

Week two of our Hesston Tornado series looks at how the area recovered from the aftermath - Pages 12-13

Newton students address issues with letters- Page 3



NEWTON NOW

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CANCELLATIONS EFFECTIVELY SHUT DOWN COUNTY

By ADAM STRUNK
NEWTON NOW STAFF

Last week, the cancellation of March Madness shocked people. What an effect a week has. By this Tuesday, the state

had closed school buildings for the remainder of the year and banned gatherings of 50 or more people for eight weeks. President Trump pushed the crowd limits further, recommending people avoid crowds of 10.

All events in Harvey County with crowds that size had already been cancelled in the meantime. Stores sold out of toilet paper, sanitizers and food. Masks began popping up in public places. Businesses told

employees to work from home. Restaurants began transitioning to carry-out services. All the action has taken place to slow the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus). The state ordered schools closed for a week to give it

time for contingency planning on how exactly to provide education to children, with the need for social distancing. State sports were cancelled to the chagrin of the Halstead

See COUNTY / 8

Safety concerns separate family on Newton man's 82nd birthday



Isabel Ramos, right, talks to her grandfather, Antonio Ramos, center, while Isabel's grandmother Christina Ramos holds the phone.

PHOTOS BY WENDY NUGENT/NEWTON NOW

Schools shuttered for year, Hamm gives more info

By ADAM STRUNK
NEWTON NOW STAFF

All Kansas Schools, public and parochial, will be shuttered for the remainder of the school year.

The move effects some half million students in Kansas, as well as their parents.

Gov. Laura Kelly announced the action Tuesday afternoon, after consulting with education commissioner Randy Watson and the Kansas Association of School Boards.

"Unprecedented circumstances threaten the safety of our students and the education professionals who work with them every day and we must respond accordingly," she said.

Administrative buildings may be open for limited functions. After sanitization, small groups of people may use buildings to help plan for continuing education she said.

Kelly said she understood many would have questions and that local superintendents had been briefed on the matter and would be putting out information in the next 24 hours and could answer questions.

See SCHOOLS / 8

Behind the glass

By WENDY NUGENT
NEWTON NOW STAFF

Christina Ramos stood outside on Tuesday afternoon at Kansas Christian Home, talking to her husband of more than 60 years on a cell phone, wishing him a happy birthday since she could only see him through the glass.

She couldn't hug him, hold his hand or give him a peck on the cheek. She could only wave and speak to him.

That's as close as she was allowed to get to Antonio Ramos, who celebrated his 82nd birthday on Tuesday, St. Patrick's Day. That was because of COVID-19 safety concerns.

A handful of relatives were on

See GLASS / 15



Christina Ramos, right, talks to her husband, Antonio Ramos, left, on his birthday on Friday through the glass at Kansas Christian Home.

Hodge pushing for coronavirus relief for small businesses

By ADAM STRUNK
NEWTON NOW STAFF

State Rep. Tim Hodge is making a last ditch effort before the session is out to get the state to take care of small businesses affected by the coronavirus shutdown.

Those are his words.

"We're going to lose a lot of revenue on Main Street," he said of the pending shut down to slow the virus's spread. "I learned from 2008 and 2009. Those bail outs went to the big banks and corporations. They didn't trickle down to us. And here we are getting beat up again, and the only people winning are the fattest pigs at the trough—the big companies and the big banks."

Hodge, a Democrat, penned a letter to re-

See RELIEF / 10

Mail Label

Area restaurants facing corona with adaptability and plenty of sanitizer

By ADAM STRUNK
NEWTON NOW STAFF

Local businesses prepare for a lot of problems, short staffing, bad weather, slow months, even occasional road work. But it's hard to plan for a world pandemic that has basically canceled the month of March in Newton and across the country.

"You go 'OK, we've got to weather a storm,'" Back Alley Pizza owner Robert Palmer said. "How are we going to do it?"

See FOOD / 8



Robert Palmer, right, co-owner of Back Alley Pizza, says they need to weather this storm.

WENDY NUGENT/FILE PHOTO



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Try to get ahead with German red cabbage

Despite all the craziness at the grocery store lately, I decided to head out to our local spot to get supplies for a new recipe I wanted to try.

We were going to have some specialty German sausage for dinner, graciously shared with us by a friend, and I wanted to get something traditional to go with it.

After searching online, I determined I would make a warm German potato salad and some German red cabbage.

When I got to my produce section, that plan had to quickly change. There wasn't a single potato in sight. Not a Russet or a fingerling or a Yukon gold. Nothing. I've never seen such a thing in my life.

Realizing I was out of luck for potato salad, I turned my attention to the cabbage area.

Leaves were strewn about, and there were no green heads left. I was afraid I was going to have to come up with a new plan, but I finally spied two very small heads of red cabbage hidden in the back of the display. I decided to scoop them up for our dinner, figuring two small heads equaled one medium one.

So, while I'm sharing this recipe with you this week, I can't promise you'll be able to find the ingredients for a bit, but save it, because this turned out great and was an especially delicious side dish to German sausage.

This recipe comes from the website "Quick German Recipes" and is by Oma Gerhild Fulson. ("Oma" is German for "Grandma.") I recommend checking out her site. She has lots of traditional recipes and even has a cookbook out. You can find the original post at <https://www.quick-german-recipes.com/recipe-for-red-cabbage.html>. I left the sugar out of my version.

Oma's Red Cabbage
Ingredients
 1 medium head red cabbage, shredded
 2 tablespoons oil
 1 large onion, diced



LINDSEY YOUNG/NEWTON NOW
 German red cabbage is served warm and is a great side dish for traditional German sausage.

3 Granny Smith apples, peeled, cored and shredded
 1/2 cup sweet red wine (I used a cabernet savignon)
 3 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
 salt and pepper to taste
 1/2 rounded teaspoon nutmeg
 1/4 rounded teaspoon cloves
 2 tablespoons lemon juice
 2 tablespoons corn starch

Directions
 In a deep pot or very large skillet, heat the oil over medium heat and saute the onion until lightly browned. Add the shredded cabbage and apples and saute for a few minutes, stirring regularly to incorporate the ingredients.
 Mix in one cup of water along with the red wine, cider vinegar, salt and pepper, nutmeg, cloves, lemon juice and corn starch.
 Cover the pan and let

it simmer for somewhere between 30 minutes and an hour, depending on how tender you want your cabbage. Check and stir every five minutes or so.
 Once the cabbage is to your desired tenderness, taste test it to see if you need to add any more spices, and add more cornstarch if you want to thicken up the juice a bit more.
 Serve hot.

This had some really nice flavor combinations going on—a little tartness from the apples and vinegar, sweetness from the wine, and warmth from the spices. Plus, it was absolutely gorgeous.
 Two words of warning, though. One, it will make your whole house smell like cabbage, which I can tell you was not a plus in Joey's book. Two, red cabbage likes to stain your fingers, so be ready for a little pop of color on your palms from handling it.

I was glad to be able to find just enough ingredients to make my German red cabbage this week, and it gave me a huge appreciation for our local grocers and those who work in that industry. I bet these are exhausting times, and it's a good reminder of how lucky I am that fresh produce and an abundance of food is normally always at my fingertips.
 Hopefully, our grocery stores—and our communities—will be back to normal in no time.

Lindsey Young is a graduate of Bethel College in North Newton and is co-owner of Newton Now.

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NMC implementing visitor restrictions, screening to prevent corona spread

NEWTON NOW STAFF

On Monday, NMC started screening all patients and visitors to the hospital for respiratory symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), close contact with confirmed or suspected Covid-19/Corona Virus cases and international travel. To limit the potential spread of COVID-19, patients with respiratory symptoms and possible exposure to positive COVID-19 patients will immediately be placed in a mask.

Patients and visitors will have to go through the emergency and front door entrance. Visitors under 18 will not be allowed inside unless they are a sibling to an infant in the maternity unit. Screening will take place at the hospitals clinics in Newton, Heston, Park City, Valley Center and Wichita as well. According to a release from the hospital the decision came under the Centers for Disease Control and Medicare and Medi-

caid Services, which are recommending enhanced social distancing, increased infection prevention methods and actions to protect the health of those in acute care. Kansas has had six test positive for Corona Virus, including a Butler County resident. So far one person has died in Kansas. Nationwide confirmed cases rose to 1,875 today, though with communal spread occurring in parts of the country the numbers likely higher.

NEWTON NOW

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Chisholm students write letters about weighty subjects

Editor's note: This interview was done last week, when school was in session.

By Wendy Nugent
Newton Now Staff

Chisholm Middle School seventh-grader Cheyenne Qualls once had a micro pig named Lily Bean.

Pigs are Qualls's favorite animals, and this little pig they kept in the house. That didn't work out, but they found a nice home for her.

"We gave it to someone who had a pot-bellied pig," Qualls said.

Now, Qualls said her family doesn't have any pets, but that doesn't stop her from being passionate about animals and their rights.

Qualls is one of several students in Nova Latta's seventh-grade language arts classes writing letters on subjects on which they're passionate.

"For this project, they get to choose a topic; one they felt passionate about," Latta said.

The topics were animal rights, gender equality, wealth inequality, rights of immigrants and bullying.

"They picked a [community, national or international] leader they could write to who they thought could make a difference and have a say in what they chose," Latta said.

Once the letters are done, Latta said she'd grade them and send them off to whichever leaders the students chose, if the students



Wendy Nugent/Newton Now

Above: Chisholm Middle School student Cheyenne Qualls, left, talks to Nova Latta, language arts teacher, as she works on writing a letter to Ellen DeGeneres. Right: Cameron Fistler works on his letter.



wanted that. "So it was a wide range of people," Latta said about the leaders, adding they consisted of a variety of people with a variety of jobs, from athletes to politicians, to celebrities. Qualls wants her letter to go to Ellen DeGeneres because DeGeneres is a vegan and Qualls chose this particular topic for one reason. "Because there's a lot of animals that get treated badly and they shouldn't," she said. Another student, Cameron Fistler, chose bullying as his topic and

he wants to send the letter to former Chiefs player Jamaal Charles. Fistler said when Charles was young, he had a disability and his school didn't have enough money for a special education classroom, so he had to be in a regular classroom. "He got bullied," Fistler said. Latta thinks the students have enjoyed the letter writing. "It's been a fun project," she said. "Sometimes they have a different perspective than we do." She also said it's been interesting to see what

the students picked for their topics. "And the ideas they come up with and the solutions," she said. There are a few reasons why they're doing this. "It helps us to think outside the box and outside the community," she said. "It helps give them perspective and it gives them a wider perspective, and then I get to teach them how to address an envelope." "What's that?" a couple students said about envelopes. "It's not a text," Latta said about them writing letters. "That's nice."

NEWTON POLICE REPORTS

March 15 Arrests:
Michael Dochow, 31, Newton, warrant, 200 Blk. W. First St.
Alfredo Rodriguez, 53, Newton, domestic battery, 200 Blk. E. 10th St.
Anthony Walker, 24, Newton, aggravated burglary, 1400 Blk. W. Seventh St.
Criminal calls:
Domestic disturbance, 100 Blk. E. Sixth St.
Domestic disturbance, 200 Blk. E. 10th St.
March 14 Arrests:
Johann Horn, 27, Newton, warrant, 1700 Blk. N. Plum St., warrant
Ismael Parga, 19, Newton, trafficking contraband in correctional facility, 200 Blk. W. First St.
Emilio Eason, 18, Newton, minor in pos-

session of liquor, 200 Blk. W. First St.
Mason Kaumans, 25, Newton, counterfeiting currency, 100 Blk. W. 11th St.
Criminal calls:
Domestic Disturbance 400 Blk. N. Poplar
Offenses against family and children, 400 Blk. W. First St.
March 13 Arrests:
Adrian Smurr, 22, Newton, possession of controlled substance, 1300 Blk. N. Main St.
Dominic Goodall, 43, Newton, warrant, 600 Blk. S. Kansas Ave.
Eric Pearson, 54, Newton, possession of stimulant, 300 Blk. W. Broadway St.
Justin Ericksen, 22, Kingman, DUI, 200 Blk. S. Kansas Ave.
Mason Kaumans, 25, Newton, theft, 500 Blk.

W. Fifth St.
March 12 Arrests:
Rebekah Hurd, 28, Wichita, warrant, 100 Blk. W. Elm St.
Gary Saxton, 40, Wichita, warrant, 100 Blk. W. Elm St.
Forrest Maris, 33, Peabody, criminal threat, 100 Blk. S. Main St.
Criminal calls:
Offenses against family/children, 1200 Blk. N. Madison Ave.
March 11 Arrests:
Tatum Albright, 23, Newton, warrant, 900 Blk. N. Logan St.
March 10 Arrests:
Zues Adger, 25, New-

ton, aggravated burglary 100 Blk. N. Boyd Ave.

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Jantz dishes out hard work at NMC for 45 years

BY WENDY NUGENT
NEWTON NOW STAFF

Becky Jantz has washed a lot of dishes—probably more than most people ever would dream of washing. Her boss, Director of Hospitality at Newton Medical Center, Robert E. Kidd figured she cleans about 600,000 items per year in the cafeteria and since she's worked there for 45 years, that's 27 million items in her career, give or take.

She washes a lot of items, including pots, pans, dishes, silverware and anything used in the cafeteria, which serves food to customers, staff and patients alike.

"I do the pots and pans by hand and run those through the dishwasher," the 62-year-old said about various items like silverware and dishes.

With all that work, she said she's developed strong arms and when she goes home from work at night, she doesn't like to do dishes there. She's seen enough of that at work. She said they use paper plates.

All those years ago, Jantz started working at the hospital when it was Bethel Deaconess on Pine Street.

"I started when I was 16," she said, adding she's always worked in Food and Nutrition Services.

The year was 1974 and she was a junior in high school. It was her summer job.

"I did patient salads and washed dishes and did cafeteria salad," she said.

Now, she does dishes and takes food to patients' rooms, as well as train interns.

"She's kind of a jack of all trades," Kidd said, adding Jantz also helps out with Meals on Wheels food, like getting it boxed up.

Meals on Wheels just barely had started when Jantz began employment at the hospital. Kidd said Meals on Wheels has never missed a delivery day in all its years of existence



Above: Newton Medical Center Food and Nutrition Services employee Becky Jantz watches around a corner, taking food trays back to the cafeteria. Jantz has worked at NMC for 45 years. Above right: Becky Jantz puts a tray back on the food tray cart in the Newton Medical Center cafeteria.

and that's partly attributed to Jantz.

Jantz enjoys working at the NMC cafeteria for a couple reasons.

"I like the people," she said. "We got good quality service here."

Jantz also has seen a variety of changes during the years. Since she's worked there, there have been eight directors in the cafeteria. Jantz said the first director had to call Kansas City for a consulting dietitian.

