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Leoti Resident Honored With We Kan! Award

By: Tyler Hook

A routine meeting of the Wichita County Historical Society turned into an unexpected celebration Tuesday, October 27, as longtime volunteer Karen Walk was surprised with a We Kan! Award from the Kansas Sampler Foundation in recognition of her dedication to preserving local history.



Photo Courtesy of Kansas Sampler Foundation

The presentation took place at the Museum of the Great Plains in Leoti, where Simone Elder of the Kansas Sampler Foundation presented the award with assistance from Gwen Wells, Jeanene French, Sam Giesick, and Darcey Mai, who helped organize the surprise. As family members began arriving at the regularly scheduled meeting, Walk jokingly asked whether she should expect a trick or a treat. Known for her outgoing personality, she was nearly speechless when she learned the gathering was in her honor.

Walk received a colorful commemorative plate bearing the inscription "Preserving History with Gusto," created by artist Stacy Barnes of Greensburg. The recognition celebrated her years of volun-

See We Kan!, Page 6

Eyes On Kansas For 2026 General Election

By: Tyler Hook

Voters across Southwest Kansas headed to the polls Tuesday, November 3, casting ballots in an election that brought competitive statewide races, county commission contests, and several local questions with lasting implications for their communities.

As unofficial returns came in Tuesday evening, the results revealed a varied political landscape. While Republican candidates maintained substantial advantages in several rural counties, Democratic candidates received stronger support in others, particularly Finney and Seward counties. The differences illustrated that even within Southwest Kansas, voters do not always approach an election in the same way.

Voter participation also varied considerably. Stanton County reported 539 voters and a turnout of 53.20 percent, while Grant County recorded 1,689 ballots cast, representing 44.15 percent of registered voters. Finney County reported 9,237 ballots and 43.21 percent turnout, while Seward County recorded 4,223 ballots, or 36.36 percent of registered voters.

The statewide political picture attracted attention as results developed. At approximately 11 p.m., NBC News reported that the Kansas governor's race had shifted 17.36 percentage points toward Democrats compared with the state's voting pattern in the 2024 presidential election. That comparison reflected a change in the partisan margin between elections, rather than a uniform shift among individual voters.

The differences were evident locally. In Finney County, Republican gubernatorial candidate Ty Masterson received 4,592 votes to Demo-

See **Election,** Page 5

Death Notices

Vivian Ala Britt was born on June 20, 1955, in Guymon, Oklahoma, to Paul and Helen Hammontree. She spent her childhood making memories in the small town of Keyes, Oklahoma, where she loved running around with her sisters, helping her dad on the family farm, and chasing her little brother around. Those early years were filled with adventures, laughter, and the simple joys of growing up in a small town.

Funeral services will be held on Monday, November 2, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church in Elkhart, Kansas with Pastor Ed Richards officiating. Burial will follow at Willowbar Cemetery in Keyes, Oklahoma.

Services are in care of Garnand Funeral Home, PO Box 854, Elkhart, KS 67950. Condolences may be posted at www.garnandfuneralhomes.com.

Debra Jean "Debbie" (Maestas) Mader, 70, passed away Friday, October 30, 2026, surrounded by her family and friends who loved her dearly. She was born on August 4, 1956, in Rocky Ford, Colorado, to Thomas and Eva (Montoya) Maestas.

Debbie was a lifelong resident of Holcomb, Kansas. She attended Holcomb schools throughout her childhood and graduated from Holcomb High School in 1974.

In May of 1975, Debbie married Wesley Mader. From their marriage came two of Debbie's greatest blessings, her children, Lesley Ann "Annie" Mader and Casey Mader.

A Vigil Service and Rosary will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 2, 2026, at St. Mary Catholic Church in Garden City. Funeral Mass will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, also at St. Mary Catholic Church with Fr. Jacob Schneider as Celebrant. Burial will follow at Valley View Cemetery in Garden City. Friends may call from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Sunday and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Monday all at Garnand Funeral Home in Garden City. The family suggest memorials given to the Debbie Mader Memorial Fund which will be used to support Holcomb schools, in care of Garnand Funeral Home, 412 N. 7th St., Garden City, Kansas 67846. Condolences may be given at garnandfuneralhomes.com.

Chance Amanual Hartsell, 40, of Elkhart, Kansas, passed away on Friday, October 30, 2026.

Chance was born on January 10, 1986, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to Terrie Lynn Simmons. He grew up in Oklahoma City and attended Westmoore High School. On October 26, 2012, he married Vanessa Pearson in Oklahoma City. In March 2013, the couple moved to the Oklahoma Panhandle, where they established their home and built a life together.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, November 4, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Henson-Novak Funeral Home, 501 NW 5th St., Guymon, OK 73942. A Memorial Service will immediately follow at 2:00 p.m. in the funeral home chapel.

Memorial contributions may be made to his daughters' education fund and will be accepted by Henson-Novak Funeral Directors, P.O. Box 1306, Guymon, Oklahoma 73942. The family also suggests planting a tree in Chance's memory as a lasting tribute to his life and legacy.

Friends and family may sign the online book, leave an online condolence or upload a photograph at www.hensonnovak.com.

Jason David Kendall, 51, died on October 27, 2026, in Hugoton, Kansas. He was born on January 9, 1975, in Garden City, Kansas.

Jason was raised in Finney County, Kansas, and built a life centered on family, work, and the people he loved most. For more than fifteen years, he worked with dedication for CARQUEST in Hugoton, Kansas, a reflection of his strong work ethic.

Visitation services will be held on Monday, November 2, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Robson Funeral Home - Hugoton, 314 South Van Buren Street, Hugoton, Kansas 67951.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at the Hugoton Church of the Nazarene, 500 South Van Buren Street, Hugoton, Kansas 67951.

Birth Announcement

Ty and Sidney Scott of Ulysses, Kansas, are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, **Clara Jo Scott**, born October 8, 2026, at Kearny County Hospital in Lakin, Kansas. Clara weighed 6 pounds, 6 ounces and measured 18.5 inches long.

