, had ambitions of its own.

The struggle between Woodsdale and Hugoton soon became far more than an ordinary political disagreement. Control of the county seat meant government offices, commercial activity, influence and the prospect of long-term prosperity. Accusations of election manipulation, intimidation and corruption circulated between the rival factions. Each community developed supporters determined to defend its interests, and the conflict became increasingly personal.

Wood's arrival intensified the rivalry. In August 1886, supporters of Hugoton took him into custody under questionable circumstances and transported him into what is now Oklahoma. His disappearance was explained as a hunting excursion, but Woodsdale supporters organized a rescue party. The incident deepened existing hostilities and helped transform the county-seat dispute into a prolonged confrontation involving armed men, competing law officers and repeated legal proceedings.

The violence reached a horrifying level in July 1888, when Sheriff John Cross of Stevens County and several members of his party were killed in the area known as the Haymeadow Massacre, across the border in what is now Oklahoma. The killings brought national attention to the conflict. Subsequent trials, jurisdictional disputes and accusations of misconduct further divided the county. Wood remained a prominent figure in the controversy, particularly through his opposition to Judge Theodosius Botkin and his involvement in the legal proceedings surrounding the



killings.

By 1891, the hostility had become deeply entrenched. Wood was facing a bribery charge and was required to appear before the court in Hugoton on June 23. He traveled there accompanied by his wife and a Mrs. Carpenter. Court was being held in a church building, and Wood entered to examine records after proceedings had adjourned for the morning.

Outside, James Brennan was waiting.

According to a historical account published in the *Kansas Historical Quarterly*, Brennan approached Wood as he emerged from the building and shot him in the back. Wood attempted to flee around the corner, but Brennan followed and fired again. His wife and Mrs. Carpenter witnessed the attack. Wood was carried into the church, where he died shortly afterward.

The *Syracuse News*, reporting on June 27, 1891, described the shooting under the stark headline "Sam Woods Killed." The newspaper reported that three shots had been fired and that death was almost instantaneous. It also noted an unusual detail: Brennan refused to surrender to the Stevens County sheriff but gave himself up to Sheriff Weir of Morton County. He was subsequently taken to the Richfield jail for safekeeping.

The newspaper reported that Brennan had obtained the revolver from a buggy belonging to Sheriff Neumeyer. As for the motive, the article acknowledged that Brennan refused to talk. Later historical accounts connected the shooting to Wood's harsh criticism of Brennan's testimony during the Haymeadow murder trials. Wood's supporters, however, suspected a broader conspiracy. Such allegations were never conclusively established.

Brennan was arrested, but the divisions that had consumed Stevens County also

complicated the administration of justice. Efforts to assemble an impartial jury failed, and he was never successfully tried for Wood's killing.

In the aftermath, the *Syracuse News* described Wood's death as the end of a man whose violent fate many had anticipated, though not in the circumstances in which it occurred. The paper called him the "terror of southwest Kansas," a description reflecting the bitter reputation he had acquired among some of his contemporaries.

Yet that characterization tells only part of his story.

Samuel Newitt Wood had been an abolitionist, soldier, legislator, judge, publisher and advocate for political reform. He helped shape the institutions of Kansas while repeatedly placing himself at the center of its fiercest disputes. His ambition and determination contributed to both his accomplishments and the controversies that followed him.

Wood was buried in Chase County, far from the wind-swept southwestern plains where his life ended. Woodsdale eventually faded, while Hugoton endured as the county seat of Stevens County.

Today, the names and circumstances of the county-seat wars have largely disappeared from everyday conversation. Yet beneath the ordinary streets of Southwest Kansas lies a history of political ambition, fierce loyalty, violence and sacrifice.

And perhaps the greatest irony of Samuel Wood's life is that a man who survived the struggle to make Kansas a free state, helped establish its government and spent decades fighting for his beliefs would ultimately be killed in a dispute over where a county would conduct its business.

He helped build Kansas, but the unfinished struggles of its frontier helped bring about his death.