"They didn't have a dietitian on staff," she said.

Another change is computers.

"Everything was down on paper and now it's all done electronically," Director of Marketing and Communication, Shelly Conrady said.

Other changes have been with the hospital moving from building to building. She said she saw Bethel and Axtell merge and the construction of the new hospital.

Jantz said that back in the day, they also served the Newton Area Senior Center, Child Care Center and Bethel Home, and that there was a breezeway connected from the hospital,

as well as a tunnel to Bethel Clinic from the hospital.

One incident Jantz thought was funny from her long career was when she went to the Education Center across the current building's parking lot and it was raining.

"I got soaked from head to toe," she said.

The hospital used a mobile kitchen at the education center.

"They had to go from here to there," Kidd said.

"We laugh about it today," Jantz said about getting soaked.

She also enjoyed volunteering for the hospital's health fairs they used to do.

"That was fun work," she said.

Conrady talked about her observations of Jantz working.

"My favorite thing is watching Becky going down the hall with the cart because she's so short," Conrady said, smiling.

"I'm only 4-11," Jantz said.

The cart, which she stands behind and pushes, is about 6 feet tall.

"She'll come to an in-

tersection, and you'll see that head peak out [around the corner]," Conrady said.

"I'm pretty cautious," Jantz said, adding she's never had a wreck, and she uses mirrors on the walls to watch out for possible problems when going around a corner.

Kidd spoke highly of Jantz.

"Probably one of the best things about Becky is she constantly smiles and she has an attitude of 'we can do it,'" he said about changes. "That's very helpful for leadership to have someone like that."

He said that's not always the case with long-term employees who just want to keep doing things the way they've always done them.

She also rarely misses work. "I'm here all the time," Jantz said.

"You've missed one day of work since I've been here, like you were on your death bed," Kidd said to Jantz.



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Bingo Night deemed a success in Sedgwick

BY BILL BUSH
NEWTON NOW STAFF

SEDGWICK—Sedgwick Connect recently held the first Bingo Night and judging by its success, it may not be their last.

Local businesses and organizations chipped in 20 prizes for the event, which saw 108 total in attendance, according to Sedgwick Connect member Rebekah Morse.

"Our first BINGO event was a success!" Morse said. "Thank you so much to the Sedgwick Sharks for providing concessions and to

everyone who came out to play. We so appreciate all the local businesses and organizations who donated money and prizes!"

Logan McGinn won the blackout prize, which was a family pass to the Sedgwick Community Pool, donated by the Sedgwick Sharks Swim Team.

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KANSAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Future of Journalism in Kansas Event scheduled for March 19 has been **POSTPONED**

It will be rescheduled sometime this summer. Watch for info to come.

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COVID-19 monopolizes business at county meeting

BY BLAKE SPURNEY
NEWTON NOW STAFF

Official business screeched to a halt Tuesday morning as the Board of Harvey County Commissioners received updates on local measures taken to combat the COVID-19 outbreak.

"We're all in turmoil, but let's move on," Commissioner George "Chip" Westfall said at the outset.

As could be expected, nearly all of the hourlong meeting centered on COVID-19. The meeting was moved to the community room in the basement to provide more social distancing.

Health Department Director Lynnette Redington led off with news that Gov. Laura Kelly had banned all public gatherings of more than 50 people Monday. The executive order is in effect for eight weeks. She noted that it was a very fluid situation that kept changing.

"And there are no confirmed cases in Harvey County at this point of time at 9:06 a.m.," she

said. County Administrator Anthony Swartzendruber asked commissioners if they wanted to be more restrictive. He noted that President Donald Trump had recommended limiting gatherings to 50 people.

Commissioner Ron Krehbiel said he wouldn't mind imposing a limit of 25.

Redington said Dr. Doyle Deitweiler, medical director for the county, recommended the 50-person limit.

Hague said he and his wife had decided to self-quarantine for the next month, excepting emergencies.

"It's going to take the full cooperation of the public," he said.

Hague said if 75 percent of people followed the restrictions while 25 percent didn't, the situation wouldn't get under control.

Westfall suggested following the state's recom-

mendation, adding that the county always could tighten restrictions later.

Hague said he re-allocated people needed to go to the grocery store. He asked how the crisis would come under control if 300 to 400 people were in a store at one time, many of whom were closer than six feet apart.

Emergency Management Director Gary Denny said Harvey County's disaster declaration, signed by Hague last Friday, would remain in effect until the end of the month. As of Tuesday morning, 28 counties have disaster declarations.

Swartzendruber then gave a review of county staff's internal preparations. The 911 center is allowing no visitors, and



Krehbiel

visitation at the detention center ended Monday night. He said staff was cleaning "touch points" in public areas of the courthouse.

"Hand-sanitizer stations will be set up when those items are not longer on back order," he said.

Hague asked how many employees came into the courthouse and how many could do their jobs remotely.

Swartzendruber said of the 100 employees, many handled customer-service functions.

Hague suggested compiling a list of who could work from home.

Swartzendruber said the community room would no longer be available for non-county business. All 4-H events have been canceled for four weeks, and he recommended the same for any events planned for shelters at the county's three parks. He said the concern was that staff would

have to do another level of cleaning if anyone rented out the shelters or cabins under construction at Camp Hawk. People who have paid deposits to rent park venues through April will get a refund.

Swartzendruber said out-of-state travel for employees had been prohibited. If an employee of an employee's family member tests positive for COVID-19, that person will be quarantined for 14 days. He said the county would add a provision in its policies to allow employees to telecommute.

Westfall asked if something could be posted at the courthouse door, asking those who had been to a hotspot, such as California or Washington, to report their travels before entering.

Swartzendruber said he could tell that people weren't reading the half dozen or so signs that already had been posted

after he watched the lobby for 15 minutes Monday.

Westfall suggested putting a list of hotspots, which are in flux, on a sign of a different color.

Hague drolly suggested making a sign purple with a Powercat.

Westfall said he thought there would be a group ignoring such a sign.

Department on Aging Director Robert Carlton said all "fun" trips had been canceled. The county still will provide people transportation to medical appointments and to grocery stores.

Register of Deeds Raquel Langley said her office had suspended passport service at least until the end of the month.

Commissioners approved paying weekly bills totaling \$194,231.75 and went into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss security measures.

Future of Journalism forum cancelled in light of public health recommendations

NEWTON NOW STAFF

The Kansas Press Association has postponed its convention in Newton after speaking with health officials who recommended the action in light of concerns of the spread of the COVID-19, coronavirus.

In light of the move, the Future of Journalism forum, put on by Newton Now, The Kansas Press Association and local sponsors will be cancelled.

"We understand folks were looking forward to this and we were, too," forum moderator Adam Strunk said. "While we'd like to move forward with what would have been a great event, we'd also like to be responsible members of the community and take the right action by following the advice of health care professionals."

The convention and forum was set to bring in people from outside the state as well as across Kansas.

Events across the nation continue to be postponed or cancelled as leaders continue to grapple with the spread of the virus.

YMCA closes

The Greater Wichita YMCA facilities, which includes Newton, has temporarily closed down.

This is according to a release sent out to members from Ronn McMahon, Greater Wichita YMCA president and CEO.

"This is an unprecedented time," the release stated. "There has been so much news coverage of COVID-19 that we all feel anxious. Everyone in our communities will be impacted in some way. This morning, after input from local, state and national public health experts, we have decided to temporarily close our YMCA facilities effective Monday, March 16."

The letter states that on-branch learning and spring break programming will continue to operate.

—Newton Now staff

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Newton area

Church Directory

- | | | | | | |
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| <p>All Nations Pentecostal
225 W. Seventh
9:00am Sunday School
10:30am Worship</p> | <p>Cornerstone Apostolic Church
900 W. Broadway
10:00am Worship</p> | <p>First Presbyterian Church
900 Columbus
9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Worship</p> | <p>Iglesia Menonita Casa Betania
429 E. First Street
2:00pm Sunday School
3:30pm Worship
7:00pm Wednesday Bible Study</p> | <p>Newton Christian Church
210 Southport
9:15am Worship
10:30am Connection Time
11:00am Worship</p> | <p>Second Missionary Baptist Church
1124 W. First Street
9:30am Sunday School
11:00am Worship</p> |
| <p>Asbury Park Chapel
200 S.W. 14th
3:30pm Wednesday Worship
4:00pm Sunday Worship</p> | <p>East Side United Methodist Church
1520 E. Bradway
9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Worship</p> | <p>First United Church of Christ
210 E. Fourth
9:30am Worship
10:30am Sunday School</p> | <p>Immanuel Baptist Church
1515 N. Anderson
9:30am Sunday School
10:45am Worship
6:30pm Evening Worship</p> | <p>Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
421 S. Ash
9:00am Mass
11:00am Mass
12:30pm Spanish Mass
5:00pm Saturday Mass</p> | <p>Seventh Day Adventist Christian Church
202 N. Walnut Street
9:15am Sabbath School
10:30am Saturday Church</p> |
| <p>Bethel College Mennonite Church
2600 College Avenue
North Newton
9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 10:50am Faith Formation</p> | <p>Faith Mennonite Church
2100 N. Anderson
9:00am Sunday School
10:30am Worship</p> | <p>First United Methodist Church
801 N. Main
9:30am Sunday School
10:15am Fellowship
11:00am Worship
5:45pm Wednesday events</p> | <p>Jehovah's Witnesses
223 E. 14th
10:00am Public Discourse
11:00am Watchtower Study</p> | <p>People's Bible Baptist Church
E. 12th and Logan
11:00am Praise Service
7:00pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting</p> | <p>Shalom Mennonite Church
800 E. First Street
9:30am Sunday School
10:45am Worship</p> |
| <p>Church of the Brethren
520 Columbus Avenue
9:30am Sunday School
10:45am Worship</p> | <p>Faith Temple Church of God in Christ
226 E. 11th
10:00am Sunday School
11:30am Worship</p> | <p>Golden Plains Free Methodist Church
224 N.W. 60th Street
9:30am Sunday School
10:45am Worship</p> | <p>Koerner Heights Church
320 N. Meridian
9:15am Discipleship Hour
10:30am Worship</p> | <p>RiverPoint Church
722 N. Main
9:00am Worship and Kids Worship
10:45am Worship and Kids Worship
6:30pm Wednesday Student Ministry</p> | <p>The Gathering
518 North Main
The Fox Theater
9:00am Worship
11:00am Worship</p> |
| <p>Church of Christ
1701 Old Main
9:30am Bible Study
10:30am Worship
5:00pm Worship</p> | <p>First Baptist Church
Sixth and Poplar Street
9:30am Worship
11:00am Worship</p> | <p>Grace Community Church
1600 S. Anderson
9:00am Worship
10:30am Worship
10:30am Sunday School</p> | <p>Liberty Baptist Church
613 S. Meridian Road
9:45am Sunday School
10:45am Worship 6:00pm Worship</p> | <p>St. Luke Evangelical Church
808 E. Sixth
9:30am Fellowship and Breakfast
10:30am Worship</p> | <p>Trinity Heights United Methodist Church
Boyd and West 12th
9:00am Worship
10:15am Sunday School
11:11am Worship</p> |
| <p>Church of Christ West First at Columbus
9:30am Bible Study
10:30am Worship
1:30pm Worship</p> | <p>First Church of God
620 Fairview
9:30am Sunday School
10:45am Worship
6:30pm Evening Worship</p> | <p>Hall's Chapel A.M.E. Church
711 E. 11th Street
9:45am Sunday School
1:30pm Worship</p> | <p>Meridian Baptist Church
1130 W. Broadway
9:30am Sunday School
10:40am Worship
6:00pm Worship</p> | <p>St. Mary's Catholic Church
Eighth and Main
5:30pm Saturday Vigil
8:30am Sunday Mass
10:30am Sunday Mass
6:30pm Wednesday Religious Education
6:30pm Wednesday Youth Ministry</p> | <p>Walton United Methodist Church
201 Blaine, Walton
9:00am Sunday Worship
10:30am Sunday School</p> |
| <p>Church of Jesus Christ
1201 Grandview
9:00am Sacrament
10:20am Primary Relief Society, Priesthood
11:10am Sunday School</p> | <p>First Church of the Nazarene
1000 N. Main
9:30am Sunday School
10:45am Worship</p> | <p>Highland Trinity United Church of Christ
Corner of K-15 & Dutch Avenue
10:00am Worship
11:00am Sunday School</p> | <p>New Creation Fellowship Church
221 Muse
10:30am Worship</p> | <p>St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
2001 Windsor Drive
9:00am Sunday School (September - May)
10:15am Sunday Holy Eucharist</p> | <p>Zion Lutheran Church
225 S. Poplar
8:45am Sunday School and Bible Classes
10:00am Worship</p> |
| <p>Church of God
400 N. Meridian
9:45am Sunday School
10:45am Worship
7:00pm Wednesday Bible Study</p> | <p>First Mennonite Church
429 E. First
9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Worship</p> | <p>Hillcrest Community Church - A Foursquare Church
431 W. 12th
9:30am Cafe Connect
10:30am Worship</p> | <p>Newton Bible Church
900 Old Main
9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Worship
6:00pm Worship</p> | <p>Salem United Methodist Church
First and Old Main
9:00am Sunday School
10:00am Worship</p> | <p>If you would like to become a sponsor of the Newton Area Church Directory, please contact Bruce Behymer at 316.281.7899</p> |
| <p>Crossway Bible Church
15716 N.W. 150th Street
10:30am Worship
9:30am Sunday School</p> | <p>First Missionary Church
1300 N. Berry
9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Worship</p> | <p>Iglesia Del Nazareno El Calvario
914 Washington Road
10:30am Worship
7:00 pm Friday Worship</p> | <p>Newton Now
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OPINION

EDITORIAL

We are called again to selflessness

Now is the time to be selfless and not selfish. Many of us have had the privilege of living in a time and country that required zero sacrifice as a society. We didn't know polio outbreaks, food shortages and rationing. We have no idea what a victory garden is. The majority of society wasn't eligible for the draft. 9/11 was the biggest societal event we experienced. In that, for the vast majority of us, the following days required little sacrifice. Outside of those who served or cleaned up, the only requirement society had seemed to be to continue going to public places or "the terrorists would win."

This coronavirus and how to respond to the most serious public health event of our lives is new to us. And we're seeing the understandable responses of people dealing with a threat that they don't understand. We deny it; we ignore it or we panic. Should we mitigate the loss of life, we can afford to do none of these actions.

We must not greet this threat with the same 9/11 sort of attitude, that we must continue as lives exactly as before or perhaps the virus has won. Continuance of our past routines ensures the virus will win as those routines will spread it faster.

For a few months our lives are going to be far different than what we knew. We're not going to have sports for a while. Sorry. It's a sacrifice we all must make — we swear this was KU's year, too. Social distancing is one of our best ways to limit the disease's spread.

