



County leaders tell community why they wear their mask, best way to open economy - Pages 16-19

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Health Dept. says county in position to relax restrictions

BY ADAM STRUNK
HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

The Harvey County Health Department said the county is in a good position to look at relaxing public restrictions when the governor's stay at home order expires on May 4. That's at least according to

the county's own drafted guidelines outlining when it could begin to relax some of the controls meant to slow the spread of the Covid-19 virus. "If you look through the criteria right this moment, we're doing well that we could move to Phase 2," Harvey County

Health Director Lynnette Redington said explaining that the decision to relax guidelines is up to the commission. "But if we have a large influx of cases as we go to Phase 2, we'll need to move it back and move to a stay at home order." Under the drafted re-open-

ing plan reviewed by the county commission at this week's meeting, phase 1 would be a stay at home order similar to what we have under the governor's executive order. Phase 2 would allow businesses to reopen but keep a limit on gatherings under 10. Restaurants would be able to

run dine-in services in a limited capacity, spreading out tables to observe social distancing. Residents would be encouraged to wear masks in public. The plan, it should be iterated, is a draft and not set

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Folks wait in line on Sunday morning to pick up their meals. At right is Keith's Foods owner Keith Banman.

PHOTOS BY WENDY NUGENT/HARVEY COUNTY NOW

State left planning for murky budget future

BY ADAM STRUNK
HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

It's hard to plan for what you don't know. That's the summary of the state's budget situation from Sen. Carolyn McGinn. McGinn, as chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, has recently been in leadership meetings aimed at addressing budget estimates that show the state taking in nearly \$1.2 billion less than expected in the next two years due to the COVID-19 crisis.

"Those are estimates by three economists sitting in a room trying to figure out what things look like with ag, oil, income tax," she said. "I used to call them estimates, but now I'd call them guesses. Things are changing so quickly in a world we've never experienced."

McGinn said they're trying to plan with no knowledge of how exactly the state economy will respond in the following months with the easing of restrictions meant to combat the spread of the virus. She also said secondary outbreaks and shutdowns could change what state revenues looked like.

"It's almost like we'll have our foot on the brake and accelerator at the same time," she said. "There's not a whole lot to do right now except try to move forward and see what happens."

Adding onto those issues are the regularly changing landscape of federal aid plans and orders.

McGinn noted that the state would need to wait to see what federal aid it would get and the rules attached to that aid before making future budget decisions. She gave the most recent budget it passed for FY 2021 as an example. She said the state had set aside \$50 million for its COVID-19 response and \$15 million for an emergency management response.

However, under rules with the federal CARES Act, she said the state has to now spend that money down before getting additional federal funds.

"We don't know what revenue will be or what the federal government will give to states," she said. "We have to be careful how we act, because we don't know what the rules will be."

McGinn did give a few aspects of the state budget situation she felt confident about.

She did not think that the next year's budget would be reworked during this session. While the session doesn't officially end until the ceremonial "sine die" in mid May, it is adjourned.

"I don't think people want to open the budget up," she said.

That means that the state would operate with

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McGinn

Feeding the multitudes

Keith's Foods raises money for canceled MCC Sale.

BY WENDY NUGENT
HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

GOESSEL—The activity on Sunday echoed the sign painted on the east side of Keith's Foods in Goessel, which reads, "Small town, big heart."

People from all over demonstrated that by purchasing meals for a suggested \$15 a meal, all to help feed the hungry. They picked up their meals of ham loaf, loaded baked potato, cream cheese corn, dinner roll, broccoli and cauliflower salad and pie, all to benefit Mennonite Central Committee. MCC had to cancel their annual sale in Hutchinson because of the pandemic, a sale where they "feed the multitudes" and have quilts auctioned.

Keith said they made 250 pounds of ham loaf for the



These are just a few of the people picking up the approximate 700 meals on Sunday sold for Mennonite Central Committee.

event, as well as using almost 90 pies. There were two "drive-thru" lanes for the customers. They also raised a lot of money.

"The exact amount received

as of last night was \$19,207.55," storeowner Keith Banman said. "It was amazing. Between my store staff and

See KEITH'S / 8

Mail Label

Newton girl receives heart transplant

BY WENDY NUGENT
HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

Lanayah Rivera has a heart named Bill. At least that's what she named her new heart she received after her transplant on Jan. 21 at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City.

"Lanayah decided to name her new heart," her mom Pam Rivera said about her 14-year-old daughter. "In a year, we can decide to sign papers to see if the donor family would like to know and possibly meet who got his/her heart. The other family has to sign, too. Otherwise, we don't know any information about the donor."

She was the hospital's 24th heart transplant, and she named her first heart Taylor.

Rivera didn't have a reason why she wanted to name her new heart Bill.

"Her response- why not?." Pam said. "That's just the name she was feeling, I guess. Lol. So, Bill it is."

The Chisholm Middle School student's heart journey started this academic year as quite a surprise.

"On Nov. 10, 2019, Lanayah and I had gone to Wichita to get Lanayah her basketball socks and shoes for the season," Pam said.

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Lanayah Rivera, center, sits outside her home in Newton with her sister, Aly, and mom, Pam.

WENDY NUGENT/HARVEY COUNTY NOW



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This will make you come around to a new cut of steak

A few months ago, we bought a meat bundle from our local butcher, and since we've been stuck at home, it's been nice to enjoy.

We've made roasts and steaks and dinners with ground beef, but I still had a few packages of tenderized round steak that I decided I needed to be creative with—mostly because I haven't worked with that cut very often over the years.

I know round steak is perfect for chicken fried steaks, but I decided I wanted to try something different and stumbled upon a recipe from Emeril Lagasse that a blogger posted to her site. It sounded awesome, so while Joey and I listened to an audio book, I chopped and sauteed my way to a great dinner.

I will warn you that this has a good amount of heat to it, so if you're not a fan of spicy dishes, I'd suggest leaving the cayenne out of this one.

This is from the blog "Butter Yum." You can find the original post at <https://www.butteryum.org/blog/2014/03/emerils-onion-and-pepper-smothered.html>. I didn't change much but upping the herbs and spices just a little bit.

Onion and Pepper Smothered Round Steak

- Ingredients**
- 3 tablespoons flour
 - 3 teaspoons paprika
 - 2 teaspoons salt
 - 2 rounded teaspoons garlic powder
 - 1 teaspoon black pepper
 - 1 rounded teaspoon onion powder
 - 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
 - 1 rounded teaspoon dried oregano
 - 1 rounded teaspoon dried thyme



LINDSEY YOUNG/HARVEY COUNTY NOW

Onion and pepper smothered round steak has tons of herbs and spices that create a rich sauce to be served over noodles or rice.

- 2-1/2 pounds round steak, sliced into 1/4-inch thick slices
- 1/4 cup oil (vegetable or canola)
- 3 cups chicken broth or stock
- 1 medium-sized yellow onion, sliced into 1/4-inch thick slices
- 3 large bell peppers (any color), sliced into 1/4-inch thick slices
- 3 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- more salt and pepper to taste
- cooked rice or buttered pasta for serving

Directions
Combine the flour, paprika, salt, garlic powder, black pepper, onion powder, cayenne pepper, oregano, and thyme and add it along with the sliced steak to a large bowl. Stir it coat the steak in the flour mixture.

In a large, deep pan or Dutch oven, heat the

oil over medium heat. Add the steak in batches, sauteing for about two or three minutes on each side and then transferring the cooked steak to a separate plate.

Once all the steak is cooked through, add the rest of the flour mixture to the pot, along with the chicken broth, scraping the bottom of the pan to get any stuck on bits mixed in, and bring the pot up to a boil.

Now add the onions and bell peppers, stirring frequently, and let them cook for about eight minutes.

Turn the heat down to low and add the steak and any juices from the plate back into the pot.

Let the mixture simmer for about one hour, stirring regularly. If the liquid level gets too low, add a little water. If, by

the time your hour is up, you still have a lot of liquid, whisk in some flour to thicken it up a bit. Your end goal is to have a gravy consistency.

Once the vegetables are cooked through and the sauce is done, add the Worcestershire sauce and more salt and pepper, if necessary. Serve it over rice or buttered pasta.

Joey and I were both pretty skeptical about this, just because we've never had a dish like this one before, but boy, was it delicious.

It made more than enough for us to put plenty of leftovers into the fridge, too, which was nice. We opted for some spaghetti noodles under our round steak, and the recipe author also suggests rice, but I also think mashed potatoes would be good.

And I'm super excited that I have another great way to use round steak going forward, although I don't think I'll be giving up chicken fried steak any time soon. It's pretty tough to give up those old classics.

Spice Up Your Life is sponsored by Main Street Co. & Kitchen Corner. Find them at shopmainstco.com. Lindsey Young is an

enthusiastic amateur cook and can be reached through her website at spiceupkitchen.net.



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Tree-planting tradition goes virtual

By JARED JANZEN
HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

HALSTEAD—Tree board member Grant Williams didn't have as many helpers this year for Halstead's annual tree planting, held Wednesday morning in the middle school's outdoor classroom.

Normally, the entire sixth-grade class gets involved, but this year the only one on hand to get her hands dirty was Williams's daughter, Tessa. The rest of the sixth-grade class had to watch from a distance as sixth-grade teacher Devin Maxwell livestreamed the planting. Maxwell's kids, Brooke and Landon, also pitched in to help pack the dirt and mulch around the new tree, which is a burgundy belle maple.

"It's a tree that was actually developed in Kansas, so this breed is technically native to our area," Williams said.

According to Williams, the tree will grow 40-45 feet tall at a medium speed.



Grant Williams, right, explains how to plant a tree while sixth-grade teacher Devin Maxwell livestreams for middle school students to watch. At left is sixth-grade teacher Ward Willis.

Williams offered several tree-planting tips during the process, such as checking above and below for power or utility lines, making sure it's put in straight, and remembering to remove all plastic tags so they don't eventually grow into the bark.

This is the 42nd consecutive year Halstead has been a Tree City USA, and planting a tree during an Arbor Day ceremony is one of the requirements that keeps that streak going.

"That's one of the nine longest streaks in the

state of Kansas," Williams said. "We started the second year the program was started. There were a few that started the first year that got the one-year jump on us."

To earn the designation of Tree City, a city must also have a tree board, approve an annual proclamation and fund the tree board at \$2 per resident.

The new tree is the fourth in the outdoor classroom area, joining two planted in recent years and one from 1995. The outdoor class-



Tree board member Grant Williams, left, gets help planting a burgundy belle maple tree from Landon and Brooke Maxwell and Tessa Williams. It was planted in the outdoor classroom behind Halstead Middle School on Wednesday morning.

room is in its second year and sixth-grade teacher Ward Willis said the switch to online learning this semester had delayed some of their plans to continue developing it.

"We just bought

\$1,000 worth of wood because we were going to make cedar tables," Willis said.

They plan to make four taller ones that students can stand around, plus two lower ones for sitting around.

"It was going to be a student project, but it got kyboshed," he added.

Instead, Willis expects teachers to build the tables once some of the gathering-size restrictions are lifted.

County health department evaluating cruising event, organizer encourages participants to follow the rules

By ADAM STRUNK
HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

The Harvey County Health Department is evaluating local "Covid Cruises" and will encourage law enforcement to shut them down should large-scale gathering continue.

The events, where people drive up and down the Main streets of the town, have been popular weekend attractions for many residents as a way of getting out of the house and doing something with other people while not leaving their cars. The cruises likely do not qualify as essential travel, but local law enforcement has left them alone on the condition that people observe proper social distancing.

However, the problem is some people are leaving their cars and congregating in parking

lots in larger groups.

"My hope would be we could continue to do cruise night, but if we had another one like I saw this past Saturday, we'll really talk to law enforcement about shutting these things down," Harvey County Health Department Director Lynnette Redington said. "I hate to do that and I hate to say that as it does bring community bonding and get you out of your house for a moment. But we have to keep the public health as the most important part here with a disease we do not have a cure for."

Redington noted that the lack of proper social distancing and groups congregating would make it easier for COVID-19 to spread.

"My hope is we don't have a spike in cases after we saw what we saw in postings on social media over the

weekend," Redington said. "It was frustrating to see after all the announcements that we've shared about this disease."

Beth Usselman, who runs a Facebook page that organizes the Newton cruising event noted it's in the event's rules to stay more than six feet away from people in groups smaller than 10 in accordance with the current stay-at-home order.

"In the past, Dollar General and O'Reillys have been gathering spots and people are not observing the rules," Usselman said. "Some people were observing that just fine. But there was a lot of mingling of friends."

Usselman said that



Redington

people not following health recommendations could put the event in jeopardy.

She noted that the Newton Police Department had been very accommodating of acting silly and honking, but eventually, people's behavior might warrant action.

"My concern is if people do not begin to observe those that they will shut down the cruise, she said, adding that the event is for cruising, not specifically congregating. This last week's event honored Newton's graduating seniors. She said in following weeks, the event would honor eight graders and other students.

Usselman asked group participants to please follow the state rules.

"Absolutely stay within their family group and maintain

family distancing to the next group down," she said. "The group was set up to cruise and it's not set up to congregate. When this is over, we're going to have a big old barbecue, all 500 of us."

Hesston ranks in top five of Kansas's safest cities, according to independent review site

By BILL BUSH
HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

HESSTON—Hesston ranked No. 5 among Kansas's 20 Safest Cities of 2020, according to a recent report published by SafeWise, an independent review site.

Last year, SafeWise ranked Hesston at No. 1.

Hesston Police Chief Doug Schroeder said that Hesston is safe, but he doesn't put any faith in the report.

"Their methodology

was unclear and so I wasn't putting a lot of stock in the system they were using," Schroeder said. "They do look at some stats that are open public record but it appears some other factors exist. Don't get me wrong, we have a safe community and our officers work hard to keep it that way, but I don't think it is wise to



Schroeder

tout the findings of this group."

The study used 2018 FBI crime report statistics and population data from the U.S. Census Bureau to calculate violent and property crime rates, according to the SafeWise website. They excluded cities that fell below identified population thresholds or that failed to submit a complete crime report to the FBI.

The top five safest cities in Kansas in order were Hugoton, Scott City, Valley Cen-

ter, Tonganoxie and Hesston.

