

Review

Continued from page 3

through coverage of the 2025 Kinsley Easter Egg Hunt, hosted by the Ladies League of Edwards County at South Park.

May 1

The Edwards County commissioners approved a contract allowing use of Reno County Youth Services for juvenile detention needs, ensuring continuity in youth services for Edwards County. Infrastructure updates, including culvert maintenance and road improvements, were reported by County Works Director Richard Neilson, reinforcing the county's ongoing support of safe transportation routes used by school buses.

May 8

The May 8 issue formally marked the beginning of graduation season as Kinsley High School announced commencement exercises scheduled for Saturday, May 10, at the KJSHS Dome, while Spearville High School scheduled its ceremony earlier that same day.

School-connected community celebration was also highlighted through a ribbon cutting hosted by the Edwards County Chamber of Commerce for Kinsley Tire, owned by Austin and Amber Rogers.

In addition, election filing details were published for upcoming City and School Board elections, reminding residents of opportunities to serve on USD 347 and USD 502 boards.

May 15

The May 15 issue centered on youth service as preparations were finalized for Action for Alex 2025, the ninth annual community service project honoring Alex Gleason.

The issue also marked an educational milestone as Kinsley P.E.O. Chapter CQ celebrated its 100th anniversary. The organization's mission of supporting women's education has directly benefited generations of local students through scholarships and educational assistance.

May 22

The May 22 issue highlighted Memorial Day services scheduled throughout Edwards County, coordinated by the Jones Barnes Gasser VFW Post 7349 Honor Guard. Services at cemeteries in Offerle, Fellsburg, Lewis, and Kinsley brought together students, families, and veterans to honor those who served.

May 29

The final May issue celebrated academic excellence as Morgan Sebes, a senior at Macksville High School, was named a 2025 Kansas Governor's Scholar. Sebes, daughter of Mike and Cheron Sebes of Lewis, was recognized among the top one percent of Kansas high school seniors and honored at the awards ceremony in Topeka hosted by Governor Laura Kelly.

Healthcare leadership also intersected with school families as Edwards County Medical Center announced Justin Seeman as its new Director of Clinics for Midway and Spearville.

June 5

County and city governance decisions during this period included discussion of juvenile and adult services representation, with Linda Atteberry appointed to represent Edwards County on the 24th Judicial District Adult and Juvenile Services Advisory Board.

Community planning for events involving students and families also appeared, as the Ladies League of Edwards County received approval to use the Pink Building in Kinsley for Oktoberfest 2025.

The issue also marked the formal shift into summer activity as calendars reflected the end of the academic year and the beginning of summer meetings involving 4-H clubs, youth organizations, and civic groups that continue student engagement outside the classroom.

June 12

The June 12 issue prominently featured Action for Alex Project #9, held May 28–30. The ninth project brought together 22 area youth and 16 adult volunteers who completed painting and repair work

on a local home and at the Palace Theater in downtown Kinsley. Youth participants included Callie Anderson, Max Arensman, Mackenzie Herrmann, Skylar Brake, Kaileigh Craft, Mason Hattrup, Zaylee Rice, and Neva (list continued in print), representing students from Edwards County schools.

The issue also highlighted the debut of the Edwards County Farmers Market, scheduled to open June 21 on 6th Street in Kinsley.

June 19

The June 19 issue centered on long-term investment in student spaces as the KOES Playground Project surpassed its initial \$50,000 fundraising goal, reaching \$54,700. Organizers announced a new matching grant opportunity, allowing donations to be matched up to \$75,000, with the potential to expand the project's total budget to \$150,000.

City and county discussions during the same period also addressed school crossing safety, storm sirens, and infrastructure projects that directly affect student transportation and emergency preparedness throughout Edwards County.

June 26

The final June issue spotlighted student success beyond traditional academics as Addy German, a 16-year-old Kinsley student, was crowned 2025 Plainville Rodeo Queen. Addy, daughter of Andrew and Tiara Huelsman, earned the title during her first season of competition after placing at multiple rodeo pageants across central Kansas.

July 3

The July 3 issue of the Edwards County Sentinel opened with the kickoff of the 2025 Edwards County Fair, scheduled for July 1–12, marking one of the largest youth-centered events of the year.

On the county level, Undersheriff Charles Wheaton was recognized for graduating from the 24th Annual Kansas Police Administrators' Seminar (KPAS) on June 27 at the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center.