We must not seek to ignore our new reality or reject information from health experts distributed through reliable news sources. We must not peddle misinformation that we want to be true because it makes us feel better. This isn't the flu. This isn't a media conspiracy. This is a fast spreading disease that's 10 times more deadly than the flu when it strikes and especially so in the elderly and sick. We must see this disease for what it is.

But, we must see it for what it isn't, as well. It's not the apocalypse.

We have to use common sense and not horde or panic, and not look out only for ourselves.

When you buy 8,000 rolls of toilet paper, it means there will be an 80-year-old lady that has to go to the store during the heat of the outbreak to buy some as they previously found the store empty.

If you're younger and healthy, you need to think of these people and avoid being sick, not just so you feel good, but so you're not a vector to hurt them.

It's OK to be concerned. It's OK to be worried. It's OK to be upset by this rapidly developing situation.

We have gone through all those emotions here at the newspaper office.

Yet, we've faced down far worse in our past. We, as a society can do amazing works. And we can do it again. Polio? We took care of it. Small Pox? We took care of that, too.

World War II? We also took care of that with our Kansas factories turning out airplanes in a speed and quantity that has never been surpassed.

That was a time of sacrifice with the lives of our servicemen and the contributions of so many on the home front.

That was a time of shortages, rationing, grief and worry. Our society did what it was called to do. And, it succeeded in the war and in rebuilding the world afterward.

Today, the majority of us are called on to do far less. We're called to deal with the inconvenience of our events being canceled, to stay away from others if we're sick and to look out for our elderly and at-risk populations. We're called to wash our hands.

This might be the first crisis in history where most of us can handle it by sitting home on our butts.

So, we need to accept darkening weeks with understanding, thought, courage and empathy.

These social distancing efforts might seem an overreach to some. But from the horrors coming out of Italy and other countries with the elderly now left to die as resources and ICU's are overwhelmed, why should we not take every precaution necessary?

If we do our part, then we will have the luxury of looking back and saying we overreacted.

But if that's not the case, we'll have the grief of saying, "How foolish we were."

In this time, let us think of those at risk and slow the spread so that everyone has medical access that needs it.

Let's think of all the local mom-and-pop businesses in Newton who will face financial hardships during this time. Let us do what we can to help them during and after this crisis. Be nice to the people at the grocery store and pharmacy who don't have the luxury of avoiding crowds.

And please think and remember those on the front lines, doctors, nurses, health care professionals, janitors and everyone who must deal with sick people firsthand and care for them.

These people are going to put their lives on the line for us because it's their job. They're going to take care of us should we get sick. They're our last resort in fighting the outbreak. And they will be burdened with the greatest risk of anyone in our society.

Knowing this; knowing our risks and knowing the consequences of our own selfishness, let's make these people's jobs as easy as possible.

We are not powerless no matter how much it feels that way. We all have power to make positive decisions and do our part, no matter how small and limited it is. And we may as well do it with a smile.

- Newton Now Editorial Board



Let's recognize some important people

I keep calling my friends who are healthcare professionals looking for better news. They give little. I feel for these people. When many of us are happily staying away from coughing people, they're stuck treating them. Depending on their location, they're doing so with improper equipment or reusing the equipment because of shortages. Imagine if these people said they, too, didn't want to take on the risk. Imagine the issues that would create. I want to thank these people and say I acknowledge the sacrifices that they will soon likely make. You all are heroes, including my sister Julie Menefee, an Emergency Room Physicians Assistant in Colorado. She's a freaking rock star, and I'm proud of her and all the other medical professionals I know.

Other rock stars include folks like Robert Palmer. Palmer, Back Alley Pizza owner, is the kind of person you wish to build a community around. He cares deeply for Newton. He goes out of his way to help others and other businesses. I think about him and all our other local restaurateurs and business owners during what might be at least eight weeks of a slow down. Running a local business in Newton is hard. Now imagine doing it when all your customers are told to stay home for safety. All these people give so much and do so much to support our community. In the coming weeks, it will be our time and responsibility to support them in whatever safe, responsible way we can. We're a community, and for all the knocks people say about us, if you take care of Newton, it usually will take care of you.

Help all the business you can. For the record, I did not create coronavirus. I did not spread it. I did not cause all these cancellations. I did not make it especially fatal or especially contagious. I put a gun to no one's head and said, "Buy stupidly large amounts of toilet paper." This is for all the people out there blaming the media because they are now inconvenienced by a



STRUNK IN PUBLIC

world pandemic.

I could not have created this virus, because had I created it, it would not effect our most vulnerable and those who behave thoughtfully and look out for their fellow citizens. Unfortunately, that is not the case. I get it, people. I think cable news is trash. I think the direction corporate owners force local TV stations to take is trash as well. But the vast majority of people working in the news industry simply want to inform the public. And many play a vital role during this event, filtering through the false information some people spread and the propaganda and spin others spread in order to create clear, concise information.

The first time ever I will write that Donald Trump is doing something right.

After weeks of denying coronavirus, refusing World Health Organization tests, saying it would go away, or comparing it to the flu, he's finally, and thankfully, acknowledging that coronavirus is in fact a serious threat.

This has made a huge difference as his remaining supporters do listen to him. Otherwise, I'm sure we'd have a few who would lick a doorknob just to spite everyone not wearing a MAGA hat.

The move of Trump to acknowledge its seriousness greatly reduced the number of willing disease vectors.

I've been working from home a bit and avoiding larger social events. I'm already getting a bit stir crazy. I find that walks are helpful. I just put on my coat and go for a long walk. I see neighbors

doing the same thing sometimes. It helps ease the anxiety. Life seems much less gloomy and imposing with robins hopping around and tulips sprouting. Soon we're going to see daffodils and those tulips bloom. Crocuses already are blooming. Then will come dogwoods, bridal wreaths, lilac, apple trees, etc. We're talking a lot about death and mortality rates. Taking a walk to look at living stuff helps balance it out.

I can't imagine having a kid right now, but I feel for parents. Finding child care, especially with the likelihood for schools to be closed, would be miserable, especially because this community is short on child care to begin with. I did see First Church of God is providing kids with meals over spring break if the kids might not have them. That's a solid move. I hope others, perhaps the school district, can figure out ways of providing meals for those in need during an extended shutdown, similar to what they do in the summer. That's good work.

I've got some vegetables to plant next weekend. I'm excited. I hope the people who saw me clearing out the seed rack in the grocery store thought I was some next level prepper, planting a garden to live off the land. I've no doubt they've followed my example and cleared the store of spinach and radish seeds.

That being said, when I lived on my folks' farm, we could have seriously gone months without going to the store when the garden was going. I hope the shutdown will not go on so long that I'm using my produce to supplement the various dried goods I put away just in case.

Everybody is pretty bummed about the coronavirus. Except for my cat. She's seeing me at home a lot and super enthused. She's been getting a few more pets lately when I get stressed. Words of wisdom for the week: pet your animals, love each other, wash your hands, repeat.

Adam Strunk is the managing editor at Newton Now. He can be reached at 316-281-7899.

How to spend your time when social distancing

These past few days have been like some disaster movies I've seen—people locking down, a scary illness going around and crazed people buying toilet paper. Oh wait, that latter one is real life, not in the movies.

It's been interesting trying to keep up news-wise to let everyone know what's going on in Harvey County regarding closings, postponements and cancellations. The entire staff has been monitoring the situation—from home, from the office and posting things as soon as we can.

For instance, the art show opening for my sons and I, Nuggets to the Power of Four, has been postponed, but the show still is up. You're all welcome to go look at it on the mezzanine level at The Carriage Factory Art Gallery, 128 E. Sixth St. in Newton. Their hours of operation, at least as I write this, are noon-5 p.m., Tuesdays through Fridays and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturdays.

My mom, who is stuck at home with my dad since they've decided to keep human contact to a minimum, suggested I write a column about things people can do who are hunkering down at home. I'd also like to add at least one thing to limit other human contact.

Order your groceries from Dil-



WENDY'S WORDS

lons or Walmart via the Internet. I've done this a few times, including today, and it works great. I've never had an order get messed up, although today, even though the website said they had certain things, I received a sheet stating I wouldn't get those items, which included my beloved grapefruit sparkling water. I asked the gal who delivered the items to my vehicle if they were busy (ha ha), and she said that was an understatement. She said they usually have 6-25 orders a day, and on Sunday, they had 32. You just pay online and the items magically get delivered to your car. Just pull into the parking spots for pickups and call the number that's posted.

Both my mom and boyfriend suggested I get extra medication if at all possible and to stock up

on food, both of which I'm doing. Dillons does same-day pickup for \$4.95 extra and about \$10 for delivery. I don't think Walmart charges extra for a minimum-dollar-amount order.

Go on a walk, but stay away from people who are coughing and sneezing. It's a good way to get outside without being around a bunch of people.

Do some spring-cleaning. Watch the Marie Kondo series on Netflix to get inspired regarding organizing and getting rid of items. Only keep what sparks joy and necessary items.

Research new recipes and try those by ordering groceries online, granted we still have electricity and running water, which I'm not seeing as happening, but you never know.

Organize your stocked-up food in the pantry or cabinets.

Tired of staring at the same old living room? Maybe rearrange the furniture. Plan a new décor scheme and call Main Street Company in Newton, which said on FB they'd deliver curbside things people purchase.

Start downsizing and getting rid of what you don't need.

Write a personal history with memories of your life, like the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020.

See SOCIAL / 7

Have coronavirus questions? Ask a librarian

The drumbeat of news about the novel coronavirus abruptly jumped to a new level of intensity and urgency on the evening of Wednesday, March 11.

That evening, over the course of what felt like just a few minutes, President Donald Trump addressed the nation about the crisis; the NBA suspended its season; Tom Hanks announced that he and his wife, Rita Wilson, had fallen ill; and Kansas colleges started announcing class cancellations and delays.

If you've spent time on Twitter, Facebook or other social media since March 11, you have no doubt seen photos, memes and viral stories with no ready answers to some important questions: "Where did this come from? Is this real or fake?"

Some of the questionable content truly is real and accurate. Some of it falls into the category of "malicious hoax."

And then there are the jokes and memes—lots and lots of those. They wouldn't be a problem if you could rely on everybody in the world to get a joke.

Altogether, the endless stream of questionable "news" is a problem—a big problem.

Millions of people are seeing, and perhaps believing, tall tales about coronavirus because they appear in feeds on Facebook or Twitter. Millions of others don't fall for the false news, but they throw up their hands and tune out legitimate, credible information.

So, what do you do? One thing you



SAM JACK
LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

can do is ask a librarian.

If you want to know whether something you heard is true, false or debatable, we can do a bit of research and tell you. We can connect you with reliable sources, such as public agencies; widely-respected national media; and credible, responsible local media outlets such as Newton Now and The Newton Kansan.

You can stop in, give us a call at 316-283-2890, e-mail your questions to library@newtonplks.org, or contact us on Facebook, www.facebook.com/NewtonPublicLibraryKansas.

Connecting patrons with the information they need is one important part of our mission. Another is to provide "ready and free access to the world of ideas...and creative experience." So if the coronavirus means you're stuck at home, whether for a few days or a few weeks, please take advantage of our digital reading and entertainment services.

We have more online and digital offerings than I have space to mention, but I'd like to highlight three of our

most popular.

- **Libby:** Libby is an app for Android, iOS and Windows. For most people, Libby is the easiest way to access the Sunflower eLibrary, a collection of thousands of ebooks and streaming audiobooks that we share with other Kansas libraries. You can also access Sunflower eLibrary content through the Overdrive app or using an Internet browser.

- **Hoopla:** Hoopla provides ebooks and audiobooks, plus music and streaming video. Unlike Libby, titles on Hoopla are available on-demand, so you never have to wait for someone else to turn an item back in. Hoopla can be accessed via mobile apps and web browsers, and it is also compatible with Roku and several different varieties of smart TV. Each patron can borrow up to four items per month using Hoopla.

- **Flipster:** Use Flipster to read digital replicas of more than two dozen popular magazines, including People, Highlights, Time and The New Yorker. I use the Flipster app on my iPhone all the time, and it works great. It's also available for Android and via web browsers.

These three services, and many others, are free with your Newton Public Library card. For more information, visit www.newtonplks.org, give us a call or stop in. We're always happy to troubleshoot or help get you set up with access.

Sam Jack is the public relations and special services supervisor at Newton Public Library.

This year is turning into a strange one with virus

Early last week I went to the YMCA in Newton to swim some laps, something I do two or three times a week.

With my towel in hand, I stepped out of the locker room and thirty feet to my left a woman floated face down in the swimming pool, not moving. A loud voice screamed something I couldn't make out. A male lifeguard was running in my direction.

I was a lot closer to the woman. In fact, I was the closest person to her. I hadn't seen what had happened, but what if she didn't have time for the lifeguard to rescue her?

It has been 20 years, but I've been a lifeguard a couple of different times. That didn't matter because right now, she needed her face out of the water and anyone could do that.

A female lifeguard approached from the other direction. Still, I was much closer.

But I froze. Not because I was scared or unsure, but because the female lifeguard was walking, casually. She turned and walked away from the scene.

The male lifeguard jumped into the pool and walked through the water toward the body, yelling out commands every few seconds.

Even though he was in the water, I still could have reached her first. But no one else in the area had made a move to help. Some were watching, some went about playing or swimming without mind to the helpless woman. Nobody seemed concerned except for the lifeguard wading his way to the body.

I stepped back and watched as the lifeguard carefully flipped the lady over and proceeded to drag her to the side, and with the help of another lifeguard, hoist her onto solid ground.

If I wouldn't have seen the second lifeguard casually walking, I would have jumped in and interrupted their training session. I suppose then they would have been telling the story instead of me.

That was one of the strangest things I had experienced in a long time. As it turns out, it was a week of bizarre happenings.

Thirty years ago I witnessed a tornado as it passed Hillsboro, one that had destroyed much of Hesston and other areas along its path. Everyone in the area remembers the event, where they were, and how they felt. But that was regional.

Everyone in our country will re-



BILL BUSH
SO FEW WORDS, SO LITTLE TIME

member what happened last week, where they were, and how they felt, as various cancellations unfolded.

I saw on Facebook that the NBA had postponed their season. I heard on the radio that several major college leagues cancelled their tournaments, then later that the NCAA had cancelled THE tournament.

The worst news was finding out via a text—while the girls were battling for the right to continue—that the 3A State tournament had been cancelled.

And what about those Dragons! What they did that night (and all season) was simply remarkable.

They had a lot of fouls at halftime, and I thought if they could cut the lead, even if by only a couple of points, and stay out of foul trouble, they would have a chance to win. Well, they did a great job on not fouling in the third quarter, but instead of getting closer, they dropped a point and trailed by nine with eight minutes left. I was worried.