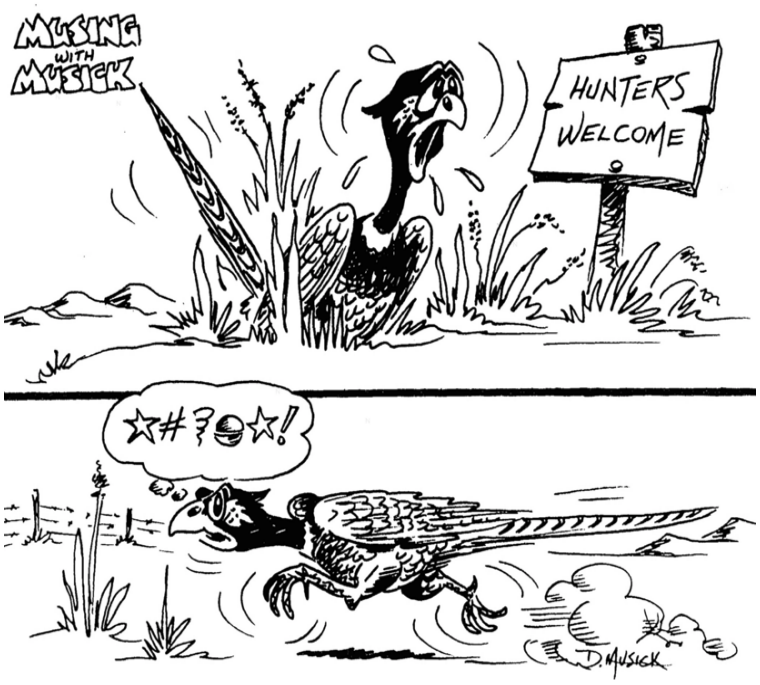
Welcoming Clara home is her proud big brother, Dawson Scott, 1½ years old.

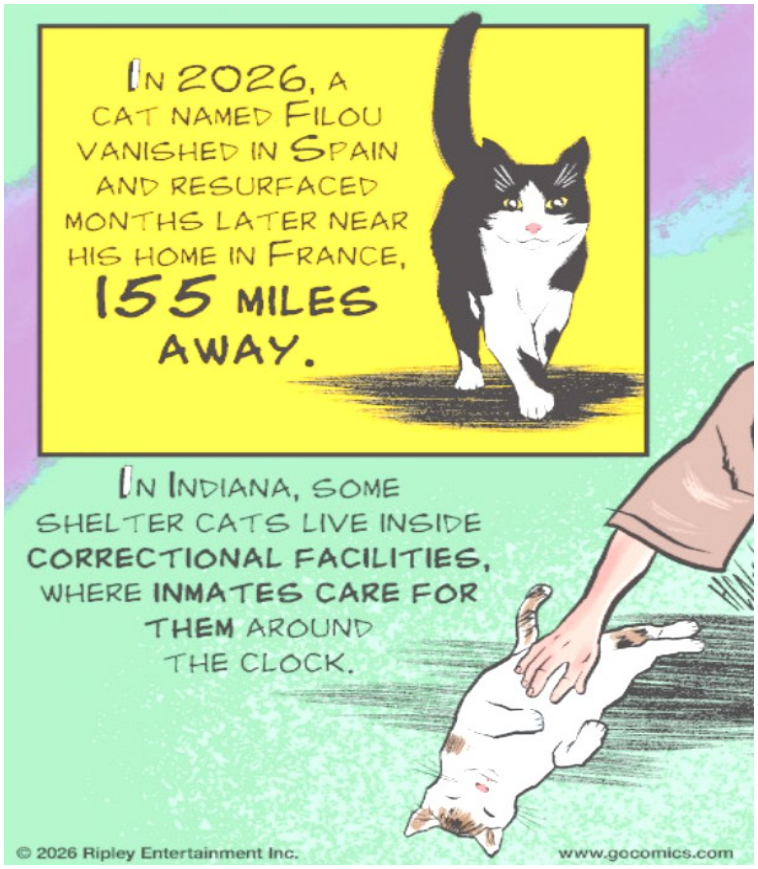
Maternal grandparents are Steve and Tammie Schneider of Olmitz, Kansas. Paternal grandparents are Clay and Nancy Scott of Ulysses, Kansas.

Great-grandparents include Marvin and Jinney Schneider of Rush Center, Kansas; Larry and Jo Scott of Johnson, Kansas; and Pauline Wilkerson of Manter, Kansas.

Clara's great-great-grandmother is Pasty Wise of Johnson,

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

Sincerely,

Tyler Hook - Publisher

GAMES

Y	P	E	N	I	B	M	U	L	O	C	W
A	O	C	P	E	K	W	D	U	C	K	S
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22 Farm Words

Adopt a Friend!

Meet Shadow and Crew, two great dogs looking for their forever homes!





Shadow
- Shepherd mix
- 10 months old
- Spayed
- Likes her doggie friends and walks

Crew
- 1 to 1½ years old
- Neutered
- Perfect size!
- Not too big, not too small.

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Horton Receives K-State Extension Engagement Award

Courtesy of Michele Boy of The Syracuse Journal



Hamilton County Extension Agent Lora Horton was recognized last week at the Kansas State University Extension Annual Conference in Manhattan, receiving the prestigious K-State Extension Engagement Award.

The award honors Extension professionals whose work demonstrates innovative and sustained community engagement while creating meaningful impacts for both local communities and university partners. Recipients are selected for their ability to build partnerships, advance the public good, foster collaboration, and use knowledge and experience to address real community needs.

Horton was recognized for her leadership in developing the Hamilton County Health Hub, a volunteer-powered, partnership-driven initiative that expands food access and basic health services in rural Kansas.

With support from the Kansas Hunger Free Mini Grant and partnerships with the Kansas Food Bank, Kansas Department for Children and Families, Cairn Health, Hamilton County Health Department, Hamilton County Library, local volunteers, and numerous community organizations, the Health Hub provides fresh produce distributions twice each month, enrollment assistance for DCF programs, and access to over-the-counter medications.

