

CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN

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DAYLIGHT DONUTS

601 N. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Independence, KS  
620-331-1460

MERRY CHRISTMAS

12 Days  
Until Christmas

## A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST



The ghostly remnants of its past identity, the former home of the Southern Kansas Insurance Agency is looking at a new lease on life as workers painstakingly remove the false front at 124 East Main Street. The building, which has sat vacant for a while, will be the new home of the Independence Senior Social Activity Center. The center, which will be geared toward the senior population 55 and over in Independence, will house meetings, gatherings, activities and more. **Brea Sanford | Staff Photo**



**AREA CITY ADMIN/MANAGEMENT LEARN TOGETHER AT CONFERENCE-** Earlier this week, area City Administrators and City Management came together at the Kansas Association of City/County Management (KACM)'s annual conference held in Emporia. There, they focused heavily on learning, collaborating and strengthening their commitment to serving their communities. Pictured here are Michael Hall, Cherryvale City Administrator; Kelly Passauer, Independence City Manager; Ben Brubaker, Coffeyville City Manager and Andrea Sibley, Caney City Administrator. Passauer shared that she was named Secretary of KACM during Thursday evening's Independence City Commission meeting. **Courtesy Photo**

### KANSAS HISTORY CORNER

#### FAMOUS KANSAN SPOTLIGHT: WALTER CHRYSLER

BY BREA SANFORD  
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Walter Percy Chrysler was born April 2, 1875 in the small Northeast Kansas town of Wamego. He grew up in Ellis, a few hours away in Central Kansas. His father, Henry Chrysler, was born in Canada and had immigrated to the United States sometime after 1858. Henry was a United States Civil War veteran and an engineer for the Kansas Pacific Railway and Union Pacific Railroad. His mother, Anna Maria, had been born in Missouri.

Walter began his mechanist career by apprenticing at the railroad shops that were dotted around Ellis. He became a traveling machinist for the railroad, going from station to station as a roundhouse mechanic. He had a heavy dose of wanderlust in his blood and eventually moved to Wellington (in south-central Kansas) in 1887, then onto Denver for just two weeks and then onto Cheyenne. His nomadic lifestyle did not make much sense to many, but he felt it was a way to know as much as possible about the railroad and its inner workings. Chrysler climbed his way through the ranks quickly and by the end of his railroad career, found himself the works manager of the Allegheny shops of the American Locomotive Company in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

In 1911, Chrysler's life changed forever. He ended up meeting with James Storrow, director of the American Locomotive Company. Storrow asked Chrysler if had given any thought to the newest mechanized moving contraption- the automobile. Mainly, automobile manufacturing. Chrysler, who loved automobiles, was very interested in the concept. Storrow arranged

♦ See **KANSAS** page 15

## Commission sets condemnation hearing for Girl Scout Little House

BY BREA SANFORD  
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The Independence City Commission met for their regular meeting Thursday December 11. After Mayor Scott Smith lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance, the agenda for the evening was adopted. Before accepting the evening's Consent Agenda, the following appointments were accepted:

- The reappointment of Butch Holum to his first full term on the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals to expire January 1, 2029.
- The reappointment of Rachel Lyon to her second

full term on the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals to expire January 1, 2029.

- The reappointment of Breanne Sanford to her second term on the Independence Historic Preservation and Resource Commission to expire January 1, 2029.
- The reappointment of Jason Rutledge to his second term on the Independence Historic Preservation and Resource Commission expiring January 1, 2029.

Mayor Smith also noted that Tim White, a former Independence Historic Preservation and Resource Commission member resigned from his first term due to being elected to the Board

of City Commissioners. His position is now currently open and applications are being accepted to fill it. Applications can be found on the City's website (independencesks.gov).

#### PUBLIC HEARINGS

David Schwenker, Independence City Clerk, spoke on behalf of the first item up for public hearing, amending the 2025 budget as presented. Schwenker explained that after crunching numbers, City Staff is asking to amend:

- Economic Development and Transportation Fund due to additional incentive

♦ See **CITY COMMISSION** page 2

## CCC partners with PSU to launch new online degree pathways

#### STAFF REPORT

Coffeyville Community College (CCC) has recently announced its partnership with Pittsburg State University (PSU) on the newly launched Bachelor of Applied Science in Technology Management (BAS-TM). This collaboration provides CCC graduates with a seamless pathway from an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) or other technical associate degree into an online bachelor's program designed specifically for working professionals.

The BAS-TM program, offered entirely online through Pittsburg State University, builds on the hands-on technical training students receive at CCC and other Kansas community colleges. Students can complete the 60-hour program in as little as two years while working full-time, making it an accessible next step for those looking to advance into leadership, supervisory and management roles within technical industries.

The program is designed for individuals who have gained technical skills through community college education, apprenticeships, certifications, or on-the-job training.

By recognizing prior learning and technical expertise, PSU offers a clear, efficient route to a bachelor's degree that supports career mobility for Kansas workers.

CCC joins several Kansas institutions partnering with Pittsburg State University on this initiative, including:

- Butler Community College
- WSU Tech
- Salina Tech
- Allen Community College
- Highland Community College
- Hutchinson Community College
- Labette Community College
- Pratt Community College

The BAS-TM curriculum bridges the gap between technical knowledge and organizational leadership. Students will complete advanced coursework in areas such as management theory, organizational behavior, leadership and production operations. Graduates will be prepared for roles including project manager, operations manager, production supervisor, or technical director, as well as for further graduate study in technology management or

♦ See **CCC** page 15




#### Bulldogs basketball squads pick up pair of wins at home over Circle


♦ See page 11



#### Justice Department drafting a list of 'domestic terrorists'

♦ See page 13

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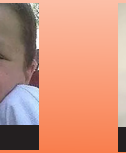
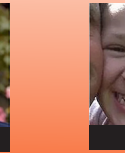
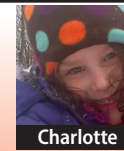
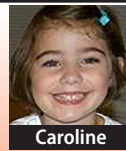
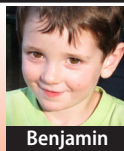
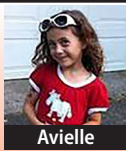
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"In retrospect Sandy Hook marked the end of the gun control debate. Once Americans decided killing children was bearable it was over." - Dan Hodges