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# THE CLAY CENTER DISPATCH

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## Rotarians get a preview of A Mural Movement coming to Clay Center



Artist William Counter has a laugh while describing the production of his K-15 mural for A Mural Movement to the members of the Clay Center Rotary Club. Originally designed as a large representation of the K-15 highway sign painted on a canvas of Kansas license plates, Counter was inspired by his materials to make a more ambitious piece wherein the image of the sign is completely made of license plates. (Photo by Joshua Smith)

By Joshua Smith  
Senior Editor

Artist William Counter previewed the mural he has designed for Clay Center's A Mural Movement for the members of the Clay Center Rotary Club at their Thursday, October 15 meeting.

Counter, a fifth generation Kansan who lives in a small community outside of Chapman, spoke at length to the assembled Rotarians about his mural work which can be seen as part of the Downtown Mural Walking Tour of

Abilene.

His murals include a large digitized image of President Dwight Eisenhower, a multi-story depiction of Wild Bill Hickok, and two large representations of commemorative stamps from throughout Kansas history.

Counter said that he intends for his art to create a sense of place for the viewer, stating, "When you live in a town, it is easy to lose sight of your own history. Art should remind you of that history."

In keeping with his general inspiration of celebrating the

history of a specific element of a town, the piece Counter has designed for A Mural Movement, which the artist describes as a hybrid of a sculpture and a mural, is a large 8x8 representation of the iconic K-15 highway sign made entirely of Kansas license plates from throughout the years.

Originally the artist intended to lay the license plates in a tile pattern and paint the design on his canvas, but in a stroke of artistic inspiration, completely changed his plans to try something a bit more ambitious. "I discovered that in 1959 Kansas had a bright yellow license plate, so I decided to use those to make the yellow sunflower on the sign. After that, I found Kansas used black license plates in 1966 and 1969. The materials available sort of influenced my decision to do some-

thing that relates even more to the history of Kansas."

Now, the entire mural is being designed with as little painting involved as possible, the primary color and design work being made entirely out of license plates.

The only hiccup in Counter's plan came when he discovered that there aren't many of the yellow 1959 plates readily available today. The scarcity

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A multi-story mural of famed gunslinger Wild Bill Hickok painted by Counter on the side of the old Well Fargo building in Abilene. Counter has four murals as part of the Mural Walking Tour of Abilene and hopes to provide more for Clay Center as well. (Photo by Alexandra Smith)

### CLAY COUNTY COMMISSION

#### Unofficial minutes of the October 13 Commission meeting

The Clay County Commissioners met for their regular meeting on October 13. According to the unofficial minutes of that meeting taken by County Clerk Kayla Wang:

Commissioner Thurlow, Commissioner Carlson, and Commissioner Mayo were present at a regular meeting beginning at 8:00 a.m. The minutes were approved as printed.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Last week the Department graded roads, hauled rock, mowed roadsides, installed a culvert on 5th Rd. between Hackberry Rd. and Indian Rd., cleaned and trimmed trees around the Broughton bridge area, did ditch work and built up the road on 29th Rd. between Indian Rd. and Jayhawk Rd., worked in the shop cleaning and organizing the tool room and the parts cage, and removed a log jam on 17th Rd. between Valleyview Rd. and Countyline Rd. Mr. Shomper reported that they had to replace the water cooler dispenser for the office. They purchased one at Clay County Lumber & Supply in the amount of \$189.99.

Jeanna Fancella, Daughters of American Revolution, met with the Board to give a report on the 2019 Wreaths

Across America. Last year, the volunteers were able to honor 600 local Veterans by placing a wreath on their graves. This year they have donations of 750 wreaths so far and their goal for 2020 is to have 1,000 wreaths. Then every year after that they hope to have a wreath for every Veteran in Greenwood Cemetery. Ms. Fancella stated that they very much appreciated the donation that the County made last year and would ask that they consider making a donation for 2020 and invited the Board to join them on December 19th, 2020 to volunteer with the placement of the wreaths on the Veterans graves. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to donate \$1050 to purchase 70 wreaths. This will be paid for out of the Alcohol Fund. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Permission was granted to purchase a water cooler dispenser for the County Clerk's Office from Clay County Lumber & Supply in the amount of \$189.99. This will be paid for out of the County General Fund.

Dana Rickley, County Health Director, met with the Board to give an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Rickley reported that she has been

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## Clay County COVID infections up to 69

By Joshua Smith  
Senior Editor

According to information released by KDHE on October 14, the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 across Kansas continues to rise. Clay County's number of infections stands at 69, a slight leveling off after a spike in recent weeks. Of those cases, 3 are currently active, 61 have met the guidelines for recovery, 8 have been hospitalized and there have been 2 deaths. There has been a total of 1,247 negative tests.