But something happened. It looked like Halstead finally figured out Scott City's defense, because they came out and scored eight points and didn't have the offensive struggles the rest of the game that they had the first three quarters.

Even with the two overtimes, no one on our team fouled out. It was an amazing performance all the way around. No one at the game will forget the experience, nor will they forget the announcement after the game that the remainder of the tournament had been canceled.

I already knew, but still the announcement after the game felt like a load of bricks being dumped on the crowd.

My heart goes out to the girls. I can't imagine how devastating it was for them to hear.

We'll never know if they would have hoisted the championship trophy on Saturday evening. There's no reason to believe they wouldn't have.

It's a hard lesson to learn, but life is about what you make out of what it gives you. Honestly, out of all of the teams that didn't get the chance to finish their attempt at the State title, our girls are one of the most fortunate. They have no seniors on the team and will get another shot next year.

That isn't to say they shouldn't be disappointed. They should. But it provides hope in the midst of the disappointment, and gives them a way to move forward individually and as a team.

And if I know these girls after watching them for many years, they are determined, hard workers, and teachable. They were great as freshmen, and still have worked to improve every year. I expect them to use this experience as motivation to have a season next year that will help us put this one in the past.

I, for one, am looking forward to that.

A few days ago we faced the prospect of watching college and professional basketball games without fans. I would have watched. I think it would have been horrible, but we all like to watch a good train wreck, don't we?

Some of the things happening with the Wuhan Coronavirus are truly bizarre, but it's honestly hard to draw the line between overly cautious and overreacting.

In general, I won't fault those in charge for being overly protective. Those decisions weigh heavily and I can't say I would do differently.

However, we've definitely crossed the line in certain instances, giving way to fear and irrational behavior.

The governor of Idaho declared a state of emergency hours before the first case of the Wuhan Coronavirus was confirmed in his state. Really?

And what's with the shortage of items in the stores. I understand hand soap and hand sanitizer. I guess. But toilet paper and bottled water? I suppose if it's being bought up by people who don't plan to show their faces in public for the next year, maybe the shortage will be worth it.

I don't mind the social distancing though. I practiced social distancing before it was cool.

Bill Bush is a reporter for the Halstead Independent, Hesston Record and Newton Now.

LETTERS

My heartfelt gratitude to everyone

Dear friends,
I am absolutely in awe of the classic car parade and the donations given for me Friday, March 6, in Newton.
I was sorry I had to miss riding in the 1964 Falcon down Main Street.
That would have been much more fun than being transported by ambulance to St. Francis Hospital in Wichita a few hours earlier. (Thankful for them)
A thank you doesn't seem adequate to everyone, but it is sent with heartfelt gratitude.

Roger and Peggy Gillispie and Family, Newton

It's sad Hodge supports taxpayer-funded abortion

Dear editor,
It is so sad that every Democratic candidate for President supports taxpayer-funded abortions, and Representative Tim Hodge's (D-Newton) voting record agrees. If he were a true independent voice, he would stand up for what is right and protect our tax dollars from being used for something completely contrary to Kansas values. It is outrageous that our state would divert dollars from schools, roads and public safety to destroy human life.

The "Value Them Both Amendment" to the Kansas Constitution was specifically written to prohibit "public funding of abortion." Whether you support abortion or not, how extreme do you have to be to be able to force others to pay for it?

When the "Value Them Both Amendment" comes back up for consideration, I sincerely hope Representative Hodge will do the right thing and vote for this amendment and stop making excuses.

*Dixie Jenson
Newton*

Breaking news no longer journalism

Breaking news. For the last three weeks, those were the first two words said on the CBS evening news...for three weeks, really? If you haven't been paying attention to most of our national media, they have taken over control of the popular mindset of our country.

They report what they want us to hear, not necessarily what is on the most important news of the day or week. I believe many Americans have seen this and have stopped watching newscasts. I say this because over the last year I have asked many people I see during the week and many haven't been aware of stories that are being reported in the news...until this last week.

The good news is we're not alone. Other countries are facing the same thing; propaganda, programming, brain washing, and call it what you want, but it isn't news. I take an interest in this because I attended journalism school while in the Army (and in high school). The current media is doing things we were taught not to do.

We were told a thesaurus is a very important book to have, because if your competition used one particular word in a headline, it was your job as a journalist to come up with a better word. How many times in recent years did you hear the words "meddling" used over and over again by every news outlet?

Another rule we were taught: get your own source. It wasn't considered professional to say, "according to the New York Times" aliens will attack next Tuesday and expect people to take you serious. Another thing that is happening often with today's media, a reporter will say, "according to sources..." they never give a name to a source. It could be a cab driver, the door man at a hotel or a pizza delivery person.

They then go on to tell a story based on no real facts...all on speculation, yet people are believing it because it's on the news, said by TV journalists who appear to be professional.

This is not journalism, not how I was taught in the late '80s and early '90s. My instructors told me to get both sides of the story and share that with readers and let them make up their own minds. These days, it feels like a newscaster is selling the news, not reporting it.

*Mark Rolland
Newton*

SOCIAL

From Page 6

- Write a poem or play related to the COVID-19 crisis.
- If you have kids, or if you don't, use blankets to build an indoor fort. Read scary stories in the tent with a flashlight and even serve dinner in the tent. Everyone can sleep in the fort, as well. Make the experience one of fun. I know USD-373 has spring break this week, but all other schools in the state are cancelled for this week.
- Let everyone in the family pick a movie to watch on Netflix or Sling or just regular TV. Pop some popcorn. Watch it from your fort.
- Take a drive in your car and count the number of people who are out and

- about as a counting lesson for kids. This way, you're out but not near people outside your family who might infect you and yours.
- Create finger puppets and write a short play with your kids. Use old socks or construction paper.
- Play games in your yard, but don't necessarily play games with other families to keep a social distance.
- Plan a summer vacation, assuming this COVID-19 crisis is over by then.
- Take virtual tours of museums throughout the world. Google it on the internet.
- Do a hobby or start a hobby. I have a couple hobbies I enjoy doing, like ceramics and quilting. I can spend hours doing those.
- Look at Pinterest for decorating ideas. You can plan your next Halloween

- or Christmas decorations for later this year.
 - We're all under extra stress lately, so do something to de-stress, whatever that might be. Order some seeds or bulbs online for a summer garden, do some meditation, read a good book, exercise and stretch.
 - Stand on your balcony or outside and sing, like they're doing in Italy.
 - Those are just a few of the ideas I had off the top of my head, some of which my mom suggested. I hope everyone stays safe and healthy during this COVID-19 crisis and keep washing your hands.
- Wendy Nugent is the features editor and lead photographer for Newton Now. She can be reached at wendy@harveycountynow.com.*

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FROM PAGE ONE

COUNTY

From Page 1

girls' basketball team. Colleges like Bethel and Hesston extended breaks and cancelled spring sports seasons. The Newton YMCA and the Rec Center have closed temporarily. Visitor access at many local nursing homes, such as Kidron Bethel and Kansas Christian Home has been limited, if not closed off. Hospital patients and visitors are now limited and screened. Antonio Ramos, for instance, celebrated his 82nd birthday behind glass on Tuesday at Kansas Christian home. "We're trying to take preventative measures," Harvey County Health Director Lynnette Redington said. "We are here to do the best we can to keep everybody going where we are, but we have an interesting situation for all of us."

Flattening the curve
Public health officials and experts are pushing for cancellations and social distancing in an effort to "flatten the curve" or slow the infection rate of the coronavirus.

During a spike, large amounts of people could need medical attention stressing hospitals past their breaking points. Dr. Norman Lee of the state health department stated that in worst case scenarios, healthcare providers in Kansas and across the country would be overwhelmed by medical cases. Up to 20 percent of those infected by the virus require hospitalization.

Instead, the state is focused on spreading infections out over a longer period of time with hygiene practices, self-quarantines and social distancing.

"We want to not have everybody get the coronavirus all at the same time because that will make a huge influx to our healthcare system," Redington said. "This is across the U.S.A. We will just not be able to handle all of that at one time with all the patients coming in. If we can have folks doing this monitoring, getting themselves quarantined, staying home, staying out of large gatherings, that's going to help us, we believe," she said, adding the situation was very fluid and health officials were doing their



best. Gary Denny said that there were ways of tracking available capacity of beds across the region, and what specialty services were available. He did not provide a total bed capacity for Harvey County. Newton Medical Center has a 103 bed capacity, with the ability to expand in an emergency, though some of those beds are taken up by people suffering from regular medical issues.

The result of viral booms have been most apparent in Italy, which has had to set up temporary hospital space and pick the people who received medical treatment and ventilators or didn't because of limited resources.

As of March 16, the World Health Organization showed the country having a 7.3 percent mortality rate on infections due to the country's population being one of the oldest in the world and because an overwhelmed hospital system.

The virus hits the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions far harder than younger populations. In the U.S. as of Tuesday, cases had surpassed at least 5,000 according to multiple counts kept by independent media sources and compiled from state and local health departments with 96 deaths, so far.

For context, that number was around 1,000

seven days prior. Washington, New York and California, all where early spread occurred, are seeing hundreds of cases. New York, which has implemented a more aggressive testing system than the federal government, listed 1,300 positive cases on Tuesday. CDC counts put our current infection number at 4,226 on Tuesday, but those counts lagged behind updated state measures. It listed eight confirmed cases in Kansas, though the most recent state update lists 18 confirmed cases, including one death. Statewide, Kansas had tested 417 people. Locally, five tests had been conducted in Harvey County, according to a county press conference, though no one had tested positive as of Tuesday. There were 10 positive tests in Johnson County, three in Wyandotte, one in Franklin, one in Douglas, one in Ford, one in Miami and one in nearby Butler.

Recently, the state announced drive-up testing areas in places like Topeka or Wichita. "We have plans for if we need to do those drive-through testing facilities, all are partners are on board," Redington said. "Right now, we don't see that today, but we're ready if something is done in that matter."

Redington said there was no indication on how fast the state would have such areas set up. On Monday, Norman

said that federal dollars received from the state would be pushed to local health departments. Redington said should the health department receive such resources they would likely go toward personnel and supplies.

What to do to prevent

Health guidelines continue to change as the virus spreads. At this point, people's best bet to stay up to date is to visit the Kansas Department of Health website at kdheks.gov or cdc.gov.

As of Tuesday, the federal government had issued recommendations against gathering in groups of 10 or more for the next 15 days and limited discretionary travel.

President Donald Trump, in a press conference, recommended governors close schools and possibly restaurants and bars and other areas of congregation due to transmission. He recommended anyone with even minor symptoms of illness stay home.

The president also recommended people in non-essential services work from home and children be home-schooled.

Locally, the KDHE calls for self-quarantines for anyone that received notification from public health officials of a close contact with a laboratory-confirmed case of COVID-19.

Self-quarantine recommendations also extend for 14 days for

anyone who traveled to places with widespread community transmission (New York, Washington state, California), visited four Colorado counties after March 8 (Eagle, Summit, Pitkin, Gunnison), or traveled internationally after March 15.

Most public health recommendations agree that to slow the viral spread, people are recommended to stay out of public places and away from groups as much as possible.

"Individuals not having symptoms may possibly be shedding or being contagious before they actually show symptoms," Redington said. "That's one of the reasons we're putting on this self-monitoring and quarantines. We are recommending we cancel all non-essential events."

Harvey County Health Department is cooperating with the state ban on gatherings of more than 50 people. Emergency management director Gary Denny said the county is planning with the state on how to enforce the bans. Redington said she hoped people would self-enforce such bans.

"We're Harvey County; we love each other; we get along, but we need to just self-monitor that stuff. It's common sense and common courtesy," she said.

Washing hands is still the most effective way to prevent spread. Count to 20 seconds as you wash with soap. Sanitize regularly used surfaces

with disinfectant. Such surfaces could include keyboards, phones and doorknobs. Cough in your elbow, if necessary.

If you get sick
COVID-19 symptoms include a dry cough and fever. If you have such symptoms, the county recommends you call your healthcare provider, but don't go inside to avoid infecting people.

"All of our clinics here in Harvey County have set up a protocol that they will get them through," Redington said.

Testing is in the hands of healthcare providers that will decide if a test is necessary. The state KDHE still signs off on testing and has guidelines on who receives a test.

Those who have been in contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case, or have traveled to areas where there is community spread and have symptoms, will be eligible for testing. Those with no contact have to have severe acute respiratory distress and fever and cough to be eligible for a test, according to state guidelines.

In many cases, you might be sick but not currently have access to testing under state guidelines.

If you are in such a situation, stay at home and distance yourself from people as you normally would do when you are sick.

"If you're feeling ill or not feeling right, you do what you normally do when you feel ill," Redington said. "You stay home; you take care of yourself; you clean up after yourself."

If you're sick, the CDC recommends a face mask and only leaving the house for medical attention.

It recommends personally sanitizing your sick area.

CDC recommends those at home sick under quarantine should stay in a room separate of other family members if possible and have a separate bathroom, if possible. Care workers are recommended to wear gloves and a mask when taking care of such a person or disposing of used items, such as tissues or sanitizing items touched by the person. Sharing food and dishes is not recom-

FOOD

From Page 1

With health agencies recommending people avoid public places to prevent the spread of coronavirus, many Newton businesses based on face-to-face interaction have been hurriedly coming up with ways to deal with the growing reality of empty streets and empty seats.

Palmer said Back Alley Pizza had a better than usual January and February-- traditionally slow months. But March for him is usually a rebound following the winter. He worries that may not be the case after reading various health recommendations concerning the coronavirus. "One of the recommendations out of probably 15 was to restrict eating in public places and I went 'ah man!'"

At Norms Coffee Bar, they're looking at what do do if crowds peter out.

"Mom and I had the conversation yesterday that if our sales get bad we might have to tell our workers they have a week off," co-owner Ashleigh Lakey said.

Lakey said Norm's is working to address any concerns about possible infection by cleaning over and over again.

"We're not going to start taking peoples' mugs; we took toys out of the kids' play area, which is a bummer for us. We're doing things like making sure we're

obsessively washing our hands."

She said cleanliness standards for eating establishments are already high but the virus has put them into overdrive, with regular wipe downs of surfaces, as well as the touch pad used to ring people up. They also ask customers to bus their own tables.

"Just asking our customers to play a part in that, too," Lakey said. "The less I touch the things you touch, the better."

Rosie Martin, general manager of Genova's said the restaurant is also doing what it can to make sure it's sanitized and staff is healthy.

"Oh my God, it's clean, clean, clean and we're just constantly looking at each other making sure everyone is fine," she said.

Martin said she understood people's need to prepare, but she hoped people wouldn't simply panic.

"We should calm down, do our thing and wash our hands," she said.