In 2026 alone, the program distributed more than 46,000 pounds of food, helping improve access to nutritious food for area residents while advancing K-State's land-grant mission of serving Kansas communities through education, outreach, and engagement.

"This award reflects the power of community engagement," Horton said. "I am fortunate to work alongside dedicated volunteers, coalition members, and community partners who continually step up to identify needs and create solutions. Their passion and willingness to serve are what make meaningful change possible. I share this recognition with each of them."

The award includes a $1,000 professional development and programming stipend that will support Horton to attend a national Professional Development conference.

In addition to receiving the award, Horton also participated in a conference presentation as a member of the Southwest Kansas Water Resource Team, which recently received recognition for its collaborative work addressing groundwater sustainability challenges across western Kansas.

The Southwest Kansas Water Resource Team was formed following the passage of House Bill 2279 and subsequent community planning efforts led by Groundwater Management District No. 3. What began as a group of Extension professionals facilitating difficult conversations about groundwater use and conservation has evolved into a regional network of county agents, specialists, faculty, and community partners working together to support producers, families, businesses, and communities facing an uncertain water future because of the declining groundwater resources in the Ogallala Aquifer.

While Horton was honored for her work through the Hamilton County Health Hub, her commitment to community engagement extends across numerous local initiatives, including the Hamilton County 4 -H program, Hamilton County Health Fair, her partnership with USD #494 and Hamilton County Library Director working with Seniors on postsecondary educational opportunities, and other collaborative efforts aimed at improving the quality of life for residents throughout the county.

The award reflects not only Horton's dedication to Extension's mission but also the strength of the partnerships and volunteers who work together to solve local challenges and build a healthier, stronger community.

Congratulations Lora on this well deserved recognition.

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A Stronger Southwest Kansas

Dudley Township Library Receives $160,160 Grant

The Dudley Township Public Library has received a $160,160 grant from the Patterson Family Foundation to support a planned addition and remodeling project aimed at improving library services and facilities for the Satanta community.

Announced October 29, the grant represents a significant step toward the library's goal of creating a more functional and welcoming space for residents of all ages. The proposed improvements will enhance the library's ability to offer educational resources, literacy programs, community activities, and opportunities for lifelong learning.

"We are incredibly grateful to the Patterson Family Foundation for this generous award and for investing in the future of our community," said library director Suzie Boschman. "This support brings us one step closer to making our vision for an improved library a reality. We look forward to the opportunities this project will create for our patrons and the entire Satanta community."

The Patterson Family Foundation, based in Kansas City, Missouri, was established in 2007 by Neal and Jeanne Patterson. Guided by its mission of "Working together to help rural communities thrive," the foundation supports projects and initiatives that strengthen rural communities throughout Kansas and western Missouri.

The Dudley Township Public Library continues to seek additional funding and community support to complete the expansion and remodeling project. Library officials say the improvements will help ensure the facility remains a valuable resource for future generations.

Residents interested in learning more about the project or applying for available Community Service Program (CSP) Tax Credits may contact the Dudley Township Public Library at **620-649-2213** or visit the library at 105 Sequoyah Street in Satanta.

Election

Continued from Page 1

crat Cindy Holscher's 4,480, a margin of just 112 votes. Meanwhile, Seward County favored Holscher with 2,267 votes compared with Masterson's 1,898. In Stanton County, Masterson received 403 votes to Holscher's 121.

Several other races demonstrated the importance of examining individual contests rather than assuming every voter followed a straight party ticket. In Finney County, Democrat Adam Hamilton received 4,512 votes in the U.S. Senate race, compared with Republican Roger Marshall's 4,313. Democratic attorney general candidate Chris Mann also led Republican Kris Kobach there, 4,567 to 4,494. Republican congressional candidate Tracey Mann, however, received 4,725 votes to Democrat Lauren Reinhold's 4,068.

Beyond state and federal offices, voters made decisions directly affecting local government and public services.

In Stanton County, the proposed hospital-related 1 percent sales tax received 331 votes in favor and 191 against, passing according to unofficial returns. The measure represented one of the county's most consequential local questions, involving financial support for health care services.

In Hamilton County, voters approved a question allowing alcoholic liquor to be sold by the individual drink in public places without requiring a portion of an establishment's gross receipts to come from food sales. The unofficial count was 394 in favor and 179 opposed.

Seward County voters decided three contested county commission races. In District 2, Kay Burtzloff received 369 votes to Clay Louderback's 216. District 3 saw Lizette Avalos-Morales receive 533 votes to Jairo Vazquez's 250. District 4 produced a closer contest, with Fred Bloom receiving 445 votes to Jose Lara's 403.

These local decisions serve as a reminder that an election is about more than the names appearing at the top of the ballot. County commissioners, public institutions, tax questions, and other local matters can affect residents' daily lives long after the campaign signs have disappeared.

All figures reported here remain unofficial pending the county canvassing and certification process. Additional eligible ballots and election reviews may affect final totals.

Regardless of which candidates ultimately take office, the work of maintaining strong communities continues. Roads still need attention, schools need support, businesses need customers, and neighbors continue to depend upon one another.

Elections naturally bring disagreements. They also provide an opportunity to recognize that people with different political views often share many of the same hopes for their hometowns: safe neighborhoods, dependable services, economic opportunity, and a better future for the next generation.

The outcome of an election determines who will serve in public office, but it does not determine whether neighbors can continue working together. That responsibility belongs to all of us.

As the results become official and another election season draws to a close, Southwest Kansas communities will move forward together. The conversations may continue, and disagreements will remain, but cooperation, mutual respect, and a willingness to contribute are what sustain the places we call home.

After all, the strength of a community is measured not simply by how its people vote, but by how they treat one another when the voting is over.

Superior Car Care Transitions

After 16 years of serving customers throughout Southwest Kansas, Superior Car Care Center, Inc. has announced a transition to new ownership, effective November 1, 2026.