Prom but not forgotten: Residents recall events of yesteryear

BY BILL BUSH
HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

There may not be any proms this year, but prom stories abound. Two Harvey County residents—Amy Beck of Halstead and Tressa Machmer of Newton—shared their memories.

Halstead resident Amy Beck had a unique prom experience. Even though she had a boyfriend at the time, she went to prom in a different town with someone else.

In 1989, Beck was a senior at Northern York County High School in Dillsburg, Pa. Thirteen miles away, Shawn Zimmerman, also a senior, attended Cumberland Valley High School in Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Beck worked at a grocery store with a bunch of Zimmerman's friends. After work, several of them would go out, usually for pizza and bowling. Zimmerman joined the group and Beck brought along her boyfriend. That's how they all met.

"We knew each other," Beck said. "One of his friends mentioned that 'Zeke' (as he was known then) didn't have a date and I said I'd go with him because I had already bought the dress for my prom. We had an absolute blast. It was me and him and several other couples from the store all together."

Her boyfriend didn't mind because he knew most of the group.

Beck said she and Zimmerman were never romantically involved and they lost touch after high school, until they reconnected on Facebook.

Zimmerman found their prom photo from 1989 and posted it on Facebook. They joked about recreating the picture some day. He still lives in the same area and Beck tries to go back to see her parents every year, so in 2017, they finally met again in person.

"He came out to the campground where we were staying and brought his wife and daughter," Beck explained. "We had a fun visit and then made sure we got 'the picture' together. His wife and I have become friends, too. And he and Brice (Beck's fiancé) talk a lot, even though they haven't actually met each other, yet."

Beck said that the four of them had plans to get together in a couple of weeks when she and Brice traveled to Pennsylvania for her nephew's wedding. For now, that's been put on hold.

Tressa Machmer liked her senior prom date so much she helped him bag ice the next morning. By then they had been dating for four years.

In eighth grade,



Above: Halstead resident Amy Beck with her prom date Shawn Zimmerman in 1989 and then again in 2017. Beck attended Zimmerman's senior prom even though she had a boyfriend. **Right:** Lifelong Newton residents Trent and Tressa Machmer have been married for 32 years and have two children and two grandchildren.

Tressa attended Chisholm Middle School and her husband Trent Machmer attended Santa Fe Middle School. They had a mutual friend who introduced them. They haven't been apart since.

"(We) dated all through high school and never broke up," Tressa explained. "He even moved to Shell Knob, Mo., for like six months because his dad got transferred there our sophomore year, but we never broke up. They had to move back to Newton because Trent, my husband, was so miserable and his mom was, too."

The theme for their junior prom in 1986 was 'Get Carried Away,' which included cruise ship/island décor.

They went out to eat with a group of friends prior to prom then spent the evening dancing.

She thinks that Ed Griswold DJ'd the event. Tressa said they didn't have the walk-in like they do now.

They attended their senior prom in 1987, 'The Art of Elegance,' just the two of them.

"He worked for Pepsi

and we had to go bag ice that very next morning, after we'd stayed up late, so I went and helped him," Tressa said.

The next year, in October of 1988, at the age of 19, Trent and Tressa got married.

"I guess we just both knew that's what we wanted and might as well get married so we could be together," Tressa said of why they married at a young age. "We just knew right away that, we just felt always at ease with each other and we just kind of knew, way back when we were like freshmen that this was gonna be forever."

Trent now works for Konica Minolta and Tressa is a nurse at Newton Medical Center, where she's worked for 23 years.

They have two children, a 29-year-old son and a 24-year-old daughter. Their granddaughter is four years old and their grandson is six months old.

Other than Trent's six months in Missouri, Trent and Tressa have lived in Newton their whole lives.



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With traditional schools closed for the remainder of the school year, we have heard there are some Junior Reporters with availability. Each week we will post an assignment any student can complete in the paper and on our website. Fill out the writing prompt in this week's paper, and send your finished product to adam@harveycountynow.com by Sunday at 7 p.m. Photos are welcome with the articles. Submissions will be posted at Harveycountynow.com and a few will run in the following weeks paper.

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Celebrating Marcella

When you visit Marcella's patio during the spring, you'll see an array of vibrant blossoms. Raising and tending to flowers is a hobby of Marcella's, but at one time it was her livelihood. Now residing at Schowalter Villa in Hesston, she was a florist at a local flower shop for 15 years before retiring in 1987.

With five children, eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, family is a big part of Marcella's life. During this time of social distancing, she is looking forward to a day when her family can get together again.

Despite the having to stay in lately, Marcella has been very productive. She says she has cleaned out and rearranged her kitchen cupboards and cleaned out her closets. "I have also been reading a lot and texting with my friends and family too," she said. "Connecting with people by a phone call or texting brings me joy during this time."

In addition to raising flowers and spending time with friends and family, Marcella has a passion for singing. When she was two years old she sang the song, "When we all Get to Heaven" at church and it remains one of her favorite songs to this day. Her musical talents are not limited to singing; she can play several instruments including the pump organ, piano and violin.

Marcella attended Hesston College during World War II and received a teaching certificate. She then taught for several years in south central Kansas.

For Marcella, staying active, building relationships and trusting God for the future is what it means to live a purposeful life. At Schowalter Villa, she says she is supported in a way that she can continue to live well and keep doing the things she truly loves. We are blessed and grateful for her presence in our community!

Commissioners get first look at recovery plan

BY BLAKE SPURNEY
HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners chewed over the a prospective COVID-19 recovery plan Thursday morning amid uncertainty of what Gov. Laura Kelly might do at 2 p.m. Thursday regarding her shelter-in-place order.

Health Department Director Lynnette Redington reviewed the county's tentative plan for getting the county back to a "normal" setting in a five-phase approach should Kelly not take any further action.

The current phase provides guidelines for stopping the spread of the virus. The next stage would be loosening some of the restrictions currently in place. Gatherings still would be limited to 10 people, and those at higher risk for severe illness should continue to stay at home except for essential needs. Residents also still would be en-

couraged to wear masks in public. Redington said the second phase would last a minimum of 14 days.

Commission Chairman Randy Hague said he kept hearing that testing capacity would have to increase before the economy could re-open.

Redington said the county had reached the 0.5 percent benchmark set by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, which equates to 175 tests per day. She said that standard could be changed.

Commission George "Chip" Westfall asked if Harvey County would have go to drive-through testing, such as Reno County had started.

Redington said one must show symptoms before that person got tested. Under phase II, employees at businesses open to the public are strongly recommended to wear a mask.

Hague asked about the 6-foot distancing

that some businesses have marked on floors. He related his experience of going to Braum's for supplies. He said half of its employees were wearing masks, but the woman who checked him out wasn't, even though he was standing right next to her.

"I've got an issue with that," he said.

Redington stressed that the plan was a working draft and said the county could add more guidance for employers. Restaurants and bars could reopen if requirements for social distancing are in place. She said the plan included a dine-in option of 10 people at a restaurant, but self-serve is still prescribed.

Phase III would see the lifting of most restrictions and gatherings would be limited to 50 people. Redington



Redington

said May 18 would be the earliest implementation of the next phase.

"We could stay on Phase II for a while," she said.

Hague said he expected the county to take three steps forward and one back moving forward.

County Administrator Anthony Swartzendruber said commissioners would have to make separate orders to move from phase to phase, including reverting to a more restrictive order. Kelly's order supersedes an order on the county level, but commissioners will be entrusted to set guidelines at the county level once Kelly's order expires.

Phase IV would last for a minimum of 28 days, and its earliest implementation would be June 15. Redington said she expected the phase to last several months. People at higher risk can resume some activities, but they should stay vigilant. Visitors to senior living

facilities would be allowed only the visitors adhere to strict protocols regarding hygiene.

Westfall offered kudos to the senior facilities in Harvey for avoiding a cluster of COVID-19 cases. He asked for input from those places about granting access to immediate family every now and then. He said it was sad to see a grandmother behind a window with family waving to her from outside.

Emergency Management Director Gary Denny said partners in the medical society stressed added measures be taken to protect vulnerable populations.

Swartzendruber said county employees had less than a week to get feedback from all those involved in drafting the recovery plan. He noted that senior facilities were governed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. He said commissioners had to balance social interaction with public well-

being while making difficult decisions for when to reopen society. He said one cluster of COVID-19 in a senior facility had the potential to overwhelm the medical system.

The final phase would begin when a treatment or vaccine or treatment became available, a milestone that Denny said would take 12-18 months.

Hague said commissioner would need to listen to Kelly's announcement Thursday afternoon.

"So we're going to have a little homework to do Thursday afternoon," he said.

Commissioners are holding a called meeting at 9:30 a.m. Friday. They're expecting to take action on the level of restrictions if Kelly decides to send such decisions back to the local level. Counties can set more stringent restrictions than set by the state, but they can't lessen state requirements.

Local agencies gearing up for an extra delivery of food

BY BILL BUSH
HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

On May 6, a special distribution of food will arrive at Harvey County distribution centers to help those affected by the COVID-19 situation.

The distribution will come from the Department for Children and Families after being triggered when the national emergency was declared, recently.

Each center will hand out food to those in need. There are no income re-

strictions for receiving the food and the only information most distribution sites will ask is how many people are in the household.

Two sites—Sedgwick and North Newton—will distribute food the same day they receive it -- May 6. In order to receive an allotment, those in need should call ahead to be included.

In Sedgwick, contact Amanda Mabry at City Hall at 316-772-5151. In North Newton, call the North Newton Housing

Authority at 316-283-8731. Food will be divided at both sites evenly between those who request ahead of time.

The Neighbors Panty in Halstead will distribute food on Monday, May 11. Household requesting food assistance may arrange to pick up food boxes by coming to the Pantry at 263 Main Street on Monday, May 11, from 1-5 p.m. or by calling the Neighbors Store at 316-835-2031 during service hours.

They will distribute the food on a first come, first served basis.

The Newton distribution site is The First Christian Church at 102 E. 1st St. They will hand out food on a first come, first serve basis starting at 9 a.m. and going until the food is gone.

The Hesston Resource Center, Inc., at 123 Main has not set a date(s) for distribution of the special shipment. They expect to have a time set later this week.

Questions can be answered at 620-327-2729.

Each of these locations provides assistance on a regular basis through the Emergency Food Assistance Program. Normally, their

distributions are provided to families with low income, but this special shipment is open to anyone since the emergency situation has touched all income levels.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Youth from the First Christian Church in Newton sack food items as part of the Emergency Food Assistance Program. Next week, the program will provide an extra delivery as part of the emergency response to COVID-19 situation.

THEME: ACTORS AND ACTRESSES

ACROSS

- 1. "Flowers in the ____"
- 6. Emergency responders
- 9. Peacock's pride
- 13. Life force in Sanskrit
- 14. Doctor Dolittle, e.g.
- 15. The Beast's problem
- 16. Happen again
- 17. Freudian topic
- 18. In a fitting way
- 19. *Hopkins' Lecter to ____'s Starling
- 21. *McGillis' Charlie to ____'s Maverick
- 23. Unagi
- 24. Undesirable row
- 25. Stuff in a tray?
- 28. The Tramp's love interest
- 30. Hairy vertebrate
- 35. "Best ____ schemes o' mice an' men"
- 37. Be inclined
- 39. City in Belgium
- 40. Debussy's "Clair de

- ____"
- 41. D'Artagnan's weapon, pl.
- 43. Speed on water
- 44. "This ____ ____," on a box
- 46. The Chapin School, e.g.
- 47. Å
- 48. Post-roller coaster ride state
- 50. The Coen brothers' "True ____"
- 52. ____ Diego
- 53. Deuce topper
- 55. Lamb's mother
- 57. *Clark's Rhett to ____'s Scarlett
- 60. *John's Danny to ____'s Sandy
- 63. Continually annoy
- 64. Matterhorn, e.g.
- 66. Cooler clime conifer
- 68. Do like phoenix
- 69. Tiger's peg
- 70. "My Own Private ____"
- 71. Thou ____, or you have
- 72. Bajillion years

- 73. Article of faith
- DOWN
- 1. 2020 Easter mo.
- 2. Not kosher
- 3. Meal in a shell
- 4. Occupied, two words
- 5. El Chapo's organization
- 6. "What ____ Happened to Baby Jane?"
- 7. *Billy's Harry to ____'s Sally
- 8. Investor's asset
- 9. ____-Guarani languages
- 10. Liberal pursuits
- 11. Archipelago unit
- 12. Bovine hangout
- 15. Posterior, anatomically speaking
- 20. Fill with optimism
- 22. Basketball target
- 24. Two heads are better than one, e.g.
- 25. *Keaton's Annie to ____'s Alvy
- 26. Sweating room
- 27. Hinduism follower
- 29. *Knightley's Swann

- to ____'s Sparrow
- 31. *Cameron's Fiona to ____'s Shrek
- 32. List of options, pl.
- 33. Ancient Greeks' assembly area
- 34. Pretend, two words
- 36. ____ ex machina
- 38. Doe, e.g.
- 42. Sales pitch
- 45. Smallest at the clothing store
- 49. Second person of be
- 51. Lighted by twilight
- 54. Related on mother's side
- 56. Avoid, as in taxes
- 57. Designer Bradley
- 58. Osiris' wife
- 59. One third of a three-piece suit
- 60. Welcoming sign
- 61. A Flock of Seagulls' hit, 2 words
- 62. Soreness
- 63. "____, humbug!"
- 65. *Kate's Rose to ____'s Jack
- 67. "Some Like It ____"

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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1			8		7			

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OPINION

EDITORIAL

We will be delivered by our actions

Now, more than ever, we need an effective plan on how our county will reopen and will need our community to rally around that plan.

Our health, our financial stability and our viability of the place we call home depends on it.

So we call on our elected officials and medical professionals to draft a plan for businesses to reopen in as safe a manner as possible when the time comes.

We call on our business leaders to adopt public health guidelines that keep employees and customers safe and ensure our economy can function again and does not have to be shuttered by future outbreaks.

And we call on our readers and the county citizens to do their part to prevent the disease's future spread, to help one another, to support local businesses, to encourage and hold elected officials accountable and to understand that our own well being is tied to the larger well being of our community.