Murray Anderson, owner of 12 Brew, Gurty's, as well as Anderson Liquor Store said he expected a slow down with the restaurants, though his liquor store has been doing heavy business.

"A liquor store is busier in times like this because people are going home and not to a crowded bar," he said. "That is going to be busier than bars."

A store employee mentioned Friday about a customer who purchased \$500 worth of vodka and planned on not leaving their house for a month.

Palmer and Anderson both said they're also considering other options and offerings should people decide to stop coming in to the restaurants often. Palmer said he might move to offering curbside pickup and allowing people to order online.

"It's getting down to what we can offer and how we can serve with minimal impact."

Anderson said that Gurty's does offer curbside pickup.

"There's an online order button on our Facebook page," he said. "We've noticed a spike in those orders. People want to enjoy the food but maybe not sit at the table."

He said that it's likely his store would be filling more and more curbside orders.

Palmer said Back Alley Pizza is built for longevity and they'd figure out how to keep going regardless, even if it meant him having to deliver pizzas to peoples' houses.

However, he said as the social distancing continues, he thinks that people will eventually get stir crazy and go out to eat, regardless of their concerns.

"We as a culture get antsy," he said. "All of a sudden people say forget it and they go out."

SCHOOLS

From Page 1

"The steps we're announcing today will create the space we need at the state level to develop a strategic, more resilient infrastructure so that we can get ahead of this threat and limit its long-term impact."

The Newton school district released a statement shortly after and Superintendent Deb Hamm also returned a request for comment.

"Throughout the week, the district leadership will be communicating with the state and looking into multiple options to continue education if possible. USD-373 is also figuring out a way to get school lunches to students during this closure," Hamm said. "District officials will send frequent updates out to parents, staff and the public."

Hamm said that her hope, although she'd yet to start meeting and planning with educators, is the district would provide small group learning opportunities, online learning and virtual mentoring and instruction for students. She said the district having computers for all the high school students would help this along. The district also has experience educating online.

She said she had an amazing team of educators that would help with the planning.

Hamm said the district would begin providing breakfast and lunches for students on Monday, March 23.

"We don't know what that looks like yet, but that information will be coming out shortly," she said.

At the press conference today, Gov. Kelly said that the task force of top education professionals she formed has been working on plans to continue students' education outside of school, provide meals and provide child care for first responders among other issues.

Randy Watson Kansas Education Commissioner spoke on the task force.

He said the task force was using the expert knowledge to come up with plans and learning environments appropriate for pre-K to high school at the highest standards.

He said the plans no way will replicate the learning going on in Kansas schools, but it would provide a bridge in difficult times to bring students back to when times are normal.

At 5 p.m. on Wednesday, the task force was to produce a report on the plan going forward. That report was published after this articles' publication.

Watson said the state would make sure to provide access to education and other services to low income populations that might not have regular food or internet access.

He also said that the state hopes to have current seniors complete their education as normal.

"We're going to make sure to ask school boards to look at requirements of graduation relative to the state," he said. "Our first intention will be to make sure all students graduate on time."

Hamm reiterated the point.

"One of the things we'll be looking at starting tomorrow is how many of our senior students already have 21 credits and what we need to do to get them to 21 hours," she said, adding that students would graduate, though whether a ceremony would happen remains to be determined.

At the press conference, Kelly said that the state will also have government employees, employed through her executive branch go home for two weeks with paid administrative leave.

She said that all education employees and state employees will be paid.

Kelly brought her talking to a close with a message to Kansans.

"Ad astra per aspera literally means to the stars through difficulty," she said. "Our Kansas motto has never been more appropriate and it's through this Kansas spirit that we will overcome this challenge and come out stronger as a state."



HARVEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORTS

Sheriff reports

March 9 — Lashawn Marie Davis, 34, Wichita, possession of a stimulant, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, I-135, milepost 35.

Xavier Jermaine Tre' Smith, 27, Sedan, operating a vehicle without valid license, I-135, milepost 35.

March 10 — Cody Ray Whiteface, 27, Hastings, Neb., possession of a stimulant and possession of drug paraphernalia, 100 block of West Broadway Street, Newton.

Ammanda A. Shockley, 33, Hastings, Neb., possession of a stimulant, 100 block of West Broadway Street, Newton.

March 11 — Jefferson Ross Holland, 27, Hutchinson, driving with a suspended license, US-50, milepost 257.

Destiny Aleas Neill, 26, Hutchinson, interference with law enforcement, US-50, milepost 257.

March 13 — Brandon Kenneth Morgan, 28, Phillipsburg, arrest warrant in other jurisdiction, I-135, milepost 27.

March 14 — Alexis Lara Anderson, 25, Wichita, possession of a stimulant and possession of drug paraphernalia, I-135, milepost 33.

Patrick Christopher Piland, 37, Halstead, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, 600 block of North Logan Street, Newton.

March 15 — Gavin Michael Short, 19, Halstead, underage alcohol possession, 1100 block of South Halstead Road.

March 16 — Calvin Jo Mashek, 21, Stoughton, Wis., expired registration, US-50, milepost 288.

ACCIDENTS

March 3 — Mariah Renae Casey, 23, Newton, was driving about 5 p.m. along US-50 when her 2013 Jeep Patriot entered the south ditch and struck a guard rail, according to sheriff reports. She was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Passenger Monica Marie Wilkinson, 20, Halstead, was taken by ambulance to Newton Medical Center.

March 6 — A 40-year-old Whitewater woman was driving about 7:30 p.m. when her 2015 Chevrolet Suburban struck a deer at milepost 7.4.

Kevin Andrew Nellans, 18, Newton, was driving about 9:20 p.m. on Meridian Road while trying to merge onto US-50, according to sheriff reports. The 2002 Ford Expedition he was driving went off the road to the left, struck a post and overturned.

March 8 — Juan Manuel Perez-Ayala, 52, Wichita, was attempting a U-turn at South East Lake Road and Southeast 84th Street when the 2008 Chevrolet Silverado he was driving slid into east ditch and got stuck, according to sheriff reports. He was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, transporting an open container and driving with a suspended license.

March 9 — Tashan Shantel Dawn Dupree, 19, El Dorado, was driving about 3:35 p.m. along K-196 when her 2006 Ford Fusion struck the rear of a 2017 Ford Edge driven by a 63-year-old Canton woman, according to sheriff reports. The 63-year-old woman stopped for a tractor-trailer that had stopped at a railroad crossing.

March 10 — An 18-year-old Halstead man was driving along US-50 when his 2002 Dodge Dakota struck a deer at milepost 268.

March 11 — A 48-year-old Halstead woman was traveling east about 5:30 p.m. on US-50 when the 2003 Chevrolet Monte Carlo she was driving struck a deer at milepost 265.

March 12 — A 14-year-old Bentley boy was driving about 8:15 a.m. in the 7700 block of South Hertzler Road when the 2008 Chrysler Town & Country he was driving struck a deer.

Linda Sue Thiessen, 62, Sedgwick, was driving about 6:20 p.m. in the 5000 block of South Ridge Road when the 2011 Mercury Mariner she was driving struck the side of a tractor-trailer, according to sheriff reports. Rodney Dwayne Smith, 54, Sedgwick, was attempting to back the trailer into a driveway at 5015 S. Ridge Road.

OBITUARIES

ROSA LEE GREER



Rosa Lee Greer, 96, died Thursday, March 12, 2020, at the Kansas Christian Home in Newton. Private interment was in Greenwood Cemetery in Newton. A memorial service will be at a later date.

In the city of Mulvane, on Sept. 3, 1923, Erwin "Lee" and Clovia Maples became the parents of a baby girl, whom they named Rosa Lee. When Rosa Lee was three-years-old, her parents separated and she moved with her mother to Wichita. During her early childhood, Rosa Lee's health was compromised by tuberculosis making it difficult for her to attend a full day of school, often having to be excused to return home due to sickness.

Then, at the age of eight, Rosa Lee's father legally obtained custody of her and she spent 18 months at a sanitarium for treatment. On March 4, 1934, the day Franklin Delano Roosevelt was inaugurated as the 32nd President of the United States, Rose Lee was discharged and joined the household created by her father and his wife, Edith Pickett Maples. Despite being Rosa Lee's stepmother, Edith quickly became Rosa Lee's mother; raising her as her own child.

Because Rosa Lee's father was employed by the railroad, the family settled in Newton in 1938. In 1943, she graduated from Newton High School along with Horace Toevs and other longtime friends. Following graduation, Rosa Lee began working at Boeing and that summer she met Lowell Greer while traveling with a relative in Colorado. Lowell, who was in the U.S. Air Force serving during World War II, flew countless missions in a B-17. He and Rosa Lee became engaged to each other and nurtured their relationship by corresponding. They were married in Rosa Lee's parent's home in Newton on Sept. 13, 1944.

After their marriage while Lowell was still in the military service, Lowell and Rosa Lee traveled to Oklahoma

City, Okla., where Lowell was stationed at what is now the Will Rogers World Airport. Eventually the couple relocated back to Newton, where Lowell worked for the railroad. They became parents of four boys, Ronald, Jerry, Danny and Kent. When their youngest son, Kent, was five-years-old, Rosa Lee began work at Maxwell Flowers as a bookkeeper, a job she held for 32 years.

In March 1965, Lowell experienced rapid-onset muscle weakness and was diagnosed with Guillain-Barre syndrome. Rosa Lee continued her job at Maxwell Flowers, devoting herself to her husband's care and to raising their four sons. In 1992, she retired from Maxwell Flowers. On Nov. 11, 1992, after having lived 28 years with the damaging neurological condition, Lowell died while in residence at Kansas Christian Home.

Rosa Lee sold their house and moved to the converted Lincoln School Apartments where she lived for eight years. She was active with the V.F.W., American Legion and First United Methodist Church, and eventually became the organist at Trinity Heights United Methodist Church.

Rosa Lee was blessed with these siblings, Kenneth Maples, Howard T. Pickett, Gaylord Maples, Helen McKelvey and Ethel May Goodmon, who was closest to Rosa Lee in age by six months. She was preceded in death by her parents; her siblings; her husband, Lowell and son, Ronald.

Among those surviving Rosa Lee are sons, Jerry (wife, LaDonia) of Oklahoma City, Okla., Danny (wife, Beckey) of Portland, Ore., Kent (wife, Mary Ellen) of San Diego, Calif., 13 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

Condolences may be left at www.broadwaycolonialfh.com. Arrangements are by Broadway Colonial Funeral Home, Newton.

Many cancellations, closings in Harvey County

By **WENDY NUGENT**
 NEWTON NOW STAFF

The following are the closings and cancellations Newton Now has received thus far. If you wish to have your event/location included, please email adam@harveycountynow.com or wendy@harveycountynow.com or call 316-281-7899, and we'll add to the list:

- Caring Place is closed.
- Birthday celebration for Ruth and Bill Mason in Hesston, which was to be from 3:30-5:30 p.m., March 21, is postponed until a later date.
- Bethel College and Hesston College classes.
- Leprechaun Run in Hesston is cancelled.
- Dala concert at Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in Hesston is cancelled.
- "Using DNA to Unlock Family History," at Newton Public Library, is postponed until April 7 at

7 p.m.
 • USD-373 has decided to cancel all athletic and extracurricular activities indefinitely. "This includes all on-site and off-site activities (practices, scrimmages, etc.)," according to the district. "We will re-evaluate the suspension of activities prior to Monday, March 23."

• The Harvey County Extension Office cancelled/postponed all in-person meetings, public events and Kansas State Research and Extension-sponsored programs through April 4. "For the next three weeks, there will be NO face-to-face 4-H/Extension-sponsored programs. This includes but not limited to club meetings, project meetings, Jr. Leaders meetings and other 4-H programs. This decision does not mean all events during the next three weeks are cancelled; once the all clear has been given, we will reconvene

and determine what can be rescheduled. Our offices will remain open to provide guidance, and will let you know if our operation hours change. We encourage all of you to take all necessary precautions to keep yourselves healthy and safe," according to an email sent out Sunday, March 15.

- Halstead nursing homes and Newton Medical Center are restricting visitations.
- Burrton High School spring break trip cancelled.
- Newton YMCA and other Greater Wichita YMCAs closed effective Monday, March 16.
- USD-373 Latchkey is cancelled for the week of March 15.
- The Harvey County Home and Garden show, originally scheduled for March 28-29, is cancelled.
- NAMI Mid-Kansas cancelled all support groups and education classes. The Family-to-

Family class that meets at the Nazarene Church in Newton will complete the course online. The Connections and Family Support Groups that meet at First Mennonite Church also are cancelled.

- Opening reception for the Nugents to the Power of Four reception at The Carriage Factory Art Gallery in Newton, originally slated for this Thursday night, has been postponed until a yet-to-be-determined date.
- Newton Area Chamber of Commerce monthly breakfast at the Meridian Center on Friday, March 20, is cancelled.
- The Harvey County Historical Museum & Archives in Newton is closed until the end of March.
- The Carriage Factory Art Gallery, 128 E. Sixth in Newton, is closed through early April.
- All public schools in Kansas closed for the rest of the semester.

Newton Public Library initiates soft closure with building closed to the public, library fines suspended

The Newton Public Library began a soft closure starting at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 16, until further notice.

A soft closure means all programs and meetings scheduled at the library have been canceled or suspended, and the li-

brary building is closed to the public.

Library materials will be available for pickup only, by reservation and at a pre-arranged time.

You can call, email or Facebook message library staff with specific requests, and a staff mem-

ber will meet you at the foyer (just inside the front doors) with your requested items.

Visit the online catalog at www.newtonplks.org or call 316-283-2890 to see what items are available. Interlibrary loan may be limited due to statewide

closures.

Library fines are suspended, and patrons are welcome to keep their items until further notice. If you would like to return library items, you may leave them in the foyer during library hours or put them in the exterior

book drop overnight.

Staff will be available from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday through Saturday and are happy to answer questions. Reach staff by phone (316-283-2890), email (library@newtonplks.org) or Facebook message

(www.facebook.com/NewtonPublicLibraryKansas).

Ebooks, audiobooks and other downloadable content are available through the Sunflower E-Library (Libby/Overdrive), Hoopla, RBDigital, the Cloud Library and more. —For Newton Now

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Polio outbreak sparked similar health concerns

By **BLAKE SPURNEY**
NEWTON NOW STAFF

Old-timers remember a viral epidemic that spread terror across the nation in the 1940s and '50s.

People contracted polio in waves every summer, causing the shutdown of municipal swimming pools and beaches.

Jack Hobbs recalled that some children contracted polio about a mile down the road from where his family lived in rural Franklin County. He was a teenager at the time.

"There were lots of strange things done at the time, like draining swimming pools," he said. "We had no idea how people were picking it up."

Becky Ruth, who grew up in Hesston, said parents wouldn't let their children go to Newton to swim.