According to an announcement from co-owners Joe and Mindy Wilson, the business will transition into two separate operations. Garden City Propane will acquire the liquid petroleum (LP) and propane portion of the company, while Chance Lankford, operating as Lankford's Tire & Service Center, LLC, will take over vehicle repair and farm equipment services.

The Wilsons said both businesses were selected because of their shared commitment to customer service and community involvement. They expressed confidence that the transition will provide customers with continued service, additional technical expertise, and expanded resources.

In their announcement, the Wilsons thanked customers for 16 years of loyalty and support, describing it as a privilege to serve the community.

Customers with outstanding invoices from Superior Car Care Center should mail payments to P.O. Box 176, Johnson, KS 67855. Questions regarding the transition may be directed to 620-492-3627 or 620-384-5435.

Superior Car Care Center INC

We Kan!

Continued from Page 1

teer service and leadership in projects dedicated to preserving Wichita County's heritage, including renovations at the historic Washington Ames House.

"Karen Walk has volunteered tirelessly as she's led projects for the preservation of Wichita County history," Elder said. "From the renovations at the Washington Ames House to the creativity and enthusiasm for Wichita County's history and projects that also shape its future, her commitment has made a difference to the community."

The Kansas Sampler Foundation, a nonprofit organization based in Inman, has presented We Kan! Awards since 1993 to recognize individuals whose dedication helps preserve and sustain rural Kansas culture. Its We Kan! Network brings together community leaders, entrepreneurs, volunteers, and rural advocates committed to helping small towns recognize and build upon their unique strengths.

Walk became the fifth Kansan selected to receive the We Kan! Award in 2026. Her recognition serves as a reminder of the important role volunteers play in preserving local history and ensuring the stories, landmarks, and traditions of rural Kansas remain part of the communities they helped shape.



"When The Storm Ends, Hope Begins" Taken November 2nd north of Dermot By: Tyler Hook

Push For Immigration Office

By: Tyler Hook

U.S. Senator Jerry Moran is renewing his call for a permanent U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) field office in Southwest Kansas, citing the region's growing agricultural economy and the difficulties residents face when traveling long distances to obtain immigration services.

In an October 26 letter to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin, Moran emphasized the importance of accessible immigration services for workers and employers in the region's livestock, beef processing, and dairy industries. Southwest Kansas accounts for more than one-fifth of the nation's beef processing capacity, while Western Kansas has experienced considerable growth in dairy production. Both industries rely in part on legally employed immigrant workers to maintain operations.

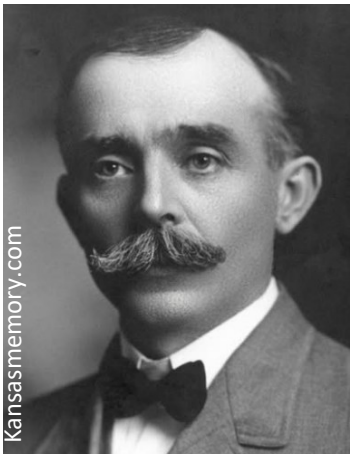
Currently, the nearest permanent USCIS field office is in Wichita, requiring many Southwest Kansas residents to travel two to three hours each way for appointments. Moran noted that these trips can result in workers missing one or two days of employment, particularly in agricultural industries that operate beyond traditional business hours. He argued that establishing a permanent office would reduce these burdens while better serving the region's employers and families.

USCIS began offering mobile services in Southwest Kansas in 2014, with visits to Garden City, Dodge City, and Liberal. However, a revised schedule announced in May 2025 consolidated services in Dodge City, with plans for monthly appointments. According to Moran, constituent reports indicate that mobile services had not been provided in Dodge City for approximately nine months, leaving residents with limited local options.

"The need for a field office in the region has been a longstanding concern of mine," Moran wrote, noting that he previously pursued expanded services in 2021. Along with requesting a permanent facility, he urged federal officials to restore reliable mobile appointments in all three Southwest Kansas communities while a long-term solution is considered.

Moran also invited Department of Homeland Security and USCIS leadership to visit the region and hear directly from agricultural employers, workers, and residents affected by the limited availability of services. No decision or timeline for establishing a permanent office has been announced.

How A Frontier Physician Impacted Public Health



How a frontier physician from Western Kansas helped transform American public health

By: Tyler Hook

History has a way of remembering the gunfighters, outlaws, and lawmen who once walked the dusty streets of Dodge City. Names such as Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson remain closely associated with the legendary cowtown, their stories repeated through generations of books, films, and television programs. Yet among those who called Dodge City home was another man whose influence would ultimately extend far beyond the Kansas frontier. He carried neither a badge nor a reputation as a gunslinger, but his determination to protect human life helped transform public health across the United States.

His name was Dr. Samuel Jay Crumbine, and although relatively few Americans recognize it today, many of the everyday health practices we take for granted can be traced, at least in part, to his efforts.

Born September 17, 1862, in Pennsylvania, Crumbine entered a world divided by the American Civil War. His father, Jacob Krumbine, served in the Union Army and died while imprisoned at the Confederate-operated Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia. His mother, Sarah, was left to raise her children under difficult circumstances, and young Samuel spent much of his childhood with his grandmother before attending a school for soldiers' orphans.

At sixteen, Crumbine began working in a Pennsylvania drugstore, developing an interest in medicine. He later traveled to Cincinnati to pursue medical training, graduating from the Cincinnati College of Medicine in 1889.

His journey west brought him to Kansas, where he initially became involved in pharmacy and medical practice in Spearville before establishing himself in nearby Dodge City. The community was transitioning from its rough-and-tumble cattle-driving days into a more settled railroad and agricultural center, but the challenges facing physicians remained considerable.

Medical care on the frontier was far different from what Americans experience today. Doctors traveled long distances over primitive roads, frequently attended patients in isolated homes, and worked without many of the diagnostic tools, medications, or sanitation standards now considered essential. Infectious diseases remained a constant threat, and an illness that might be readily treated today could become a death sentence.