Energy

Continued from Page 1

would generate electricity when weather conditions permit, batteries would store electricity for later use, and natural gas turbines would provide additional generating capacity when needed. The developer says the project is intended to support long-term economic growth while providing new income opportunities for participating agricultural landowners.

One of the major components is the proposed Sherlock Solar project in Finney County. County documents describe a 400-megawatt commercial solar facility encompassing a proposed project area of approximately 6,150 acres in Township 25 South, Range 34 West. Alongside the solar development, Sherlock Energy Storage has proposed a 400-megawatt battery energy storage system capable of operating at full output for four hours. The battery facility would occupy approximately 54 acres and could store up to 1,600 megawatt-hours of electricity, allowing power generated earlier to be delivered when demand increases or other generation sources are less productive.

Another significant component is the proposed Sherlock Generation natural gas facility. Plans submitted to Finney County describe a 600-megawatt generating station occupying approximately 80 acres in Sections 3, 4 and 10 of Township 25 South, Range 34 West. The facility could incorporate up to 14 aeroderivative combustion turbines, along with electrical equipment, control systems, water treatment facilities, emissions controls and supporting infrastructure. Aeroderivative turbines, which use technology related to aircraft jet engines, can be brought online relatively quickly, making them useful for responding to changes in

electrical demand.

The natural gas project has also entered the state environmental review process. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has issued a public notice concerning a proposed air quality construction permit for Sherlock Generation. The review includes potential emissions of nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, particulate matter, volatile organic compounds, sulfur oxides and hazardous air pollutants. The public may submit written comments or request a hearing concerning the proposed permit, with submissions due by noon on October 26, 2026. The air permitting process is separate from county zoning approval and addresses applicable environmental requirements.

The scale of the development extends beyond electricity production. In a September project fact sheet, Triple Oak Power estimated more than \$2.5 billion in capital investment for the combined energy facilities, with a potential future data center representing another \$5 billion. The company projects more than 500 construction jobs over a two- to three-year period, followed by approximately 25 to 30 permanent positions associated with the energy facilities. Construction could also provide additional business for area contractors, equipment suppliers, restaurants, hotels and other service providers. These figures are developer projections rather than guaranteed economic outcomes.

The possibility of a future data center has become another important aspect of the proposal. Large data centers require substantial electrical capacity to operate computer servers, cooling equipment and supporting infrastructure. Home Range reports that it is in discussions with a major prospective energy customer considering the region for such a facility. However, the devel-

oper acknowledges that electricity sales have not yet been contracted, and the data center remains a possibility rather than a confirmed development. Its eventual construction would depend on additional business decisions, infrastructure arrangements and approvals.

Water consumption is another consideration in a region where declining groundwater supplies remain a longstanding concern. Triple Oak Power maintains that the proposed energy facilities and potential data center would collectively use less water than the irrigated agricultural operations currently occupying the property. The company says it is consulting with the Kansas Division of Water Resources, Kansas Geological Survey and Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3 regarding water management. The actual long-term water requirements will remain an important issue as project engineering and regulatory reviews progress.

The developer also anticipates financial benefits for local governments and educational institutions. Proposed agreements would provide annual payments to participating counties, while property tax revenues could support public services over the operating lives of the facilities. Triple Oak has additionally outlined plans to contribute nearly \$4 million over 30 years toward programs at Garden City Community College's Construction and Electrical Technology Center, including scholarships for students from Finney and Kearny counties. The final economic impact will depend on the facilities constructed, negotiated agreements and actual operating conditions.

Despite the project's potential size, several important steps remain before construction can proceed. Finney County's special use permit process examines land-use

compatibility, environmental considerations, road impacts, emergency preparedness and public safety. The Sherlock solar and battery proposals were considered earlier this year, while the natural gas project underwent Planning Commission review in August. County officials have emphasized that zoning consideration alone does not authorize construction and that additional permits, agreements and regulatory approvals are required.