"I don't know if the order came from the pool," she said. "It was more — what I recall — our parents were scared, and you're not going swimming anymore."

Hobbs said people didn't have the restrictions then that have been imposed during the current COVID-19 outbreak. For instance, senior care facilities are prohibiting visitors and most local churches canceled their services on Sunday. The biggest difference between the illnesses was the groups who were at the most risk. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, older adults and those with serious chronic medical conditions have the greatest risk of getting very sick or dying from COVID-19. Young children were the most susceptible to polio.

"I think it was much more frightening back then because it was harming children so



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Residents line up to get a polio vaccination in Prevention, Kan., the first town in the United States to have its entire population vaccinated.

much," Ruth said. She said she knew of only one Hesston resident, a young woman, who contracted polio. Hobbs said he didn't recall adults getting polio other than his uncle, who contracted the virus a couple of years after he served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. The illness left his uncle handicapped for the rest of his life.

"He did quite well with his life from then on," he said. "He trained as an accountant after that."

Hobbs said conversations during lunch Monday at the Hesston Area Senior Center centered on people's concerns over the COVID-19 outbreak. He also said he thought most people were doing what health experts advised them to do. Ruth said she went grocery shopping Monday morning and then went to a medical appointment. She and husband, Larry Fuqua, have grandchildren visiting, and they're telling them to wash their hands a lot.

Ruth said she realized the outbreak was affecting businesses and people's lives, but she also thinks people have panicked somewhat. She noted that Walmart was out of paper products.

"I don't understand

that mentality that we have to stock up on everything," she said.

Ruth said families were much more self-sufficient back during her youth.

"I think it was a time when you made do more

efficiently with what you had," she said. "We're all too spoiled by the conveniences we have. Almost every family had a garden plot and they raised and canned and preserved food, and they made their own bread."

PUBLIC NOTICE

Published in Newton Now on March 19, 2020

Annual Report of Richmond Township
Harvey County, Kansas

The undersigned treasurer and trustee of Richmond Township, submit the following report for the year ending December 31, 2019.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Name of Funds	Cash Balance Jan. 1, 2019	Total Receipts	Total Expenditures	Cash Balance Dec. 31, 2019	Unpaid Bills Dec. 31, 2019
General	1,217.71	3,099.45	4,471.00	134.16	0.00
Road	1,632.96	116,094.72	117,298.94	298.74	0.00
Special Machinery	17,090.00	0.00	1,060.00	16,030.00	0.00
Fire Protection	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Madison Ward	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Totals	20,940.67	119,194.17	124,871.94	14,426.90	0.00

Total Cash Balance for all Funds 14,426.90
Does the Total Cash Balance for all Funds equal to Cash Balance Dec. 31? **Yes**

I certify that this financial report is a correct summary of all money received and expended as well as all unpaid bills for the township during the year ending December 31, 2019.

Date: 3/19/2020 *[Signature]*
Township Treasurer

PUBLIC NOTICE

Published in Newton Now on March 19, 2020

Annual Report of Darlington Township
Harvey County, Kansas

The undersigned treasurer and trustee of Darlington Township, submit the following report for the year ending December 31, 2019.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Name of Funds	Cash Balance Jan. 1, 2019	Total Receipts	Total Expenditures	Cash Balance Dec. 31, 2019	Unpaid Bills Dec. 31, 2019
General	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Road	2,619.00	109,312.23	93,893.17	14,437.87	0.00
Special Machinery	39,921.26	1,466.60	0.00	41,387.86	0.00
Fire Protection	0.15	22,298.73	11,684.23	429.67	0.00
Madison Ward	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
EMSA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Totals	42,740.41	133,067.56	105,577.38	37,488.00	0.00

Total Cash Balance for all Funds 37,488.00
Does the Total Cash Balance for all Funds equal to Cash Balance Dec. 31? **Yes**

I certify that this financial report is a correct summary of all money received and expended as well as all unpaid bills for the township during the year ending December 31, 2019.

Date: 3/19/2020 *[Signature]*
Township Treasurer

PUBLIC NOTICE

First published in Newton Now on Mar. 19, 2020.
(Published in Newton Now March 19, March 26, and April 2, 2020)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF HARVEY COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF HAROLD E. RODGERS, Deceased Case No. 2020-PR-000024
Pursuant to Kansas Statutes Annotated, Chapter 59

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED: You are hereby notified that on the 6th day of March, 2020, a Petition for Letters of Co-Administration was filed in the above Court by Jeanenne Alumbaugh and Lenora Carey as heirs of Harold E. Rodgers, deceased. All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against said estate within four months from the date of the first publication of this notice as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

JEANENNE ALUMBAUGH
LENORA CAREY
Petitioners

By SOMERS, ROBB AND ROBB
110 East Broadway
Newton, KS 67114
Phone: 316-283-4580
Attorneys for Petitioner

RELIEF

From Page 1

quest Gov. Laura Kelly, also a Democrat, take actions he thinks will help save small Kansas businesses. Hodge said that he's worried many such businesses would have to close after the social distancing drove down revenues. One part of Hodge's plan would be for the state to put off collecting sales and alcohol tax for a year from small businesses and restaurants in the state. Then they will pay the revenue back if they can.

"The idea is it becomes an interest-free loan that has the possibility of being forgiven," he said. "Without our mom and pops, we aren't Kansas." Hodge also requested that the state defer property tax collection for four to five months to avoid hitting farmers and families during May.

Hodge said the state currently has surpluses and the surpluses are there to get Kansas through tough times.

"I'm not going to let the big businesses run off with the surplus again," he said. "That's what it's trying to do."

When asked if any of these requests will actually be accomplished, Hodge said he thought it was possible. He said the Governor would have the power for such relief measures for local businesses through the declared state of emergency. "She could suspend these things," he said. "That's what I'm trying to influence her to do. She has to seriously consider them. I think she'll be

nervous initially, but at some point, things are going to get bad in Kansas."

Hodge outlined a bit about what's going on in the legislative session. Earlier on Monday, the state banned gatherings of more than 50.

The Kansas House of Representatives seats far more than 50 people. "Everything's happening so fast," he said. "The leadership's trying to get us out before we contract this."

The legislature has already had one scare with a legislator recently being tested for the virus, though the tests eventually came back negative.

"We're going to run a budget bill," Hodge said. "I'm going to run everything I can on it tomorrow, and we're going to adjourn on Wednesday. They're rushing a budget through. It's highly unusual."

Hodge said his hope was that eventually some relief measures would make it to small Kansas businesses who will be in trouble with no help.

"I don't think we're even close to digesting all of the tsunamis that are going to be happening as a result of interruptions," he said.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Published in Newton Now on March 19, 2020

Annual Report of Walton Township
Harvey County, Kansas

The undersigned treasurer and trustee of Walton Township, submit the following report for the year ending December 31, 2019.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Name of Funds	Cash Balance Jan. 1, 2019	Total Receipts	Total Expenditures	Cash Balance Dec. 31, 2019	Unpaid Bills Dec. 31, 2019
General	636.82	4,584.13	5,750.00	1,484.97	0.00
Road	19,194.03	45,433.40	23,861.37	0.00	0.00
Special Machinery	0.00	2,433.43	0.00	2,433.43	0.00
Centenary	21,827.96	10,298.00	4,817.39	27,308.57	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Totals	23,664.71	63,771.00	34,468.76	36,266.90	0.00

Total Cash Balance for all Funds 36,266.90
Does the Total Cash Balance for all Funds equal to Cash Balance Dec. 31? **Yes**

I certify that this financial report is a correct summary of all money received and expended as well as all unpaid bills for the township during the year ending December 31, 2019.

Date: 3/19/2020 *[Signature]*
Township Treasurer

PUBLIC NOTICE

Published in Newton Now on March 19, 2020

Annual Report of Mason Township
Harvey County, Kansas

The undersigned treasurer and trustee of Mason Township, submit the following report for the year ending December 31, 2019.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Name of Funds	Cash Balance Jan. 1, 2019	Total Receipts	Total Expenditures	Cash Balance Dec. 31, 2019	Unpaid Bills Dec. 31, 2019
General	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Road	25,602.96	112,821.64	198,818.44	28,555.16	0.00
Special Machinery	14,713.48	24,383.64	17,465.17	31,431.95	0.00
Fire Protection	769.09	66,776.12	66,360.35	684.86	0.00
Madison Ward	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Totals	41,085.53	204,071.40	194,265.16	56,473.17	0.00

Total Cash Balance for all Funds 56,473.17
Does the Total Cash Balance for all Funds equal to Cash Balance Dec. 31? **Yes**

I certify that this financial report is a correct summary of all money received and expended as well as all unpaid bills for the township during the year ending December 31, 2019.

Date: 3-19-2020 *[Signature]*
Township Treasurer

CROSSWORD

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THEME: DRIVER'S ED

- ACROSS**
- Happen again
 - Promotions
 - Field mouse
 - UV absorber
 - Seek a seat
 - Eagle's nest
 - Jury
 - Mad King George's number
 - Bad-tempered one
 - *Two or more people on the road
 - *Fines can do that?
 - Scot's woolen cap
 - Give an impression
 - Last month
 - Willy Wonka mastermind
 - Lay down to rest again
 - Container weight
 - Damaging precipitation
 - One born to Japanese immigrants
 - Windows alternative
 - Clown act
 - London subway
 - What Motion Picture Association of America does
 - Lentil soup
 - Pulitzer winner Bel-low
 - Little Women to Aunt March
 - Victorian and Elizabethan ones, e.g.
 - Dropped drug
 - Type of dam
 - Post Malone's genre
 - *Traffic separator
 - *Kind of lane
 - Tiger's and lioness' offspring
 - J. Edgar Hoover's org.
 - Capital of Vietnam
 - Between wash and dry
 - 1985 Kurosawa movie
 - Village V.I.P.
 - Brewer's kiln
 - Play part
- DOWN**
- Campus drilling grp.
 - Poet Pound
 - Coconut fiber
 - Not fitting
 - Add a new magazine
 - Seed cover
 - *Punishable driver offense, acr.
 - Like a hurtful remark
 - Action word
 - Like face-to-face exam
 - Don't cross it?
 - Comic cry
 - Keeness in a certain field
 - D-Day beach
 - Old-fashioned over
 - Move like a serpent
 - *Go back the way you came
 - Hawaiian veranda
 - Banal or common-place
 - *"Raised _____, " or "Don't Walk"
 - Small fragments
 - Bar order, with the
 - Puzzle with pictures and letters
 - *Up-side-down triangle sign
 - Biz bigwig
 - Yarn spinner
 - "The Nutcracker" protagonist
 - Crafting with stitches
 - One of Sinbad's seven
 - Miss America's accessory, pl.
 - Prefix for below
 - Church song
 - Actress Sorvino
 - Shining armor
 - Shining contraction
 - Pub order
 - _____-China
 - Christmas season
 - Horizontal wall beam
 - *Keep your hands at ten and _____
 - *Measurement of alcohol in body, acr.

CLEANUP NEVER DONE

Grandson of tornado victim carries on farming legacy at Goessel home

SECOND IN A THREE-PART SERIES

Editor's note: Certain historical events alter timelines so discussions of the past become references to "before" and "after." In Harvey County, what's known as the Hesston tornado is one such event. Hesston before the tornado. Hesston after the tornado.

The tornado on March 13, 1990, presented a unique crucible of destruction in Harvey County. The massive storm front and set of twisters destroyed homes, businesses and two lives. But out of that crucible came stories and actions forged by perseverance, generosity and many of the other values that we are so proud of in our communities.

We set out, on this 30th anniversary, to highlight those stories, when Mother Nature showed her worst, but our county residents showed their best. This is the second in a three-part series.

By ADAM STRUNK
STAFF

Thirty years later, all Matthew Voth needs to do to show tornado debris is walk around his grandparents' former yard near Goessel.

A kick of the soil yields a piece of glass, a washer, a chunk of porcelain that was once in a sink or toilet.

"I have a hard time keeping tires from going flat," he said of the many other sharp metal objects spread throughout the property.

The tornado dropped these items as it passed over the farm on March 13, 1990.

Voth shows an aerial photo of what the farm looked like before the tornado, with outbuildings, L-shape house sheds and other outbuildings. He said the photography salesperson had returned to drop off the photo.

"When the salesman came back, he couldn't find the yard anymore," he said.

The tornado had de-

stroyed the farm. It had also claimed the life of Voth's grandmother, Ruth.

He described her as a kind, traditional Mennonite woman who had done mission work in Mexico before her life on the farm.

He said the family believes she had just pulled into the yard and exited her vehicle when the tornado hit. Her husband, Harold, was in the hospital at Halstead at the time, as he had cancer. Harold passed away later in the year.

Following the devastation, the family worked to clean up the property, which had been in the family since the early 1900s. He said the community near Goessel played an important role in the cleanup.

"This community really pulled together," he said.

Voth is a farmer but also is the assistant fire chief with the Goessel Fire Department. He said he thinks the help from the community he saw as a young man following the tornado led to him being more civic-minded as an adult.

For a few years, the farm property sat empty as weeds claimed it.

Then, in 1997, Voth began the effort to reclaim the farm. He rented a neighboring house, helped milk cows, did ag-related work and eventually built a farming operation.

He built a new house on the property and outbuildings to house equipment.

The farm now looks completely different than what it once did.

While the farm is rebuilt, other losses in life or in history can never be replaced.

Despite the clean up effort, much of the family's history, including decades of family photos, as well as birth certificates, were lost.

Voth said if people can learn anything from the tornado, it's to make sure such priceless heirlooms are kept in a safe place.



Matthew Voth shows a photo of the farm he lives on taken shortly before the March 13 tornado leveled the property. Today, he's rebuilt on the property his grandparents live on. New buildings occupy the land, but old foundations and memories remain.

PHOTOS BY ADAM STRUNK/STAFF



Matthew Voth shows a piece of porcelain he located simply by kicking the ground. He said he still has trouble mowing as his tires get holes in them from debris left behind by the tornado.



Photos and memorabilia from the tornado sit on Matthew Voth's table. The Voth family lost much of their historical documents when their grandparents' farm took a direct hit.



A tree knocked over by the tornado sprouted roots and grew again out of the existing trunk. The tree is one of the many reminders on the Voth property of the storm's damage.

F5 twister wreaks havoc around Burrton

By JARED JANZEN
STAFF

BURRTON—On the afternoon of March 13, 1990, Gary Johnson was standing on his porch with his dad, Carl, doing what so many Kansans do during a storm: watching it.

"We couldn't tell it was a tornado," he said. "It looked like just a big black cloud."

What the two of them didn't realize at the time was that the very storm they were watching was not only a tornado, but it was also in the process of striking Gary's parents' home a couple miles away. His parents lived three-and-a-half miles south of Highway 50 on Woodberry Road, which is the line between Harvey and Reno Counties. Gary lived a few miles further southwest on Red Rock Road.

