

POLICE

ARRESTS

■ Jonathan Minh Son Tran, 35, of Manhattan, for driving under the influence with a blood/breath of .08 or greater. Released on a \$750 bond.

■ Gerald Dwight Baker Jr, 22, of Manhattan, for failure to appear. Released on a \$100 bond.

■ Charla Sue Albright, 44, of Manhattan, for three counts of failure to appear, probation violation.

Released on a \$13,000 bond.

■ William Leonard Henson Jr, 53, of Manhattan, for domestic battery, assault, criminal damage to property valued less than \$1,000. Held on a \$11,000 bond.

CITATIONS

■ Talique Houston, 20, of Manhattan, for possession or consumption of alcohol by a minor on Saturday, at 1:05 a.m.

Farmers may get summer break on diesel prices, says KSU economist

K-State Research and Extension

A year-over-year drop in oil prices is a sign that farmers may get a modest break in the price they will pay for diesel fuel this summer, says K-State agricultural economist Gregg Ibendahl.

“Last year about this time, oil prices were in the \$70 range, but have since declined and now are in the \$60 range,” Ibendahl said. “That’s a good sign that diesel prices may be more moderate this year, compared to last year.”

Ibendahl notes that diesel is one of farmers’ major expense categories, since it fuels tractors and combines and other farm equipment. Farmers often buy diesel fuel annually, and store it on-farm for use throughout the year.

“And certainly there

are times of the year that you can get a better price than at other times,” Ibendahl said.

This summer, he adds, is one of those times to save money on diesel fuel, indicated by the “softening” of oil prices.

“What we’ve seen the last two years is that the price premium for diesel kind of peaks in the winter time, and then it tends to go away or become very small closer to summertime,” Ibendahl said. “Once the summer midpoint has been reached, it starts to go back up again.

“So, that’s why I’m really seeing diesel prices probably declining between now and summertime.”

Ibendahl said a summer decline in the cost of diesel is not solely due to a lower price for oil. Refineries can affect the price of diesel based on

their emphasis to provide fuel for gas engines, versus the demand for diesel engines.

“One of the main factors is our refinery capacity in the United States; we are very constrained by our refinery capacity,” he said. “If would be wonderful if we could get a new refinery built in the U.S., or do some expansion. Refineries do have some capability of adjusting from gas to diesel to some degree, but what we generally see in our country is more of an emphasis on meeting the demand for gas.”

Ibendahl said the price premium for gas and diesel can vary widely, sometimes causing diesel prices to rise as much as a full dollar per gallon over gas prices.

Other times, the price difference is as low as five or ten cents per gallon.

For now, he says, there’s a good chance that farmers will see a good opportunity this summer to buy at a more affordable price.

“If you buy diesel for the fall harvest in October, when you’re using it, you’re probably going to pay a little higher price than if you buy it in the summertime,” he said. “Storage for diesel fuel, I think, pays for a lot of farmers because it does give you better options to buy when prices are lower.”

He adds: “I don’t think farmers are going to pay more for diesel fuel this summer than they did last year. That’s a positive for farmers and will definitely help their net farm income at the end of the year.”

Ibendahl’s full analysis of diesel fuel prices is available online and at <https://agmanager.info>.

OBITUARIES

Nancy R. Backman



05/27/1956 - 04/20/2025

Nancy R. Backman, 78, of Riley, Kansas, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on April 20, 2025. She was born on May 27, 1946, in Manhattan, Kansas. A proud graduate of Manhattan High School's Class of 1964, Nancy pursued her interest in finance by taking courses at Kansas State University, which lead to 33 years of employment as a Collections Specialist, there. Her loyalty reflected a lifelong commitment.

Faith was the cornerstone of Nancy's life. She led the prayer group through her church, Keats Lydia chapel and sang in the church choir. Nancy was an active volunteer at her local food basket, offering time and care to those in need. Her deep knowledge of the Bible inspired those around her. Nancy loved cooking, baking and sewing. She also had a passion for genealogy and spent countless hours tracing her family history with curiosity and devotion.

Nancy shared 57 devoted years of marriage with her husband, Cris Backman and is also remembered by their only child, son, Scott E. Backman. Nancy also leaves a sister, Lynn (Byrd) Holtman, brother Rodney Byrd, niece Carrie Lewis, grandchildren, Dallas Backman, Alexa (Backman) Hughey and 2 great grandchildren. Nancy was preceded in death by her parents, Raymond and Margaret "Peggy" Byrd, as well as three siblings.

A memorial fund has been established under Nancy's name and donations can be made through Irvin Parkview Funeral Home to assist her husband Cris and the family with her final expenses. A celebration of Nancy's life will be announced at a later date.

Nancy believed wholeheartedly that Jesus is our Savior and found peace in the assurance that she belonged in Heaven. Irvin Parkview Funeral Home is handling arrangements. Donations to the memorial fund can be made via website, phone or in person.