Crumbine quickly recognized that treating sick patients was only part of a physician's responsibility. Preventing people from becoming sick in the first place could accomplish far more.

During his years in Dodge City, he confronted infectious diseases, encouraged vaccination, and challenged customs that allowed germs to spread. One seemingly insignificant practice caught his attention at a local Harvey House restaurant, where customers shared communal milk pitchers. Crumbine encouraged the establishment to replace them with individual containers, reducing opportunities for contamination.

It was a small change, but it represented a philosophy that would define his career: protecting public health often required changing ordinary habits rather than waiting for extraordinary medical discoveries.

Crumbine also served two terms as Ford County coroner, witnessing firsthand the consequences of disease, accidents, and inadequate medical care. In 1890, he married Katherine Zuercher, whom he had met during his time in Cincinnati. The couple would raise two children, Warren and Violet.

By the turn of the century, his growing reputation attracted attention beyond Ford County. Appointed to the Kansas State Board of Health in 1899, Crumbine eventually became its secretary and executive officer in 1904, relocating to Topeka to assume responsibilities that would provide a statewide platform for his ideas.

What followed was a remarkable period of public health reform.

At a time when tuberculosis, typhoid fever, and other communicable diseases claimed countless lives, Crumbine recognized that education was among the most powerful tools available. He understood that scientific knowledge accomplished little if ordinary citizens could not understand or apply it.

Rather than relying entirely on lengthy medical explanations, he developed memorable slogans and straightforward campaigns that reached people in their homes, schools, businesses, and communities.

Among his best-known efforts was the campaign against public spitting. During the early twentieth century, spitting on sidewalks, railroad platforms, and floors was commonplace. Crumbine recognized that saliva and sputum from infected individuals could spread diseases, particularly tuberculosis.

His campaign encouraged Kansans to abandon the practice, even inspiring sidewalk bricks bearing the message "Don't Spit on the Sidewalk." What may seem obvious today represented a significant challenge to accepted social behavior at the time.

Another target was the common drinking cup. Before disposable cups and individual drinking containers became widespread, public facilities frequently provided a single cup for everyone to use. Railroad passengers, schoolchildren, and visitors to public buildings might all drink from the same vessel, often without washing it between uses.

Crumbine understood the danger and pushed for its elimination. Kansas became a leader in restricting communal drinking cups, with legislation taking effect in 1909. He similarly campaigned against the common roller towel, a continuous cloth towel shared by numerous people in public restrooms. Kansas prohibited the practice in 1911.

These reforms were not always popular. Businesses complained about the expense of changing established practices, while others considered government involvement in personal habits unnecessary. Nevertheless, Crumbine persisted, believing the prevention of disease justified the inconvenience of adopting safer customs.

Perhaps his most enduring contribution, however, came from an unlikely source: the ordinary housefly.

During the early twentieth century, flies were more than an everyday nuisance. They moved freely between manure piles, garbage, outdoor privies, kitchens, and dining tables,

carrying organisms capable of causing serious illness. Crumbine recognized that controlling flies could help reduce the spread of infectious diseases.

Inspired by the language of a baseball game, he adopted the memorable slogan "Swat the Fly," launching a campaign that encouraged Kansans to eliminate flies and reduce the unsanitary conditions in which they bred.

A Kansas inventor, Frank Rose of Weir, developed a practical device using pieces of window screening attached to a handle. Crumbine promoted the device under the name "fly swatter," helping popularize an invention that would eventually become a familiar household item throughout America.

The campaign extended into schools, fairs, and communities, where children and adults were encouraged to participate. It demonstrated Crumbine's remarkable ability to turn a serious public health concern into a simple message that almost anyone could understand.

Yet his efforts extended well beyond flies, drinking cups, and sidewalk sanitation. Crumbine advocated improved food handling, cleaner water supplies, better sewage disposal, and stronger measures to control infectious diseases. He also recognized the importance of reaching rural communities, where limited medical resources and considerable distances between settlements made preventive measures especially valuable.

For the people of Western Kansas, his work carried particular significance. Rural families often lived miles from the nearest physician, and communities lacked the medical facilities available in larger cities. Preventing illness could spare families not only suffering but also considerable financial hardship.

Crumbine's approach helped establish a broader understanding that public health was not simply the responsibility of individual physicians. Communities, businesses, schools, and governments all had roles to play in maintaining healthier surroundings.

His influence also reached into food and drug safety. He supported stronger inspection and labeling standards at a time when adulterated products and misleading claims posed serious risks to consumers. His work helped advance enforcement of Kansas food and drug laws, contributing to reforms that strengthened public confidence in products sold throughout the state.



Crumbine also served as dean of the University of Kansas School of Medicine beginning in 1910, worked to improve medical education, and supported programs addressing infant mortality and children's health. During the influenza pandemic of 1918, the Kansas Board of Health continued its efforts to educate residents about disease prevention under his leadership.

His years in state government were not without controversy. Crumbine's forceful approach sometimes placed him at odds with political leaders and those who opposed increased government regulation. Following changes in Kansas political leadership, he resigned from the State Board of Health in 1923, bringing nearly two decades of leadership in that position to a close.

His career, however, was far from finished. Moving to New York, Crumbine became involved with the American Child Health Association, continuing his efforts to improve the health and welfare of children nationwide. He remained active in public health work until his retirement in 1936.

In 1948, he published his autobiography, *Frontier Doctor*, recounting his experiences as a young physician in Western Kansas and his later efforts to improve public health. The book preserved a firsthand account of a period when medicine was undergoing extraordinary changes and preventive health measures were becoming an increasingly important part of American life.

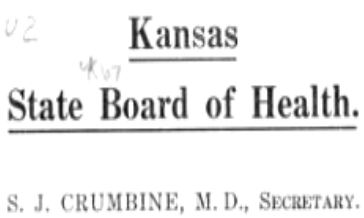
Crumbine died July 12, 1954, at the age of 91, leaving behind a legacy that continues to influence everyday life. His contributions are remembered through public health awards bearing his name, historical collections, and a bronze statue erected in Topeka in 2017. His experiences in Dodge City have also been cited as an inspiration for the fictional Doc Adams of the long-running television western *Gunsmoke*.