Two months ago, we began to sound the alarm on the need to limit a threat from COVID-19 that even we had no idea would become so widespread.

We said it was not a matter of if it comes to Harvey County but when. And people listened and took action.

We sewed masks. We printed face protectors. We gave. We fitted our medical facilities to cope with the threat. We got food to those in need. We helped those out of work find government aid. We washed our hands. We stayed home when sick. Our first responders and medical professionals cared for us. Our hearts swelled with pride at the actions our residents took. We met the first brunt of this disease in the best manner we could. Let no one say we didn't try.

As the national peak passed, we found ourselves lightly touched by the horrors seen in other places.

The first wave of this terrible illness has left more than 1 million in the country sickened. More than 50,000 Americans have lost their lives. That ugly number will continue climb. It was a shocking three months that claimed so many lives, despite our unprecedented efforts.

While these actions saved countless friends, family and neighbors across this nation, they have taken a toll.

They have cost people's livelihoods. They have shuttered family businesses.

We found out that, despite the longest bull market in the history of the United States, most businesses and everyday people lived paycheck to paycheck.

The disaster called our decades-long bluff, one where we prioritized outsourcing, efficiency and profit over the American people and the resiliency of our economy.

What we have learned in this disaster is the federal government alone isn't going to save us. Their plans change with the day, and they are unable to fill orders for supplies.

The state isn't going to save us immediately, though it might help. The governor's emergency powers expire May 1, and we don't know if the legislature will choose to renew them.

Instead, the only folks who will save Harvey County is Harvey County, and it's up to us to find local answers to the COVID-19 problem in the coming months.

Failure is not an option. Failure to support our businesses means decades of progress on Main Street and a decade of job growth will fall by the wayside. People will lose their homes. And our community will be lesser for it.

Failure to continue the focus on public health means we might be faced with a large-scale outbreak as they're seeing in other Kansas counties. With the number of factories and large employers in Harvey County, it's not a stretch to imagine that happening. People must feel safe to begin to use our economy again. Orders, shut-downs and reopens don't matter. The mindset of every one of us does.

Now the incredibly difficult task falls upon us to do what we can to continue to make a living and to continue to keep those we care about safe.

This is not a short battle. This is a prolonged alteration of our way of life until we come up with effective treatments and a vaccine. That could take more than a year.

In the coming weeks, we will embark on our first shaky steps toward economic and physical recovery. We ask you to take the recommendations and plans made by our leaders with gusto.

Observe what health officials say. Do your part to help our community.

We understand we have the freedom to behave poorly in this country. But we also have the freedom to undertake acts, great and small, of selflessness. Those acts are wearing masks in public, continuing to avoid crowds, and not giving in to temptation and doing what is comfortable and easy simply because "you can."

The communities who band together during this dark time will emerge, not whole, but at least viable. The alternative is nothing less than regression.

To borrow from Benjamin Franklin, "We must, indeed, all hang together or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately."

How relevant that is hundreds of years later in a markedly different world.

Harvey County, it is time for us to lead ourselves and save ourselves. Take hope. You and your actions can deliver us.

—Harvey County Now Editorial Board



We must decide what we keep

What do we keep? I've been faced with that question more and more of late—in phone conversations, Zoom calls and talks held between the sidewalk and people's back doors.

All of us recognize the times we live in have been markedly different. But so many of us also realize that the changes are not 100 percent for the worse.

It feels almost like after the jarring whiplash subsided, our society seems to be catching its breath for the first time in years.

We caught up with TV shows, we spent countless hours on the Internet or playing video games and finally, for once, we got sick of it.

We gained perspective about what mattered, not Netflix shows, but our family and friends who we missed.

We remembered what an evening at home felt like.

I've been cooking and eating dinner with Sam for at least five out of seven nights a week. Prior the stop, we had to set aside and plan our one weekday night where we saw each other.

We knead bread on our lunch breaks. We wash our dishes after meals. She stacks the plates, I sweep the floors.

And when done, we play board games with our friends, virtually. She calls her parents. I call my siblings or other friends in far-away places.

In recent months, I have had more conversations with some people I care about than in years combined.

Part of this is driven by time. The lies we tell ourselves that we're "too busy" have finally dissolved. With no excuses, we begin to see how much of our lives and time we wasted "being busy."

I spent all of Sunday just coming up with stuff to do in my yard. I mowed. I weed ate. I messed with the mower. I tuned the carb on the weed-eater. I tied a hammock. I didn't like the knots. I learned



STRUNK IN PUBLIC

new knots. I tied my hammock better. God, what a perfect day conducting not a single action I would have counted worthy of "being busy" when reciting the litany of reasons to someone in order to explain why I was too "busy" to reach out.

My sister's birthday was April 27. I called her and chatted about her day. Her son decided he was going to skip school as it was his mothers birthday, and she decided that was fine.

She talked about what they did together. She talked about how much time they've had together. No soccer, no gymnastics, no ballet, no extra...stuff.

I asked if she thought they were worse for it.

She did not believe so.

What extra stuff will we decide to leave behind once this all ends?

I think another part driving a resurgence in meaningful human connections has been a sort of looming threat.

COVID-19 is real. And it's left many asking questions about how they have lived their lives and how they want to spend the lives they have left.

For myself, I want a life with more meaningful experiences and far fewer wasted days.

In my dinners with Sam, we've been starting them by saying what we are grateful for having.

Each other. Food. A home. Two jobs. Our health. The ability to keep ourselves as safe as we choose to.

When I repeat those aspects over and over, I am truly humbled, in the sense that I have a life far better than I should expect. I have been given gifts, and I am grateful.

Yet all those things I took for granted a few months ago in a world where everyone had jobs, their health and their homes. Food was a minute drive to Dillons.

It's made me try to find all the other parts of my life I take for granted. The people who care about me, my coworkers, my cat, the kindness I'm shown by people on a regular basis.

I could bloom.

I feel that, in part, we're experiencing something new. But we're also experiencing something old. I've gotten to know a lot of neighbors in the past few months as they, too, are in their yards working or enjoying existence.

This is a world our grandparents knew before the age of "busy" and distractions. They worked hard if not harder than us. But those actions, the daily task of making bread, for instance, now seem far more meaningful and nourishing than checking emails.

Lacking human iteration, many of us are opening our eyes to an entirely new community: our neighbors.

How easy it's been to talk to people of late. We all have a shared experience. But before that, did we not have shared experiences? Living in the same town, knowing the same people, wanting the same things?

So what do I want to keep out of this? Gratitude. My evenings. My neighbors. My feeling of filament at times at meaningful human interaction.

How much time was wasted until this disease made us realize how precious time actually is.

Adam Strunk is the managing editor of Newton Now. He can be reached at adam@harveycountynow.com.

The cowboy Samaritan, the adult virus fighter

This is Queenie talking for GB. "GB seems to have lots of important requests these days, 'Errol, please get me a better pen' and 'Queenie, would you please help me with my column?' But need I remind you that I am a very helpful, very capable (and beautiful), very fluffy orange, in charge, type of cat.

My long-time friends, Sid, the accountant and Charley, the spiritual good guy, even love me as far as cat heaven. They like me for my golden furriness (I make it soft when they come around) and my great kitty heart. My heart is nearly as wide and tall as the Heritage Inn itself and glistens as much as the glow of Amy's new foxy, red car. GB cried when her nephew wrecked her nifty yellow VW and hopes to get it fixed.

"My sweeties, I would like to tell you a true story. EB and GB have a grandson, Jason, age 22, whom they worship as much as the sunrise. Jason is a veteran, well-trained CNA, employed for four years at a small area hospital.

The hospital too gleams like the sun. It seems Jason memorized his textbooks, and takes on new information through the experience of his co-workers.

Jason used to go to daycare, protesting all the way. To most requests he stamped his foot with an innocent but firm "no." But GB and EB like this boundary thing—so important throughout one's life or the uneducated people will walk all over one.

"Jason was a cowboy. He walked



GUEST COLUMN

into daycare with his imitation red Stetson, his spurs clacking, his eyes full of fire.

"O! Jason sensed trouble a mile away and trotted his blue appaloosa stickhorse to the scene.

"Stand back folks! Johnny has climbed to the water tank deck and got dizzy and couldn't get down.

'Come on hoss, we'll have you down in a second. Take my hand Johnny and hold on to the rail. See how easy this is, and fun.'

Johnny, still whimpering, said, "no like, where my mommy?" Debbie and Gina, the teachers, cuddled Johnny and soothed him.

Jason said to Johnny—in a year or two you will be a brave cowboy like Jason and we will ride toward the sunset together.

Time and more scary stampedes and growing up with hard beans and bad weather were routine during these years.

March 2020: In the new sterile hospital, Jason, now a dedicated, compassionate, exacting CNA had become aware that nursing is kind of like riding. There are hills and valleys and entities that sting and

draw blood. He knows the ropes all right. He loves and respects all his co-workers and supervisors. Patients often request his gentle services.

March 28, 2020. It seems the hard rider has gone with his head to the wind. He steels himself for new challenges. Jason, Gail, and Angie, bonded and confident, suit up and test hundreds of patients through a drive-through. A moment of fear pierces their eyes. They work together as all good cowboys do. They reassure as much as possible. There is no real assurance with the coronavirus knocking on every door, riding on the very air we breathe. In 1828, Jason tells us, there was a massive virus that wiped out many human beings. The reports are coming back, some negative and some positive and, it is expected to get worse. Millions are affected. I am a warrior in a war that may never be won. I myself might not survive this war.

Looking into the distance, Jason drinks in the sun and blue sky, the loving earth, and whispers to himself, 'If only I were a cowboy again.' Maybe there will still come a cure. This is a painful period in history and he remembers the hope of Uncle Sid and Uncle Charley—God is still on the throne.

A patient enters the chapel to pray. Hail Marys and God is great drift on the air. I remember again—I must not open any doors of doubt. I will fight to the finish as a good warrior."

We need to open up the state...responsibly

As the session opened in January 2020, we were poised to pass a food sales tax reduction and Medicaid expansion. We defeated the repeated attempts to give the ultra-wealthy, multi-national businesses yet another tax cut so that we could finally give a tax cut to hard-working Kansans buying groceries. Additionally, the governor worked out a compromise with Senate GOP Leadership to secure long-awaited health insurance for 140,000 Kansans.

January went by. February went by. Half of March went by. Then the COVID-19 pandemic struck and forced the legislature to flee Topeka. Prior to leaving, we passed a transportation bill, a budget and a resolution giving the governor emergency powers. Those three massive responsibilities were passed within a week. The preceding 2-1/2 months were wasted.

A bright spot for Newton was that \$1 million was secured for EmberHope's (Youthville's) participation as a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF). Youthville continues to do great things for its clients and Kansans overall. I am happy they are back serving in Newton!

On balance, however, the majority party wasted much of the session and leaves the important decisions either undone or punted to the very end of the session. Every legislator in the Capitol knew the food sales tax was among the highest in the country and that we had turned away billions of dollars that would have helped hard-working families gain access to



TIM HODGE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

affordable health care, yet, week after week, they did nothing. I tried on several attempts to bring the bills to the floor, only to be rebuffed by the majority set against tax relief and better health care for working Kansans.

The majority party would rather litter mailboxes with lies and innuendo to distract voters from the real issues at hand. This costly delay and distraction has damaged us all. While we await to see the fallout from the virus, our most vulnerable citizens pay a cruelly high food sales tax and struggle with health care. Those who have lost their jobs will be faced with navigating a health care minefield as they try to provide for their family. Shame on them.

Presently, I continue to make daily contact with the Department of Labor regarding its weak, outdated website that is shutting out too many Kansans seeking relief from job losses. There are many excuses and blame for this, but for now, we need to get people the resources they need to get through this. While the website is getting marginally better, I encourage

those having trouble to message my Facebook page so I can get your request directly to the Department of Labor.

Two main issues are still unresolved. Those are: 1) the extra \$600 per week that furloughed workers are entitled to, and 2) Benefits for the self-employed. Both are new Federal allowances and the software must still be developed. I am confident folks will receive the benefits they worked for, but unfortunately, it will take time.

In addition, small businesses please continue to work with your local lenders to secure the Payroll Protection Program loans.

In the coming weeks, governmental entities will need to work with our federal delegation to shore up their budgets. Please join me in contacting our representatives in Washington to make sure they remember Kansas.

We need to open up again. Kids need to get back to school, sports and art. People need to see and interact with each other, again. Businesses need to come back and be supported. Churches need to meet. We need to do this responsibly. No matter how annoying or embarrassing, we need to observe social distancing guidelines, follow CDC guidelines and keep the spread of this virus to a minimum.

In conclusion, I have hope that the future will be better and we will emerge from this stronger. We will get through this. Be kind to each other.

Tim Hodge is a Kansas state representative.

LETTERS

COVID-19 is serious, but so is delaying needed medical care

To say that the past 12 weeks have been full of conflicting messages might be an understatement. One thing all of us in healthcare have noticed is that people seem to be holding back on seeking needed care. Hospitals and doctors are starting to see patients who have been moderately to severely ill for a day or more and who have avoided coming to the hospital emergency room or calling their physician. The reason given is "I was afraid of getting around people with coronavirus."

Hospitals, emergency departments, physician offices and EMS ambulance staff are all prepared to protect our community from unnecessary harm. We have protective equipment, and we screen our employees each day to ensure no one reports to work if they're sick. We screen everyone who comes to our hospital or offices for care for the presence of infections. This is so we know how and where to direct you upon arrival and how to best protect our staff and others.

Even before the coronavirus struck, we had strict practices in place for detecting infections and separating those individuals who may be infectious from those who aren't. We have proper cleaning solutions and have trained our staffs to use them correctly. We use an abundance of caution and will continue to do so.

Medical emergencies and illnesses will not stop even during this pandemic. Here are a few things to consider if you're ill or injured and you wonder what to do. The following information is found at <https://medlineplus.gov>:

- Call 911 for the following conditions: choking, stopped breathing, head injury with passing out or confusion, injury to neck or spine, electric shock, severe burn, severe chest pain or pressure, seizure of three to five minutes or longer

- Go to the emergency room by ambulance or in private auto: trouble breathing; passing out; pain in arm or jaw; unusual headache, especially if it started suddenly; suddenly unable to speak, see, walk, move; drooping on one side of the body; confusion; inhaled smoke or poisonous fumes; coughing or vomiting blood; severe pain; deep wound; poisoning or overdose; high fever with headache and stiff neck; suicidal thoughts; seizures.

