

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

Homecoming Traditions Grow: Sentinel-Times Invites Community Support to Expand Student Recognition Across County

As Homecoming season approaches, the Sentinel-Times looks forward to celebrating students at three of the schools we now cover — Stockton, Plainville, and Palco. Natoma does not celebrate a fall Homecoming.

With our expanded coverage area comes something we are learning along the way: not everything can be done the same at every school, at least not all at once.

For more than half a century, a Stockton Homecoming tradition has been recognizing fall student-athletes individually in the newspaper. Each student is pictured individually, along with his or her sport, class, parents, and the name of a business or individual who has sponsored that student's recognition.

It is a tradition that generations of Stockton families have enjoyed, and one we did not feel right discontinuing.

At the same time, we want to make one thing very clear: we would like to do the same thing for Plainville and Palco.

However, these individual student features are only possible with sponsorship support from area businesses, organizations, and individuals. With the number of student-athletes in-

SEE HOMECOMING, 8A

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY

Partly cloudy with winds from the S at 10-20 m.p.h.

HIGH: 93
LOW: 67

SATURDAY

Partly cloudy with winds from the NNE at 5-10 m.p.h.

HIGH: 84
LOW: 63

SUNDAY

Showers with winds from the NNE at 5 m.p.h.

HIGH: 80
LOW: 59

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SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his great power.

— Ephesians 6:10 —





PALCO HOMECOMING CANDIDATES



PALCO HIGH SCHOOL will celebrate Homecoming this Friday, with six students selected as the 2026 Homecoming candidates. Pictured are, front row, from left: Brooke Hamel, Sophia Simoneau and Lorene Saindon; and back row, from left: Clay Mitzner, Jay Frakes and Rhett Post. (Photo Courtesy of Sarah Couse)

Palco Roosters Ready to Celebrate Homecoming Friday

Black and gold will be on full display this Friday as Palco High School celebrates Homecoming with an afternoon and evening filled with activities, school spirit and Rooster football.

Homecoming festivities on Friday, September 18, will get underway with the parade at 3 p.m. A pep rally and FFA Labor Auction will immediately follow.

The celebration will continue with a tailgate beginning at 5:15 p.m., followed

SEE PALCO, 16A

Palco's Ag Engineering & Technology Class Ready to "Take Off" with New Drone Program

Palco High School Receives \$80,210 USDA Grant for Technology, Equipment, & Classroom Renovations

By VIRGI LASKA
Sentinel-Times

The Palco Ag Engineering and Technology class is ready to "take off" with an exciting new program designed to introduce students to the growing world of drone technology.

The program received a major boost with an \$80,210.00 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The funding will help renovate the

classroom, update desks and other classroom equipment, and purchase flight simulators, drones and other equipment needed to develop the program.

The idea began last year while the students were attending a field demonstration that was being sponsored by PAC Leader Technology located in Morland, Ks. where a drone was being used. Later in the school year, Rooks County Emergency Management

Director Adam Bryant visited area schools to demonstrate how drones can be used to assist communities in a variety of ways. These programs helped open the doors to a new educational opportunity for students.

Following the demonstrations, Greg Hamel, director of the Ag Center in Palco, contacted Donna Hudson-Hamilton for assistance in writing a grant application to

SEE PALCO AG, 16A

Heart of a Tiger: How Corbyn Marquess Turned Golf Into Hope for Sick Kids

Corbyn Marquess loves three things with her whole heart: helping people, her hometown of Plainville, and golf. Over the past two summers, she has found a way to bring all three together. The results have been nothing short of amazing.

Corbyn is a senior at Fort Hays State University, where she is studying to become a speech-language pathologist. Speech-language pathologists help people with challenges involving speaking, swallowing, and communication. Last spring, Corbyn received exciting news: she was accepted into

FHSU's fast-track master's program, allowing her to begin work toward her graduate degree sooner. It is a major step toward her dream career.

Golf has been part of Corbyn's life since she was 10 years old. She began playing competitively at age 12 and spent three years on her high school golf team. She competed in tournaments throughout Kansas and on tours outside the state before continuing her golf career at Fort Hays State for a time.

But before Corbyn became a college student,

fundraiser organizer, and future SLP, she learned firsthand what it means to face a frightening health challenge.

During her junior year of high school, Corbyn woke up one morning before a golf tournament with a large lump in her throat and pain on one side of her face. Her family went to the doctor, and she was sent directly to Children's Mercy in Kansas City for testing. A biopsy revealed that the lump was malignant.

Corbyn was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. She un-

SEE CORBYN, 16A

Local Arrest in Plainville Leads to Major Criminal Case Involving Minors

A recent arrest in Plainville has drawn attention, as a local man now faces a series of serious charges following an investigation by the Plainville Police Department. Devon Michael Freeman, 30, was taken into custody on Friday, September 11, 2026, and is being held at the Rooks County Jail without bond.

Freeman has been charged in Rooks County District Court with ten criminal counts involving two minors, ages 14 to 16. The charges include rape, criminal sodomy, indecent liberties with a child, aggravated indecent liberties, and furnishing alcohol to a minor for illicit purposes.

According to court documents,



Freeman

SEE CHARGES, 12A

Stockton City-Wide Cleanup set for September 21-25

Stockton's city-wide cleanup (city limits only) will be held next week from Monday, September 21st through Friday, September 25th. Regular trash routes will be picked up as normally scheduled with additional city trucks following to pick up furniture, tree branches, appliances (Freon must be drained from refrigerators), yard waste, and tires (limit 5, anything over the five-tire limit will be charged landfill prices).

Items the City CANNOT pick up are household hazardous waste (paint, insecticides, herbicides, etc), batteries, oil and oil containers, fuel and fuel containers, liquid waste and computers.

Please have all your waste in a pile at your pickup location by 7:00 a.m. on the morning of your scheduled trash day. If you need a construction dumpster, please reach out to the City Office. It is easier to pick up out of a dumpster than on the ground.

(Look for the ad in this week's edition on Page 8A.)

Osborne Woman Faces Felony Burglary and Theft Charges in Rooks County

Two felony charges have been filed in Rooks County District Court against an Osborne woman, following her arrest by the Rooks County Sheriff's Office on Wednesday, September 2.

Dianna M. Johnston, 49, of Osborne, is being held in the Rooks County Jail on a \$10,000 bond after formal charges were filed based on a probable cause/arrest report.

According to court documents, Johnston allegedly entered a 2007 Ford Econoline motorhome owned by Thomas and April Yakish at 711 Main Street in Woodston, and took unauthorized control of the vehicle, valued at over \$1,500 but less than \$25,000.

SEE OSBORNE, 12A