



stockton

Congratulations,
2025 SHS Graduates!

ROOKS COUNTY, KANSAS

COMING TO YOU FROM THE HEARTLAND OF AMERICA

16 PAGES

Newsline

IN THIS ISSUE



Pages 11-14A

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY

Mostly sunny
with winds
from the
ENE at 7
m.p.h.



HIGH: 77
LOW: 49

SATURDAY

Mostly sunny
with winds
from the
SW at 8 m.p.h.



HIGH: 82
LOW: 50

SUNDAY

Sunny
with winds
from the
S at 13
m.p.h.



HIGH: 82
LOW: 53

Inside the Sentinel

And So They Say	16A
Business Directory	4A
Church Directory	7A
Classifieds	3A
Court News	4A & 7A
Deaths	5A
Kansas Clips	9A
Lowell Township News	9A
Nova Newsreel	2A
Public Notices	9A
School Lunch Menu	2A
Sports	6A
Weather	15A
Yesteryear	8A

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are accepted
HERE!



SCRIPTURE
OF THE WEEK

I the LORD am holy,
and have severed you from
other people.
— Leviticus 20:26 —



2025 SHS Commencement this Saturday, May 10th

The 130th Graduating Class of Stockton High School will receive their diplomas this Saturday, May 10th, at 2:00 p.m. at the SHS gym.

The students will walk in to "Pomp and Circumstance," and Superintendent Dr. Angela McCollum will give the Welcome. Mrs. Mandi Dobson will then introduce this year's Salutatorian and Valedictorian to the audience. After their speeches, a Senior Video will be aired before the seniors give a special presentation to their parents while Fleetwood Mac's song "Landslide" is played in the background.

Class president Aubrey Kesler will then introduce Guest Speaker Mr. Don Moffet before the presentation of the Diplomas, which will be given by USD 271 Board of Education members Dr. Ginger Riffel and Mr. Michael Carpenter.

Dr. Angela McCollum will give a Declaration of Class before senior class sponsor Mrs. Bobbie Basart presents the Class of 2025 to the audience. The young

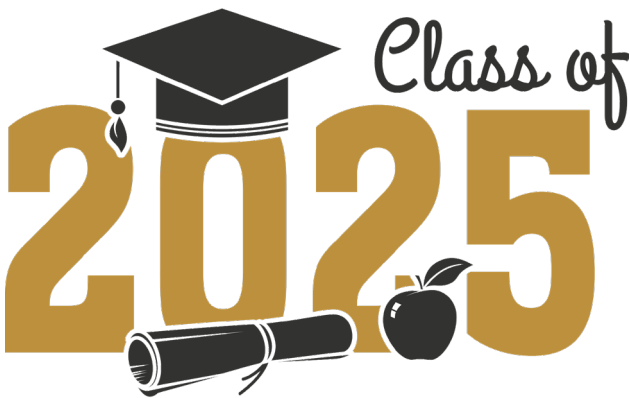
pire of the Sun.

Class officers are Aubrey Kesler, president; Brin Muir, vice president; Ava Dix, secretary; Ashlyn Hahn, treasurer; and Ella Snyder, student council. Their class colors are chrome and sparkly purple, and their class flower is a blue carnation. The graduates chose the motto: "We ain't here for a long time, we are here for a good time."—George Strait.

Escorts for the class of 2025 are Cameron Balthazor and Cheyenne Hoeting. The ushers are Josiah Hutton and Saj Snyder.

The 2025 graduates are Shyanne Grace Balthazor, Holden Chase Burton, Katlyn Nichole Couse, Deacon Alexander Creighton, Ava Elise Dix, Kagan Richard Dix, Jaxon Tyler Dunlap, Breanna Marie Fast, Lillie Nikole Ferguson, Ryleigh

SEE GRADUATION, 10A



ladies and gentlemen will then walk out of the auditorium for the last time as a class to "Walking on a Dream" by Em-

VanDyke and RCH staff "communicate" feelings to hospital board at Special Meeting

By BART HAMILTON
Stockton Sentinel

A special meeting of the Rooks County Health Center Board of Directors was held last Tuesday, April 29, at 6:00 p.m. at the Rooks County Health Center in Plainville.

