

OBITUARIES

MARY EDITH BODENHAMER (RUTTER)

Mary Edith Bodenhamer (Rutter), age 92, passed away peacefully on April 9, 2025. A small graveside service will be held on Friday, April 25 at 1:00pm at Elm Grove Cemetery in Edna, Kansas. Cremation has taken place under the direction of Ford-Wulf-Bruns Chapel.

CITY – COUNTY

WILSON COUNTY

April 9- Wilson County transported Mathew Charles Blum, 35 of Bartlesville, from Sedgwick County, where he was arrested on a Wilson County probation revocation warrant. He is being held no bond, waiting for first appearance with a judge.

April 10- Fredonia Police Department arrested Georgette Allen (Ross), 37 of Fredonia, on a Wilson County warrant. She was processed and released on a \$500 cash bond, with a next court appearance date.

April 11- Neodesha Police Department arrested Christopher Ryan Wright, 43 of Neodesha, on a Wilson County warrant for felony possession of stolen property. New changes of driving while suspended, failure to stop at a stop sign and a Neosho County failure to appear warrant. He is being held on a \$5000 cash or surety bond for both Wilson and Neosho Counties with a next court appearance date.

April 13- Neodesha Police Department arrested Curtis Douglas Newman, 58 of Neodesha, on the charges of driving while suspended and resisting arrest. He was processed and released on a \$2500 own recognizance bond, with a next court appearance date.

April 14- Kansas Highway Patrol deputies arrested Parker James Barnett, 23 of Highlandville, Mo., on the charges of possession of marijuana and paraphernalia. He was processed and released on a \$2500 own recognizance bond, with a next court appearance date.

April 14- The Kansas Highway Patrol arrested Tyler Wayne Thomas, 20 of Bradleyville, Mo. on the charges of possession of marijuana and paraphernalia. He was processed and released on a \$2500 own recognizance bond with a next court appearance with a judge.

April 15- Ashley Rose Hancock, 35 of Wichita, turned herself in on a Wilson County failure to appear warrant. She was processed and released on a \$2500 cash or surety bond, with a next court date.

FIRE/EMS

Medical Emergency, 10:54 pm Tuesday, Mulberry St.

Slip or Fall, 12:08 pm Tuesday, 5600 CR 2700

Slip or Fall, 2:45 pm Tuesday, N. 13th

Transfer, 3:04 pm Tuesday, Indy ER to Parsons

Slip or Fall, 3:45 pm Tuesday, S. 10th St.

Slip or Fall, 3:49 pm Tuesday, S. Burns St.

Medical Call, 4:27 pm Tuesday, E. Birch

Medical Emergency, 6:37 pm Tuesday, N. 9th

Medical Call, 7:39 pm Tuesday, G&W

Medical Emergency, 8:31 pm Tuesday, Hill St.

Structure Fire, 1:39 am Wednesday, 217 E. 7th Cherryvale Assist

Medical Call, 2:11 am Wednesday, S. Burns St.

WEATHER



Normal for today 70 (high) and 45 (low)
Records 92 (1937) and 25 (2013)
Sunrise Friday 6:51 a.m. | sets 7:55 p.m.
Elk City Lake level 796.21 | outflow 5 cfs
Big Hill Lake level 858.10 | outflow 7 cfs
Lake Info for Wednesday (visit www.swt-wc.usace.army.mil and click on Daily Report for today's info)

Forecast for Montgomery County: Mostly sunny today and warmer, with a high near 86 degrees. Breezy, with a southerly wind at 18 to 26 mph, with gusts as high as 41 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 68 degrees. Breezy, with a south wind at around 17 to 24 mph, with gusts as high as 33 mph.

LOTTERY



TOPEKA, KAN. - These Kansas lotteries were drawn earlier this week.

Super Kansas Cash..... Jackpot: \$240,000
Mega Millions..... Jackpot: \$112 million
Powerball..... Jackpot: \$113 million

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• Multi-agency operation

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• Destany Freeman- Use/possess with intent to use drug paraphernalia into the human body. Sheriff Ron Wade expressed his appreciation for the diligent work of the deputies involved in this case and extended his gratitude and also extended his gratitude to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and the Cherryvale Police Department for their co-operation and help in the case. “This case highlights the importance of strong partnerships between agencies,” he said in a release sent Wednesday morning. “I’m proud of the continued commitment our deputies show in protecting the citizens of Montgomery County and getting this extremely deadly drug off the streets and out of the community.” The case will be sent to the Montgomery County Attorney’s Office for proper charging. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

HAPPENINGS

55 AND BETTER DANCE

The 55 and Better Dance will be held Friday, April 18, at ICC West, located at 2615 West Main Street in Independence from 7:00-10:00 p.m. The same great music will be payed, but organizers are spicing it up a bit by adding line dancing and two step lessons throughout the night. Participants are encouraged to bring finger foods to enjoy during the dance. The 55 and Better Dance is held every first and third Friday of the month.

