

Kansas Profile: Now that’s Rural

Sunflower Mercantile of Barnes

By RON WILSON
Director of the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State University

“What a find!”
That might be the expression of an antique store customer who locates a special, hard-to-find item in an antique store. Today we’ll meet a family that not only provides antiques, but also helps provide community spirit for their rural Kansas community.

Melodie and Nik Sedivy are owners of Sunflower Mercantile in Barnes. Melodie grew up in Barnes and went to college at Cloud County. She met and married Nik who is from Blue Rapids. They moved to Barnes where he operated a construction company. They have two daughters, both married.

Melodie worked for 44 years at the nearby Georgia Pacific plant, with her career culminating in her role in charge of purchasing. She also had a longtime interest in antiques.

“My parents had a love for antiques,” Sedivy said. “In high school, I started a glass collection.”

Later in her career, a stone building in downtown Barnes came up for sale. The Sedivys bought it and used it as a warehouse at first. Then the antique store across the street closed.

In 2013, the Sedivys opened their own antique store in their historic downtown building. The business is titled Sunflower Mercantile of Barnes. “We have a heck of a lot of fun, collecting things and meeting people,” Sedivy said.

Her husband Nik is the volunteer president of the Barnes



SUNFLOWER MERCANTILE

Community Development Corporation. He has also worked on restorations of several historic buildings in the community.

For years, the Barnes community conducted a threshing bee, but the demands on volunteer time became too great.

“We got together and said, ‘what can we do that would be less work but still fun?’” Sedivy said. The group decided to put together a festival around antiques with multiple vendors.

A local hair salon operator proposed a tongue-in-cheek festival name: The Barnes Antique and Junque Fest. The name caught on.

“That first year it poured down rain, but we had people show up from as far away as

Kansas City,” Sedivy said. “That showed us there was interest.”

Now the Barnes Antique and Junque Fest is held every year on the third Saturday of August. The antique store is open and vendors line both sides of the main street.

In 2026, Barnes also celebrated its 150th anniversary, so even more was added to the event. Historic memorabilia were posted at the firehouse, a quilt show took place at a church, food trucks and booths were on site, and games and inflatables were available for kids. Saturday night included a street dance and beer garden.

On Friday evening, a special parade was held featuring many vehicles, vintage and

more. Cars, trucks, tractors and even a manure spreader were included.

The event is sponsored by the Barnes Community Development Corporation. It’s supported by the local Union State Bank and other businesses. “We’ve had wonderful support from that bank,” Sedivy said.

Across the street from Sunflower Mercantile is a former opera house that is being converted to a lodge.

Barnes puts on another event during the holidays. On the Saturday after Thanksgiving, the community holds a lighted horse parade with only horses and horse-drawn vehicles allowed.

There is also an Always Christmas shop in Barnes, with Christmas-themed products available year-round.

“We’re not right next to a city. There has to be a reason for people to come here,” Sedivy said. “For the antique store, we work at having unique items that are competitively priced. Our events draw people from all over.”

She adds: “We want to remember our roots and bring people to Barnes.”

It’s great to find this community spirit in a rural community such as Barnes, population 165 people. Now, that’s rural.

For more information, go to www.barnesks.net or look for Sunflower Mercantile of Barnes on Facebook.

What a find! I might say that when I find just the right thing at an antique store such as Sunflower Mercantile. We commend Melodie and Nik Sedivy for making a difference with quality antiques and community spirit. That and more can be found at Barnes.

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Legal Notices

First Published in the Erie Record on Friday, October 2, 2026

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF NEOSHO COUNTY, KANSAS
SITTING IN ERIE

In the Matter of the Estate of Gregory Neil Grosdidier, Deceased

Case no. NOE-2026-PR-000045

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Elaine VanLeeuwen, sister of Gregory Neil Grosdidier, deceased, requesting:

Descent be determined for all personal property and real estate situated in Neosho County, Kansas: all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by decedent at the time of death. And that such property and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by the decedent at the time of death be assigned pursuant to the laws of intestate succession.

