



Feature Story: What's in a name?...page 8

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# THE JACKSONIAN

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Your source for news in Gray County

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## City of Cimarron prepares to meet important needs

By Fritz Springmeier  
*The Jacksonian*

Cimarron needs to make some significant improvements, and its city government has begun to take action to address

upcoming needs. This is the first article about this, and hopefully will be followed by more information. This information concerns all Cimarron residents. The mayor Gilbert Benton and the fire chief Alex Hibbert provided information for the article.

The primary impetus (reason/force for the change) is the

ISO fire rating that is periodically given to a community in regards to its fire protection. In 2014 and 2024, Cimarron was inspected and assigned an ISO fire rating. Cimarron is scheduled to be inspected in 2028. Last inspection, Cimarron received a 5 on a scale of 10 to 1 with 10 being terrible and one being great. Less than 1% of communities have a #1 ISO rating. Garden City has a #2, which is excellent. Holcomb has a #4 ISO rating, which is better than Cimarron. Cimarron's officials expressed the desire to also be a #4.

Insurance premiums are based on a location's ISO fire rating. A community can either pay upfront for upgrades to their fire protection, or simply pay higher insurance premiums. By paying for upgrades upfront a community saves money, encourages people to move to their city, and makes life safer in their city.

While 2028 may seem far off, it isn't when one considers the upgrades that are being considered. Foremost is the construction of a shed for an additional fire truck. Our city mayor Gilbert Benton emphasized that "shed" is a more



(Courtesy photo)

Cimarron's single fire truck in front of the Gray Co. EMS building in Cimarron. Cimarron coordinates with Ingalls Fire Department and the rest of Gray Co. to provide good fire protection for both Cimarron and all of the county.

proper word than fire "station", because firemen are not going to be stationed there. In an early Monday morning city council meeting on March 30 the city decided to hire an architect out of Dodge City to assist the planning for a fire truck shed.

The location will be immediately south of the Shepherd's Center where campers and trailers are currently located. One criteria of the ISO inspection is the distance fire

**See ISO, page two**

## NEWS ABOUT TOWN

### Please Respect Our Deadline

In order to get the news & advertising in *The Jacksonian* on time, our deadline is 3:00 p.m. on Monday prior to publication. You may send news and advertising to jacksoniannews@outlook.com, call it in to 855-3902, or bring it by the office at 101 N. Main in Cimarron. Items brought in after the deadline will be added as time & space allow but may be held

## The Jacksonian Prints First Ever Color Issue with New in House Press

By Faith BroKar  
*The Jacksonian*

*The Jacksonian* reached a historic milestone this week as the newspaper was printed in house for the first time, marking not only a change in production but the first time in its 142 years that

the paper has been produced in color.

With the recent arrival and installation of a new digital press, this week's edition becomes the first issue printed entirely in house and the first to feature color throughout the newspaper. For the first time, photos, advertisements, and

page elements can now appear in color, bringing a new visual experience to readers.

The transition comes after continued increases in printing costs in recent years, including another rise this year, which led to the decision to bring production in house.

Printing locally allows *The Jacksonian* to maintain greater control over the printing process while improving efficiency and long-term sustainability.

Readers will notice several other changes in this week's edition. The newspaper is now printed on a different type of paper



(Photo by Angela Springmeier)

Bailing milo stalks this last week north of Cimarron.

rather than traditional newsprint, creating a brighter appearance with sharper contrast and improved readability. The overall size of the paper has also been adjusted as part of the new format.

While the addition of color represents a major step forward, *The Jacksonian*

remains committed to delivering the same reliable local news coverage each week.

The arrival of the new press and the introduction of color mark a significant investment in the future of the newspaper and its continued service to Gray County.

## Inside

CHS school pgs.....	4-5
IHS school pgs.....	6-7
Feature.....	8
Obituaries.....	9
Classifieds.....	10
Legals.....	10