• Caney BOE

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end of this fiscal year, but on the 24th of March no other expenses are allowed. We had thankfully anticipated a little bit of that and were able to capture the majority of those expenses with a partnership with CRMC for our second nurse.”

Kristi Magee, RN, provided an explanation of the services the school nurses provide. Beginning at 7:20 a.m., she starts seeing medication administration students. The medication must be provided in its original container and come with a physician’s order for administration. ADHD medication is a controlled substance and is closely monitored. She and the other school nurses have performed over 5,000 medication administrations this year. Next, they address office visits. They document every student that comes in and notify the parents. They have attended to 1,087 injuries, 2,642 illnesses and 1,191 other issues this year. They also do hearing and vision screenings to all new students and every special ed student every year. They also offer the students dental screenings. Height and weight are done annually for students in Kindergarten through sixth grade. Magee puts together individual health care plans for students who are having issues at school.

Before Covid there were two students that were not fully immunized. Since then, this number jumped up to 65 students. All students who are not fully immunized must sign a religious exemption form in order to be exempt. Magee made an immunization clinic for the students to address the issue. Even after that, she had 21 students who had not had all the vaccines that they needed. Finally, the school nurses teach CPR and first aid. All students must be CPR certified before they can graduate. “The numbers are big. We do see a lot of kids. The kids do need us there,” she stated. Immunizations, health assessments and screenings are mandated. She advised the board that a school nurse is needed at the High School. Vargas concluded, “It’s been amazing to see the amount of stuff you have handled.”

Jimmy Littleford, High School Principal, gave direction regarding the use of AI such as Chat GPT. “The policy is there. We have been working on it,” he stated. “To be honest, this is going to be a learn and grow as we go.” He continued, “AI is not going away. It’s only going to get better and so teaching them how to use it ethically is the game plan.” He added that AI is especially useful when creating resumes.

Traxon explained that they are adding smart watches to their cellular device restriction policy. These devices will go in the lock box in the classrooms during school hours. Exceptions to this policy are made for students who need their phones for medical purposes.

Vargas invited the board to discuss A Bond For Everyone. The bond, which would have provided \$32 million in funding for a lengthy list of upgrades and renovations to the district’s aging buildings and facilities was recently voted down. Twice as many voters turned out for this election than the last bond election. Vargas recommended that an in-depth discussion on the topic be handled in a special meeting which would be scheduled two weeks out in order to engage the community and give time for some additional information to come in. Vargas stated, “To me very clearly in order to move forward we have to know why. I have heard from several of them and none of them have overlapped.” He reported that some voters were deterred by the time frame and others the shock of the sticker price. Some were even deterred by specific items to be addressed by the bond such as the stadium. Board member Jason McVey stated, “My perspective is that if your family can’t afford it, then you vote for your family. I mean that’s how we all are. I don’t have any hard feelings.” Board member Josh Elliott asked if the board could quickly perform a survey to determine why voters voted the way that they did. Vargas agreed that he can get a survey out in the paper and on social media right away. They scheduled the special meeting for May 5 at 6:00 p.m. “I just want to say thank you to the board,” stated Vargas, “What I am most proud of is that as a board you made the decision to be proactive about some of these issues that we see coming versus reactive.”

The district is out to bid the Kansas Educators Insurance Trust. The current provider is Blue Cross Blue Shield. There are three providers available in Kansas. They have received an initial proposal and will receive a second proposal.

Board president, Daniel Owen presented the Tri-County Report. They decided to start the pay for new hires a month earlier to avoid gaps in income.

The board approved the action items which included seeking bids for Drivers Education and Fleet Vehicles, JAG-K, the KASB renewal and the district capacity for the 2025-2026 school year.