Today, Americans rarely think twice about drinking from their own cups, washing their hands, expecting clean restaurant facilities, or protecting food from insects. These practices seem so ordinary that it is easy to forget they were once the subject of considerable debate and determined campaigns for change.

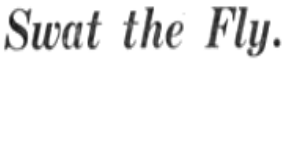
The story of Samuel Jay Crumbine reminds us that history is not shaped exclusively by presidents, generals, or famous inventors. Sometimes it is changed by a country doctor who notices something wrong, refuses to accept it as inevitable, and spends his life convincing others that things can be better.

Dodge City may forever be remembered for the men who carried six-shooters along its streets, but one of its most influential residents carried a medical bag instead. His greatest victories were not measured in gunfights won or outlaws captured, but in illnesses prevented and lives protected.

And more than a century later, every time someone reaches for a fly swatter or takes a drink from a clean cup, a small part of that Western Kansas doctor's remarkable legacy lives on.


Kansas
State Board of Health.

S. J. CRUMBINE, M. D., SECRETARY.


Swat the Fly.



Where The Cranes Still Call

By: Tyler Hook

There is something remarkable about the things that survive.

A name passed through generations. An old photograph with familiar faces but voices we will never hear. A story shared around the kitchen table that somehow finds its way through time.

Sometimes, the smallest pieces of our past carry the greatest meaning, reminding us that our lives are chapters in a much longer story.

As November brings Native American Heritage Month, I find myself reflecting on a heritage stretching far beyond the wheat fields of Western Kansas. It is a history shaped by the rivers of the Great Lakes, generations of hardship, and a people who refused to let their identity disappear.

I am a proud member of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. To me, that means more than an enrollment card or names in a family tree. It represents people I will never meet, sacrifices I may never understand, and traditions preserved because someone believed they were worth saving.

Native American Heritage Month itself was generations in the making. Early advocates, including Dr. Arthur C. Parker, Rev. Sherman Coolidge, and Red Fox James, worked to establish recognition of Native peoples and their contributions. In 1990, President George H. W. Bush designated November as National American Indian Heritage Month.

Consider that for a moment. Native peoples inhabited this continent for thousands of years before the United States existed, yet generations passed before their heritage received a month of national recognition.

My ancestry belongs to the Myaamia, often described as the Downstream People, whose traditional homelands encompassed portions of Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, and the surrounding Great Lakes region. The sandhill crane holds special significance in our cultural history, its unmistakable call connecting the natural world with those who came before us.

Contrary to stereotypes portrayed in old Western films, the Miami established villages, cultivated crops, maintained political relationships, and developed extensive trading networks. Their traditions included raising distinctive white corn, basket weaving, and intricate ribbonwork.

My family heritage includes connections to the Potawatomi, Wea, Piankeshaw, Eel River Miami, Peoria-related peoples, and other Native nations. French fur traders also became part of our story, with names such as Richardville, Godfroy, Roubidoux, Beaubien, and Goodboo appearing throughout our ancestry.

My family history reaches through my great-grandfather VonHemel, born in Picher, Oklahoma, and includes ancestral connections to Francis Godfroy, Chief Richardville, Tahkemwa, and Little Turtle.

Some of these individuals negotiated with presidents or defended their communities. Yet for every name preserved in history books, countless others remain unknown. They were parents raising children, farmers tending crops, and elders passing along knowledge. Their stories deserve remembering, too.

As American settlement expanded westward, treaties and government policies steadily reduced Miami lands. Agreements were often negotiated under unequal circumstances, and promises made to Native nations were frequently broken.

In 1846, hundreds of Miami people were removed from Indiana to eastern Kansas, leaving behind homes, burial grounds, and familiar rivers.

Imagine being told that the land your grandparents knew and the community where your children were growing up no longer belonged to you. Then imagine discovering that even the land to which you had been relocated would not remain yours.

Many Miami were eventually removed again to Indian Territory, now Oklahoma. Others remained behind, shaping the communities and family histories that exist today.

Displacement was only part of the struggle. Native children attended boarding schools, including Haskell, Chilocco, and Riverside. Some of my relatives attended these institutions, where assimilation policies often suppressed Native languages, customs, and identities.

Imagine being a child and hearing that the language spoken by your grandparents was something to be ashamed of. The consequences left gaps in cultural knowledge.

Yet through it all, the Myaamia endured.

Today, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma invests in education, language revitalization, and cultural preservation. Traditions once threatened with disappearance are being reclaimed by new generations.

For me, that revival has become deeply personal.

My family has worked to reconnect with our heritage, including attending the Annual Miami Pow Wow in Oklahoma. One meaningful experience was witnessing the return of the Treaty of Greenville Peace Medal to our Nation, bringing home an object connected to a defining chapter of our history.

Another was receiving my Myaamia name, **Amekwa**, meaning Beaver.

A name may seem insignificant, but sometimes it carries an extraordinary sense of belonging. Mine reminds me that identity is not measured solely by where we live or how much history we know, but by our willingness to preserve something meaningful for those who follow.

Growing up in Western Kansas, I have always appreciated family, community, and the land beneath our feet. Those values are hardly exclusive to any one people. They may be among our strongest connections.

My Miami heritage has taught me something else: **A culture does not have to disappear simply because the world around it changes.**

It survives in a word spoken after generations of silence, a traditional seed planted in familiar soil, or a child learning the stories of ancestors whose names might otherwise be forgotten.

Native American Heritage Month should be more than an annual acknowledgment. Learn whose homelands your community occupies. Listen to Native people tell their stories. Remember that Native Americans are not simply figures from the past, but members of living nations whose histories continue to unfold.

Perhaps explore your own family history. You might discover that the stories we inherit have more to teach us than we imagined.