Hospitals are standing by to receive you if you are injured or ill. Your physician's office is also prepared to receive and respond to your calls and your care needs. We know that if needed care is unnecessarily delayed, serious complications can occur.

Please practice social distancing, wear a face mask if you're out in the public, and wash your hands frequently. Those are some simple things you can do to protect yourself. But please also protect yourself by seeking medical attention when you need it.

*Sincerely,
Vallerie L. Gleason
President and CEO of Newton
Medical Center*

Courage in light of pandemic

To the Editor:

How proud I am to be part of a community that has responded with so much courage and compassion during the COVID-19 crisis! While we have learned more about the virus, our health care leadership has worked hard and wisely to protect our citizens and we are blessed with many heroes in our community. This pandemic has been a driver of extreme changes, including enormous damage to our economy. Many families' hopes and futures are now on "life support," and it's time that these concerns are seriously addressed. As we learn more about the COVID-19 virus, it is evident that our economy and freedoms must be restored while we maintain prescribed healthy practices. The time to begin these efforts is now.

*Steve Kelly
Newton*

Plans for my 93rd birthday

Dear Editor,
Another year has come and gone. Now I'm 93, oh my what can I do?
I'll give God thanks for what time I have left.

I'll write some words of wisdom, then take a rest.
I'll choose to laugh instead of cry. Tell the truth instead of a lie.

And learn to love instead of hate. Try to be patient and always wait for the sun to shine and remember the blessings that are mine.

I may not have another year, but these words I saw I know will give you peace of mind in a world of hate and crime.

God bless and keep us all safe. Halstead, I miss you. One day I'll be back to stay.

*Iretta Faye Hook
Wichita*

Can't find the pickles? Blame your Y chromosome

My wife is rarely impressed but often amazed at my uncanny ability to point out wildlife in hedgerows while traveling at highway speeds.

We will be driving along an interstate as she recites a story about her day when I'll suddenly interrupt with, "Hey, look at that rafter of turkeys over there."

In the next moment, I get an eye roll, sigh and awkward silence for most of the remaining trip.

What adds insult to my eagle-like eyesight is the equally inherent quality I have for overlooking items around the house.

A typical conversation begins when I seek her help for something important.

"Do we have any pickles?" I ask while desperately looking past the stick butter, lunch meat and carrots.

"Yes. I bought them yesterday," she replies with only the faintest sarcasm in her voice.

I pause because I don't want to ask the next question. Instead, I stand bent at the waist looking inside the refrigerator, blinking over and over as though I will eventually open some sixth sense, which will enable me to see things lost for months. Then, I ponder an appropriate response.

"That's OK. I don't really need them."

At this point, I know what's coming. First, there will be more eye rolling followed by a vivid recollection of when she put away the gro-



KEN KNEPPER
CONVERSATION PIECE

ceries. "They're on the top shelf, right behind the orange juice and to the right of the bag of grapes."

As if I hadn't already looked there, I merely reply, "OK," and try my best to move on. Sometimes in that next instant I wonder how anyone can recall the most minuscule detail of unpacking groceries when I sometimes can't remember why I ventured into a room.

As the ensuing moments pass, I know she will seek confirmation of her directions.

"Did you find them?"
To this, I usually bluff with some well-thought-out reply. Among my favorites is to pretend I changed my mind.

"I decided I didn't want them, so I went with grapes, instead."

I'm lying, of course. She knows it as well as I do. But my inborn trait is to avoid conflict, so I make do, sans pickles.

Until recently, I chalked up the inability to find things—like keys, entire two-liter bottles of pop or

various items in the pantry—as something unique to me. But then I read that there may be actual medical truth supporting my difficulties.

The author of the book "Why Men Don't Listen and Women Can't Read Maps" claims that women have genetically superior eyesight because they have two X chromosomes to men's one. That difference provides women with a greater variety of cone-shaped cells in their eyes, which means better color vision. Women also have wider peripheral vision due to their brains' software. It gives them eyesight of some 45 degrees to each side of the head and the same vision spectrum above and below the nose. The book claims that many women's peripheral vision is effectively almost 180 degrees.

So, my inability to find things in the refrigerator or elsewhere isn't a personal fault but a genetic flaw.

Obviously, this changes things and will probably lead to an apology after all those times when my wife became frustrated when I simply gave up after looking for things around the house.

I bet I get one, too...right after she's done rolling her superiorly color-visioned eyes at me...

Ken Knepper, whose unparalleled ability to not see something has often included moments when he actually touched the item he couldn't find, can be reached at Ken.Knepper@gmail.com.

Our students deserve to be better prepared during pandemic

"Continuous Learning," as we now call it in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, has been a huge challenge for teachers, students, parents and other school staff. It has made us re-evaluate what is important and search for new ways of keeping kids engaged in learning from anywhere. It puts a large emphasis on students/families taking responsibility for their own learning.

This transition has been really rough for some schools. With limited amounts of actual teacher-led instruction, new frontiers in technology and the pressure that teachers cannot force you to engage in a classroom setting, the task has been daunting and extremely frightening for some.

Not so for me. The majority of my students have been able to make the switch to continuous learning with little disruption or fear, it seems.

When I initially polled my students about making the transition, the majority stated that they were comfortable with it, and that the hardest part would be figuring out a routine that worked for them. Their creativity in setting up their routines and the strategies they have used to keep on track has blown me away.

How were they ready? Two years ago, we made a shift in our school to focus on teaching students lifelong learning and critical-thinking skills. We joined the Summit Learning Program and students began working on projects that were designed to help them understand how they learn best. The curriculum puts an emphasis on practicing habits we



CORINA ENNS
GUEST COLUMN

need as adults to be successful—like setting goals, constantly seeking feedback to improve and knowing how to self-direct learning.

When the state of Kansas asked us to pare down our curriculum to fit into 30 minutes per day and to make it meaningful and engaging for students while still hitting education standards, our teachers vocalized to continue to focus on teaching projects. Students' interest in the topics we are learning is imperative for them to stay engaged, even during social distancing. In project-based learning, students work towards a long-term goal and teachers can send them meaningful feedback to improve their drafts as they work towards an end product. Now, at the end of a project and about to start another, I am amazed at the level that some of my students have achieved. It is a shame that we won't be presenting them to a class full of students in a traditional way because their products deserve to be shown.

Another part of the Summit Learning philosophy is time for self-directed learning. This is a time when students are given tasks to

accomplish and they then learn to prioritize and accomplish them in their own way. Teachers act as mentors during this time and help students work through prioritization issues, task management, strategies for learning, etc. Of course, this doesn't come naturally to students at first. They have to be coached and encouraged to think for themselves, to take critique, grow and to create schedules.

The transition from teaching content to teaching lifelong skills can be rough. At the beginning, deadlines are missed, items are left undone and students can feel overwhelmed. But, it is through struggle that we learn the skills and grit necessary to accomplish what needs to be done and the payoff is beginning to happen now. The strategies some of my students are using today to create their daily schedules and check off items are strategies we have been talking about in our mentor meetings all year and are now at play in "real life."

In a world that is changing, we have to give students the skills they need to make that switch. Coronavirus aside, these are skills we all need as adults.

I'm thankful for how much our students have grown in the past two years, for the engaging and meaningful lessons, and, most especially, I'm proud to see students put into action those skills today, achieving what we ask of them, even though we are not physically there.

Corina Enns is a Chisholm Middle School teacher.

Thanks for reading
Harvey County Now!

HEART

From Page 1

"It was just a normal day. Later in the evening after getting home, Lanayah started having trouble breathing, like she was having an asthma attack." She was used to that and took her rescue inhaler, waiting a few hours. Her symptoms didn't subside. "It was then time for bed, so I had her come to my room when I noticed she was breathing very hard and labored," Pam said. "I took her blood pressure. Her heart rate was in the 150s, so I knew we needed to get to the emergency room to figure this out." When they arrived, she underwent various tests like an EKG, chest X-ray and blood work, and they also gave her a breathing treatment. "Her only symptoms were the difficulty breathing and high heart rate," Pam said. "From the chest X-ray, they diagnosed her with pneumonia due to fluid on her lungs, which I found to be very strange because she had no symptoms." After returning home, Rivera slept the entire next day and she still had trouble catching her breath. Off to see her doctor, Dr. Lynne Fruechting at Health Ministries, they went on Nov. 12. They repeated the chest X-ray and Rivera's lungs looked better, but the doctor was skeptical of her having pneumonia because she lacked symptoms. "She saw the X-ray and said her heart looks enlarged," Pam said. "They immediately set us up with Dr. Tuan Nguyen at Kidz Cardiology in Wichita the next morning. At his office, he completed an echocardiogram and explained

to us that her heart was not pumping well/correctly." He sent them to Wesley, where Rivera was admitted to the E.R. so children's Mercy could transport her by small plane to Kansas City. He had them go to Wesley hospital, where they put Lanayah in the E.R. so that Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City could transport her there. "This was the beginning of Lanayah's journey," Pam said. On Nov. 13, Rivera was diagnosed with dilated cardiomyopathy, a kind of heart failure, Pam said. "Her heart became enlarged and thin (dilated), and the heart cannot pump well," Pam said. "A normal heart has an ejection fraction (EF) of 55 percent or higher." Lanayah's EF was 11 percent. Her resting heart rate was in the 140s to 150s because her heart was working so hard to pump the necessary blood to her vital organs—lungs, kidneys, brain. However, secondary vital organs are the stomach and intestines. One major symptom of heart failure is stomach/intestinal issues: pain, constipation, nausea, vomiting, etc. She continued to have pain, even with medication to treat her heart and help it pump. She also had continued hospitalizations for fluid buildup, trouble breathing, severe stomach issues and nausea. Rivera thought the journey happened quickly. "It was really fast," she said. "It feels like yesterday was the day I got diagnosed. I don't remember a lot of the illness. I remember the transplant because I was in the hospital for so long." She was in the hospi-



WENDY NUGENT/HARVEY COUNTY NOW
This necklace, which someone from church got for Lanayah Rivera, hangs around her neck. It has the date she received her transplant on it.

tal for 59 days with one stay in November, three stays in December and the final visit from Jan. 8 through Feb. 8. She was able to be out of the hospital on Feb. 14, her golden birthday when she turned 14. That goes along with what Rivera thinks is the best part of the experience—getting to go home. She also talked about the worst part. "How much I felt my new heart beating at first and all the chest pain and couldn't lay on my side," she said. "Also, I was in the Pediatric ICU (PICU) was horrible because I couldn't shower and had a wipe-down everyday." She's glad she had the surgery. "Yes, because I am not sick anymore, and I can do more things now," she said. "But, I didn't know how hard it was going to be after surgery

with medications, food, appointments, staying away from home, having a low/no immune system. A lot of normal things I used to do, I can't do now." The best part for Pam was the support of family, friends, work and church families. She also said the hospital nurses, doctors and the heart team were amazing at Children's Mercy. She also reflected on the worst parts. "Constant hospital stays, missing work, school and friends," she said. "Lanayah also had to stay within two hours of Children's Mercy until 12 weeks post-transplant, so my sister and brother-in-law (Mindy and Jason Moore of Olathe) volunteered to have her stay with them and help with appointments so that we could go back to work. It was a blessing to have a place for her to stay. However,

we missed her terribly; she couldn't see her friends as much and wanted to be home." Rivera had an entourage of support, Pam said, which included family and the Newton community. In addition to Pam, other relatives are her dad Wil Rivera, sister Aliyana Rivera, grandparents, Gordon and Debbie Smith of Holton, Alan and Karla Lockhart of Collinsville, Okla., Francisco Rivera of Newton and Maria Rivera of La Puente, Calif. The journey for all has been scary. "At first it was very scary," Pam said. "Your heart keeps you alive, and when it's not working and you don't know what is going on, it's very scary. Also, shocking because we had no idea or indication that she even had an issue with her heart. However, we are truly thankful and blessed that we found out when we did. She was getting ready to begin basketball and you hear of stories where kids collapse and die during sports to later find out they had a condition that no one knew about." She also thinks it was quite fast from diagnosis to heart transplant. There also was the stress of missing work, being away from home and all the travel. "Now, Lanayah takes a lot of meds and will for the rest of her life," Pam said. "She has to get a heart cath/heart biopsy frequently to check for rejection. She will see a cardiologist every three to four months for the rest of her life. A heart also lasts about 13 to 18 years after transplant and up to 30, so she will have another one in the future." Although Rivera was in the hospital for so long, even on Christmas, the nurses helped

out in more ways than one. "The nurses decorated my room for Christmas because I was there on Christmas Day," Rivera said. "My Grandma and Grandpa Smith came to watch the Super Bowl with me and brought me wings. I went for the Chiefs because my mom was for the 49ers. She got to go watch the parade because Crowne Center and Union Station are across the street and down the hill from the hospital." The journey has been long, but quick. "When coming home, Lanayah is on medication to suppress her immune system to stop rejection," Pam said. "She is also on a lot of different vitamins for electrolyte replacement, some antibiotics and stomach meds and insulin due to medication side effects. At first, she was taking 89 pills in one day. When she was first diagnosed, this felt like it hit hard and fast. She had lower energy and got winded doing simple things. Now her energy is increased and we have all started eating healthier, exercising more." **Helping** There are a few medications Rivera's insurance does not cover. "Our friends/family have a COTA (Children's Organ Transplant Association) account set up for this," Pam said. "Several things are great about this account. We can only pull out money for specific expenses; no money is taken off the top (like Go-Fund-Me), and all the money not used can stay in the account for when she is an adult and needs another transplant." To donate, visit <https://cota.org/campaigns/COTAfor-LanayahsJourney>.



WENDY NUGENT/HARVEY COUNTY NOW
Keith's Foods owner Keith Banman, second from left, talks to people distributing meals on Sunday morning.