You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before November 10, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the city of Chanute in Neosho County, Kansas, in the Neosho County Judicial Center, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

Elaine VanLeeuwen
Petitioner

Ross Albertini
Attorney at Law
1000 5th St.
St. Paul, KS 66771
(620) 423-1743
Attorney for Petitioner

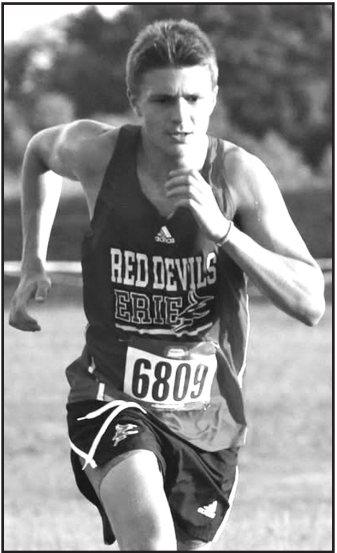
We’re nuts about the community!

The ERIE RECORD

Reach Eddie at 244-6030



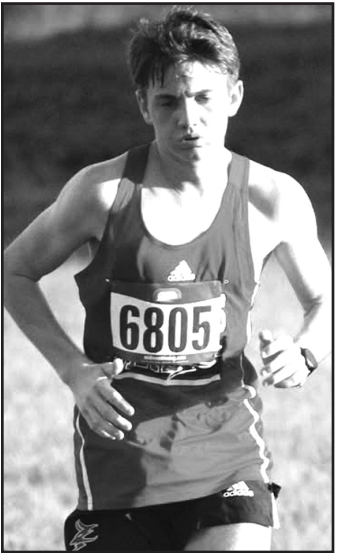
HENDRICKSON



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EHS runners compete at Eureka Tuesday

By KYLE CARPENTER
Erie High Cross Country Coach

On Tuesday, Oct. 6, Erie traveled to Eureka to compete in Cross Country.

This meet gives our kids a chance to race teams that they wouldn’t otherwise get to compete against. I think it’s good for the kids to get out of their comfort zone of their normal opponents, and also to see that the cross country world is a bit bigger than our little neighborhood. Our kids didn’t shy away from the challenge, and were able to run a good race. Both varsity and JV ran a full 5K. Our boys varsity team knew what they needed to do, and they did their job today. They were able to earn second place and a set of silver medals.

Trystin Agee, sophomore, finished the varsity race in a time of 23:51 and placed 29th. Trystin continues to be a reliable varsity runner for us, and we’re glad to have him on the team.

Colt Corbett, senior, ran the JV race in a time of 24:14 and placed sixth, earning a medal. Colt set a new personal record for this season, and continued his perfect streak of improving his time every week.

Easton Harris-Sinclair, freshman, finished the JV race in a time of 25:42 and placed ninth, earning a medal. Easton gained some valuable experience with pacing today, and was still able to fight off his competitor down the home stretch.

Parker Hawkinson, sophomore, ran the JV race in a time of 32:32 and placed 19th. Parker continues to move forward in the finishing pack, this week beating 6 runners. When others slow down and give up, he keeps going, and we’re seeing that pay off.

Lydea Hendrickson, sophomore, finished the JV race in a time of 29:48 and placed seventh, earning a medal. Lydea broke 30 minutes again and nearly PR’d, on a course where most runners see their times worsen. This to me shows how strong she’s become.

Zein Higgins, freshman, ran the varsity race in a time of 22:53 and placed 19th. While he didn’t earn an individual medal, his toughness at the end helped secure the team’s second place finish. He was able to find another gear and put away four runners on the home stretch that had been leapfrogging places all day.

Anna Myers, senior, finished the JV race in a time of 31:00 and placed 11th. Anna

continues to work hard every day and demonstrates outstanding leadership to the younger runners.

Isaac Myers, junior, ran the varsity race in a time of 22:34 and placed 17th. Like Zein, he didn’t earn an individual medal, but by doing his job he was able to secure valuable points for the team.

Anthony Pasquarelli, junior, finished the varsity race in a time of 19:50 and placed fourth, earning a medal. Anthony is a runner that every coach wants on their team. You never have to worry about if he’s doing his job and giving his best. His dedication every day is a great example, and pays huge dividends for him and the team.

Liam Smith, junior, ran the varsity race in a time of 23:42 and placed 27th. While he’s still not quite at the level of speed he was as a freshman, he’s getting closer every week, already faster by a mile per minute than he was at the start of this season.

These kids have worked hard this season through the weird weather and all the ups and downs that come with that. Next week we compete at the Three Rivers League meet at Southeast.

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