

Where Rooks County Comes Together

SENTINEL-TIMES

Stockton Sentinel, LLC dba Sentinel-Times

ROOKS COUNTY, KANSAS

COMING TO YOU FROM THE HEARTLAND OF AMERICA

16 PAGES

Newsline

25 Years  
9.11.11  
We Remember



WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY

Mostly sunny with winds from the SSW at 13 m.p.h.



HIGH: 96  
LOW: 64

SATURDAY

Sunny with winds from the E at 14 m.p.h.



HIGH: 89  
LOW: 66

SUNDAY

T-storms possible with winds from the SSE at 15 m.p.h.

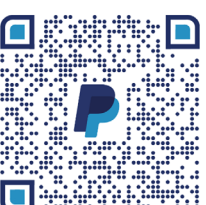


HIGH: 93  
LOW: 68

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SCRIPTURE  
OF THE WEEK

God, who has called you to share everything with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.  
— 1 Corinthians 1:9 —



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A Sign of Progress at The Yard



TOP PHOTO: COLE YOUNGER (left), with Tom's Machine & Welding Services of Plainville, and Adam Comeau (right), with Downtown Plainville, Inc., prepare to lift the final beam that will hold The Yard sign in downtown Plainville on Thursday, September 3. In the bottom photo, Cole welds "Yard" to the top beam. Each beam used for the project was salvaged from the historic Plainville water tower, which was dismantled earlier this year.  
(Photos Courtesy of Ashley Comeau)

'The Eagle's Tear':  
Kansas Musician's  
9/11 Poem Resonates  
25 Years Later

On a somber September morning 25 years ago, while the world watched smoke rise from the ruins of the Twin Towers, a Kansas musician sat at his desk, gripped by emotion. By dawn, Larry Henderson would transform his heartbreak into a poem—"The Eagle's Tear"—that would echo far beyond his small town, offering comfort and hope to a grieving nation.

Larry Henderson was born and raised in Smith Center. As a child, music was a big part of his life, as he played at square dances with his father. After high school, Larry moved to Salina, where he attended school and performed with local bands.

In the late 1960s, Larry moved

SEE 9/11, 7A

Plainville City  
Council holds  
Public Hearings

By VIRGI LASKA  
*Sentinel-Times*

The Plainville City Council began its regular monthly meeting on September 1st by approving the Consent Agenda, which included the August 18th minutes and bills paid totaling \$63,560.27.

The next item on the agenda was the RNR Public Hearing. As there were no comments, the Hearing was closed, and the motion to approve the resolution was approved by individual roll call, as per statute.

Next, the Council held the 2027 Budget Hearing. No comments were offered, so the Hearing was closed, and the Council approved the 2027 budget as presented.

The regular meeting then started with Tom Carpenter, with Mapes and Miller reviewing the City audit. He answered questions from the Council before they approved the audit as presented so the paperwork can now be filed.

The Council then held a Hearing regarding a nuisance violation. City ordinance officer Mardi Guitierrez first reported on the

SEE CITY—P, 9A

City approves  
E-Bike ordinance  
and adopts  
2027 Budget

By VIRGI LASKA  
*Sentinel-Times*

The Stockton City Commission meeting on Tuesday, September 1st, began with a Public Hearing on exceeding the RNR (Revenue Neutral Rate) for the 2027 budget year. City clerk Kayla Hilbrink said she had worked to lower the rate from what was published in the newspaper. It went down from 61 to 58.953. The City is exceeding the RNR to cover fuel, liability insurance, and maintenance costs in the 2027 year.

Next, the City held the Public Hearing for the 2027 budget, and during comments Jim Rogers said it was hard for people on fixed incomes to pay increasing taxes on paid-off houses. He feels the state is trying to move senior citizens

SEE CITY—S, 8A

NEW HIRES AT STOCKTON!

Aydan Dill is Stockton  
Grade School's  
fourth-grade teacher

By VIRGI LASKA  
*Sentinel-Times*

This school year, Stockton Grade School welcomes a new face: Aydan Dill, who is eager to embark on her teaching career with the fourth-grade class.

Dill grew up in Portis, Kansas, and graduated from Osborne Junior/Senior High School in 2023. She went on to earn her Elementary Education degree from Fort Hays State University in May 2026.

A lifelong love of learning inspired Dill to pursue a career in education.

"I decided to become a

SEE DILL, 7A

Melissa Ard Begins  
Her First Year as  
Second-grade teacher

By VIRGI LASKA  
*Sentinel-Times*

Melissa Ard, who grew up in several Kansas communities and recently completed her education, is beginning an exciting new chapter as a second-grade teacher this school year at Stockton.

Ard spent her early years in Topeka before relocating to Plainville during kindergarten. She later moved to Stockton in sixth grade, ultimately graduating from Stockton High School in 2023.

After high school, Ard continued her educational

SEE ARD, 7A