July 10

The July 10 issue highlighted upcoming Kinsley Community Vacation Bible School, scheduled for July 14–17 and hosted by Kinsley First Christian Church. Churches participating included Our Redeemer Lutheran (Kinsley), Zion Lutheran (Offerle), Offerle Community Church, Congregational Church of Kinsley, First United Methodist Church of Kinsley, and Kinsley First Christian Church. The program welcomed children from preschool through fifth grade and included a free swimming night and closing program for families.

Youth development remained a focus through the Edwards County 4-H Foundation Membership Drive. The foundation, incorporated in 1983, continued its mission of promoting 4-H by supporting scholarships and youth educational opportunities. Scholarships overseen by the foundation included memorial awards honoring Rocky Snyder, Myron and Betty Burr, Steven Hornung, Alex Gleason, and Don and Kathy Schroeder.

County commissioners also approved the hiring of Damon Bryant as Noxious Weed Director, effective June 30, and formally appointed Jeremy R. McCully as Edwards County Appraiser.

July 17

The July 17 issue marked the ribbon cutting for the Edwards County Commercial Kitchen, held July 9 at the Edwards County Fair Building.

County commissioners adopted Resolution No. 2025-11, establishing a formal county policy on water conservation and use, addressing concerns about federal actions that could affect agricultural families and long-term sustainability for future generations in Edwards County.

July 24

The July 24 issue reflected summer community engagement, including promotion of the Kansas Author Festival scheduled for July 26. The event centered around the Kinsley Public Library and the

Niles Avenue Galleria.

July 31

The July 31 issue shifted attention toward the upcoming academic year, with USD 347 announcing late start days for the 2025–26 school year at Kinsley Junior/Senior High School (KJSHS) and Kinsley-Offerle Elementary School (KOES).

The issue also recapped the Kansas Authors Festival, held July 26, where local residents gathered for author discussions, book signings, and community engagement. Barbara Jean was named the raffle winner for a signed book during the event.

August 7

A large portion of the front page was devoted to Edwards County 2025 Fair 4-H results, recognizing the accomplishments of local youth from several clubs. Members of the Lewis 4-H Club, Northern Star 4-H Club, Trenton Workers 4-H Club, and the Edwards County 4-H Shooting Sports Club earned top honors across livestock, foods and nutrition, photography, visual arts, and shooting sports.

Community planning also took center stage as the City of Kinsley Zoning Board held a public hearing on July 31 regarding the proposed Elizabeth Subdivision housing project. The meeting drew a large crowd concerned about drainage, flooding history, and infrastructure.

The issue also promoted the Edwards County Historical Society Annual Program, scheduled for August 10 at the Kinsley Community Room. Guest speaker Joanne (Wetzel) VanCoevern, associate manager of the National Santa Fe Trail Organization, was set to present on the Santa Fe Trail west of Edwards County.

August 14

A grand opening was held August 8 for Midway Market and Happy Mug Coffee, with a ribbon cutting conducted by the Edwards County Chamber of Commerce.

Attention also turned to the upcoming 2025 Quilt and Baptismal Garment Show at St. Joseph's Church in Offerle, scheduled for August 23 in conjunction with Offerle Days.

Edwards County Commissioners met on July 14, Damon Bryant, Noxious Weed Director, provided updates on spraying operations and equipment needs, while the board addressed road safety concerns, including closure of a damaged bridge north of Offerle. The Edwards County Health Department, led by Mitchell Craft, reported increased immunization activity in preparation for the upcoming school year and outreach conducted during the county fair.

August 21

The Big Red Booster Club announced a reorganization aimed at strengthening support for students and school programs at Kinsley Junior/Senior High School. The group outlined plans for new fundraisers, including customizable red metal yard signs, sports calendars, and expanded concessions support.

The issue also recognized a special check presentation to Tyson Barnett, organized through the Roundball Classic, honoring his perseverance during a six-year battle with Ewing sarcoma and highlighting the community's support for local families facing hardship.

August 28

Coverage highlighted the success of the 2025 Quilt Show, which drew more than 130 entries and showcased quilts spanning multiple generations.

The Pride Committee shared updates on summer projects benefiting local families and students. Committee members Mayra Guerra and Jennifer Gleason worked with city partners to establish a Blessing Box near the Twice Is Nice building, providing free essentials for those in need.

County commissioners met again on August 11, approving the hiring of Jackson Adler as a full-time deputy sheriff.