Current planning materials anticipate construction beginning during the 2027–2029 period, with commercial operations potentially beginning around 2029. The natural gas facility alone is projected to require approximately 21 months of construction and have an anticipated operating life of 30 years. For Southwest Kansas, the proposal represents a potentially substantial addition to an economy historically centered on agriculture, livestock production and energy development. Whether the entire project ultimately takes shape remains to be determined, but its proposed scale has already placed Finney and Kearny counties at the center of discussions about the region's future electricity needs, land use and economic development.

Additional information about the development is available at homerangecclean-power.com. Public information concerning county permits is available through Finney County, while air quality permitting documents and public notices can be reviewed through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Fun Fact!

Kansas ranks #4 In the nation for installed Wind Energy Generation capacity!

In Due Time: Life By The Minutes, Hours, Days, and Years

By Tyler Hook

There is something peculiar about the way we measure our lives. We count the minutes until an appointment, the hours until a deadline, the days until something we have been waiting for finally arrives. We divide our existence into schedules, calendars and clocks, convincing ourselves that if we can just stay ahead of the hands, somehow we will stay ahead of life itself.

And yet, for all our careful planning, life has a remarkable way of reminding us that time does not belong to us.

The other day, while making newspaper deliveries across Southwest Kansas, I found myself in a familiar predicament. There were places to be, people to see and businesses that would soon be closing. I was watching the clock, calculating distances and mentally checking off each stop. Every minute seemed to matter, and every delay threatened to throw the entire afternoon off course.

Then came the unmistakable sound of a tire giving up.

A hole in the passenger-side tire brought my plans to an abrupt halt. There is never a particularly convenient time for a flat tire, but when you are already racing daylight and closing hours, it seems especially inconsiderate.

I pulled over, assessed the damage and went about installing the spare. There was some frustration, naturally. Not so much because of the tire itself, but because of the time it was taking away from everything I thought I needed to accomplish.

Eventually, I was back on the road. The schedule was tighter, but the day was still salvageable.

Thirty miles later, the tire on the opposite side shredded.

This time, there was no spare to reach for. No quick solution waiting in the back. Just a vehicle sitting still, a list of unfinished deliveries and a clock that continued moving whether I liked it or not.

For a few moments, I could think of little besides everything that was going wrong.

But sometimes the most important part of an interruption is what we discover after we stop fighting it.

As the afternoon unfolded and

the problems were eventually resolved, I began noticing something rather extraordinary. What had initially appeared to be a disastrous series of inconveniences had somehow worked itself into a sequence of remarkably fortunate circumstances.

Despite the delays, I caught the mail truck just in the nick of time. The tire shop happened to have the exact replacement tire I needed, not because it was something they ordinarily kept on hand, but because someone else had mistakenly ordered the wrong size.

A mistake made by a person I may never meet had become the solution to a problem neither of us knew I would have.

Even more remarkable, several days earlier I had arranged to be at certain places an hour later than I otherwise might have been. At the time, there was no particular significance to that decision. It was simply another detail in an ordinary schedule.

Now, that extra hour was precisely what I needed.

Individually, none of these circumstances seemed especially important. Together, they made me reconsider the entire afternoon.

I had spent so much energy worrying about the minutes I was losing that I nearly overlooked everything that had fallen into place.

It made me wonder how often we mistake an interruption for a failure simply because it does not fit the schedule we imagined.

We live in a world increasingly obsessed with immediacy. We expect answers in seconds, deliveries in days and results almost as soon as we begin working toward them. Technology has made much of life faster, but somewhere along the way, we seem to have developed the belief that faster must also mean better.

We grow impatient with progress that cannot be measured overnight. We become discouraged when opportunities arrive later than expected. We look at other people's accomplishments and wonder why our own lives seem to be running behind.

But behind according to whose clock?

A farmer can prepare the ground, plant the seed and tend the crop, but he cannot command

the rain or hurry the harvest. A mechanic can assemble every component correctly, but some problems reveal themselves only after the engine has run. A person can spend years preparing for an opportunity without knowing when, or even whether, the opportunity will arrive.

There are things we can control, things we can influence and things that will unfold in their own time regardless of our intentions.

Perhaps one of life's greatest frustrations comes from confusing the three.

