

LOOKING BACK

Compiled by
Winnie Bosch

1925 - 100 years ago

Sheriff of Thomas County killed in attempt to arrest gunmen - Sheriff Sam Pratt was instantly killed last Monday night when he attempted to arrest two men wanted for the slaying of a motorcycle policeman at North Platt, Nebr. The bandits had been traced to Rawlins county after the Nebraska shooting, and all officers were patrolling the roads in the northwest part of the state. Word had been received that the Buick car which they were driving was seen on the road leading to Colby from the north. The sheriff collected a posse, and taking a large truck, parked it crosswise on the Wisdom bridge north of Colby. The bandits soon put in an appearance and having not noticed the blocked bridge until close upon it, swerved their car around in the road and into the ditch. The sheriff approached the car and told the men they were under arrest. One of the men drew a gun and shot the sheriff, the bullet passing through the abdomen and lodging in the spinal column. The driver immediately got the car out of the ditch and started across a field. The posse who remained at the bridge, emptied their guns at the bandits' car. Their luck and daring was little short of marvelous. They made a clean get away, although one tire was shot out and the gas feed cut. Going to the home of Doyle Crawford a mile and a quarter north, they commandeered his new Ford Coupe and they were gone. The body of the sheriff was placed in the truck and taken to Colby. Other posses were

immediately organized and telephone messages sent but to date no authentic information is to be had of their whereabouts, although it is reported they had been traced to New Mexico. Rewards totaling \$2,000 have been offered for the slayers.

Marshal Murthe catches booze peddler - Murthe believes in hunches. While on his way home as deputy sheriff from watching the Scott City road for the murderers of Sheriff Pratt last Tuesday night, he had a hunch that the Ford Touring car ahead of him was a booze peddler. He followed the car to Oakley and around town, when in front of the M.E. church he stopped the man and asked what he was doing out at that time of night and what he had in the 15 gallon keg in his car. The man replied, "hootch, drive me to the station." The keg contained about 10 gallons of what was purported to be liquor, and a small rubber hose also in the car was used to siphon the same to fruit jar containers when a sale was made. In the police court of Judge Sidwell Thursday morning, the defendant gave the name Chas. Mckie with the alias of Chas. J. Bates, and plead guilty to the two charges of possession and transportation of intoxicating liquor. The court assessed a fine of \$100 and imprisonment of 30 days on each count. The booze car was confiscated and will be sold at public auction.

1950 - 75 years ago

Bird City elevator wall collapses Friday - Approximately 15,000 bushels of the 1950 Cheyenne County wheat crop spilled out on the

ground at about six p.m. Friday when a 30'x8' section of the newly constructed Bird City Equity elevator caved in. The section of wall giving way was over the loading bins on the railroad. A train was in Bird City at the time and was sent to St. Francis to be turned after wheat augers brought in from the surrounding countryside had cleared a path through the grain on the tracks. More than six boxcars of wheat were loaded with the augers after the engine returned, but between six and seven thousand bushels of wheat still remained on the ground. The elevator which has the capacity of 250,000 bushels was finished shortly before harvest this year. - Goodland Daily News.

Kansas historical facts, compiled by Nyle Miller for the Kansas Press Association - 1. When was the state capitol of Kansas completed? 2. Everyone knows that Kansas grows more wheat than any other state, but when did Kansas harvest its largest crop of the golden grain? 3. What city had the first officially organized baseball club in Kansas? 4. July 24 was the birthday of what famous Kansas woman? 5. Ellsworth, established in 1867 was one of the thriving cattle-shipping towns of Kansas in the early 1870's. How long did it take the cowboys to drive cattle from Texas to the railroad at Ellsworth? 6. When did the Rock Island railroad do its building in Kansas?

Answers to Kansas historical questions - 1. Work on the capitol of Kansas at Topeka, more popularly known as the state house, was begun in 1866. The east wing was built first, then the west wing, followed by the