KEITH'S

From Page 1

volunteers, we had about 20 working with this meal. We made just short of 700 meals." While various vehicles ranging from cars to SUVs to a bicycle that circled from the west side around the grocery store for purchases, various volunteers ran back and forth from the "drive-thrus" to the grocery store's front door, gathering meals in bags. The main difference in the meals was the kind of pie that accompanied them. Keith said not everyone came at once to pick up the meals—it was a steady stream from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. "We are all blown away by how generous people were with their donations," Banman said. "It turned out to be quite

a Sunday." What kicked off the project was, Banman said, that at past MCC sales, he's offered some catered dinners as a sale auction item. "People would bid and buy these meals and I would deliver them as they would schedule them," he said. "Since the sale was canceled, I thought maybe we could do a meal-to-go on a Sunday. I wanted to do this as my donation for the sale. At first, I thought if we get orders for 100, maybe 200 that would be great." However, they got more than that and had to cut off the meal reservations on Friday. "We just reached a point we couldn't do any more," he said before Sunday. "We are doing a one-meal deal. We are doing

all the cooking here at my store with help with oven space at Tabor Church." It wasn't difficult to find help for the meal. "My staff has been very busy doing prep work for the meal," Banman said. "I have also had offers of others wanting to help. I have very much appreciated receiving some extra financial help to go toward paying the food costs." Just like on Sunday, business at the grocery store was "incredible" when the pandemic first hit. "We could hardly keep up," Banman said. "It has since slowed down, but sales have still been good here at our store. I have spent many hours running and trying to find items our regular suppliers are out of. The toilet paper crisis was crazy."

HEALTH

From Page 1

in stone. It will have to be approved by the County Commission later this week and it is likely to change and be updated when Governor Laura Kelly releases expected new guidelines also later in the week. Both Redington and Harvey County Emergency Management director Gary Denny spoke in a press conference about a drafted recovery plan for the county. The plan lays out "gating criteria," or what has to occur before the county relaxes its restrictions. That gating includes adequate testing, hospital capacity, resources and materials for the hospitals and long-term care facilities, and adequate resources for the health department to trace case contacts. Redington said the county has met minimum testing requirements by the state and the county had adequate testing supplies. She said currently, the hospital the capacity to handle the existing demand for COVID-19 patients and had set aside a wing to treat them if needed. The county has tested 5.1 residents per 1,000 for Covid. The state has set a minimum of five people per 1,000 for county's when considering re-opening. For context, testing per capita in Harvey County trails all surrounding counties, according to state numbers. Kansas itself recently ranked last in per-capita testing. Sedgwick County is testing seven per 1,000, McPherson 9.39 per 1,000, Reno County, 8.55 per 1,000 and Marion County 7.8 per 1,000. Harvey County also has

the lowest county of confirmed cases compared to surrounding counties with six. Of those six, five have been traced to other existing cases or exposures out of county. One single case has an unknown source, meaning possible community spread. Of those six, four recovered, one remains hospitalized, and one died, though of complications due to acute Leukemia, according to the county. There are also two probable COVID-19 cases in the county, including a death. Redington said the county currently has the tests it needs and tested 44 people this week, an increase from the 17 conducted the week prior. She said she has not been in conversation with the state about increasing testing or expanding testing efforts. Denny talked about planning, as well as what he described as the county's "aggressive efforts," in obtaining supplies. He said it continues to be difficult to get medical grade protective equipment. He said currently, the county had enough supplies, but if it did have a spike, the need for PPE would drastically increase. "We continue to identify where we are weak and shore those weaknesses up the best we can," he said "It continues to be an ongoing challenge in Harvey County, but also state-wide and nationwide." Denning said the local ministerial alliances were doing a good job getting food, shelter, infant care supplies, transportation to residents. He said that the United Way has been working to put citizens in touch with existing resources.

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COMMUNITY

Bentley moving forward with playground installation

By JARED JANZEN
HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

BENTLEY—The Bentley City Council agreed last Thursday to proceed with installing the new play structure at Williams Park during the second weekend of May.

The installation was originally scheduled for early April, but the council postponed it a month ago because of concerns COVID-19 could be spread by children touching the equipment.

Even though the playground equipment is now being installed, that doesn't mean kids will get to use it just yet.

"If we need to surround it with snow fence until it gets a little bit calmer or

back to normal, we can do that also," council member Reba Lee said. "We just want to get it in so we don't have to worry about installation later on."

She added that measures like this have worked at playgrounds in nearby cities.

Council member Shannon Koehn said she was good with the installation as long they found a way to block off access. Council member James Roberts added that it's been put off long enough.

Koehn then brought up some comments she'd heard from the public about the new park sign, which says, "Williams Park Established 2020" at the top, and "Park Constructed by: B&L Roofing and Remodeling LLC" at

the bottom.

"Everyone was just surprised that the construction company's name was on there as having constructed the park when there's the pavilion there and other pieces that they didn't construct," Koehn said.

She also noted that the Williams family had made a donation toward park developments to have it named after them, whereas the construction company was only involved in the playground installation.

"We just thought it would be nice for them to have some sort of [recogni-



Koehn

tion] because they're donating their time," Lee responded.

Koehn said they could look for other options to recognize the construction crew rather than on the park sign. Roberts added he had envisioned more of a brick structure for the park sign rather than just a 4x8 sheet.

"We can still do the brick later on; it's just that's what was in the budget for us to do right now, just to show progress," Lee said.

Koehn suggested that the recently added sign just be a temporary one and a different one would be installed in the future. The rest of the council agreed.

In other business, the council:

- Discussed an action

plan to use the senior center as a Point of Distribution (POD) if necessary as part of Sedgwick County's pandemic response. Several governing body members volunteered to help with this.

"They're talking about it coming back in the fall or winter," council member Toyia Bulla said "I think this sort of thing could be put in place to get any preventative medicines they come up with before the next outbreak."

The council agreed to look into getting a Wi-Fi hotspot for the senior center to ensure internet access would be available to those completing online screenings.

- Learned the Bentley t-ball season would shift back a month, with prac-

tices in June and games in July.

- Agreed to reschedule the citywide garage sales and cleanup to later dates. The city will plan to coordinate its garage sale date to line up with Sedgwick's.
- Heard an overview of four applications to the public works department given by Director Darren Woodson. The council agreed to hire Jordan Sharp as a seasonal, part-time temporary worker to help with mowing while also continuing to seek a permanent part-time employee.
- Approved the purchase of a pump at the north station not to exceed \$6,100, including installation and rebuilding the broken kit.

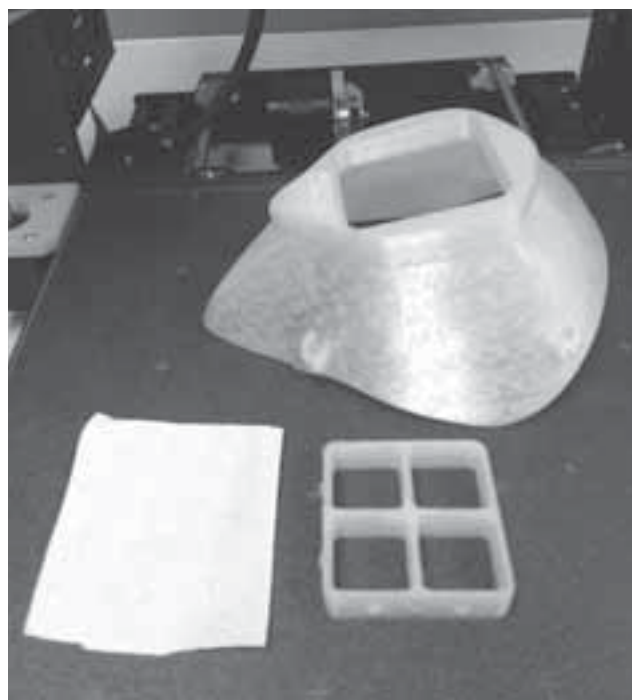
Robotics students make 3-D masks for medical workers

By WENDY NUGENT
HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

Jakob Graber was growing out his beard until the end of the RaileRobotics season, but plans changed.

"I have shaved off the beard because the season was cut short, and it is a huge huge hassle that I don't want to have to deal with," he said.

However, he and a couple of other Newton High School Robotics students still are working on things—making 3-D masks during this pandemic. Those students are Megan Watkins and Elise Jantz.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Newton High School RaileRobotics students are making 3-D masks for medical workers in the area. Three students and the coach are working on the project.

"This is not really a school project, although it is in collaboration with the school," Graber said. "The Robotics students have been working to improve upon the existing mask design, as well as working on a ventilator kit originally designed by MIT students that converts a manual ventilator into an automatic one."

Then, they make the masks on 3-D prints, as well as two of the school's 3-D printers.

"As well, we had Dr. Jantz come in to establish protocols for keeping the room sanitized and virus-free, and the masks themselves are pre-sanitized when they are made (the printing head gets far hotter than any disease could survive), although we do sanitize them anyway," Graber said.

This came about after Watkins formed a group text with her, Jantz, Graber and Robotics coach Alan Vermilyea, where she brought up the topic of making a

mask a clinic in Billings, Mont., made to help out the local hospital.

"She wanted to know if we could do the same thing," Vermilyea said. "I let the students know that I was completely on board, and I would try to get ahold of the school superintendent to ask if we could have access to the Robotics classroom."

He said student Jantz's father, Dr. Jon Jantz, gave them guidelines for keeping the classroom safe. Vermilyea then told Superintendent Deborah Hamm about that, and she gave her approval.

"We set up the Robotics classroom, which is located in the maintenance building behind the high school, as a semi clean room so we could 3-D print N-95-style masks and subsequently some face

shields," Vermilyea said. "Since the face masks are hard plastic, we needed to make a few different sizes to fit different faces."

He said they haven't charged the hospital for the personal protection equipment (PPE) because they just want to help. He said that so far, they've mailed 30 masks to Cottonwood Pediatrics, and since they can be washed over and over, the masks should help a considerable amount, if they're needed.

Graber used the design on the Billings Montana Clinic website and made a few changes to it, most notably a retaining groove in the filter opening to more positively hold the filter frame in place. He also put the team number on it.

"Since the first shipment of 30 masks, we've printed a dozen face shields for Cottonwood Pediatrics, as well as more masks for other hospitals," Vermilyea said. "The students have also been researching an ongoing project called 'event' headed by MIT to make backup ventilators using ambu-bags, and we've been collecting components to build a prototype"

Graber also talked about why they're doing this.

"We are doing this as a way to help out the community that allows us to do our season every year through donations, as well as to try to lessen the impact of the virus that stopped our season," he said. "As well, there was pretty much no reason not to, because our 3-D printers weren't busy."



JARED JANZEN/HARVEY COUNTY NOW

Sergeant Matt Stovall and K9 Edy accept a \$5,000 donation from CHS, presented by Jack Queen. Queen also helped raise an additional \$15,000 toward the K9 program.

Masks, are printed, sanded/smoothed, disinfected and bagged to ship.

"The special part of these masks is that they can be any grade that you want them to be, because the filter is part of an actual mask," Graber said. "Therefore, the mask becomes whatever grade the filter you use is."

The real cost associated with the masks is the filament, which Robotics is providing.

"The other cost would be providing the filters, but that is up to the clinics that we send the masks to," Graber said. "We do not have access to those masks. This was a fun way for us to continue doing what we love (engineering) while helping out those keeping us safe and healthy during these difficult times."

Halstead K9 receives donation

By JARED JANZEN
HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

HALSTEAD—A substantial chunk of Halstead Police's new K9 program has been funded thanks to the efforts of Farmers Co-op.

Jack Queen, general manager of Farmers Co-op, helped raise \$20,000 for the K-9 project. \$5,000 was donated by the co-op itself, and three of its partner organizations—CHS, CoBank and Land O'Lakes—each matched that donation.

Queen said he had decided to get on board with the project because the police department shared some solid reasons how it would benefit the community, and so it had seemed like the thing to do.

The total project cost was about \$55,000, much of which went toward the purchase of a new Dodge Durango with a kennel to accommodate K9 Edy. The new vehicle arrived in Halstead on April 17.

Edy started working for Halstead in March and has seen some action here and there, but COVID-19 changes are holding back his potential some.

Halstead's new K9 program has been completely funded by donations. Police Chief Josh Orem noted that once restrictions are lifted on social gatherings, the police department plans to have an event at the American Legion to recognize all the donors who contributed toward the program.

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OBITUARIES

ELFRIEDA SCHMIDT

Elfrieda Schmidt was born Sept. 8, 1923, in Newton to Peter M. and Elizabeth/Lizzie (Dick) Lohrentz. She died at Kidron Bethel Healthcare Center North Newton on April 27, 2020 at the age of 96.

She grew up on a farm East of Buhler and graduated from Buhler High School in 1942. She married Raymond L. Schmidt in the Hebron Mennonite Church Aug. 28, 1948. For the first years of marriage, they lived in the Buhler and Burrton area. For 21 years, they followed the wheat harvest from Texas, through Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and Montana, ending the harvest close to the Canadian border.

Rosalie and Rosanne were born in 1949 and 1952. In 1960, the family moved to a farm 3-1/2 miles southwest of Peabody. Ronda and Royce were added to the family in 1960 and 1963.

They continued farming in the Peabody, Whitewater area through 2004. They moved from the farm to North Newton in 2000. The majority of those years Elfrieda worked alongside her husband driving truck and tractor, helping Raymond work the land. She loved being a farmwife.

Elfrieda was a long time member of Grace Hill Mennonite Church. For many years, she enjoyed serv-

ing with Raymond on the church social committee and being involved with numerous church activities.

Eldrieda volunteered her time at the Etcetera Shop in Newton for over 40 years.

Elfrieda is survived by her daughter, Rosalie (Tom) Zamzow, Topeka, daughter, Rosanne (Doug) Janssen, Wichita, daughter, Ronda Schmidt of Roach, Mo. and son, Royce (Sharon) Schmidt Newton; five grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren. She is also survived by one sister, Fern Regehr, Inman, and two brothers, Raymond Lohrentz, Inman and Milford Lohrentz, Buhler. She was preceded in death by her husband, Raymond Schmidt and her parents. A memorial service to honor Elfrieda's life will be held at Grace Hill Mennonite Church, Whitewater, at a later date.

Private family burial will take place at Grace Hill Cemetery. A memorial has been established with Grace Hill Mennonite Church, 10218 S.E. 12th Street, Whitewater, Kan., 67154. On-line condolences for the family may be left at www.petersenfamilyfuneralhome.com.