That does not mean we should abandon our schedules, neglect our responsibilities or simply wait for circumstances to work themselves out. Time is valuable precisely because it is limited. Deadlines matter. Commitments matter. The people depending on us deserve our best efforts.

But there is a difference between respecting time and believing we can control it.

We can be punctual without being impatient. We can be ambitious without demanding that every ambition be fulfilled immediately. We can work diligently toward tomorrow without allowing tomorrow to steal our appreciation for today.

And perhaps most importantly, we can recognize that an unexpected delay is not necessarily wasted time.

Standing beside a disabled vehicle is hardly where most people would choose to contemplate life's larger questions. Yet there I was, reminded of how fortunate I really was. I had the ability to make repairs, people and businesses willing to help, and a solution that eventually presented itself. What could have become a much worse situation ended with little more than an inconvenient afternoon and a story worth telling.

There are people who would gladly trade their greatest problems for our smallest inconveniences. There are people whose schedules have been interrupted by circumstances far more serious than a flat tire. And there are countless ordinary blessings we overlook because they have become so familiar that we no longer recognize them as blessings.

None of this means that every

misfortune happens for a reason, or that every hardship will reveal some hidden benefit. Some things are simply difficult. Some losses cannot be repaired, and some delays carry consequences that no amount of optimism can erase.

But even when we cannot choose what happens, we often retain some choice in what we allow it to teach us.

Looking back, I cannot say whether the events of that afternoon were anything more than a remarkable collection of coincidences. I do know that the hour I thought I had lost became an hour that helped me see things differently.

I had been so focused on getting where I was going that I had forgotten to appreciate how much was already going right.

And that may be the greater lesson.

We spend so much of life waiting for the right time. The right time to begin, to change, to forgive, to take a chance or to finally enjoy what we have worked so hard to build. We imagine that somewhere ahead lies a moment when everything will be settled, the obstacles will disappear and life will proceed according to plan.

But perhaps that perfect moment is not waiting somewhere in the future.

Perhaps it is scattered throughout the ordinary inconveniences, unexpected kindnesses and small strokes of good fortune that make up the days we are living right now.

The clock will keep moving. Appointments will come and go. There will be more deadlines, more detours and, undoubtedly, more flat tires.

We ought to make good use of the time we are given, but we need not spend every minute racing against it.

After all, a clock can tell us what time it is.

It cannot tell us whether that time has been well spent.

And sometimes, the very thing that brings us to a complete standstill is what finally allows us to see just how far we have come.

Some things happen on time. Others happen in due time. And learning the difference may be one of the most valuable lessons life has to offer.

Two Ulysses Golfers Compete At State Tournament

By: Soila Ochoa

Ulysses High School sophomore Bella Kratzer and senior Natalia Guaderrama capped off their golf season by competing at the Class 4A State Golf Tournament on Oct. 19 at Turkey Creek Golf Course in McPherson, Kansas, after qualifying individually at regionals.

18th with a score of 106. Both golfers earned individual spots at state.

Other Ulysses golfers competing at regionals included Adileene Feldt and Emilina Orosco, who tied for 24th with scores of 111, Layla Eddie in 36th with a 122, and Isabella Wilson in 39th with a 129.

The Lady Tigers sent six golfers to the regional tournament on Oct. 12 at Wellington Golf Club in Wellington, Kansas. The team placed fourth overall with a season-best team score of 426.

At the state tournament, Kratzer finished 83rd with a score of 110, while Guaderrama placed 87th with a score of 119.

The Lady Tigers ended their season with a fourth-place regional finish and two individual state qualifiers.