north and sound wings and dome. Though the structure was not finished until 1903, it cannot rightly be said that it was 37 years in building, for there were periods when the work was not pushed. The cost of the building was approximately three million dollars. 2. The greatest wheat-production year in Kansas was 1947, as 286 million bushels were harvested. Kansas wheat production has exceeded 200 million bushels six times in the history of the state. The record years were 1931, 1942, 1945, 1946, 1947 and 1948. 3. The Frontier baseball club of Leavenworth, chartered by the Kansas Secretary of State on Jan. 29, 1867, is the first officially organized baseball club on record in Kansas. 4. Mrs. Amelia Earhart Putnam, flier and author, was born in Atchison, Kansas, on July 24, 1898. She was the first woman to cross the Atlantic ocean in an airplane, (1928) and the first to fly it solo (1932). Her work for the furthermore of aviation ended in 1937, however, when she was lost in the Pacific Ocean while on flight around the world. 5. The Kansas Daily Commonwealth of Topeka, reported on July 1, 1873: "The distance from Red River, the northern boundary of Texas, to Ellsworth, is about four hundred miles, and the drive is made in thirty-five days. The estimated cost of the driving is from \$1-\$3 per head. Each drive requires two men to the hundred head and two horses to each man. Fifty dollars is the average amount paid to drivers. The losses sustained during the drives are from five to ten percent, and are occasioned from death, lameness and stampeding - the present prices at Ellsworth are: yearlings, \$6-\$7; two-year olds, \$10-\$12; three-year olds, \$16-\$20; four-year olds, \$20-\$26. 6. The Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad first started extensive construction in 1886 under the name, the Chicago, Kansas & Nebraska railroad. Its

work was pushed with such vigor that 1,000 miles of track were laid in two years. The railroad built into Kansas from the northeast and erected large shops at Horton. A division point was established at Herington, with one main line pointing south to reach Caldwell in 1887 and the other continuing southwesterly to reach Liberal in 1888. An east-west line reached Goodland on the Western border in 1888.

1975 - 50 years ago

The total population of school people in Oakley and Monument is 817. The USD 274 plant at Oakley has enrolled 190 in grades kindergarten through sixth grade. Monument has 117 in grades K-6. The grand total is 16 short from the beginning of the school year last year. High school enrollment is 269. That is a huge leap from last year's 203, but freshmen this year are counted in the high school population, whereas last year they were counted as junior high students. Junior high enrollment is 145, compared to 200 a year ago. Special education classes total 7. School's officials compute that the senior high, junior high and special education classes total six more than at the beginning of school last year, but that could figure out to be an unsolvable problem in arithmetic. St. Joseph's Parochial School enrollment totals 96, a decrease of 15 from figures announced a year ago. The grand total for all schools here last year was listed at 839, so the numbers continue to decrease. Class loads in all schools are light, ideal according to educators. The breakdown for USD 274 shows senior high -269; junior high 145; special education 7. Elementary - Monument, K-18; first grade -15; second grade -15; third grade - 17; fourth grade - 15; fifth grade - 18; and sixth grade - 19. Oakley, K-39; first grade - 28; second grade - 21; third grade - 28; fourth grade - 25; fifth grade - 27; and sixth grade - 22. The

Oakley plant has two teachers except for the 4th, 5th and 6th grades. St. Joseph's, first grade - 12; second grade - 14; third grade - 17; fourth grade - 18; fifth grade - 15; and sixth grade - 20.

Western Kansas anglers prefer state fishing lakes and catfish is the most common popular fish to catch. The channel cat is also the number 1 choice of anglers over the state. 51 percent of licensed anglers in western Kasas selected catfish, particularly channels and bullheads, as their favorite. Other preferences included largemouth bass, walleye, white bass and crappie. While favorite fishing spots varied between counties, most western Kansas fishermen prefer to fish state fishing lakes and farm ponds. This is followed in preference by federal reservoirs, then by streams and rivers, according to a recent survey. The typical fisherman in western Kansas fished 16 days in 1974 and caught close to 80 fish, averaging about five fish per trip. Only about 7 percent of these dedicated sportsmen failed to bring home a fish sometime during the year.

Beautification project completed at Monument - cooperation by several groups has led to completion of a landscaping project at Monument school. Trees and grasses adaptable to this area have been planted there in completion of a project started more than a year ago. Monument fifth graders did the planting. Dan Applegate has been taking care of the project. A state Soil Conservation service biologist laid out the setup and the Logan county SCS office assisted. The school district provided some \$350 in funds for the plants and the SCS district provided nearly a like amount for a booklet detailing the history and uses of the trees and grasses. The city of Oakley provided a pole truck for use to drill holes for the plants.

USD 274 Special Board Meeting Minutes of July 23 Meeting

These minutes are unofficial until approved by the Board of Education.

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #274 BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF JULY 23, 2025
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

President Kerri Scheetz called the special meeting of the Board of Education to order on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the District Office.