The father and son learned that the home had been in the path of the storm after getting a call from a concerned neighbor. Gary's mother, Jo, had been home at the time with Virgil Baxter of Bentley, who was there doing renovations to the house.

"She was scared to death," Gary said of his mother. "It's lucky somebody was there with her. He got her to go down to the basement."

Gary said it took him and his dad two hours to drive the short distance to the family home. Highline poles were blocking the roads, so they had to go back and get a chainsaw

and cut their way through.

They finally reached his parents' property.

"It was a mess," Gary said. "It was a pretty decent hit. A lot of trees were down. It took the barn, but it didn't get the shed."

The storm also blew the windows out of the house, but the structure itself remained standing.

During the cleanup in the ensuing weeks, Gary said some of their unusual finds were razor blades stuck in the house's siding and a piece of straw stuck in a piece of wood.

He said they had a lot of help in the cleanup effort, and he was especially thankful to the volunteers from Mennonite Disaster Service.

"Thirty to 40 guys came in and did as much in one day as we could have done in a week," he said. "They were a great, great help."

As odds would have it, that wasn't the only time the house was struck by a tornado. In 1997, it happened again.

"It hit the same house, and it took the shed that time," Gary said. "It also blew the roof off the house."

No one had been home that time.

"We got a phone call that a little-bitty rope tornado had come through," he said. "Right across the road, there was no damage."

He said it was hard to say whether the 1990 or 1997 tornado had been worse, but nei-



Volunteers clean up around the home of Larry Flickinger near Burrton in the days following the tornado.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ther was good.

"The main thing was, it was great to have friends that came out and helped," Gary said. "It was a lot of work."

Gary's mother still lives in that home on Woodberry. He estimated she's lived there at least 62 years.

"My folks always said if a tornado hit a third time, they were going to move," he said.

Meanwhile, back on that day in March of 1990, the tornado continued in at north-east direction wrecking the Johnson property. According to accounts from The Burrton Graphic, the tornado continued its path of destruction on the homes of John Devenpeck, Bill Owens and Cecil Mitchell before tragedy

struck at the home of Kent and Dixie Fisher, a quarter mile east of Burmac Road on 36th Street. It was there that six-year-old Lucas Fisher, son of Kent and Dixie Fisher, lost his life as his family took shelter in the basement.

Jim Redinger, who was out storm spotting on Burmac Road for the fire department that afternoon, heard the emergency call dispatched.

"I watched that thing hit Kent and Dixie's house from Burmac," Redinger said. "To this day, I still have not good memories. It's sickening."

He had been following the storm since Worthington Bridge in Reno County and keeping a tail on it. Redinger estimated people had about 30 minutes warning of the

storm.

"But we're in Kansas, so what do you do? Go out and look at it," he said.

The twister never came nearer than a mile from Burrton city limits. It wiped out Kenny's Diesel Service, the old Redwood Inn, and Louise Corcoran's home as it crossed Highway 50. As it continued to the north toward Hesston, other homes it hit included those of Eli and Opal Bontrager, Larry Flickinger, Kenneth Holdeman, Eddie Koehn, Art Koehn, and Jim and Janice Moyer, according to reports in the Burrton Graphic.

Steve Bayless, a deputy for the Harvey County Sheriff's

See BURRTON / 13

Hesston resident Jim Roupp misses Hesston storm, twice

BY ADAM STRUNK
NEWTON NOW STAFF

Around 6:15 a.m. March 14, 1990, Jim Roupp was skimming through radio channels. He was nearing his destination, Chicago's South Side, with a semi full of meat. He'd left Hesston the afternoon prior, picking up his load in Emporia.

"I hear 'The little town of Hesston, Kansas, was annihilated by a huge tornado,'" he said.

Roupp, who grew up in Hesston, drove 20 minutes to find a place to park the truck and make phone calls.

The phone in his parents house in Hesston rang, but no one answered. The phone, it turns out, was buried under the rubble that the F5 tornado left in its wake.

He called his home in Newton. No answer. His wife was gone helping in Hesston.

He called her father. He said everyone was OK.

Roupp's next call was to his trucking dispatch.

"I said, 'Get me home. My town's just been blown away,'" he said.

Roupp unloaded the meat and needed to pick up a load at Armstrong Flooring for his return trip.

While he could see his load, he had to sit in line from 9:30 a.m., to 5:30 p.m. The wait left plenty of time for him to kill in the sleeper of the truck.

"Almost every station in Chicago had live coverage," he said. "I saw my mom [Elda] on TV in Chicago. I saw her and the neighbor lady."

Roupp noted that the Hesston tornado was one of the first in the age of



Jim Roupp poses with a motorcycle he purchased in Honduras and rode back to Hesston. The motorcycle was found in the rubble of his parents' home.

home movies and camcorders, meaning that there was plenty of footage of the event to show on the TV stations.

He finally got on the road, going as fast as he could to get home.

Around 10 p.m., he had made it about three miles east of Columbia. A heavy rain fell, but he had no time to stop.

Suddenly, a huge wind blew against his truck.

"I got blown two lanes sideways almost," he said, adding that he had a full load. "It happened real fast. Didn't overturn. Just slid. Scared me."

Roupp said he got on the CB to warn anyone in the area about the wind.

He switched to a news radio station, which reported multiple tornados in the area.

"I kept driving, heard tractor trailers were overturned at the same location," he said.

What Roupp found out later was he had hit part of the same storm system that caused the damage in Hesston.

"I got hit by the same storm and almost got overturned," he said.

He said he finally made it home to Hesston



The Roupp family has a "picnic" on the slab that was once their home. Roupp said the sign was his mother's doing, and it caused a fair share of interest and amusement.



This is some of the rubble left by the Hesston tornado.

early the next morning. "The next morning, I walked around town in disbelief myself," he said.

His parents house had been destroyed. Hesston Concrete, which his father had sold a few months before, had been

destroyed. A whole part of his town had been destroyed. But he and his family were whole.

Former Hesston Record owner recalls putting out paper following direct hit

BY ADAM STRUNK
STAFF

The Hesston tornado on March 13, 1990, wasn't Bob Latta's first rodeo, but his third. In the years since, he said he's developed a healthy reverence of Mother Nature.

"When the warnings come and the sirens go off, I generally don't hang around out in the street too long," he said. "Having been through some, I know what they can do, and I certainly respect them."

Latta, who now lives Oak Grove, Mo., was the longtime editor of the Hesston Record at the

time of the tornado and faced the tall task of not only making sure his family was OK, but also covering the event and putting together a newspaper on the same night the weather hit.

One of the things I remember I was listening to the report and following the path of it, and I was down at the office," he said of the building The Record occupied on Main Street. "When it was obvious that it was going to hit, I locked up and headed home. My wife and son were already in the basement. It just missed us. We had roof damage and stuff like that, but it

wasn't a direct hit."

Latta came out of the basement with camera in hand, prepared to document the damage.

Having lived through a tornado in Oklahoma as an infant and watching one form above his head in Garden City as an intern, he said he had a "here we go again" feeling.

"I was just trying to determine how serious it was or whether we had some injuries or deaths," he said.



Latta

There were none in Hesston, though the storm claimed a life by Burrton and another near Goessel.

Latta recalled seeing the northeast side of town destroyed, including the convenience store.

"Once I realized what was happening and what had happened, I was pretty much absorbed about what to do next and getting the paper out," he said.

Latta went about shooting photos and getting documentation for that week's paper.

"Clocks in Hesston stopped at about 5:40 p.m. as the twister

blasted the agricultural experiment station just southwest of town, roared into the western part of the city along Erb and Roup Streets and moved northeast across Knott," Latta wrote in his front page article of The Record.

The paper was peppered with photos of the damage, as well as reports on the injured and the cancellation of school following the event.

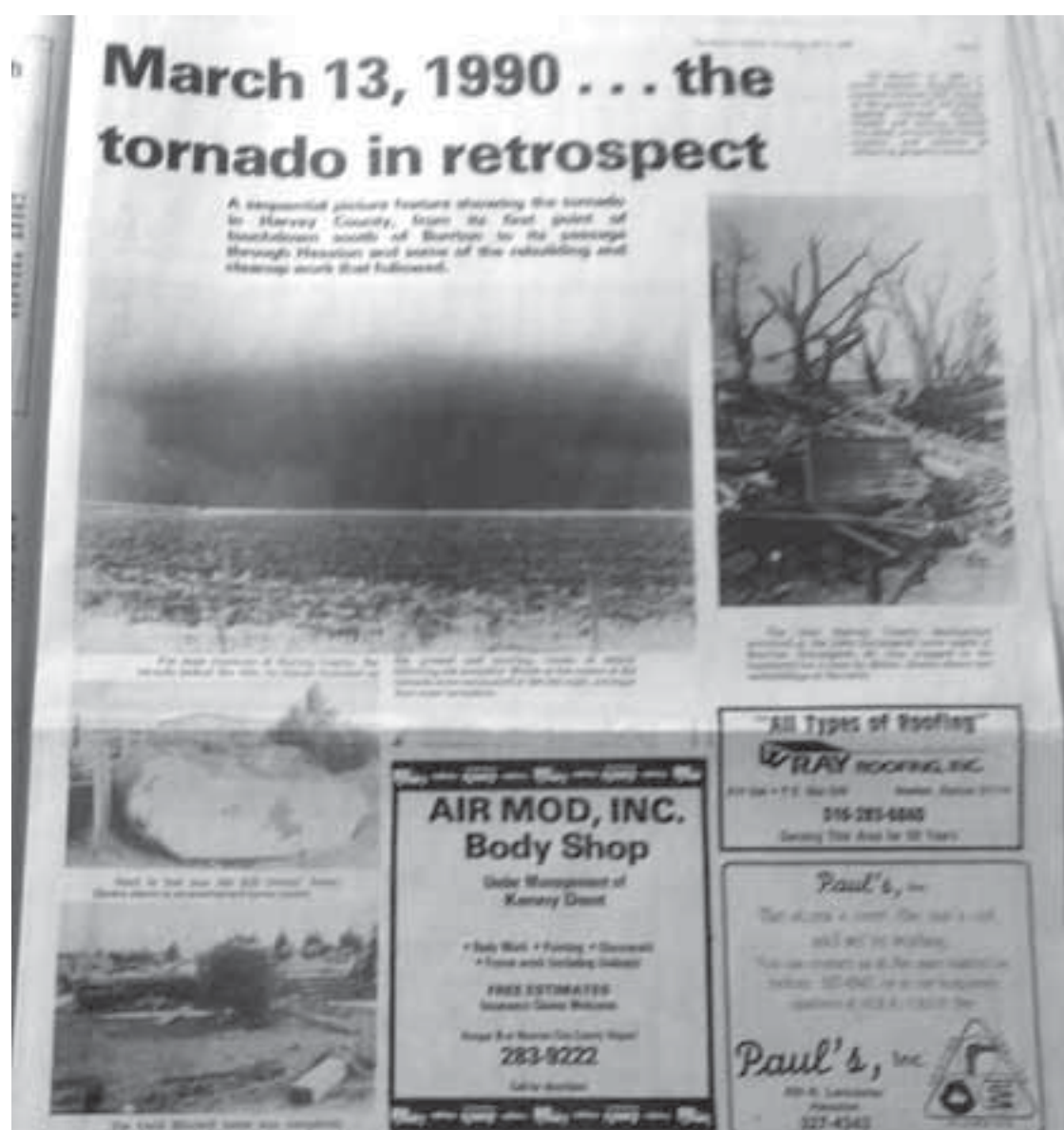
"Initially, I was wondering how I was going to get it done," he recalled. "We wound up printing, but I don't remember exactly how quickly we printed it."

Latta said clean up began almost immediately, with people coming from all over to help in Hesston. He said he believed the community's Mennonite background played a role in the effort.

"That's what they do," he said. "They didn't hesitate to jump in and do what they could for people and so forth."

Latta, in the weeks following, chronicled the effort to rebuild Hesston, noting that the city did what any city would by pulling together. But Hesston did it better.

"That's just the way Hesston people are," he said.



This special five-page section appeared in the April 5, 1990, Burrton Graphic, documenting the tornado's path of destruction through the area.

BURRTON

From Page 12

Office at the time, was also out tracking the storm. He recalled being at the county courthouse when the first reports of a tornado touching down near Castleton came in around 3:30 p.m.

"It was a still day, very humid," Bayless said. "It had that feel there was going to be a storm."

Bayless said he arrived to the Burrton area when the tornado was crossing by Paradise Isle Resort, where 20 homes and campers were reportedly destroyed. He stopped by the Fisher home on 36th Street but received no response to his calls, so he continued on. He could tell that the tornado was heading straight for Hesston, so he called dispatch to alert those residents.

But that wasn't all that was in the path of the storm. Bayless could tell it was heading straight for his home on 12th Street near West Park.

"I knew my family wasn't home, so I didn't try to go there," he said, admitting that it had been a little disconcerting to think about.

Instead, he continued tracking the tornado, keeping about a mile to its leeward side, until K15, when it passed into Marion County. He said he was the only person following the storm at that point, because the other deputy tracking it had had his car disabled by a power line.

"I was a seasoned officer and

had seen a lot of tornados, but the destruction on that sucker—it was a lot like someone had dropped a bomb," Bayless said.

It was just before dark when he met his family at the remains of their home. He said it took them a whole year to clean up and return things to normal and that it had been a long and arduous process.

Sifting through the wreckage, they were able to recover some possessions, like a diamond-studded earring from his grandma. A knife that had been in a hope chest in their bedroom was discovered a hundred feet away, stuck in a piece of wood.

They never did find their refrigerator. He speculated that it may have been washed down the river.

Redinger praised Bayless and his fellow deputy, Ron Krehbiel, for their response and assistance in the Burrton area during and after the storm at a time when many resources were being directed to Hesston.

"I'm really proud of Ron and Steve," Redinger said. "They stuck around our area."

Redinger said one positive he saw in the aftermath of the tornado was how people from all over surrounding counties came to assist the cleanup efforts, like busloads of students from Wichita who came to help pick up debris.

"I've never seen people as unified, except for maybe 9/11," he said. "It made me really proud of Kansas people."

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Swimmers talk about their love of the sport

Editor's note: This interview was done last week before all schools were called off for the rest of the semester. We decided to print it because it shows accomplishments of three of our young residents.

By Wendy Nugent
NEWTON NOW STAFF

There's no other feeling quite like diving into a swimming pool, the cool fingers of water enveloping your body as people cheer on the sidelines while you compete as a member of the Newton High School girls team.

The team recently started practices for the spring season, taking this week off for spring break. The local school district, however, has cancelled all school extracurricular activities indefinitely.

On Thursday of last week, they were busy practicing at the NHS indoor pool.