September 4

In Offerle, a new shade structure was installed at the city park through a Towns Grant, secured with assistance

from Edwards County Economic Development.

Agriculture and youth education intersected when U.S. Senator Dr. Roger Marshall visited Blue Sky Farms' Twin Circle Dairy on August 18, accompanied by representatives from USDA Rural Development.

Community enrichment also expanded through the announcement of the Kinsley Community Choir, launching its inaugural season in 2026. Chandler Reiman announced auditions for singers age 14 and older, creating new extracurricular opportunities for students and residents alike.

September 11

A feature story traced more than a century of baseball at South Park, detailing the origins of Kinsley's historic grandstands, first built in 1904 and rebuilt in 1934 as a Civil Works Administration project.

City operations affecting school infrastructure were also addressed during the August 4 Kinsley City Commission meeting, where Mayor Bradley Venters, Steve Habiger, Cheryl Holland, and Justin Schmidt discussed code enforcement, capital improvements, and street maintenance. City Manager Dan Knoell reported that street striping was underway, including painting lines at the school, ensuring safety ahead of fall activities.

September 18

The 2025 Homecoming candidates were announced ahead of the western-themed celebration, "Wrangle the Tigers," as the Coyotes prepared to host St. John. Candidates included Gerardo Seanez, Bailey Habiger, Bobby Wilson, Nevaeh Rice, Kohle Ford, and McKenna Fogo.

The issue also highlighted intergenerational connections through the Edwards County Senior Center, noting that students from USD 347 National Honor Society regularly volunteer to assist seniors during weekly meals, building relationships between students and older residents.

September 25

Gerardo Seanez and Bailey Habiger were crowned 2025 Kinsley High School Homecoming King and Queen.

October 2

The October 2 issue opened with the Kinsley Gun Club reaching a significant milestone after officially receiving 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, positioning the organization to accept tax-deductible donations as it prepares for its 125th Anniversary Shoot scheduled for May 2026. Planning is underway for a "Spring Fling Shoot" featuring a "Pot of Gold" prize of \$1,000 in gold silver dollars.

Public awareness was also emphasized through a front-page warning about a Medicare scam call, shared by a local reader who contacted The Sentinel after recognizing aggressive tactics used by a scammer attempting to verify personal information.

Another major front-page feature marked Midway Manufacturing Inc.'s 50th anniversary, celebrating five decades of operation in Kinsley.

October 9

The City of Kinsley announced the relocation of its utility payment drop box to the alley north of City Hall to improve safety and accessibility. Mr. and Mrs. Katz were photographed as the first residents to use the relocated drop box.

County governance was detailed through the Edwards County Commission meeting held September 8. Actions included appointment of Brandon Roenbaugh to the Edwards County Planning Commission, and discussion of township road material shortages raised by Josh Schmitt and LeRoy Konrade. The meeting also acknowledged the passing of Stephanie Brake, deputy county clerk, marking a significant loss for county operations.

The issue also promoted an upcoming presentation by Dr. Leo Oliva in Great Bend, connecting regional history and Indigenous studies to long-standing educational outreach supported by Humanities Kansas.

October 16

Jon Halbgewachs, PE, with

Kirkham Michael, confirmed Edwards County was awarded a 100% KDOT grant up to \$900,000 for construction and inspection, with design costs totaling \$55,000. Commissioners Schnoebelen, Brokar, and Schuette also approved soil testing on 180th Avenue near the Twin Circle Dairy, addressing wear concerns on a heavily traveled route.

Additional county actions included approval of new office computers for the Registrar of Deeds and chemical purchases for roadside maintenance.

The issue also announced auditions for the Kinsley Community Choir, coordinated by Chandler Reiman.

October 23

Student achievement took the spotlight in the October 23 issue as Kinsley Junior High football completed an undefeated 2025 season. The Coyotes capped the season with a Parents Night victory and a celebratory bus parade down Main Street.

Community economic success was also recognized as Heather Strate, director of Edwards County Economic Development, was named a 2025 Huck Boyd Leader of the Year in the Agribusiness category for her work supporting the development of Blue Sky Farms' Twin Circle Dairy near Lewis.

A front-page analysis addressed the federal government shutdown, outlining potential impacts on Edwards County.

October 30

Polling locations were published for Edwards County voters.

The issue featured candidate interviews for City Commission and USD 347 School Board.

November 6

The Edwards County Historical Society Museum announced a book signing event for the newly released *Hidden History of Kinsley*, authored by Dr. William Wolfgang and former Kinsley Library Director Joan Weaver.