I cannot undo the hardships endured by my ancestors, but I can honor them by refusing to let their stories end with me.

Somewhere across the old Myaamia homelands, sandhill cranes still return with the seasons. Their calls echo over rivers and fields that have witnessed centuries of change. Boundaries have shifted, villages have vanished, and generations have come and gone.

Yet the cranes still call.

And as long as there are people willing to listen, remember, and teach those who follow, the stories of the Myaamia will continue to be heard.

Tigers First Play Off Victory Since 2018

By: Soila Ochoa

Eight years after their last postseason victory, the Ulysses Tigers reached another milestone, defeating the Winfield Vikings 28-21 in the opening round of the Class 4A football playoffs on Friday, Oct. 30, at Maxwell Field.

The victory marked the Tigers' first playoff win since 2018 and came during Head Coach Mitch Foote's second season leading the Ulysses football program.

Hosting a playoff game was a significant accomplishment for the Tigers, who had worked throughout the season toward that goal. Earning the victory in front of their hometown crowd made the evening even more memorable.

The playoff atmosphere began early, with food truck vendors opening at 4 p.m. ahead of the 6 p.m. kickoff. Misty conditions lingered throughout the game, with light sprinkles arriving near the end of the contest.

For Foote, the victory reflected the determination and commitment his players had shown throughout the season.

"Last night was a special one in the small town of Ulysses, Kansas. The kids have been battling all year for this one moment," Foote said.

The Tigers entered the season determined to earn a home playoff game, and their efforts resulted in a postseason victory.

"They set out to have home playoff game and found a way to win. They overcame adversity, showed perseverance, and battled the weather," Foote said.

Foote also recognized the coaches, players and community members who helped make the evening memorable.

"I am beyond proud of these coaches, players, and community members for making it so special! We are excited and thankful to be able to do it another week!" he added.

With the victory, Ulysses advances to face the Wellington Crusaders on Friday, Nov. 6, in the regional championship. For Foote and the Tigers, the win marks another step forward for the football program as they continue their postseason run.



Courtesy of Captured Photos

Hook Installed As Grand Master Of IOOF

During the 167th Annual Session of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) of Kansas, held in Salina, Tyler Hook of Big Bow was installed as the organization's 166th Grand Master on Wednesday, October 28. Hook was also elected to serve an additional term, extending his leadership through the 2027–2028 year.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows traces its origins to England before becoming established in the United States in 1819. From those early beginnings, the fraternal organization grew into an international institution dedicated to friendship, love, truth, and service to others. Its guiding principles are reflected in four enduring charges: **Visit the Sick, Relieve the Distressed, Bury the Dead, and Educate the Orphan.**

At the height of its membership, the Odd Fellows and their sister organization, the Rebekahs, maintained a presence in all 105 Kansas counties. In some Western Kansas communities, lodge membership once encompassed upwards of 70 percent of the population, reflecting the important role these organizations played in community life. Like many longstanding civic and fraternal organizations, however, the Odd Fellows have experienced declining membership over the decades, resulting in fewer active lodges and a diminished presence in communities they once served.

Despite these challenges, the Kansas Odd Fellows remain committed to charitable work and community involvement. Their efforts include scholarship programs, the annual Pilgrimage for Youth, vision-related charitable initiatives through an endowment at the Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins, support for SOS Children's Villages, participation in the annual Rose Parade float, and involvement with the Arthritis Foundation. These programs continue a tradition of service that has defined the organization for generations.

For Hook, the opportunity to lead the Kansas jurisdiction carries a personal connection to his family's history. Several generations of his family have been involved in Odd Fellows lodges throughout Kansas, including those in Sylvia, Stafford, Johnson, and Coolidge. His installation also marks a distinction in Stanton County history, as he becomes only the second Grand Master of the Kansas Odd Fellows to call the county home. The first was Kenneth Tucker, who served in 1978.

As the organization looks toward its future, Hook's leadership comes at a time when preserving longstanding traditions while encouraging renewed involvement remains increasingly important. Though the number of lodges has changed considerably over the years, the principles upon which the Odd Fellows were founded remain as relevant today as they were more than two centuries ago: helping neighbors, strengthening communities, and extending a hand to those in need.

THE WESTERN ODD FELLOW



Welcomes Third Generation To Business

Stutzman Realty & Auction is pleased to announce that Blake Stutzman has joined the firm as a Licensed REALTOR® and sales agent in Kansas.

Blake represents the third generation of the Stutzman family to continue the family's longstanding involvement in the real estate and auction business. Having grown up around the industry, he brings an understanding of the values on which the company was built, along with a strong work ethic, fresh perspective and commitment to serving clients.

As part of the Stutzman Realty & Auction team, Blake will work alongside the firm's experienced real estate professionals while building relationships with buyers, sellers, landowners and investors throughout Kansas.

His addition marks another chapter for the family-owned company. Tobias and Mandy Stutzman, owners of Stutzman Realty & Auction, are actively involved in the leadership of the firm and share a commitment to maintaining the family values and client-focused approach that have helped shape the company.

"We're proud to welcome Blake to the team and see the next generation of our family become involved in the business," said Tobias Stutzman, broker and owner. "Mandy and I are excited about what Blake brings to the company and look forward to seeing him build relationships, serve clients and help carry the business forward."

Stutzman Realty & Auction is based in Ulysses, Kansas, and provides real estate and auction services throughout Kansas, Col-

Torres Recognized For Training Excellence

Liberal Fire Department Battalion Chief Jose Torres has been named the 2026 Training Chief of the Year by the Kansas Association of Fire Chiefs, recognizing his leadership and contributions to firefighter training and professional development.

Torres, who serves as the Liberal Fire Department's first designated training chief, has played an instrumental role in developing and implementing the daily training program used by department personnel. His efforts have helped strengthen firefighter preparedness and improve certification outcomes.

According to the Liberal Fire Department, the number of department members successfully passing certification examinations on their first attempt has increased since Torres assumed the training position. Department officials credited his dedication and leadership with helping improve training standards and professional development opportunities.