Kratzer led Ulysses with a score of 98, placing 15th, while Guaderrama finished



The Ulysses High School girls golf team with coaches Jack Wolf and Whitey Summers at regionals Oct. 12 in Wellington, Kansas. Photos Courtesy of Paige Kratzer

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PET & SPOOK PARADE

OCTOBER 30
LIVE UP AT 4PM

KIWANIS	KIWANIS
Pet and Spook Parade 2026	Desfile de Mascotas y Fantasmas 2026
When: Halloween, October 30, 2026	Quando: Halloween, 30 de Octubre, 2026
Line up at 4:00 p. m., parade starts at 4:15 p. m.	Haga fila a las 4:00 p. m., el desfile comienza a las 4:15 p. m.
Where: START: line up & get treat coupon at the intersection of W. Trail St. and S. Lincoln Ave.	Dónde: COMIENZO: haga fila y obtenga un cupón en la intersección de W. Trail St. y S. Lincoln Ave.
END: Redeem treat coupon at Tobias Park	FIN: Entregue el cupón en el parque Tobias
Who: Everyone gets a treat bag if you get a coupon at the beginning of the parade!	Quién: Todos recibirán una bolsa de dulces si recibes un cupón al comienzo del desfile

★ **MUST HAVE A COUPON TO GET A TREAT BAG!!** ★

★ **DEBE TENER UN CUPÓN PARA OBTENER UNA BOLSA DE DULCES!!** ★



On Friday October 23rd Satanta Seniors and Kindergartners participated in a "Passing The Torch" event.

Courtesy of Satanta Grade School Facebook



Congratulations To Larry Davis who recently retired from Pioneer Electric Coop after 50 Years with the Coop!



Congratulations to Austin Seger of Johnson for placing 5th in the National FFA Division 3 Power, Structural, and Technical Systems pathway!

Send Us your News Tips, Photos, Birth Announcements, Community Highlights. Our goal is to continually grow this publication to reflect the rich and diverse community of South Western Kansas!

SWKS NEWS HONOR ★ REMEMBER ★ THANK

SEEKING SUBMISSIONS & PHOTOS

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OPEN THROUGH NOVEMBER 1ST

SATURDAYS 12 PM - 6 PM	SUNDAYS 1 PM - 6 PM
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ADMISSION

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\$10 - Adults	\$12 - Adults
\$5 - Kids	\$7 - Kids

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T-F 10-5:30 Sat 10-2 Closed Mondays

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

OCTOBER 30 – NOVEMBER 6, 2026

FINNEY COUNTY

FRI 30
No school • Holcomb
6-8 pm • GCCC Trunk or Treat
7 pm • Glow Piddleball Tournament
8 pm • Four Towers haunted attraction
SAT 31
11 am-3 pm • Library Halloween Extravaganza
1-3 pm • Family Fun Dog Show
4-7 pm • Walk-On's Trunk or Treat
6-8:30 pm • Homestead Wonderland
SUN 1
2:30 pm • Library Sunday Fun Day
MON 2
5-7 pm • Parrot Cove water walking
TUE 3
6:30 pm • Library family/adult crafts
WED 4
4:30 pm • Library Pokemon Club
5-7 pm • Parrot Cove water walking
THU 5
4 pm • Holcomb MS sports at Colby/Liberal
FRI 6
8-9 am • Early childhood screening
7 pm • GCCC 12 Angry Jurors
7 pm • Holcomb football regional

GRANT COUNTY

FRI 30
2:45 pm • Hickok costume parade
4-6 pm • Trick or Treat Trail
Ulysses football playoffs • TBD
SAT 31
10 am • Kopley wrestling at Goodland
Ulysses XC state at Wamego
SUN 1
11 am-2 pm • Tate's BBQ fundraiser
Grant County Gives week begins
MON 2
6 pm • School board at Joyce School
TUE 3
9 am • County Commission
4-7 pm • Kopley girls BB vs Scott City
THU 5
Kopley girls BB at Hugoton
Kopley wrestling at Garden City
Foundation open house • time TBD
FRI 6
10 am • Chamber Coffee
Noon-8 pm • High 5 fundraiser
5-9 pm • Feed On Main fundraiser
5-10 pm • Kingin's fundraiser

HASKELL COUNTY

FRI 30
No school • Sublette USD 374
Sublette/Satanta state volleyball
SAT 31
State cross country at Wamego
State volleyball continues
MON 2
7 pm • Sublette City Council
TUE 3
Wichita Children's Theatre • Satanta
4 pm • Satanta Scholars Bowl at SWH
WED 4
Wichita Children's Theatre • Satanta
FCCLA conference • Dodge City
7 pm • Satanta City Council
THU 5
Regional KAY Conference
4 pm • Scholars Bowl at South Gray
FRI 6
Football regionals • TBD

