

CORBYN, FROM 1A

derwent surgery on her neck a few months later, followed by radioactive iodine ablation treatment in April of the next year. During a time when most teenagers are focused on homework, sports, and football games, Corbyn spent significant time navigating appointments, treatment, and recovery.

Throughout that difficult experience, Corbyn became well-acquainted with the doctors, nurses, and staff at Children's Mercy. They did not simply treat her illness; they cared for her as a whole person—body, mind, and spirit. Their compassion made an incredibly hard time feel a little less frightening and a lot more hopeful.

Even before her cancer journey, Corbyn had a giving spirit. She remembers proudly raising money for St. Jude as a child by setting up a hot-chocolate stand in the cold. That experience showed her the power of a supportive community and the difference that even a small act of generosity can make.

Corbyn grew up in Plainville, where her parents, Justin and Andee Prater, and the community around her taught her the value of helping others. She never forgot the kindness she received at Children's Mercy and promised herself that one day she would find a way to give back to the hospital that had helped her so much.

That promise became the Fore the Kids Classic, a golf tournament fundraiser for Children's Mercy. Every dollar raised would go directly toward helping sick children and their families, just as the hospital had once helped Corbyn and her family.

Choosing golf as the centerpiece of the fundraiser came naturally. Corbyn grew up attending golf tournaments in Rooks County and saw how much community support they received—and how much fun they brought to everyone involved. She believed a golf tournament would be one of the best ways to bring people together and raise as much as possible for Children's Mercy.

Last year was the tournament's first year, and it was already a suc-

cess, raising just under \$13,000.00. This summer, Corbyn decided to go even bigger, setting a goal of \$15,000.00. That is a lot of money for one person to raise, especially a busy college student. But Corbyn had a plan, a big heart, and a community ready to stand behind her.

She spent months preparing. She talked with local businesses about donating prizes, asked friends and family to spread the word, organized golf teams, planned a raffle, set up an apparel store selling tournament shirts, and made sure everything at the course would run smoothly on tournament day.

She also had plenty of help along the way. Her parents and family played a major role in organizing both years of the event, taking tasks off her growing to-do list and spending countless hours at the course setting up and helping throughout the day. Volunteers from Corbyn's sorority, Delta Zeta, and the Student Government Association also came out to help make the tournament possible.

"I could not do any

of this without their unwavering support and help," Corbyn said. "They are my rocks, and I can't thank any of them enough."

Plainville may be a small town, but it has a big heart. People who had never even met Corbyn wanted to help once they heard her story.

Her journey took an especially challenging turn just three days before this year's tournament, when she learned of the suspected recurrence of her cancer. Rather than taking away from her determination, the news made her feel "even deeper and stronger" about her mission.

Then came tournament day, Saturday July 18th, at the Rooks County Golf Course.

Golfers from across the area showed up ready to swing their clubs for a good cause. But the day was about much more than golf. As players moved from hole to hole, many shared their own stories about Children's Mercy and the times the hospital had helped someone they loved. Corbyn said hearing those stories and feeling the community's support was

among the most touching parts of the event.

When the tournament ended, Corbyn could hardly believe the total. Her goal had been \$15,000.00. Instead, the tournament raised nearly \$24,000.00!

In just two years, the Fore the Kids Classic has raised almost \$37,000.00 for Children's Mercy—enough to make a meaningful difference for children and families facing difficult times.

Corbyn says she is beyond excited to hand that money over to the hospital. She knows firsthand what that money can do. It is not just numbers on a check. It is comfort for a scared child. It is support for a worried family. It is hope, delivered by nurses and doctors who care.

What makes Corbyn's story so special is not only the amount of money she raised, but the reason behind it. She turned one of the scariest experiences of her life into something that helps other people. Instead of only asking, "Why did this happen to me?" she asked, "How can I help someone else?"

Now, as she studies to become a speech-lan-

guage pathologist, Corbyn is preparing for a career built on that same idea: helping people communicate, connect, and feel supported during difficult moments in their lives.

Corbyn's dream is clear. After she finishes her master's degree, she hopes to work at Children's Mercy alongside the people who made such a difference in her own life.

"I want to help those kids, day in and day out," she said. "Those kids did not choose this. They are fighting unimaginable battles. It's my passion, my mission in life to be the person who can help."

Fort Hays State is proud of Corbyn. And somewhere in Kansas City, the doctors and nurses at Children's Mercy are likely smiling, knowing that the kindness they once gave a scared teenage girl has come back around—stronger than ever—to help so many more children in need.

(This article is taken, in part with permission, from the August 27th Fort Hays State University Campus Life Opinion, Tisa Mason, President.)



THE PALCO AG ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY CLASS received a major boost with a \$80,210.00 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help renovate the classroom, update desks and purchase flight simulators, drones and other equipment. On Friday, September 4th, Gimmie Jo Jansonious, USDA Rural Development Director for Kansas presented the grant check to the school. (Photo Courtesy of Northwest Kansas Agricultural Education Center Foundation)

PALCO AG, FROM 1A

the USDA. The goal was to establish a drone program while also making improvement to the classroom that would be used to teach the course. Palco was later notified that its application had been approved. A check was presentation was held on Friday, September 4th, with Gimmie Jo Jansonious, USDA Rural Development Director for Kansas presenting the grant.