On behalf of Elfrieda's family, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your kind thoughts and prayers.

DONNA KAY BERGER OWSTON

HURST, Texas—Donna Kay Berger Owston, 80, peacefully went to be with the Lord on April 23, 2020 after a courageous battle with cancer. She was in her home with her loving daughter, Catherine, and sister, Marlene Gleason, by her side.

Memorial Service: A memorial service celebrating her life will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or to Community Hospice of Texas, www.chot.org.

Donna was born Sept. 5, 1939 in Halstead, Kan. to Marlin K. and Loreva Berger of Halstead. She graduated from Halstead High School and then received an Associate's Degree from Hutchinson Business College, Hutchinson. During her training there, she met Dick (Richard) Owston. After she graduated, they married in November 1960.

Donna was fun and funny, warm and generous. She was a mom, the neighborhood mother, homemaker and best friend to everyone. She loved having friends and relatives stop by to visit. When the children were grown, she then enjoyed a career with Pella Window Corp. for over 20 years. Donna was always involved with her church, being at their lake house, and working outside with the yard, flowers and trees.

Dick preceded her in death on July 24, 2015. They were blessed with a daughter, Catherine Owston of North Richland Hills, Texas; two sons, Bret Owston of Eufaula, Okla. and David Owston of Fort Worth, Texas; two grandsons, Ty and Kel Owston; one granddaughter, Courtney Owston McCray of Keller, Texas; and a great-grandson, Bryar McCray of Keller, Texas.

Obituaries are posted at harveycountynow.com throughout the week.

MARJORIE L. SCHRAG

HESSTON—Marjorie L. Schrag, 86, died Tuesday, April 28, 2020, at Schowalter Villa in Hesston.

Services are pending and will be announced by Broadway Colonial Funeral Home, Newton.

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Caring Hands makes adjustments with pandemic

BY WENDY NUGENT
HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

Denzel has dreamy brown, kind eyes, but he won't be on the silver screen anytime soon, as, unlike movie star Denzel Washington, Denzel is a 1-year-old black lab up for adoption at Caring Hands Humane Society in Newton.

"We do have one dog in particular that we have been trying to find a home for," Caring Hands Marketing Coordinator Cynthia Sutcliffe said. "Right now, he is the resident we have had the longest. He is incredibly amazing with all of the dogs we introduce him to and loves going out in the mornings during our playgroup sessions. He would be perfect for a family that loves outdoor time and swimming."

The reason they've had a hard time finding Denzel a home is because he has difficulty adjusting to new people and places.

"At some point, he learned to not trust strangers and that can be shown in some unwanted behaviors," she said. "He would do best in a home that doesn't have too many visitors, or there is at least an understanding that he needs his own space away when visitors do come over. We truly feel like the right home is out there — he just needs some help finding it."

As of Friday, Denzel was only one of four dogs "needing the right help in finding the right home for them," Sutcliffe said. "Our number of cats and kittens is very low right now, historically, thanks to the community making an effort to help with that. We have a total of 30 cats and only nine of them are ready to be adopted."

Only nine are ready because of the pandemic. The humane society is following the American Veterinary Medical Association's guidelines to halt spaying and neutering surgeries during the crisis.

"That's where we will really struggle with waiting to spay," Sutcliffe

said. "We are able to do some of the neuter surgeries, but we are being very mindful of which cats we do that for. Cats display more unwanted mating behaviors, such as scent marking, that make it difficult to place them into fosters unaltered. They can also be amazing escape artists, so for that reason, we are attempting to manage them within the shelter only."

Another change due to the pandemic is the shelter only is doing curbside adoptions.

"It has basically changed the entire way we have had to operate in order to protect both humans and animals," she said. "Everything that we do has been changed to curbside."

Sutcliffe said, yes, they're still open and doing as much as they can to flatten the COVID-19 curve, while providing a place for unwanted and homeless pets, since they're the only humane society in Harvey County.

"Current guidelines recommend limiting spay/neuter surgeries to those that are considered essential to help reduce the risk of medical facilities running out of proper PPE and surgical supplies," she said. "We have decided to do our part in this, as well and stop any non-essential surgeries. To prevent this from creating overcrowding in our shelter, we have decided to implement a 'Foster to Adopt' program."

That program allows adopters to put holds on an animal they wish to adopt, take the animal home if circumstances allow, and they will continue to give the pet medical care until the adoption is complete.

"When the opportunity arises again to spay and neuter, these animals will already be on hold by adopters and ready to complete the adoption process as soon as possible," Sutcliffe said.

People can start that process by filling out an adoption application online at www.caringhands.org/adoption-application



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Denzel languishes in a small pool. He's still up for adoption at Caring Hands Humane Society.

on.html and calling in to speak to an adoption counselor to find out the status of their application and the availability of the animal they are interested in, as well as set up an appointment. If everything goes well and they decide they can foster until surgery is an option, they fill out a foster application and sign an agreement.

Although they're finalizing adoptions curbside, as well as other matters, they still want people to meet their prospective pet, so those meets are by appointment only.

"For adult dogs, we are allowing limited amounts of visitors to meet with the dog outside in the yard (weather permitting)," she said. "For puppies and cats, we are using our visitation room and again limiting how many visitors can be in the building with their animal. We ask that adopters choose no more than three pets they are interested in potentially adopting to meet with during their hour-long appointment, so that we can give everyone a fair amount of time throughout the day."

Caring Hands isn't making people wear masks in the building, but they are limiting which rooms visitations happen.

"We have notices posted online and at our front door regarding our new

protocols," she said. "We are asking that any person who has knowingly been exposed to COVID-19 or has had any symptoms to not visit at this time. We are seeing under 10 visitors per day inside the building. Staff is sanitizing surfaces after each visit and in the rest of the building several times throughout the day."

The pandemic affected Caring Hands in another way. They've had to cancel fundraisers and adoption events, but not entirely.

"We are trying to keep as many of our regular fundraisers as possible by moving everything online," Sutcliffe said. "We've also been thinking a lot about how we can improvise to keep everyone involved in what we are doing and what we need help with."

They're also putting all altered cats together in one room, all unspayed female cats in another and unaltered males in another.

"They are getting to roam on the floor as long as they are healthy and getting along," she said. "It seems to be working out great. Normally, the cats don't get to roam freely until they have been spayed/neutered, but since we do not have that many currently, we are making life just a little less stressful for them while in the shelter."

Also now, their animal intake looks a little different.

"Newton's ACO (animal control officer) is working on call on Tuesdays and Thursdays," Sutcliffe said. "Stray dogs and cats are currently only being picked up if there are concerning behaviors, injuries or safety issues. Right now, we are helping to direct finders on locating owners before attempting to bring animals in. We are asking that feral cats are not brought in at this time, as they are safer in nature rather than being cooped up in a kennel."

That sort of stress on cats causes dormant viruses to show up and feral cats can't exactly be handled for treatment.

"Since we are unable to perform most spay/neuter surgeries, they would be sitting in a kennel for a long time, which will eventually lead to them becoming sick and we definitely want what is best for them," she said.

"While this will have consequences later, such as more litters of kittens being born, we must make these adjustments now and deal with that when it happens. We can help post lost or found pets on our Facebook page if requested. If there isn't any other option, we are still obligated to take in stray or unwanted pets from Harvey County (outside

city limits), Newton, North Newton and Burton."

Caring Hands is fielding phone calls and hoping to help owners or finders solve problems and hopefully make bringing the pets to them a last resort. Thanks to some local rescues, they also have been able to transfer some of their adoptable pets to areas where they can be seen by adopters that are more interested in them.

"We have been trying to do our part, too, by taking in animals from other local shelters in high-populated areas, so that they don't have to be euthanized when space becomes scarce," Sutcliffe said. "We are making sure to balance that with our own population so that we don't run into the same issue."

Sutcliffe also had some final thoughts she wanted to convey.

"We would just like to let our supporters know that while we are doing more to help owners keep their pets and field found stray phone calls, we know that we will only be able to keep up the momentum for so long," she said. "Kittens are going to be everywhere soon and we will need the help of fosters. We have had quite a few people interested in signing up and helping out with this. They have been patiently waiting for us to have kittens and we want to thank you for sticking with us until they start showing up, because once they do, it will likely be nonstop."

They also are in need of donations of Purina One cat and kitten food.

"We have been both impressed and super grateful that the community has stepped up to help us out and has been so accepting of our policy changes," she said. "Aside from all the negativity everyone has seen or experienced during this pandemic, we would be the first to say that our community is amazing at stepping up and helping each other out."

Schutte recognized for loving her community

BY BILL BUSH
HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

HALSTEAD—On Thursday morning, seventh grader Dalaina Schutte received the Love Your Community award for April from Subaru Wichita and KWCH.

She will be featured in a 30-second commercial during a KWCH newscast. The television station will run a 90-second video of her project and a longer interview form will be posted online through both the Subaru and KWCH Facebook pages and websites.

Plus, she received \$100 to donate to the charity of her choice. She selected the Kansas Learning Center for Health.

"It makes me so happy," Schutte said. "I mean, I wasn't expecting to get all the attention. I was going to be doing a good deed, so it makes me feel really proud to get this award."

In March, Schutte began weaving bracelets with patterns of blue, white and black and selling them for \$3 each. She then took the money to buy material to make masks for hospitals. To date, she's made about



WENDY NUGENT/HARVEY COUNTY NOW

Twelve-year-old Dalaina Schutte receives \$100 to give to charity for being named the Love Your Community winner for April. She will also appear in a commercial and an interview segment on KWCH Channel 12.

40 masks and has lost track of the number of bracelets.

"Too many to count," she laughed. "We have a bunch of requests still. We have a bunch of bracelets still to make, but we have a lot of masks to make as well."

Schutte was nominated for the award by sixth grade teacher and her assistant basketball coach, Shawna Will.

Will said she had watched the news over the noon hour and saw the segment for Love Your Community. She had just heard about Schutte's project.

Will said. "And then they called last week and it was kind of a rough week last week... and I just started crying on the phone. I was like, 'I'm sorry, this is just such an awesome thing for our community and for our kids.'"

Will said that Dalaina and her siblings are one of the many reasons she misses school. She added that even though she can't see them everyday, she can still celebrate them.

"I think it's really cool that she chose to make the donation to the Learning Center here in the community and giving back to the community in one more way," Will said.

The commercial and interviews will likely be available to the public next week, according to a KWCH spokesperson.

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Halstead to build two new streets in Cedar Meadows

BY JARED JANZEN
HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

HALSTEAD—Reconstruction of the streets around Ninth and Walnut in Halstead got put on the back burner Monday night as the city council decided to instead pursue building two new streets in the Cedar Meadows/Red Fox housing addition as its capital street project for 2020.

City Manager Ethan Reimer said that in talking with the Cedar Meadows/Red Fox developers, they were very interested in proceeding to build single-family homes on what would be the 1300 block of Main as well as patio homes to the east on what would be Stutzman Circle.

“With constructing those new streets and the infrastructure costs we’ll see there, as much as I hate doing it, I think it might be prudent to delay the Ninth and Walnut just so we don’t exercise or utilize all our available cash on hand,” Reimer said.

The projects in Cedar Meadows/Red Fox would be financed long-term, but the city would still need cash on-hand to get them started, Reimer added.

Mayor Dennis Travis voiced his support for Main and Stutzman.

“Personally, I don’t think we want to delay anything that would immediately affect the developer, but on the same token, being unsure what’s coming down the pike, we’re definitely going to have to start prioritizing some projects,” Travis said.

George Torres said he’d really like to see Ninth and Walnut addressed, yet he understood that the new projects were an opportunity to grow and bring more people in.

“That’s a real hard one for me to say no to the Ninth and Walnut project,” he said. “If you go down there and drive around down there, it’s pretty bad down there.”

Council member Sam Farmer said expanding roads in the development would put new roofs in Halstead, which would add to the tax base. He also called the Walnut project “a bombshell” and said it could turn out to be costlier than anticipated, as the city experience last year with the 800 block of Spruce.

The council came to a consensus to pursue development of Main and Stutzman Circle by beginning to work with bond counsel and the city engineer. Reimer said the city could still start on some preliminary work on Ninth and Walnut like core sampling and save it for a possible project in early 2021.

Reimer also asked the council for their thoughts on what the city’s reopening process should look like as COVID-19 cases are peaking and the statewide stay-at-home was set to expire May 3.

“I won’t object to the opening of any part of the city structure where we can use safe distancing,” Farmer said. He added businesses could easily practice sanitation measures between customers, but he was concerned about reopening playgrounds right away because it would

be impossible to keep them sanitized. Torres said he’d observed residents practicing good social distancing.

“Consideration is something I see continually, people exercising consideration when waiting in line or walking past one another in an aisle,” Torres said. “I think our community’s people have taken it upon themselves to be considerate of personal space.”

Council member Mike Wallace agreed that it was time to start reopening to give people a sense of normalcy while still practicing social distancing.

“You’re going to have some instances where it’s going to be close, but it’s up to each individual person to acknowledge that, and in a nice, polite manner, say, ‘Hey, can you give me a little bit space?’”

Council member Denice Klassen, who has a background in nursing, noted two things people should remember during the reopening process.

“They have now added more symptoms to the list for COVID-19. We are testing more people. Therefore, we’re going to see our numbers go up,” she said. “Not because of the things we’re doing, but because we’re actually testing more people. It’s a mathematical cer-

tainty.” The city of Halstead will continue working alongside the Harvey County Council of Governments as it determines what reopening will look like. Reimer noted that currently the city is preparing to open its swimming pool in May, but possibly with some new restrictions.

In other business, the council:

- Agreed to waive delinquent payment fees and reconnect fees for all city utility bills due May 15 and June 15 to assist those hurt financially by COVID-19.

- Heard a first-quarter financial report from Reimer that showed so far this year, revenues are slightly higher and expenditures are slightly lower, but Reimer said the city does expect to see declining revenues in franchise fees, sales tax and possibly property tax in the coming months. The city’s investment income has already dropped by 44 percent in the first quarter compared to last year. The city could also see a drop in its special street and highway fund due to low fuel prices and people traveling less.