As expected, the demographic hit hardest by

COVID-19 is residents above the age of 65, with 15 positive cases. The rest of Clay County's positive cases break down as such:

- Ages 0-17: 6
- Ages 18-24: 7
- Ages 25-34: 6
- Ages 35-44: 14
- Ages 45-54: 12
- Ages 55-64: 9

The updated case numbers issued by KDHE show a total of 69,155 positive diagnoses with 3,309 hospitalizations and 838 deaths. There has been a total of 510,672 negative tests.

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## U.S. Attorney will monitor federal election complaints in Kansas

A federal prosecutor will be on duty on Election Day to respond to complaints of possible election fraud or voting rights violations in Kansas, U.S. Attorney Stephen McAllister said.

McAllister said he has appointed Assistant U.S. Attorney Jared Maag to serve as the District Election Officer for Kansas. Maag will be responsible for overseeing the handling of complaints of election fraud and voting rights concerns in consultation with Justice Department officials in Washington.

Maag will be available to the

public at 785-295-2858 while the polls are open on Nov. 3.

"I don't expect any problems during voting," McAllister said. "However, I want to remind Kansans that there are penalties under federal law for any efforts to influence the outcome of an election through fraud or to improperly prevent another person from exercising the right to vote. The Department of Justice has the authority to monitor polling places or take other measures to protect Kansans' right to vote in free and fair elections."

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## Community Events

### THIS WEEK

#### MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

- CCCHS Girls Golf State
- 2 p.m. WJHS Volleyball @ WSL Tourney
- 5:15 p.m. CCCHS- V/JV/C Volleyball (H) Abilene
- 5:300 p.m. CCCHS- JV Football @ Marysville

#### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

- CCCHS Girls Golf State
- 5 p.m. CCCHS V Volleyball @ Northern Heights

#### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

- 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Advance Voting starts in County Clerk's Office M-F
- 4:30 p.m. LES Site Council Meeting
- 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. CCUMC Scramble Merlin Wendland Fundraiser - Pulled Pork

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

- No School USD 379
- 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Parent/Teacher Conferences 8am to 8pm

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

- CCCHS V Girls Tennis State
- End of first quarter
- 11:45 a.m. WS/MS/HS Early Dismissal
- 12 p.m. LES/GES Early Dismissal
- 12 p.m. Teacher Inservice
- 7 p.m. CCCHS Football (H) Marysville
- 7 p.m. WHS V Football (H) Centre

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

- CCCHS V Girls Tennis State
- 9 a.m. WHS V Volleyball @ WSL Tourney
- 9 a.m. CCCMS Cross Country @ Riley Co.
- 9 a.m. CCCMS 7th NCKL Volleyball @ Wamego
- 9 a.m. CCCMS 8th NCKL Volleyball @ Abilene
- 9 a.m. CCCHS C Volleyball @ Beloit
- 10 a.m. CCCHS Cross Country @ Salina
- 2 p.m. Clay Center Trump Train & Rally

#### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

No Activities

## A look back ...

### In 1955...

Ladies continue to dominate Clay Center Football contest.

### In 1965...

Nostalgic window displays part of Pi-otique.

### In 1975 ...

Transportation for senior citizens starting soon in Clay Center.

### In 1985...

Wakefield given \$200 Pride award.

### In 1995 ...

Extension program to emphasize laughter.

### Deaths/Funerals

TYLER MUNDALL

## Today Is National National Sports Day

### Weekly Weather Report

Mon., Oct. 19	Tues., Oct. 20	Wed., Oct. 21	Thur., Oct. 22	Fri., Oct 16	Sat., Oct 17	Sun., Oct 18
53°/36° 10%	64°/45° 20%	58°/48° 20%	70°/40° 20%	63°/50° 0%	77°/43° 0%	58°/36° 10%
Day: Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 53F. Winds NNE at 10 to 15 mph. Night: A few clouds. Low 36F. Winds light and variable.	Day: Sunshine and clouds mixed. High 64F. Winds SSE at 10 to 15 mph. Night: A few clouds. Low around 45F. Winds SSE at 5 to 10 mph.	Day: Stray showers or storms. High 58F. Winds SSE at 10 to 15 mph. Night: Late showers or storms. Low 48F. Winds SSE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 40%.	Day: Partly cloudy. High near 70F. Winds SSW at 10 to 20 mph. Night: A few clouds from time to time. Low around 40F. Winds NNE at 10 to 15 mph.	Day: Sunshine and clouds mixed. High 63F. Winds W at 10 to 15 mph. Night: Clear to partly cloudy. Low around 50F. Winds SSW at 10 to 20 mph.	Day: Mostly sunny skies. High 77F. Winds SSW at 15 to 25 mph. Night: A few clouds from time to time. Low 43F. SSW winds shifting to N at 10 to 15 mph.	Day: Some decrease in clouds later in the day. High 58F. Winds N at 10 to 20 mph. Night: Partly cloudy in the evening will be cloudy overnight. Low 36F. Winds NNE at 5 to 10 mph.

### Markets

Corn.....	\$3.66	▲
Milo.....	\$4.86	▲
Soybeans...	\$9.86	▼
Wheat.....	\$5.16	▲

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