



CDDO

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agency before deciding to go out in her own. She operates from her home in Arkansas City.

“The clients don’t come to my house, I go to the agencies that they either live at or they do day services at,” she said.

Pack said the county is considering her Cozy Corner for county-wide, targeted case management. Her work involves helping clients with social security, Medicaid or rehab employment in the com-

munity. She said it involves helping them to maintain the best possible life.

“That’s really what it is, making sure that their support plans,” she said. “So, if they do day services or social services, what we have to do is write a plan to allow the people that help take care of them know how to take care of those clients.”

The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. in the Cowley County Courthouse meeting room.

Other items on the agenda include:

- Discussion of a minimum maintenance section of 192nd

Road in Liberty Township;

- Consideration of approval for repairs to the landfill backhoe;
- Two topics under citizens to be hard, including road conditions in Rock and concern over the time of the public hearing for the county’s fiscal year 2026 budget; and
- Public notice regarding a proposed Kansas water pollution control permit.

CourierTraveler reporter John Shelman contributed to this report.

Assault

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bound on South Sixth Street.

They located the vehicle a short time later in the 400 block of South Eighth Street and found two male occupants

and one female occupant. The female reported that she had been taken against her will from the First Council Casino, just south of the state line, and sexually assaulted by both male suspects and that the assaults continued while traveling through Ark City, the

release states.

The victim was treated by the Arkansas City Fire/EMS Department on scene and transported to a hospital for further medical care.

A person’s guilt or innocence is to be determined by a court of law.

Uncas

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date the building of Kaw Lake.

Fifty years ago, the last two residents of Uncas finally moved out, making way for the completion of Kaw Lake. It took a decade before the water ultimately covered the old townsite.

For most of its 70 years of existence, from 1902 to 1972, the town of Uncas was an unincorporated community on the banks of the Arkansas River, southeast of Newkirk, Okla.

Rumblings of an uncertain future for Uncas surfaced after the 1957 flood on the Arkansas River in Kay County. Flood control on the river became more of a priority than ever. U.S. Sen. Robert Kerr was vocal about having some type of flood control project on the Arkansas River. The first affirmation of what would become Kaw Lake happened in 1962 with initial funding approved by Congress.

Ground was finally broken in the summer of 1966 for the Kaw Lake reservoir. Later that year, property owners in Uncas, as well as in Kaw City and Washunga, began to receive offers for their property from the US Army Corp of Engineers.

were given a one-year extension when Jensen’s wife had written an appeal for more time from President Nixon, who gave them that one extra year.

Still, there were bad feelings, especially from Chairman Jensen, who charged the government with violating the seventh amendment of the constitution, which guarantees the right to a jury trial in civil claims.

Jensen also used the words “bad faith and tyranny” to describe the negotiations with the US Army Corp of Engineers.

“The Uncas townsite is going to be part of a playground in a public access area, and not underwater, but perhaps once in 50 years, in the Corps’ own words,” Jensen told the crowd that day, preceding a covered dish dinner.

Further extinguishing the community was the decision to not replace the Uncas Bridge over the Arkansas River, estimated to cost \$2 to \$3 million. Instead, the bridge was dynamited just a few years later.

CBS Evening News made a trip to chronicle the final reunion of the town’s past and present citizens held in the school gym. There were raw, emotional feelings depicted in the program of the people who now faced an uncertain future.

The last two people out of Uncas were still on the townsite as late as November 1974 — Mayor Jensen and his wife, Ruby. They were living in a trailer, “being a thorn in the side of the US Army Corp of Engineers,” Jensen said.

The couple had moved their house to nearby Kildare, but he was keeping a trailer on the old site to protest not receiving their proper relocation payment.

Plans were in motion in March 1967 to move the 500 graves from Uncas Cemetery, which covered four acres. The Traveler reported at that time that the Corp of Engineers had already contacted about 100 next of kin of those buried in the cemetery. The 500 graves in Uncas cemetery known as Oak Grove, along with Washunga’s, was moved in 1973.

Washunga Cemetery graves were moved across the road from Newkirk’s city cemetery. Uncas’ graveyard was moved to a special section near Ponca City’s Independent Order of Oddfellows Cemetery.

But not everyone made the trip. Uncas did not officially go underwater until the 1980s, about the time the Oklahoman newspaper reported the first sighting of skeletal remains near where Uncas Cemetery had been located.

The Kaw Reservoir Landowners Association also began having their own land appraisals done so they could compare them to the ones done by the Corp of Engineers.

Uncas made one last attempt to fight its demise by incorporating as a community in 1967. Taking inspiration from nearby Kaw City’s relocation effort — funded by a businessman from Blackwell — the people of Uncas hoped they would be able to do the same thing. However, the US Army Corp of Engineers declined to allow it.

The Arkansas City Traveler posted a headline in June 1967 that read “Doomsday is Creeping Up On the Community of Uncas.” The article stated that Uncas would be covered by Kaw Lake within the next five years.

The Uncas Post Office was closed in December 1969. In the early 1970s, Uncas’ school district closed its doors and consolidated with Kildare Public Schools.

Uncas City Council posed for their final picture in late May 1972, published in the Traveler. Pictured were: Pearl Stanley, clerk; Robert Godberson, member; Odessa Myers, member; and Chairman Paul Jensen. The occasion was the final reunion and homecoming held for 350 people inside the old Uncas High School Gym.

The town’s citizens had been given until the end of 1971 to get out of Uncas, but they

had enough money early to get, you know, on the ground and begin the hard work.”