- “It’s no doubt that we’re in unprecedented times, but the city of Halstead is in a solid financial foundation to weather what comes, and department heads



JARED JANZEN/HARVEY COUNTY NOW
The City of Halstead originally planned to reconstruct the blocks around Ninth and Walnut this year but has decided to delay that project in favor of building two new streets to accommodate new housing.

remain committed to controlling expenditures and rising to this challenge when planning for 2021,” Reimer said. “We remain in good financial position overall as a city.”

- Approved a memorandum of understanding with the city of Sedgwick to provide a certified wastewater operator for six months while Sedgwick works to get its own staff member certified.

- Approved city staff and engineers to design the replacement of a 36-inch storm water pipe that runs beneath Legg Co.’s building at a cost not to exceed \$40,000. Legg has been undergo-

ing a building expansion and suggested to the city it would be a good time to do any desired maintenance on the line. The council also asked that the city make sure it has an indemnification agreement with Legg in the event that the line ruptures and causes damage.

- Heard reminders from Reimer that street sweeping will begin May 11 and so residents should refrain from parking on the street that week. He also said residents should avoid leaving grass clippings in the street after mowing and that the city is looking to draft an ordinance to enforce this.

Sedgwick businesses are responsible for new sales tax whether they collect it or not

BY BILL BUSH
HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

SEDGWICK—On April 1, Sedgwick’s 8.5 percent sales tax increased to 9.0 percent, but it seems that local business hadn’t received notice from the state and were thus still charging the lower 8.5 percent.

City Administrator Joe Turner told the city council last week that he had visited several businesses and only one—Dollar General—charged the correct sales tax amount.

In an e-mail exchange with Amy Kramer of the Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR), she explained to Turner how KDOR notifies business of tax increases. Quarterly sales tax rate changes are published at least 60 days prior to the tax being imposed, notice is included under the “Current News” section of the Customer Service Center home page, and the Department of Revenue updates the splash screen text for the sales and use tax accounts to advise users of every quarterly tax change.

“The vast majority (over 95 percent) of sales tax filers file their returns electronically where they would have access to these notifications,” Kramer wrote to Turner. “KDOR does not provide mail or paper notices of sales tax rate changes, however we do encourage local governments to utilize the means they have available to also inform the business community of any rate changes.”

The Meeting House Manager Heather Tucker confirmed for the newspaper that she had not received notice from the state, but increased the sales tax when Turner let her know of the change.

“Apparently the state does not proactively contact businesses to inform them about sales tax changes,” Turner said. “Just seems odd to me that in an age where we get letters from the state and local governments every month/year about stuff that we know we

have to take care (e.g. utility bills, tax payments, license and registration renewals), that we don’t notify businesses since we are dealing with such a significant amount of money.”

According to Kramer’s e-mail, there is a two-month lag between collections at the retail level and distributions to the local government. The city of Sedgwick should receive their first distribution from the new tax in June.

Turner asked if businesses were responsible if they collected the wrong tax amounts from customers. Kramer didn’t directly answer the question but said that the KDOR audit department reviews the percentage collected from businesses as audits occur, but that could be months into the collection process.

The Harvey County Now reached out to Kramer, asking her to confirm that businesses were responsible for the ½-cents city sales tax whether they collected it from the customer or not. Zachary A. Fletcher of the KDOR responded.

“By regulation (K.A.R. 92-19-61a), it is a retailer’s responsibility to collect sales tax. By failing or refusing to do so, the retailer has the liability of payment for the uncollected taxes. Changes made to city and county sales tax rates are published on our website and within the Customer Service Center where businesses file their sales taxes electronically.”

“I think that is unfair, especially if the business is liable for making up the difference in what they were supposed to collect versus what they actually collect,” Turner said. “If the business gets penalized, they are out 50 cents for every \$100 in sales. Seems very short-sighted for the state to not go through the expense of notifying businesses.”

The voters of Sedgwick passed the ½-cent sales tax in November. The tax is designated for street improvements.

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Faith and Life trying new business approach

BY BLAKE SPURNEY
HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

NEWTON—Bethany Martin hopes that being creative will help Faith and Life Bookstore survive the pandemic.

Like most businesses forced to close its doors to the public, Faith and Life is offering curbside pickup of products. Martin has gone a step further.

She's offering free deliveries anywhere within Harvey County.

So far, the response has been good.

"It's been mostly local, Newton and Hesston, which is where I'm from anyway," Martin said. "I took five packages out yesterday, so my biggest day so far."

Naturally, sales have declined recently and so have the store's hours. Faith and Life is open

from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. for curbside pickup, and now on Thursday evenings from 5-7 p.m., another new change Martin is trying.

She said that people can order online or they can call the store—before they come or after arriving—and she will bring the products either to the front or back of the store.

The website lists items that Faith and Life carries as books, Bibles and Bible accessories, CDs and printed music, greeting cards—both individual and boxed, jewelry and scarves, wall art and home decor, stationery, t-shirts, baby and children's items, Willow Tree figures and much more. Martin said shoppers can just call and ask about items. If they don't have something in stock, she will do her best to special

Faith and Life Bookstore offers holiday items along with year-round books, music and more. They currently deliver free in Harvey County, curbside pickups and will FaceTime with customer for convenient shopping.

order it.

Another new shopping method Martin is trying is what she calls safe-at-home shopping; where she will FaceTime with customers and help them shop.

"I guess call myself people's personal shopper," Martin said. "They can arrange an appointment and I'll walk around the store with my phone and they can say, 'I want to look at cards, I want to look at this,' and so we'll kind of shop together. I figure if you can have meetings by Zoom and schools use these things, then why can't you shop by that."

Martin said they've sold many gift cards and

that helps them out tremendously. Faith and Life is an independent, locally owned store located at 606 N Main Street in Newton. Their phone number is 316-283-2210, the e-mail address is info@faithandlifebookstore.com, and the website address is https://faithandlifebookstore.net.

"Tell people thank you for their support," Martin said. "We've gotten lots of good comments and just feel like people really want to be supportive of us. Yeah, we just feel like people are reaching out and supporting us, which goes a long way."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Kansas Run for Relief 5K raises 25K the virtual way

BY TIM HUBER
SPECIAL TO HARVEY COUNTY NOW

Matt Schmidt hates running, but he loves supporting Mennonite Central Committee.

When the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale's main event was cancelled, it opened up opportunities for volunteers like Schmidt to take part in other aspects of the annual Mennonite Central Committee fundraiser in new ways. Across the U.S. and Canada, relief sales are evaluating how they can adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic and still raise what they can to support MCC's work.

A member of the Kansas sale's executive board who helps his wife Amy with 5K Run for Relief logistics, Schmidt is usually too focused on that and operating the silent auction to do the run.

"I've actually not run more than a mile in the

last 25 years," he said. "I actually don't like running at all, but the cause seemed like a good one."

With the April 17-18 sale's Hutchinson event cancelled, Schmidt decided to challenge board secretary Barb "BJ" Reeves of Buhler to see who could raise more money in a scattered, virtual 5K.

"He asked me if I would be willing to do something just to generate some interest and more donations and make a fun thing about it," she said. When all the checks finally came through, Schmidt ended up raising \$2,014 to Reeves' \$1,501 on April 18.

"... I told him you might have won the competition, but the real winner was MCC," she said.

As of April 24, the Kansas Run for Relief raised \$25,937.50, compared to nearly \$32,000 last year. Participants

who raised the most donations were Karen Loganbill of Moundridge, with \$5,000, and Debbie Claassen of Whitewater, who collected \$2,465.

Schmidt noted that the pandemic has impacted everyone in negative ways and he was encouraged by how uplifting it was to see people across the country connecting with each other posting photos the day of the run.

"Once the decision was made not to hold the sale, the conversation immediately shifted to what can we do and the larger issue is raising money for MCC," he said. "Sitting around and pouting wasn't doing a lot of good, everyone shifted to what we can do."

Rather than the traditional auction, some of the Kansas sale's vehicles and antique tractors are being sold at kansas.mccsale.org with suggested prices, while others are being held until next April.

In place of the widely attended Feeding of the Multitude venetian and sausage supper, the sale suggested counting how many people ate supper around the table at home April 17 and sending \$12 for each individual to MCC, since that is the average price of a meal.

Even though sales didn't take place as planned in Kansas and other states, congregations still collected funds for My Coins Count for months.

Last year, My Coins Count generated \$589,185 in the United States and \$62,660 in Canada. This year's currently cancelled spring sales produced \$241,826 in spare change, nearly \$19,000 of which came from Kansas churches.

Editor's note: This story was part of an exchange of content around the cancelled Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale with the Mennonite World Review.

COVID-19 enforcement focuses on encouragement

BY BLAKE SPURNEY
HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

Newton police and the Harvey County Sheriff's Office have warned a downtown business and a couple of other places about limiting gatherings to fewer than 10 people.

Police Chief Craig Dunleavy said people had reported violations at a restaurant, church and business.

"Our guys are turning into surveilling restaurants than other things," he said. "We haven't found any violations as of yet."

Dunleavy said police had visited less than a handful of places that had been reported to be in violation of Gov. Laura Kelly's order limiting gatherings to fewer than 10 people. Police also have made a couple of phone calls reminding people of the order. He said officers found no indication that any place was violating the order.

"So far, it's been a positive interaction with everybody involved," he said.

Dunleavy said one of the places was a church. A federal judge subsequently blocked the state from limiting attendance at worship services if congregants practice social distancing. The judge's order will remain in effect until May 2.

Sheriff Chad Gay said the Harvey County Health Department had notified law enforcement about possible violations after reports made to the health department. He said one of those reports involved a downtown business that allegedly was allowing

people to come into its dining area.

Those found in violation could be cited for a class C misdemeanor. Kansas law stipulates that it is a crime for any person to knowingly violate "the rules and regulations adopted by the secretary of health and environment for the prevention, suppression and control of infectious or contagious diseases, or who leaves any isolation area of a hospital or other quarantined area without the consent of the local health officer having jurisdiction, or who evades or breaks quarantine or knowingly conceals a case of infectious or contagious disease."

Dunleavy and Gay both said they had no interest in seeing arrested people for violations of the 10-person rule.

"I don't want our guys arresting people for it," Gay said. "I don't even want them citing people for it. Is it possible? I suppose, if somebody really pushes us on it."

Gay said it was counter-intuitive to arrest somebody for a violation while at the same time staff are trying to prevent an outbreak at the detention center.

Dunleavy said police were on "the encouragement side" of reminding people of the social dis-

tancing guidelines. He said an officer would contact people if the officer saw a group of people congregating for any length of time at a park, for example.

"It's just being responsible in following the CDC guidelines," he said. "They're there for a reason."

Communications Director Don Gruver said the only complaints received by dispatchers involved a church and a noise complaint made by a woman during a parade through downtown.

"People here are friendlier and nicer than some other towns," he said.

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Newton High School will have a new principal

HARVEY Co. Now Staff

The Newton School District approved hiring Caleb Smith, an assistant principal and athletic director at Valley Center High School, to be the head principal at Newton High School.

The board approved the hire at a special meeting Tuesday night.

According to the Valley Center District website, Smith has

worked in education since 2008 and in the Valley Center School District since 2013. He said he'd served as assistant principal there for about four years. Before that, he worked in the Derby School District.

Newton Now reached out to Smith, who said he was glad to get to know the Newton community and start his new job as principal.

"I just strive to do my best to serve the people that I work

with," he said. "I'm going to do my best to help our students and teachers be successful."

He said he planned on getting immersed in the city and help do his part to contribute to the community.

Smith graduated from Kansas State University with a



Smith

bachelor's degree in secondary education and from Emporia State University with a master's degree in school leadership.

Smith replaces Lisa Moore, whose departure was approved at a March 23 board meeting. Moore will finish out her year with the district on June 30.

Moore began work with the Newton School District in 2004 and was hired as principal in 2017.

"I am incredibly grateful to have worked in the Newton schools for the past 16 school years as a teacher, as an instructional leader, and as an administrator," Moore said. "I will miss the people with whom I worked, but I will especially miss the students and the families of NHS. The building principal job is extremely time-consuming, and now it is time for me to give back to my family. Thank you, Newton!"

Newton hoping low-interest rates save it money on ABI debt

By Adam Strunk

HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

NEWTON—The City of Newton hopes to save \$1.5 million in payments on the ABI Chemicals building, thanks to low interest rates.

For background, through some complex financing maneuvering, the city ended up guaranteeing the debt on the \$6.8 million chemical production facility it helped build for the now defunct company.

The company went belly up, the company that formed out of the bankruptcy is no longer operating, and the City of Newton was left paying about \$600,000 annually in debt on the building.

The debt will not expire until 2036.

The commission approved issuing taxable bonds to sell to banks to pay off the existing debt.

The move doesn't shorten the term of the payments or add additional debt.

It does, however, allow the city to pay a likely lower interest rate on the existing debt, estimated at a 3 percent rate.

The lower rate is expected to save the city \$1.5 million in the term of the loan and more than \$100,000 per year in debt payments.

In other news, the city spent a significant amount of time debating annexing three properties in the area of 12th and Hillside.

The city is running pipeline in the area to the airport and, as part of the project, ended up

owning a set of Rural Water Pipe.

As part of the agreement, the city took up the liabilities of the rural water pipe, which provided water to the adjacent properties.

The properties in question all border property in the city limits. City Engineer Suzanne Loomis said that, as city policy, it doesn't provide water to properties that aren't within the city limits.

Both property owners pled with the city, saying that they don't plan on using city services so they don't want their properties to be a part of the city.

Dwight Claassen, who owns 2.3 acres in question, made the case about why his property shouldn't be a part of the city. He said that his

grain elevator on the property has loud fans that have been measured as producing 119 decibels of sound.

He said that those two acres are driven through all hours of night and day with equipment like combines.

He said grain on the property also sometimes gets wet and causes an unpleasant smell.

He said that the property has lights that are 85 feet in the air, and it produces large amounts of grain dust.

He said there's also burning that takes place on the property.

Many of the existing activities on the prop-



Loomis

erty would not be legal if the property was a part of the city limits.

Claassen said that he does not foresee hooking the property onto the city sewer or water. He said currently the property has an existing water well it uses.