KEARNY COUNTY

FRI 30
State volleyball • Hutchinson
Football bracket game • TBD
SAT 31
State XC • Rim Rock Farm
State volleyball • Hutchinson
10 am • Lakin MS wrestling at Goodland
MON 2
3:30-5 pm • Lakin Municipal Court
6:30 pm • HPL coaches meetings
TUE 3
4 pm • Lakin Scholars Bowl at SWH
WED 4
Red Wheel sales end • Lakin Grade
6-9 pm • Lakin City Council
THU 5
4 pm • Deerfield Scholars Bowl
4 pm • Lakin wrestling at Liberal
4:30 pm • Lakin BB vs Syracuse
FRI 6
Deerfield USD 216 staff day
Football regionals • TBD

MORTON COUNTY

FRI 30
Elkhart Elementary Halloween parade
Elkhart football at Kiowa County
No school • Rolla
SAT 31
Elkhart state volleyball
Elkhart state cross country
MON 2
Rolla 4-year-old preschool
TUE 3
4 pm • Rolla Scholars Bowl at SWH
THU 5
Rolla WorkKeys testing
Rolla MS basketball at Johnson
FRI 6
No school • Rolla USD 217

STEVENS COUNTY

FRI 30
1:30 pm • Moscow concert at Pioneer Manor
Moscow football playoffs • TBD
TUE 3
4 pm • Hugoton Scholars Bowl at SWH
4 pm • Moscow Scholars Bowl at SWH
WED 4
7 pm • Hugoton Sports Boosters meeting
THU 5
Moscow Scholars Bowl at Montezuma
FRI 6
Moscow football playoffs • TBD

STANTON COUNTY

FRI 30
No school • USD 452
3:30 pm • Library Book Worms
4 pm • Library Free Friday
Football bracket games • TBD
SAT 31
State XC / volleyball
JH wrestling at Goodland
SUN 1
Daylight saving time ends
MON 2
No school • Staff in-service
8:30 am • County Commission
4 pm • Library Mystery Monday
TUE 3
Election Day
4 pm • Library Tech Tuesday
4 pm • Scholars Bowl at SWH
5 pm • Elementary Family Night
WED 4
4 pm • Library Wee Readers
THU 5
4 pm • Library Thinking Thursday
4 pm • Home Scholars Bowl
4:30 pm • JH BB vs Elkhart
FRI 6
3:30 pm • Library Book Worms
4 pm • Library Free Friday
Football regional game • TBD

SEWARD COUNTY

FRI 30
1:45/2:15 pm • School costume parades
4 pm • Kawana's Pet & Spook Parade
5-9 pm • United Way Halloween Bash
7 pm • Liberal football
SAT 31
9 am-1 pm • Gadin Auction
State volleyball / cross country
MON 2
No school • Liberal USD 480
5:30 pm • County Commission
TUE 3
4 pm • Kismet-Plains Scholars Bowl
WED 4
Liberal boys soccer semifinals
THU 5
Kismet-Plains JH BB vs Wichita Co.
4 pm • Scholars Bowl at Stanton
FRI 6
No school • Kismet-Plains
7 pm • Liberal football regional

HAMILTON COUNTY

FRI 30
No school • Syracuse
State volleyball • Salina
Football Week 9 • TBD
SAT 31
State volleyball • Salina
State XC • Wamego
MON 2
HPL coaches meeting • Syracuse
TUE 3
8:30 am • County Commission
THU 5
JH basketball at Lakin
FRI 6
No school • Syracuse
Staff professional development
Football regional playoffs • TBD

Compiled from local calendars. Times, locations and possession schedules may change; verify with organizers.



Billy's BLUE DUCK BBQ | **Billy's AYR LANES**

MONDAY - THURSDAY 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. | **FRIDAY & SATURDAY** 11:00 a.m. to Midnight | **SUNDAY** 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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