Extension expert offers tips to trim food waste at home

K-State Research and Extension

On average, between 30-40% of the food in the United States goes uneaten.

“That is food that is either discarded, or just gets thrown out and ends up in landfills or down the drain in the sewer system, or about 4% of it is composted,” said Sharolyn Jackson, a family and consumer sciences specialist.

Uneaten food is also wasted money. Jackson said that an average family of four spends about \$3,000 a year on uneaten food.

Jackson said consumers should plan their food purchases more closely in order to reduce food waste.

“Sometimes we see a sale at the store and we stock up, but then our plans for that food

change,” she said. “Or you have food sitting at home that never was part of a meal plan. Or our schedules are unpredictable at times. There are a lot of things that go into using our food.”

“But really,” she adds, “it starts with planning. You can start by shopping your pantry, refrigerator and freezer before you go to the store. We often hear the joke that we could probably eat for a couple of weeks without having to go to the store because we forget about the things we already have in storage.”

Knowing what foods are on hand forms the basis for a shopping list, Jackson said.

“Use the food items that have been in there the longest and then plan your meals around some of those items,” she said.

Vet Med ROCKS camps return to K-State

Staff reports

K-State’s College of Veterinary Medicine invites elementary, middle school, high school and college students to explore the world of veterinary medicine at the 2025 Vet Med ROCKS summer camps.

The series of day camps for youth will take place July 28-30 and are hosted by the Vet Med Recruitment and Outreach Club at K-State, or Vet Med ROCKS, a student organization in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Vet Med ROCKS is an immersive opportunity for students to experience veterinary medi-

cine in a fun, hands-on and educational environment with current Doctor of Veterinary Medicine students and veterinary faculty and staff. The camps offer interactive activities, expert-led workshops and career insights for participants interested in becoming veterinarians.

“Vet Med ROCKS is an exciting opportunity for kids to dive into the world of veterinary medicine,” said Maeve McDonald, second-year veterinary student and summer camp chair for Vet Med ROCKS. “This year, we’re putting an emphasis on fun, hands-on labs and real-world learning experiences.

I’m excited for participants to learn practical veterinary medicine skills and spark their curiosity to inspire the next generation of animal health professionals!”

Callie Rost, assistant dean for admissions in the College of Veterinary Medicine, said last year’s in-person camps hosted 56 elementary students, 101 middle school students, and 99 high school and college students.

“We are looking forward to the eighth consecutive Vet Med ROCKS Camp,” Rost said. “This unique program is designed to expose young, passionate students to

the world of veterinary medicine and surgery.

Through hands-on experiences at the K-State College of Veterinary Medicine, participants explore real-life procedures and gain valuable insight into the field, fueling their interest in animal healthcare and encouraging the next generation of veterinary professionals.”

High school students entering grades nine through 12 will attend on July 28, middle school students entering sixth through eighth grades will attend on July 29, and elementary school students entering third through fifth grades will attend on July 30.

Black Hills Energy asks to raise natural gas rates in Kansas by 17.6%

Kansas Reflector

TOPEKA — A public hearing April 22 in Wichita will give Black Hills Energy customers an opportunity to com-

ment on a proposal that would raise residential bills by about 17.6%.

For a customer with average usage, that equates to an additional \$11 per month to take ef-

fect in the second half of 2025, according to a Kansas Corporation Commission press release. Black Hills provides natural gas service to approximately 120,000 Kansas customers, primarily in the southern half of the state.

The company filed a request with KCC to increase rates in early February. Its last rate review was in 2021 and its most recent new revenue request was in 2014. In testimony, company officials said Black Hills has experienced declining residential usage per customer. In addition, increased insurance costs and investments in infrastructure are affecting revenue.

“Presently effective rates do not produce sufficient revenues to cover the reasonable cost of Applicant’s continued ability to render reasonably sufficient and efficient service,” the company said in testimony.

The public hearing begins at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Lowe Auditorium, Hughes Metropolitan Complex, 5015 E. 29th St. North, in Wichita. The hearing also will be broadcast on YouTube.

Written comments may be submitted to KCC through 5 p.m. June 20, via KCC’s website, by mail to the commission’s office at 1500 S.W. Arrowhead Road, Topeka, KS 66604-4027, or by calling (785) 271-3140 or (800) 662-0027.

WEATHER

Local forecast

A 20 percent chance of showers after 1pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 69. Northeast wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Tuesday night, a chance of showers before 10pm, then a chance of showers and storms between 10pm and 1am, then showers.

Weather history

High temp 71°
Record high 94° (1910)
Low temp 55°
Record low 27° (1965)
Precipitation Trace"
Month to date 2.92"
Year to date 5.84"

Tuttle Creek

Elevation 1,080.30 ft
Outflow 500 cfs
Water temp 63°F

Sundown/Sunup

Tonight 8:17 p.m.
Tomorrow 6:28 a.m.

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