All hospital board members, Chuck Comeau, Dr. Daniel Sanchez, Dr. Shelbe Darnell, Brad Plumer, and Charles Allphin, were present, as well as June Karlin, recording secretary, and other visitors, many of which included department heads for the hospital, and some other staff.

The Sentinel was notified of the special board meeting

in an email from June Karlin on Thursday, April 24. When reaching out to Karlin about the reason for the meeting, the only information she was given was that the board had asked the hospital's CEO, Jeff VanDyke, to be present.

The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Chuck Comeau. Comeau made a motion, seconded by Dr. Shelbe Darnell, to go into a 30-minute executive session. Following the executive session, two more 30-minute executive sessions were held. Before the third executive session, Chairman Comeau announced that the hospital's CEO, Jeff VanDyke, would be present and that this would

be the last executive session, which would last 30 minutes.

When the board returned from the last executive session, Chairman Comeau opened the meeting to public comments.

Carol VanDyke informed the board that she and her husband, Jeff, had a massive house fire on Friday, and she wanted to thank board member Brad Plumer for reaching out on Friday and offering the VanDykes a house to stay in. VanDyke stated he was the only board member who had contacted or bothered to contact them. Carol felt the silence speaks volumes and showed a lack of respect for her husband, Jeff, the hos-

pital's CEO, and an extreme lack of integrity.

She stated most of the board knows she's not one to be "politically correct." But basically, "You have no balls," said Carol. "We have lived in the community so many years and have known you for so many years, and none of you could reach out to say one damn word, and you couldn't take the time to send one text. What does that show these people here," she continued.

She said the board says there's toxicity in the hospital, and it's not these people at the meeting. "It's the board

SEE SPECIAL MEETING, 6A

1872 opening this Saturday, May 10th

The wait is finally over! The community has eagerly anticipated this announcement, and now the doors to 1872, located at 323 North Main Street in Stockton, will open at 11:00 a.m. this Saturday, May 10th!

This rustic Italian restaurant has been operating its Red Door Carry Out for the past few months, offering a variety

of pizzas, sandwiches, and drinks. Now, customers can come in, sit down, and enjoy the restaurant's timeless charm and warm hospitality. The menu features appetiz-

ers, entrees, sandwiches, pizzas, and house-made sauces, including Marinara, Alfredo, Ranch, and Kansas Heat, with Italian cuisine as weekly specials.

Guests can choose to dine in or carry out. To place an order, please call 785-415-2272. You can select from a wide variety of specialty piz-

SEE 1872, 5A



JAY CASEY AND ANNA MUIR were voted in as new members of the Rooks County Health Center Board of Directors during the Board Elections held Friday, May 2, from 1-6 p.m.

Muir & Casey win seats on RCH Hospital Board

The Rooks County Health Center Board elections were held on Friday, May 2nd before the annual meeting at the hospital. The five candidates running for the two open seats were Matthew Benoit, Jay Casey, Chuck Comeau, Randall Hrabec, and Anna Muir.

The two new board members are Anna Muir and Jay Casey, who began serving their terms at the annual meeting.

RCH's Annual Board Meeting news coverage will appear in next week's Sentinel.

Stockton Methodist Church invites families to Yee-Haw!

A summer family event called Yee-Haw will be hosted at the Stockton Methodist Church of Restoration from Monday, May 19th through Thursday, May 22nd, 2025.

Kids will kick up their heels at Yee-Haw Vacation Bible School as they stampe through the wild frontier and celebrate the most incredible truth of all—God is Good! They will round up a whole herd of friends and discover that Jesus is God's Greatest Gift. Each day concludes at Closing Corral—a time of

SEE YEE-HAW!, 2A

The Stock Town Foundation working on reaching its goal for Red Fest

The Stock Town Foundation is excited to announce the return of Red Fest this summer, but they need the community's support to make it happen.

Their goal is to raise \$15,000.00, which requires both funding and people power to bring everything together. The Stock Town Foundation Board is reaching out for financial contributions, reminding everyone that every donation—big or small—

SEE RED FEST, 10A