Community service was also recognized as Rita Brown, Dodge City/Kinsley case manager, received the President's Award at the InterHab annual conference. Brown was honored for her 49 years of service at Arrowhead West, where she worked in numerous roles supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The issue also published unofficial Edwards County General Election results.

November 13

The Holiday Food Box Program was highlighted as a collaborative effort between the 21 Central District K-State Extension Office, Edwards County Health Department, and Edwards County Medical Center.

Downtown improvements continued through the SIGNS Grant program, with five Kinsley businesses receiving new signage with assistance from Edwards County Economic Development. Businesses completing upgrades included The Edwards County Sentinel, Kinsley Veterinary Clinic, Midway Antiques, Widow's Attic, and Hen's Hideaway.

November 20

The Henry Laird Library in Belpre received a \$5,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Southwest Kansas to assist with replacing its roof.

The success of the *Hidden History of Kinsley* book signing was also recapped, with approximately 50 people attending the November 8 event at the Edwards County Historical Society Museum.

November 27

A historical feature titled "A Hard-Winter Thanksgiving" recounted how early Edwards County settlers gathered for a shared Thanksgiving meal during the brutal winter of 1873–74. The story connected modern community traditions with the resilience and cooperation that defined the county's earliest families.

Youth achievement was recognized through the Edwards County Farm Bureau Association Annual Meeting, held November 12 at the Edwards County Fair Building. Isabelle

Bowman, daughter of Mike and Chrissa Bowman, a freshman at McPherson College, and Morgan Sebes, daughter of Mike and Cheron Sebes, a freshman at Fort Hays State University, were each awarded \$500 Farm Bureau scholarships.

The issue also noted completion of the SIGNS Grant improvements at Hen's Hideaway, with installation assistance provided by London Brokar, a Kinsley High School graduate.

December 4

The December 4 issue of the Edwards County Sentinel opened with a front-page feature documenting Kara Heitz, Johnson County historian and history media producer, visiting Kinsley on November 18 to meet with Joan Weaver and Darrel Miller regarding the 1979 Tractorcade. Heitz is working with the Kansas 250 Commission to develop a statewide podcast series connecting Kansas history to the principles of the Declaration of Independence.

Youth achievement was also reflected through the Kansas Department of Agriculture Photo Contest, where Hodge-man County photographer Ashley Walker earned second place in the Farm Fresh category for her photo "Rural Life."

December 11

The December 11 issue centered on education beyond the classroom as Offerle native Kenton Kersting, along with Dr. Chris Ratcliff and Dr. Nikki Ratcliff of Colorado Springs, shared their experiences living and teaching in Iraq. The trio presented cultural, educational, and humanitarian perspectives drawn from Kersting's 25 years abroad and the Ratcliffs' work in special education, autism services, and deaf education. Public presentations were scheduled at the Congregational Church in Kinsley, reinforcing Edwards County's role in global learning and cross-cultural education.

City governance affecting school and community events was documented in the November 3 Kinsley City Commission meeting, led by Mayor Bradley Venters, with commissioners Jim Carlson, Steve Habiger, Cheryl Holland, and Justin Schmidt present. Items included approval of a special event application for Midway Market and discussion of accounting procedures tied to city operations that support school and civic functions.

December 18

The December 18 issue focused on Christmas traditions, faith, and family narratives central to community life.

A Christmas Eve service announcement from Offerle Community Church outlined plans for holy communion, candle lighting, and traditional carols, with Pastor Joel Hamme delivering the meditation. The service invitation reflected long-standing traditions shared by Edwards County families during the holiday season.

Seasonal reflections also included family-centered holiday essays emphasizing intergenerational traditions, shared meals, and faith-based celebrations that remain foundational to Edwards County's community identity. While not school-based, these narratives reflected the values passed through families to students and youth across the county.

December 25

The December 25 Christmas Day issue marked the close of the year with limited hard news but documented ongoing civic continuity.

City of Kinsley and City of Offerle meeting minutes from November detailed decisions affecting utilities, infrastructure, staffing, and seasonal events that support families and youth programs, including approval of holiday activities and facility maintenance.

County governance continued through the Edwards County Commission meeting of November 3, with Billy Brokar and Lyle Schuette present. Actions included designations for statewide county association meetings and infrastructure planning tied to roads and bridges used daily by students, families, and school transportation routes.