In a statement shared on its Facebook page, the Liberal Fire Department congratulated Torres on the statewide recognition and expressed appreciation for his continued service and commitment to the department and the City of Liberal.



Courtesy of Liberl Fire Department Facebook

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

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 6 - 13, 2026

FINNEY COUNTY

FRI 6
8-9am - Free early childhood screening
4pm - Anime Night, Finney Co. Library
7pm - GCCC: 12 Angry Jurors
7pm - Holcomb football vs Wichita Collegiate

SAT 7
10am-4pm - GCCC Little Britches Rodeo
2pm - Library Kitchen Fun
7pm - GCCC: 12 Angry Jurors

SUN 8
2pm - GCCC: 12 Angry Jurors

MON 9
6pm - USD 457 & USD 363 boards

TUE 10
6:30pm - Library Family/Adult Crafts

WED 11
4:30pm - Library Pokemon Club

THU 12
4pm - MS basketball vs Hugoton

FRI 13
10am - American Implement Showcase
7:30pm - Buffs Got Talent

GRANT COUNTY

FRI 6
10am - Chamber Coffee, Community Baptist

SAT 7
7-10:30am - Community Health Fair, Civic Center
10am - KMS girls basketball at Hugoton

MON 9
No school - USD 214 staff development
6pm - USD 214 Board, Joyce School

TUE 10
LHEAT monthly meeting

WED 11
5pm - Ulysses City Council

THU 12
4-7pm - Free turkey giveaway, Civic Center
4pm - KMS wrestling at Hugoton
UHS musical: Legally Blonde

FRI 13
10am - Chamber Coffee, location TBA
UHS musical: Legally Blonde

HASKELL COUNTY

FRI 6
7pm - Satanta football vs Weskan

SAT 7
Sublette KMEA honor choir tryouts

MON 9
8am - County Commissioners
4:30pm - Sublette MS basketball vs Elkhart
6:30pm - USD 374 & USD 507 boards

TUE 10
4pm - Sublette Scholars Bowl at Syracuse

WED 11
2pm - Sublette Veterans Day program
Satanta schools half-day

THU 12
4pm - Satanta JH basketball at Protection
7pm - Sublette Theatre Night

FRI 13
Satanta football sectionals - TBD

KEARNY COUNTY

FRI 6
Lakin & Deerfield football regionals - TBD

MON 9
8am - County Commissioners
4pm - Deerfield MS basketball vs Stanton
6pm - Deerfield City Council
6:30pm - USD 215 Board

TUE 10
9am - Lakin FFA dairy competition
4pm - Lakin Scholars Bowl at Syracuse
Lakin food drive/Angel Tree begins

WED 11
Deerfield school picture make-up day

THU 12
4pm - Lakin MS wrestling at Hugoton
4:30pm - Lakin MS basketball vs Elkhart
Lakin HS musical - time TBD

FRI 13
Lakin HS musical - time TBD
Lakin football sectionals - TBD

MORTON COUNTY

FRI 6
No school - Rolla USD 217

SAT 7
Elkhart football regionals
Honor Band/Choir auditions, Dodge City

MON 9
9am - County Commissioners
6:30pm - Rolla City Council & USD 217 Board
7:30pm - Elkhart USD 218 Board
Elkhart MS basketball at Sublette

TUE 10
4pm - Rolla Scholars Bowl at Syracuse
5:30pm - Rolla Planning & Zoning
7pm - Elkhart City Council

WED 11
Elkhart Veterans Day choir program
9am-2pm - Rolla science fair

THU 12
MS basketball at Lakin

FRI 13
2:30pm - Elkhart musical matinee
No school - Rolla

STEVENS COUNTY

SAT 7
5-7pm - Hugoton Methodist Women Bazaar
7pm - High Plains Theatre: Drummer Boy

MON 9
8:30am - County Commissioners
6pm - Hugoton winter sports parent meeting
USD 210 Board - confirm time

TUE 10
9:30am - Library Board
Noon - Economic Development meeting
4pm - Scholars Bowl at Syracuse

WED 11
Veterans Day - courthouse offices closed

THU 12
Moscow JH basketball, Yarbrough Tourney

FRI 13
1:30pm - Moscow early dismissal
4:30pm - Pheasant Heaven Calf Fry doors open
7pm - Hugoton HS musical

STANTON COUNTY

FRI 6
High school football regionals

MON 9
9-10am - Blood drive, Old Middle School
4:30pm - JH basketball at Deerfield

TUE 10
7:15am - District Site Council
4pm - HS Scholars Bowl at Syracuse
FFA at Gray County; picture retakes

WED 11
8:30am - Veterans Day breakfast
9am - School Veterans Day program
6pm - Board of Education

THU 12
JH boys wrestling at Hugoton
4:30pm - JH basketball vs SWH

FRI 13
High school football sectionals

SEWARD COUNTY

FRI 6
7pm - Liberal football regionals

SAT 7
10am-6pm - Holiday Home Show, Activity Center
Liberal boys soccer state competition

SUN 8
11am-4pm - Holiday Home Show

MON 9
6:30pm - USD 480 Board
Unified Bowling regionals

TUE 10
1pm - Library Explorer Tots
4pm - City Commission work session
5:30pm - City Commission meeting

WED 11
Veterans Day - county offices closed

THU 12
11am & 7pm - Holocaust programs, SCCC
1:30pm - Unified Bowling, Great Bend

FRI 13
7pm - Liberal football sectionals

HAMILTON COUNTY

FRI 6
No school - Syracuse USD 494
Syracuse football regionals

SAT 7
Honor Choir auditions, Dodge City

MON 9
Noon - Syracuse City Council
7pm - USD 494 Board
JH basketball vs SWH

TUE 10
2pm - JH/HS early dismissal

WED 11
8am - Veterans Day, McCoy Auditorium

THU 12
JH basketball vs Sublette

FRI 13
No school - Syracuse USD 494
Syracuse football sectionals