She said one of her strengths as a candidate was that she had worked in every county in Kansas and understood issues relevant to a diverse constituency. She said Congress wasn’t fighting battles that needed to be fought for Kansans, including affordable housing and the rising cost of living.

Congress should stand up for fundamental rights, including due process, amid the Trump administration’s immigration crackdown, Davis said.

She said she was an unwavering supporter of public education and was convinced the effort to close the U.S. Department of Education would make education a significant campaign issue in 2026. She opposes appropriation of tax dollars to private schools.

“I believe that we should be doing everything we can to shore up public education,” she said.

Davis denounced the 2022 proposed amendment to the Kansas Constitution that would have laid the foundation for more stringent restrictions on abortion. Kansas voters rejected that effort.

Votes in Congress to remove millions of people from Medicaid could jeopardize dozens of rural hospitals in Kansas, she said.

Davis said work by Republicans to demolish the U.S. Agency for International Development, or USAID, was a tragedy.

“It’s an embarrassment that we have cut funding to USAID, that we have had opportunities to help people who are experiencing food insecurity, and that we have cut those programs off at the knees,” she said.

heard, not just the ones who are invited to private meetings.”

Davis hasn’t held elective office she is one of three candidates so for seeking the Democratic Party’s nomination for Senate. The others are Michael Soetaert of Wellington and Anne Parelkar of Overland Park.

She is a preservation consultant and was in Cowley County earlier this this month to meet with downtown building owners, many of whom are struggling to repair roof damage after the June 16 hailstorm.

The City of Arkansas City has hired Davis Preservation to update the National Register nomination for the Historic Downtown Commercial District. She is scheduled to attend a public hearing to provide an update on that project 5:30 p.m. Aug. 25 at City Hall.

On the political front, Davis is slated to speak to the We the People of South Central Kansas group at 1 p.m. Sept. 15 at the city’s Water Treatment Plant. That event is open to the public.

Mendez

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“I had really supportive teachers,” she said. “Mr. Stinemetze was one of the ones that was really always there for me, just telling me that if I needed help with anything to see him during that first month.”

David Stinemetze, a long-time science teacher at the high school, said he has high expectations for Mendez.

“Genesis, even as a young woman in high school, had a vision of where she wanted life to take her,” he said. “She never lost sight of her goals and overcame obstacles along her path, rather than hiding behind them.”

With 10 siblings, Mendez said she also had strong support at home.

“My mom, she was always there, telling me how proud she was,” Mendez said.

“My aunt was the one who practically raised him in the beginning and the first few months.”

Going back to school after Elio was born was difficult. Mendez said. It was hard to leave him each day. But she knew she needed to continue to push herself.

“I wanted him to have a good future too,” she said. “Part of that is me pursuing

my goals and my dreams.”

Mendez said her teachers were supportive and helpful during her pregnancy, but some students were judgmental and unkind. Friends told her that other students talked about her behind her back.

“I just ignored it and kind of kept my head down, because I knew that I was having this kid whether or not, so there really wasn’t much I could do about it,” she said. “I definitely wouldn’t recommend getting pregnant young, but if one does then I would be sure to talk to somebody an be sure to have a good support system.”

She also recommends using resources, such as Family Life Services in Ark City.

Mendez said she got a lot of support from teachers her junior year during her pregnancy. Gifted teacher Jennifer Morse provided consoling words, she said, in addition to information and resources about scholarships.

Morse said that watching Mendez grow into the young woman she is today led her to nominate her for the Outstanding Student award.

“She was determined that no matter what happened in life she was going to graduate and continue her education,” Morse said. “As a mother, she continued to go to school while also taking college

courses through Cowley, getting her CNA license and working after school and weekends.”

Working seven days in a row never slowed Mendez down. “I am looking forward to what she can accomplish as a young person who is going to conquer the world,” Morse added.

Mendez also mentioned English Teacher Tara Woodmansee as very supportive.

“She even bought me baby shower gift on the last day when I had to take time off,” she said.

Mendez works as a certified nurse assistant at Presbyterian Manor. She earned that certification while still in high school and plans for a career in nursing.

She’s starting Cowley this fall, but the aspirations reach much higher — master degree and working as a nurse practitioner.

“I plan to attend either WSU or just some sort of university, some sort of nursing school, I want to attend a really good one,” she said.

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Kansas and worked on housing, local business, energy efficiency in agribusiness and also a lot of hospitals, clinics, child care, those sorts of projects,” she said.

Davis is married with a son. She said her grandfathers served in World War II, one as a surgeon and the other with soldiers who helped liberate concentration camps. She said their service wasn’t easy, but they did it because they “understood the importance of right and wrong, and they believed that it was an American value.”

Davis said her sister was a physician who died while advocating for the Affordable Care Act, the landmark law signed by President Barack Obama that reshaped health care in the United States.

“I tell people I’ve survived 36 hours of labor, and I’ve survived a double mastectomy, and after that, it doesn’t seem so hard to fight, to fight for what’s right,” Davis said.

‘It’s an embarrassment’

Davis ran for the U.S. House in 2020 but lost the Democratic primary. That 1st District campaign was won by U.S. Rep. Tracey Mann, a Republican who still serves a district stretching from Dodge City to Lawrence.

The last time Kansas elected a Democratic candidate to the U.S. Senate was in 1932. Both of the state’s Senate seats have been held by Republicans since 1939.

“Sometimes there are other factors at play besides who the best candidate is,” Davis said. “The key is garnering that support, raising

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