He noted that, by nature, the elevator on the property was agriculture.

A city projection showed that he'd be paying a \$264 increase in taxes per year for his property.

Manuel Weber, who owned the other property in question, said his main issue was the increase in taxes for his property.

The city estimated a \$914 increase in taxes.

He said he also thought he could work with Claassen to go

across his property to tie into other rural water lines. He also said it would be costly to hook into the city sewer, as he currently has a lagoon.

He said he also shoots pests on his property to protect his pet cats, something he wouldn't be able to do if a part of the city.

He said he wasn't sure he could continue to let his cats run loose if he was part of the city.

Commissioners did not indicate a wish to annex the property and asked to see alternatives.

All of them did submit that they had previously met with property owners on different occasions.

The issue was tabled, and the meeting was adjourned.

CELEBRATIONS

Kuestersteffen to celebrate 90th birthday on May 2

Lorella (Lou) Kuestersteffen, a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Newton, Kan., will celebrate her 90th birthday on May 2.

Born at home on a farm south of Ingalls, Kan., to Porter and Lucille (Prescott) Israel, she was the oldest of seven children, of which only one brother survives.

She married Leonard

Hendrickson of Montezuma, Kan., in 1951, where they raised two children. Leonard passed away in 1996. Lou later married Fred Kuestersteffen of Hesston, Kan., in 1999, who had three children. Her children are Karla Hendrickson; Terry and Lynne Alderson Hendrickson; Paul and Julie McClure Kuestersteffen; Mike and Lisa Kuesterst-

effen Martin; and Tom and Susan Moseley Kuestersteffen. There are 18 grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Cards may be sent to 1317 Grandview Ave., Newton, KS, 67114.

A celebration will be planned later this summer.



Newton school district students receive CTE honors

The Kansas State Department announced its CTE Scholars on April 17. Newton School District's Career and Technical Education (CTE) students made up 11 of the 57 scholars or almost 20 percent of the entire state. The students awarded are Priscilla Araujo, Emily Brandt, Henry Claassen, Schyler Entz, Jessica Fowler, Addison Lindenmeyer, Haylee Long, Becca Meyer, Zachary Stenzel, Kaeden Thurber and

Kelsie VerBeeck.

"We are extremely proud of our 11 CTE Scholars this year," Blake Smith, CTE Director and NHS Assistant principal said. "This honor is a testament to these Seniors' hard work, and a reflection of the dedication our teachers have to help our students be successful."

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Hesston Recreation Center continues activities, but online

By Bill Bush

HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

HESSTON—Social distancing guidelines and a stay-at-home order have closed the offices of Hesston Recreation and Community Education (HRCE) and forced employees home. Still, they strive to remain connected to the community by providing fun activities of a virtual kind.

Susan Lamb, Commu-

nity Engagement Director for HRCE, said they post on their Facebook page two activities per week, which have no interaction and stay within the stay-at-home order.

Some of the activities have included building your best blanket fort, post a video, singing your favorite hand washing song and exploring national parks using Google Earth.

On Monday, Lamb

shared on Facebook Live how to use supplies around the house to create an easy alphabet book.

"The Rec is really committed to trying to continue in our role as a lead provider of things for families and help them kind of get through



Lamb

this time," Lamb said.

On Friday, May 1, Lamb will lead a virtual Bingo night. She's still learning how to run the online details and planned to run a trial game with a small group of family members to work out the kinks. The games will start at 7 p.m.

Persons interested in participating must register beforehand (no later than noon on Thursday, April 30) by e-mailing

Lamb at lambs36@yahoo.com. She hopes to have more Bingo evenings in the future, depending on how well things work on Friday night.

"We're just trying to connect with people and make sure that they know that we're still here," Lamb said.

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'Why I wear a mask'



Be safe for yourself and others" -State Senator Carolyn McGinn



"I wear a face mask so I don't spread disease in case I've got the virus and don't know it yet. And so others who want to protect themselves and their loved ones don't feel alone in their worries." -Sara Dick, general manager of Newton Et Cetera Shop



"I'm wearing a mask to protect our essential workers." -Angela Becker, Newton Board of Education



"Let's do our part to help us all stay safe. Who cares what it looks like? A small sacrifice" -Leroy Koehn, Newton mayor, owner of Koehn Painting Co.

"I wear a mask in public because I care about the well-being of our community." -Bethel College President Jon Gering



Wearing a face mask significantly reduces the risk of transmitting COVID-19, and while we are still getting used to them, the different designs and styles of them are starting to grow on us!" -Sam Gatz, Newton Chiropractic



I wear a mask to keep the curve flattened and to protect our precious healthcare workers and first responders." -Val Gleason, Newton Medical Center CEO



Above left: "If it will help us get back to church, school and business, I'll wear the mask." -Tim Hodge, State Representative



Above right: "Now, more than ever, we need to communicate carefully. A polite, reserved smile to a stranger won't translate from behind a mask. We have to smile with our eyes and speak gently with our voice." -Kristin Neufeld Epp, director of New Creation Preschool



"I love Hesston and Harvey County. I am trying to do a good job of following the suggested guidelines for wearing a mask. It's not really fun or easy, but none of this is fun or easy." -Susan Lamb, Hesston Board of Education member



"I wear a mask to do anything I can to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. I want to protect my family, my team at work, my community and myself!" -Casie Powell, Krueger Insurance Management Inc.



"Yes, I feel weird in it. Yes, it's uncomfortable. Yes, I love my family and friends and everyone in Newton more than I'm inconvenienced by it. It's for them." -Robert Palmer, owner of Back Alley Pizza



"We wear masks so that our customers feel safe!" -Ashleigh Lakey, Norm's owner



"I wear my mask when I zip out for groceries for my family." -Lynnette Redington, Harvey County Health Department Director



"I do it for my family!" Sal Lujano, Intrust Bank



"I live and work in the Newton community. The Golden Rule is a guide I use in my life and strive to teach others: 'Treat others as you would like others to treat you.' I wear my mask to protect you. Will you protect me?" -Zandra Sawatsky, occupational therapist



"I find it helpful to remind myself that my actions not only impact me but also have the potential to impact others." -Matt Schmidt, CEO of Health Ministries



"I, myself, and family and friends have underlying health conditions; me, Type 1 Diabetes; I am helping slow the spread of COVID-19 by wearing my homemade face mask!" -Melissa Schreiber, Newton Board of Education.



Left: "We wear masks at all times to protect our customers and each other. We believe it is another way to show that we care." -Patty Meiers, Mojo's owner.



Left: "Keeping My Germs to Myself" -Matt Treaster, President of Newton Board of Education.

Halstead sixth-graders get rocketry demonstration

BY JARED JANZEN

HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

HALSTEAD—County Health Director Doyle Detweiler took his mind off COVID-19 on Friday morning to give a rocket-launching demonstration for Halstead sixth-graders.

Detweiler has been helping with a rocketry unit at Halstead Middle School every year since 2014, teaching students how to build their own rocket from a kit and then launching them together. This year, however, the project looked different because of the change to online learning.

“Mr. [Ward] Willis made a video and showed them how to do it,” Detweiler said. “I rolled all the body tubes and the kids built them at home.”

Since students weren't able to attend Friday's rocket demonstration, sixth-grade teacher Shawna Will filmed it for students to either follow along live or watch later. They shot off about a dozen different rockets after overcoming some technical difficulties with



Above: RJ Stovall, left, shows off some footage from his drone that he used to record the rocket launches. Right: One of Detweiler's paper rockets blasts off from the launch pad.

a dead battery and bad connections that delayed the launch by about an hour.

RJ Stovall, a 2019 Halstead graduate, was also at the launch demo with his personal drone, which he used to record a bird's eye view of the rocket flights to share with the sixth-grade class.

Detweiler's son,

Michael, was the only sixth-grader present to launch his homemade rocket. Just prior to the launch, he said he didn't have a guess for how high it would go, but it ended up soaring well into the sky.

“Michael did a very good job,” his dad said.

Detweiler and the sixth-grade teachers hope the rest of the class

will get the opportunity to launch their rockets later in the fall.

“We're hoping toward the start of next year to do a launch,” Detweiler said. He noted that the rockets should be ready to go except for adding thrust wings, since he hadn't had enough to distribute to all the students.



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BUDGET

From Page 1

its FY 2021 budget starting July 1.

McGinn, who has navigated this process repeatedly during the regular budgetary shortfalls of the Brownback Administration explained two scenarios could happen.

If revenue shortfalls necessitated action before the legislation returned in January, the governor would make adjustments to the budget.

Those could be across

the board percentage cuts or transfers from existing reserve accounts to keep the state whole.

The legislature would return in January and then have the ability to make revisions to the passed budget. She said that hasn't been necessary for the past two years.

“I've been through these cuts before,” she said. “We'll go to doing our rescission bills off the bat.”

What those cuts would look like again remains to be seen, as she reiterated there's no way of

accurately knowing what the state's finances will look like at this point.

She said that she anticipates along with revenue shortfalls that there will be more requests for state funding in the following year.

“It's a daunting task,” she said. “We have constituency groups, many in the disability or seniors community, and you're just trying to help them get through day-to-day activities.”

She said she anticipated an additional need for mental health funding.

“It's obvious we'll have more mental health problems,” she said. “The other side of it is how to pay for that.”

How to pay for anything currently is the crux of the issue facing nearly all local and state governments.

“If our businesses aren't operating, we can't pay to provide those services,” she said. “That's what's frustrating about getting our economy going. Everyone wants these services, but if we don't have our economy going, we can't pay for them.”

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One of my biggest worries is, once we open, we will have to close again due to community spread. We have been very fortunate here in Harvey County to only have six cases, and those have been exposed to someone in another county or state.

Our businesses have suffered but are very creative to find ways to still serve the public. One way we can hopefully keep from having to close again once we open is to wear face masks.

The Newton Area Chamber of Commerce is launching a campaign on Facebook and through our membership to wear face masks. It is so important to protect those who are very vulnerable and to stop the spread. I ask you to please wear a mask when you are out in public, and if you do not have one, please get one. We are working to compile a list of where you can purchase one.

Let us keep our community safe and help our



CHAMBER

businesses stay open once they can allow the public back in. Do not

ease up now; the virus is still out there, and we do not want a cluster of cases to be at any of our businesses in Harvey County. It would delay our recovery.

So please, please wear a face mask out in public!

Pam Stevens is executive director of the Newton Area Chamber of Commerce.

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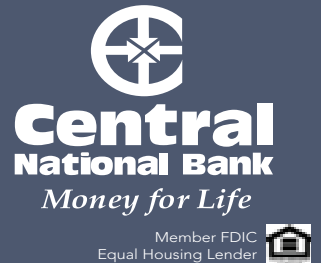
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A sip into crafting: Blankenship makes customized tumblers

BY WENDY NUGENT
HARVEY COUNTY NOW STAFF

NORTH NEWTON—Lexi Blankenship's business, LemonBuds, is sweet because it provides her and her family extra money during this pandemic, along with some alone time just for her, since her husband and two young boys are home.

"My husband is no longer working during this pandemic, so the added income has been a big help," the North Newton resident said. "It also lets me have some 'me' time that I do not have to think about what is going on out in the world. I can just listen to my music, play with glitter and let the creative juices flow."

Through her business, Blankenship creates fancy designs on steel tumblers to the customer's choosing. She can add glitter and/or personalize the tumbler with a name or logo.

"When a customer messages me wanting to place an order, I ask them to send me inspiration photos or to send me the ideas they have in mind," she said.

"After working out all of the small details, I begin by prepping my stainless steel tumbler, then applying the glitter the customer and I have picked out for their tumbler."

She then applies a layer or two of epoxy and adds custom decals, like names, images or logos.

"I apply two more layers of epoxy to seal the decals; then I clean the cups up and package them for pick up," she said.

Blankenship said she officially opened her business in March 2019, so it's just a little more than a year old.

She learned to customize tumblers by teaching herself.

"I learned to make customized tumblers by watching YouTube videos and a lot of trial and error," she said. "I still have a lot of learning to do, but I have come a long way since starting."

She's been making customized tumblers for about a year, although she took some time off after being injured in a horrific vehicle wreck.

Blankenship said she's always been crafty.

"I have always had a crafty side, and when Cricut started to become more well known, I just had to have one," she said. "I started out four years ago making



WENDY NUGENT/HARVEY COUNTY NOW
Lexi Blankenship of North Newton personalizes tumblers as part of her business, LemonBuds.

and selling T-shirts to friends and family, but a few wanted to know if I could make wood signs."

Then, after she started to make those, her business was mainly signs at that time.

"About a year and a half ago, I had a lot of friends and family asking if I could make glitter tumblers," she said. "After doing my research and being asked over and over, I decided to finally give it a try."

Now, her business mainly is the tumblers, although she still does T-shirts and signs.

"I love how creative I get to be when making them and I love seeing my customers' reactions when they pick them up," Blankenship said.

Since her friends seem to be redecorating during the pandemic, Blankenship's made a number of signs for them.

"While I am still working in health care, I also have been making quite a few signs," she said. "Making signs gives me a reason to get



WENDY NUGENT/HARVEY COUNTY NOW
Lexi Blankenship of North Newton works on personalized tumblers in her home, which she sells. They are projects she's been working on during the pandemic.

outside and use power tools and let my two boys run some energy off. We also are very big into plants, so we have replanted some of our plants and had a few spray bottle water fights while tending to our plants."

Blankenship said that when there's no pandemic happening, she also hosts make-and-take parties where friends can do a craft of their choice together.

"At the end of the night, you have got some bonding time with your besties and also have a new custom piece to add to your home," she said.

If anyone is interested in ordering, they

can contact Blankenship on her business Facebook page, LemonBuds.

Her prices are based off of the final design. Tumblers range in prices from \$25 for regular kinds and 20-ounce to \$45 for an advanced 30-ounce.

"A design is classified as regular or advanced based on the amount of time and materials that will go into the final design," Blankenship said.

In addition to tumblers, T-shirts and signs, Blankenship also makes door wreaths, porch signs, Christmas ornaments and stove covers/noodle boards. She also does a little painting, as well as fashioning key chains and cup coasters with her extra epoxy and glitter.

"While I am still working in health care, I also have been making quite a few signs."

-Lexi Blankenship

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