The funding will support the classroom renovation, with the remaining money dedicated to flight simulators, thermal imaging drones, and various other types of drones, parts and equipment. The

program is designed to keep students on the cutting edge of agricultural technology while teaching them practical skills they can use in their own communities.

Drones are becoming increasingly useful in agriculture. Students will learn how the technology can be used to spray crops, monitor fields and assist farmers with a variety of tasks, all while learning the rules and regulations as they have the opportunity to acquire their Part 107 license which is one of the first steps in becoming a certified drone pilot. Ethan Hamel helped kick off the school year with a demonstration using a crop drone and discussed with students the importance of drone safety and

what it takes to be a commercial drone pilot.

The program is part of Palco's broader effort, in partnership with K-State through its Ag Center, to expose students to technology, agriculture and potential business opportunities in rural communities.

Drone technology is just one part of the program. Palco students are also working with 3-D printers and robotics, with plans to expand their hands-on experiences that lead into the engineering and design of drones.

The program emphasizes an important message for students: successful businesses and careers don't always require leaving our small towns.

By learning skills that are in demand and exploring opportunities available through modern technology, students can potentially create businesses and careers right in their own communities. Hamel said the school plans to continue developing the program over the next several years. "We will expand on the program for the next several years, keeping on the front edge of technology and showing the students what is available."

With new equipment, upgraded facilities and an emphasis on hands-on learning, Palco's Ag Engineering and Technology class is positioning its students for a future where agriculture, engineering, and technology increasingly intersect.

PALCO, FROM 5A

by the crowning of the 2026 Homecoming royalty at 6:45 p.m.

This year's Homecoming candidates are Brooke Hamel, Sophia Simoneau, Lorene Saindon, Clay Mitzner, Jay Frakes and Rhett Post.

Following the crowning ceremony, the Palco Roosters will take the field to host Chase in their Homecoming football game. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Students have been getting into the Homecoming spirit throughout the week with special dress-up days planned at both Palco High School and Damar Elementary.

At Palco High School, Tuesday was Class Colors Day, with seniors

wearing gold, juniors wearing blue, sophomores wearing purple and freshmen wearing pink. Wednesday will be Anything but a Backpack Day, followed by Soccer Moms vs. BBQ Dads on Thursday. Students will finish the week decked out in their school colors for Black and Gold Day on Friday.

Damar Elementary students will also join in the fun with Crazy Hair, Don't Care Day on Tuesday, Wacky Wednesday, Black & Gold Day on Thursday and Red, White and Blue Day on Friday.

With a full slate of activities leading up to Friday night's football game, students, families, alumni and Rooster fans will have plenty of opportunities to show their school spirit and celebrate Homecoming.

Go, Roosters!

August 10th Woodston City Budget Hearing and regular meeting minutes

The Council of the City of Woodston met in the Council Chamber at the City Hall on August 10th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Kenny Lay called the 2027 Budget Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. Coun-

cil members present were Thomas Yakish, Bill Dibble, Larry Morgan, Kate Terry, and Charles O'Neill. Clerk Shari Reichard was also present. Lorie Morgan was present as a guest.

The Council looked over the 2027 Budget. Kate Terry motioned to approve the 2027 Budget as presented. Larry Morgan seconded the motion. All approved.

Bill Dibble motioned to adjourn the 2027 Budget Hearing. Charles O'Neill seconded the motion. All approved.

The regular meeting was then called to order by mayor Kenny Lay at 7:10 p.m.

Under Old Business, the Council discussed properties that need mowed as well as yards that need junk and trash removed.

The Council discussed a suggestion given from a local resident in town. They suggested that the City move the tree dump. The city council and mayor discussed the suggestion and decided that the tree dump will remain where it is currently located.

Bill Dibble discussed selling the abandoned railroad property that the City now owns to Coop. Coop is still interested in purchasing the property south of the Coop Elevator. The register of deeds told Dibble that the property should be the property before selling it. He stated that the surveying will be done at Coop's expense.

During New Business, Bill Dibble stated that the Sheriff's Auction is September 3rd at 11:00 a.m. at the courthouse. He stated

that if you want to bid on a property, you will need to register at the courthouse.

Corina Cox with Wilson & Co. spoke to the Council via speaker phone about possible options for applying for grants needed for the water tower repairs, etc. She stated that the City needs to have a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) done before they can even apply for water construction grants. Cox stated that the PER will cost \$7,500.00 and by applying for the Dane Hansen Grant that the City could possibly get half the cost of the PER funded if approved for this grant. Bill Dibble motioned to have Corina Cox assist in applying for a Dane Hansen Grant. Larry Morgan seconded the motion. All approved.



Stockton's Remy Muir at Natoma

Andrew Saaranen was absent, so no Water/Sewer Report was given.

Richard Brockman was absent. No Maintenance Report was given.

Shari Reichard gave the Clerk's Report. Kate Terry motioned to approve the invoices as presented. Larry Morgan seconded the motion. All approved.

Kate Terry then

motioned to approve the July 13th minutes, Larry Morgan seconded the motion. All approved.

Bill Dibble stated it had been quiet during the monthly Fire Department Report.

Kate Terry motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Larry Morgan seconded the motion. All approved.

COUNTY, FROM 14A

five Kansas counties that still have them. She is getting information about severed minerals to review. Murchie said she would also like to hold tax sales every three years.

After approving the 2027 holiday schedule, which is the same as last year's schedule, the commissioners adjourned the meeting.