The next regular meeting of the Caney Board of Education will be held on May 12 at 6:00 p.m., at the board office at 700 East Bullpup Boulevard. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

• Kansas History

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ern Kansas, water is a scarcity. When a settler found a source of clear, drinkable water, they would charge passersby a premium for just a sip or two. Faced with thirsty oblivion, the travelers would fork over whatever pennies they had in their pockets begrudgingly. That is, until Seymour found the area. He refused to make travelers pay for a nice, cool respite and would often hear “That’s mighty Liberal of you,” from those whose thirsts he helped quench. By 1885, Seymour had opened a general store and post office. Seeing no other course of action, Seymour called the new little hamlet Liberal, a tongue-in-cheek nod to the thanks from the many settlers that went through the area.

As the rails of the lumbering iron horse began to wend their way into Western Kansas, settlers began to take interest in the little town. When the Rock Island Railroad reached the end of the line, they purchased a large section of land for a townsite, just east of Seymour’s place. Plots were opened in 1888 and within just 24 hours, the sale of lots racked up to \$180,000- almost \$60,000 of that was paid for in cash. Within a week, there were 83 homes and, in a year, it would be considered a third class city with a population of 800. Residents of nearby towns such as Fargo Springs, Arkalon and Springfield moved their homes and businesses to Liberal, which eventually became the county seat.

In 1890, the first city-owned wells were dug along Liberal’s main drag; pipes supplied water to the business section of town, but the homes kept large wooden barrels in front which were filled twice a week for just 50 cents per barrel. A rather cottage industry cropped up seemingly overnight, thrusting Liberal into the mechanized spotlight, giving them onerous distinction of being the broom corn capital of the world. Due to the amazing farming opportunities around the area, over 500 buildings were erected within Liberal’s city limits between 1907 and 1908.

• Popular Sunflower

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alike.”

The amazing program covers admission costs for eligible students and one adult guardian per attraction. Tickets can be claimed through the free Sunflower Summer app and are later redeemed at the participating venues upon arrival.

“This program is a wonderful opportunity for Kansas attractions to welcome families from across the state,” Kansas Tourism Director Bridgette Jobe said. “Sunflower Summer not only provides free admission to incredible destinations, it strengthens communities by making family adventures more accessible and extends the length of their vacations.”

The application will be available for download from both the Apple App Store and Google Play in June so you and your family can start planning that epic Kansas vacation.

• Artist Monte Toon

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12:00-1:00 p.m. Cost for the lunch is \$10 and the public is welcome to attend. Reservations are required by calling 620-331-3515. After lunch, Toon will do a book signing from 1:00-2:30 p.m., for his book, Musings of an Artist’s Life, available for \$20. The book is an autobiographical accounting of his art career. Rich in anecdotes, the book also shares Monte’s marketing ideas that all artists will find valuable.

On Saturday, May 10, Toon will instruct a class at the museum entitled “Watercolor Canvas/Aquabord Workshop” from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. with a lunch break from 12:00-1:00 p.m. This watercolor workshop is for beginners and experienced artists. Monte will demonstrate the use of two new products, the Watercolor Canvas and Aquabord, which he believes will revolutionize the use of watercolors in America. Cost of the five-hour workshop is \$67.50 (\$62.50 for IHMAC members). To enroll, contact Donna Rothgeb at drothgeb62@gmail.com and payment may be made by calling IHMAC at 620-223-3515. Reservations and pre-payment are required and the class size is limited to 20. Enrollment should be made by May 7 to ensure a place in the class.

Art is Toon’s life-long career. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Art Education. He is also a graduate of Oklahoma State Technical Training Center in Graphic/Commercial Art. During his career in art, Toon has served as art teacher and freelance commercial artist. He retired in 2004 after serving 32 years as the Art Director and Graphic Designer for KTUL-TV, Channel 8, the ABC affiliate television station in Tulsa. Toon is a Signature Member of the Kansas Watercolor Society.

His work has been displayed in numerous solo shows including the Kemp Center for the Arts, Wichita Falls, Texas; The Rockport Center for the Arts, Rockport, Texas; The Oklahoma Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Coffeyville Center for the Arts, Coffeyville; Independence Historical Museum and Art Center, Independence and the Springfield Regional Arts Center, Springfield, Missouri.

Monte and his wife, Linda, reside at Lake Keystone, near Cleveland, Oklahoma.

REPORTER OBITUARY POLICY

The Independence Daily Reporter publishes death notices at no charge. A death notice includes name, age, date of death and service information.

Anything more than a standard notice will be priced at \$85 without a photo and \$95 with a photo (up to 500 words).

Please submit all obituaries to
obits@indydailyreporter.com

The deadline to be in the Tuesday through Saturday publications is 11am the day before publication. Any obituaries received after the above deadlines will be published the next available publication day.

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