Members Present: Christopher Crofts, Carrie Evins, Mark Hubert, Jodee Reed
Superintendent: Julie Crum

Board Clerk: JoElle Van Eaton

Principals: Tori Goetz
Others: April Miller, Duane Dinkel, Kristin Vaughn, Michelle Cunningham, Jodi Ryburn, Darryn Wiesner

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Evins moved, and Hubert seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

NEGOTIATIONS

Hubert moved and Reed seconded the motion to go into executive session to discuss negotiations pursuant to the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA, and the open meeting will resume in the boardroom at 7:11 p.m. Motion carried 5-0 with Crum remaining in executive session. The board returned to

open meeting at 7:11 p.m. with no action taken in executive session.

Crofts moved, and Evins seconded the motion to approve the negotiated agreement pending ratification. Motion carried 5-0.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Evins moved, and Hubert seconded the motion to accept the Code of Conduct - Alcohol, Drug, and Tobacco policy as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

CELL PHONE POLICY & PERSONAL DEVICES

Discussion on the cell phone policy was held. Hubert moved, and Crofts seconded the motion to approve the cell phone and personal device policy with zero tolerance as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

S T U D E N T H A N D B O O K

Hubert moved, and Crofts seconded the motion to approve the student handbook with changes as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

PERSONNEL

Evins moved, and Reed seconded the motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and the open meeting will resume in the boardroom at 7:33 p.m. Motion carried 5-0 with Crum remaining in the executive session. The board returned to the open meeting at 7:33 p.m. with no action taken in the executive session.

Hubert moved, and Reed seconded the motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and the open meeting will resume in the boardroom at 7:39 p.m. Motion carried 5-0 with Crum remaining in the executive session. The board returned to the open meeting at 7:39 p.m. with no action taken in the executive session.

Evins moved, and Reed seconded the motion to approve the recommendation for hire of Heather Stephens as HS Ag teacher. Motion carried 5-0.

Crofts moved, and Reed seconded the motion to approve the salary schedule for the classified staff as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Scheetz adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.



Plainsmen
Pride!

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

OAKLEY

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
625 Freeman
Fr. Luke Thielen, Pastor
Rev. Mr. Dennis Engel, Deacon
Rev. Mr. Michael Brungardt, Deacon
Saturday Mass 5 p.m.
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.

SUNRISE BAPTIST CHURCH
E. 5th and Sunrise
Pastor Timothy Braun
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday Service 7:00 p.m.

COUNTRY CHAPEL
5 miles S. on US 83
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning
Worship 10:00 a.m.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
Hudson & 7th
Pastor Matthew Koterba
Worship Service 2 p.m. Sunday
Sunday School & Adult Bible
Class 3:15 p.m. Sunday

GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP
2nd & Sunrise
Pastor Kyle Bloom
Worship Service 10:15 a.m.

4TH & CENTER CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Assembly 10:45 a.m.

WESLEYAN CHURCH
901 W. 2nd
Pastor Tiffany Martin
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m.

UNITED CHRISTIAN CHURCH
219 Center Ave.
Pastor Bob Kelly
Cheryl Martin, Administrative Asst.
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
611 Maple
Pastor Dan Hutton
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:45 a.m.

OAKLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
200 East 4th
Jason Schmidt, Lead Minister
Dillon Salmans, Youth Minister
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

WINONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Melissa Byerly, DSA
Worship Service 10:15 a.m.
Sunday School 11:15 a.m.

RUSSELL SPRINGS ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Fr. Don Martin
Sunday Service 4:00 p.m.

PAGE CITY

BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH
Sunday Worship:10:30 a.m
785-671-4075

GRINNELL IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Fr. James M. Thomas
Saturday Mass 5:00 p.m.

ANGELUS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Fr. Luke Thielen
Sunday Mass 8:00 a.m.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Melissa Byerly, DSA
Worship Service 8:30 a.m.

GRAINFIELD GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

ST. AGNES
Fr. James M. Thomas
Sunday Mass 8:00 a.m.

GOVE GOVE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Pastor Chris Thomas
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

GOLDEN SHEARS BARBER SHOP
315 Center ~ Oakley
785-671-4213
Hours: Tuesday-Friday
8-Noon/1-5:30
Thursday
8-Noon/1-5:30/7-9pm
Saturday 8-Noon

Murray & Janet Bean

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