At least three of the swimmers, captains Ashley Salgado and Jaden Anton, and Annika Senn, all seniors, have been on the Newton Nitros, a swimming club team with coach Clinton Bailey. They all said Bailey's taught them the most in their swimming careers.

"Just everything about swimming—technique, interval work, perseverance too, work ethic," Salgado said about what she learned from him, adding he put a lot of hours in with the club.

She said she was 10-years-old when she started with the Nitros, being on the team a total of seven years.

She does well in one of the swims.

"My best race is 100 fly," she said. "I sometimes race 200 IM and 100 free."

She also competes in relays, as well, and she's competed in state the past three years.

"I got into finals last year, but I didn't place," she said.

She's had some physical setbacks this year, but she hasn't let that



Ashley Salgado takes part in the Newton High School girls swim team practice last Thursday.

stop her.

"I had a stress fracture, so I wasn't able to do anything for a while," she said, adding that was in cross country and that the fracture was in the hip.

She also had knee surgery this year because of a torn meniscus.

Salgado enjoys swimming.

"I like the feeling you get after and the feeling you get when your muscles ache and you do your best and you're improving," she said, adding she loves the team. "Just everything about it. It's the kind of sport you can feel when you're putting everything into it."

Salgado plans to attend Newman University and study pre-medicine.

Another player, Senn, also has been to state for three years, medaling as a sophomore and making finals all the other years.

She, too, was on the Nitros, starting at age 11 or 12, seven years ago. She also credits Bailey as teaching her a lot.

"Starting out with him, gave me the experience coming into high school," she said.

She said she was on the team that got the 200-relay record for Newton High School last year.

Senn also likes the sport.

"I like how it's compet-

itive and how you can get better yourself, and that makes the team better when you improve," she said.

She plans to attend Kansas State University majoring in animal science and pre-veterinary medicine.

Anton started on the Nitros at age 8 and also credits that team's coach with teaching her a lot. "He was the one who helped me build up my [skill] and compete and stuff," she said.

She's also been to state all three years of high school, so far, swimming in the 200 individual medley and 100 fly, although she didn't place in individual.

Anton enjoys swimming, as well.

"It helps a lot with your motivation and self-determination," she said. "You have a lot of time to think while you're swimming," adding it's helped her with others things. "It's more the mentality of staying strong and not giving

up."

She plans to attend Kansas State University, where she'll study kinesiology.

Anton said she does all the strokes.

"I'm not as good in freestyle," she said.

Coaches

Coaches for the NHS swim team are Shawna Cole as head coach and Sarah Harbor as assistant coach.



WENDY NUGENT/NEWTON NOW

Newton High School senior Jaden Anton takes part in practice last Thursday, when school still had activities.

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Not all tech is equal: Applying the right computer to the right job

Looking to buy your next computer and feeling a bit overwhelmed or lost? Know that you're not alone. "What computer should I buy?" is one of the more frequent questions I hear, and it's not one I take lightly. No one wants to miss the mark with their investment when it comes to the cost of a new machine.

Throwing money at the problem is an option but not one I'd feel good about or recommend. My line of thought and what I ask of friends, family, and business partners alike goes like this: What is your budget? What type of machine do you use now? What will you be doing with this machine?

Keep in mind that these questions oftentimes lead to more questions, but this is where I always start. Setting a budget may be a difficult starting point, given we haven't answered any other questions, but it does help guide future questions and frame the conversation. If you've set a budget of \$750, we're probably steering clear of any new Apple products. If you say a fairly low price, we're going to pare down our options further, talk about the merits of a refurbished machine or discuss upgrades.

Asking what type of computer you are using now may seem like we're looking in the wrong direction, but it opens up the door to talk about if you've been happy with the machine, if it's being running well, and any other reasons to move on to a new machine.

As far as Windows versus Apple, etcetera, I typically recommend people go with what they know.

If you're someone who can do everything they need to do from a web browser, then a Google Chromebook is an interesting option here. Typically lightweight with strong battery life, these machines are geared for life on the web and lack the ability to install the typical software. For someone who uses the Google suite of productivity software along with Gmail, these are great for anything done on the web and for someone who doesn't mind storing their documents up in the "cloud."

Lastly, and this is the big one and often takes the to define: What tasks/activities/work will you be doing with this new machine? This includes whether or not it will be a mobile device, needs to have a touch-screen and so forth. Gaming, video editing, computer-aided drafting and other resource-intensive applications are going to ramp up what we look for in hardware. Knowing what applications you aim to use for these tasks and researching the minimum requirements is a great way to set the bar for what you need and work up from there. Picking a machine for college? Reaching out to the institution can help plan for any requirements while on campus or working through online courses.

Catching up with friends and seeing the grandkids on social media versus editing your first film as a college student are going to require two very different computers.

Think it over, do some research, and ask a friend. Still have questions? Let me know. I'd be happy to help.

Rather not deal with this stuff? Call me.

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Gatherings of 50-plus banned in Kansas

By ADAM STRUNK
NEWTON NOW STAFF

Gov. Laura Kelly, through an executive order, effectively banned gatherings more than 50 people in Kansas for the next eight weeks by adopting Center for Disease Control guidelines that recommended against such gatherings.

"We do not take this action lightly," she said at a press conference held Monday afternoon.

She said she planned to meet with the Kansas Chamber, national hospitality organization and independent business organizations to discuss how the state could best help businesses affected by the virus and social distancing efforts.

That ban Kelly iterated would refer to any congregation of 50 or more people. She said common sense would play a role in the ban, noting that while the statehouse might have 50 or more people in it, those people would be spread out. Both Sedgwick and Reno County had already implemented such efforts, though no such ban stood before the executive order in Harvey County.

State Health Secretary Dr. Lee Norman said at the conference he would like to believe that people would step up and enforce the order voluntarily, knowing that it's necessary and effective to slow the virus' spread according to the Center for Disease Control. He said the state has the power to use law enforcement to enforce the order should it be necessary, though he said such methods would be draconian and hoped people would do so on their own. He said local law enforcement would be responsible with handling reports of large gatherings should his office receive it.

"This is not just a theory," Norman said pointing at tests and

the need for social distancing. "This is very real. Stay home if you're sick. Ultimately, it's not just about you; it's about the people around you and the people you love."



Kelly

He said in positive news, all tests came back negative at the nursing home in Wyandotte County, where a patient tested positive for the virus and died.

"To be negative like that, they had to be attentive to the principals of infection control," he said. "Kudos to them."

Norman said the state is now able to test between 150 to 200 tests a day and with commercial labs coming online the state's testing reach can be increased.

"The number of test kits are enough for now," he said. "I feel like with the commercial labs coming on that will increase our reach."

He said the commercial testing will help prevent state inventories of testing swabs, which are running short, as well as test kits.

Norman said the virus being Novel or new means people continue to learn about best practices to deal with it.

"The best we do is consistent messaging, not hiding behind a closed door, being upfront and providing the best quality information in a consistent manner," he said.

Kelly followed the comments saying that the state is using the data in front of it to make decisions on what to do that will work in Kansas.

"When we take action, it's because we've been looking at the facts."

On the subject of federal help relating to testing supplies and medical support, Kelly and Norman said the

situation with federal government aid has gotten better and more coordinated and responsive.

Norman said there were good directions following from the federal government though the \$8.3 billion allocated to fighting the virus had yet to reach Kansas coffers. Once that money comes to the state, much of the money will be pushed out to fund local agencies which he said have been underfunded for years. He said the federal government was pushing for increased production for protective materials.

Norman also said a federal push allowing private labs to come on and test has helped the testing situation.

According to Norman, both KU Medical Center and Via Christi Medical Center in Wichita now have drive-through testing sites. He said such testing sites will take the pressure off the state to do all of the testing.

"Anything we can do to get people tested when they're ill will benefit us in controlling this," he said.

Norman said the state has enough ICU beds, staff and ventilators.

"If we look at the worst case scenario, there's no question we don't have enough in service," he said, saying the state would need access to the state and national stock piles and in that case it's likely it wouldn't just be Kansas with problems.

In other COVID-19 news, Kelly ordered the Kansas Corporation Commission to place utility shut-offs on hold until April 15.

Kelly had some other advice during the press conference.

"Kansans, if you feel ill, do not go to work, keep washing your hands and do not touch your face," she said, thanking health workers on the front line of the effort who are dealing with the virus.



ADAM STRUNK/NEWTON NOW

Firefighters work a house fire on Monday night in North Newton.

No one injured in North Newton house fire

By ADAM STRUNK
NEWTON NOW STAFF

Around 7:30 p.m. Monday night, first responders were dispatched to

a structure fire in the 100 block of W. 23rd St., in North Newton.

Crews had the fire contained shortly after. According to Fire/EMS Chief Steve Roberson,

one person was in the house at the time of the fire and got out uninjured.

It was too early on the scene to know a cause or total damage.

State guidelines call for self-quarantine after travel to Colorado counties

By ADAM STRUNK
NEWTON NOW STAFF

The State of Kansas is recommending quarantines for those who have traveled to four Colorado counties.

The state issued recommendations for a 14-day home quarantine for those who traveled to Eagle, Summit, Pitkin and Gunnison counties in Colorado in the last week.

The counties include popular ski resort towns such as Vail, Aspen, Breckenridge, Keystone, Copper Mountain and Crested Butte.

Moving forward, the state is also recommending self-quarantines for

those who travel to California, New York and Washington or other states with widespread community transmission. Other recommendations are for those who have traveled internationally or on a cruise ship on or after March 15.

People should also self

quarantine if they received notification from public health officials (state or local) that you are a close contact of a laboratory-confirmed case of COVID-19. The release stated the quarantine at home should last for 14 days since last contact with the case.

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GLASS

From Page 1

the sidewalk at the main entrance of the retirement community, as staff guided the birthday man to the window, where the family waved at him and wished him "Feliz Cumpleaños!" That's happy birthday in Spanish.

Antonio's ex-daughter-in-law, Kandice Crawley, was there as well, and Antonio's granddaughter, Isabel Ramos, Crawley's daughter.

Crawley said, after shedding a few tears, Antonio has been a resident there for the last several months and that he usually goes home for four hours once a week. However, because of COVID-19, he's not allowed to go home at this point. Crawley said his wife goes to Kansas Christian Home every day to see him.

Also there on the sidewalk were Antonio's niece, Teresa Meza, and Crawley's husband, Brian Crawley.

Brian said they called Kansas Christian Home and they were great helping in arranging the birthday meeting.



WENDY NUGENT/NEWTON NOW

Isabel Ramos, 9, left, gives her grandma Christina Ramos a hug after they wished Ramos's husband and Isabel's grandfather happy birthday. He turned 82 on Tuesday.

"We are very thankful for their help," he said, adding Antonio had worked for the railroad and Christina was a

lunch lady in the local school district. He recalled she worked in a cafeteria when he was a boy.

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Downtown business owner credits parents, grandparents as mentors

Editor's note: This is one part in a series of articles Newton Now is doing on mentoring.

BY WENDY NUGENT
NEWTON NOW STAFF

Tina Ostrander starting wrapping gifts at High Street Company at the age of 5, at her mother's elbow.

High Street Company was one of the Newton stores her parents, Vicki and Ken Stobbe, owned. However, that store closed a few years ago, but their other businesses, Main Street Company and Kitchen Corner in Newton, have remained open. Another store in Wichita, Red Bird Boutique, closed a few years ago, as well.

Now, the gift wrapper is owner of Main Street Company and Kitchen Corner, since her parents are slowing down.

Ostrander's parents' stores have been a part of her life for many years.

"I spent every day after school and weekends at the stores," she said, adding she worked there while attending Tabor College and was there 15 years after that.

"She didn't even have to give me her resumé," Vicki joked. "I just hired her."

Ostrander took a break from the stores at one point in her career. When she decided to be a sales rep somewhere else, she wanted to go out and do something else. That led her to realize how much she loved retail.

"That was hard for me because Ken and I were doing it all," Vicki said.

By leaving, Ostrander also realized how much she loved her parents' stores.

"Most people don't love to work in retail, but there is something here in Newton," she said. "We know people by name. There's a loyalty. Our customers aren't just customers—they're friends."

Ostrander and her mother also agreed the employees are family.

Ostrander became the owner as of Jan. 1.

"I'm here when she needs me and Ken is transitioning everything over," Vicki said.

"He's still the finance guy," Ostrander added.

Ostrander learned a lot working at the stores, as well as owning them.

"There's a lot of things I've learned," she said.

"Tina has a work ethic and she knew what needed to be done," Vicki said.

Tina thinks of her parents as being mentors and has learned much from them. She said she saw how hard they worked.

"My mother is very much outgoing and a people person," Ostrander said, adding her dad is the opposite. "Had I not grown up in the stores, I would be more like my dad."

She's learned about showing up and suiting up.

"I learned some days you gotta pull up your bootstraps and go after it," she said.

There are others in Ostrander's life she considers as mentors, one of whom is her mom's mom.

"She was a businesswoman," Ostrander said. "She just showed that hard work ethic and also that you've got to take care of people. My other grandmother, who is still living at 101, she was stubborn. If anything, [she] has taught us to be stubborn, which can be a good thing. She was very good at looking at a situation from all sides. I think that is very important, especially in business."

That can include customers, finances, buying, whatever big decisions need to be made.

"My mom's dad, he taught us all you cannot sell off an empty wagon," Ostrander said.

Ostrander said their stores never have an empty look.

"There's a lot of truth in that," she said. "You have to have lots of options. I think my mom learned a lot from her parents, which she passed on down to me."

Vicki said she and her husband have worked together with the stores since 1998. Before that, Ken was the laboratory director at Newton Medical Center from 1982 through 1998.

"He's the analytical one, so he kept me on track," Vicki said.

Their recent "slow down" has been gradual.

"They decided to slow down, though they really haven't slowed down that much," Ostrander said. "Working on slowing down."

"Ken and I wanted to slow down and we have been talking about it for a long time, and we just had a difficult time closing stores to the community," Vicki said, adding they also didn't want to lose their wonderful employees.

At that point, Ostrander said she wasn't working for the stores anymore, as she left about two years ago to become a sales rep in retail. That made the Stobbes' decision to slow down more difficult since if they slowed down, the stores would close.

"I wasn't ready to let these stores go because it was such a big part of my life," Vicki said.

"We've not made a big



WENDY NUGENT/NEWTON NOW
Vicki Stobbe, left, and her daughter Tina Ostrander talk about a new display at Kitchen Corner in Newton. Ostrander purchased the business and has been the owner since Jan. 1.



WENDY NUGENT/NEWTON NOW
Tina Ostrander sits at the desk her mother used for many years running the family business, along with her husband Ken, a business Ostrander now owns.

ordeal about any of the changes," Ostrander said. "We've not announced it."



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