

Advanced, in-person voting has begun.

Here's how to cast your ballot.

Junction City Union Staff

Advanced, in-person voting started Thursday. People will be able to cast their ballots in person prior to the Nov. 3 general election at the Geary County Clerk's office at 200 E. Eighth St. in Junction City right up until Nov. 2.

County Clerk Rebecca Nordyke's office released this schedule Thursday.

People can cast in-person, advance ballots

Oct. 19 through Oct. 23 fro, 9 a.m. until 6 p.m., Oct. 24 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., Oct. 26 through Oct. 30 fro, 9 a.m. until 6 p.m., Oct. 31 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., and Nov. 2 fro, 9 a.m. until noon.

Voters will need to bring their photo IDs with them in order to cast their ballots.

For more information, contact the county clerk's office at 785-238-3912.

Three Geary County groups receive grants for their work with the local food system

Junction City Union Staff

Three Geary County businesses have received grants from the State of Kansas for their work in creating food security.

Breaking Bread of JC, a Junction City, received a grant of \$6,000 JCNaz Church of the Nazarene of Junction City has received a \$5,000 grant and Picca-lilli Farm of Geary County has received a \$20,000 grant. These are part of about \$9 million in grant funds distributed by the state to organizations that work to bolster their local food systems.

Gov. Laura Kelly announced the grants — and many others — when she joined Kansas Department of Agriculture Secretary Mike Beam and Kansas Department of Commerce Secretary David Toland to visit Yoder Meats in Yoder. Kelly announced over \$9 million has been committed for projects to strengthen the state's food supply system. Yoder Meats is one of 183 Kansas agriculture and food-related businesses and individuals across the state awarded grants as

Please see **Grants**, 2A

Volunteers show how much they care during United Way's Day of Caring

BY GAIL PARSONS

Junction City Union

Volunteers fanned out across Junction City Saturday morning to clean up yards of elderly and disabled residents during the annual United Way Day of Caring.

Nichole Mader, director of the United Way of Junction City – Geary County, said 15 volunteers worked at 14 homes finishing up around 11:30 a.m. They were then treated to chili and soup at the Open Door Chili Cookoff.

She said she was pleased that they were able to get everyone on their list taken care of. "This is a really great way for us to be out in the community and also get the volunteers out in the community," she said. "Typically, it's to help interact, but right now we're limited on interactions (because of COVID-19) but it still means a lot to give back to the population that we serve this program for."

The elderly in the community are someone's parents and grandparents, they are retired teacher and others who have made an impact on others. Not everyone has family in the area who can come help with household tasks, she said.

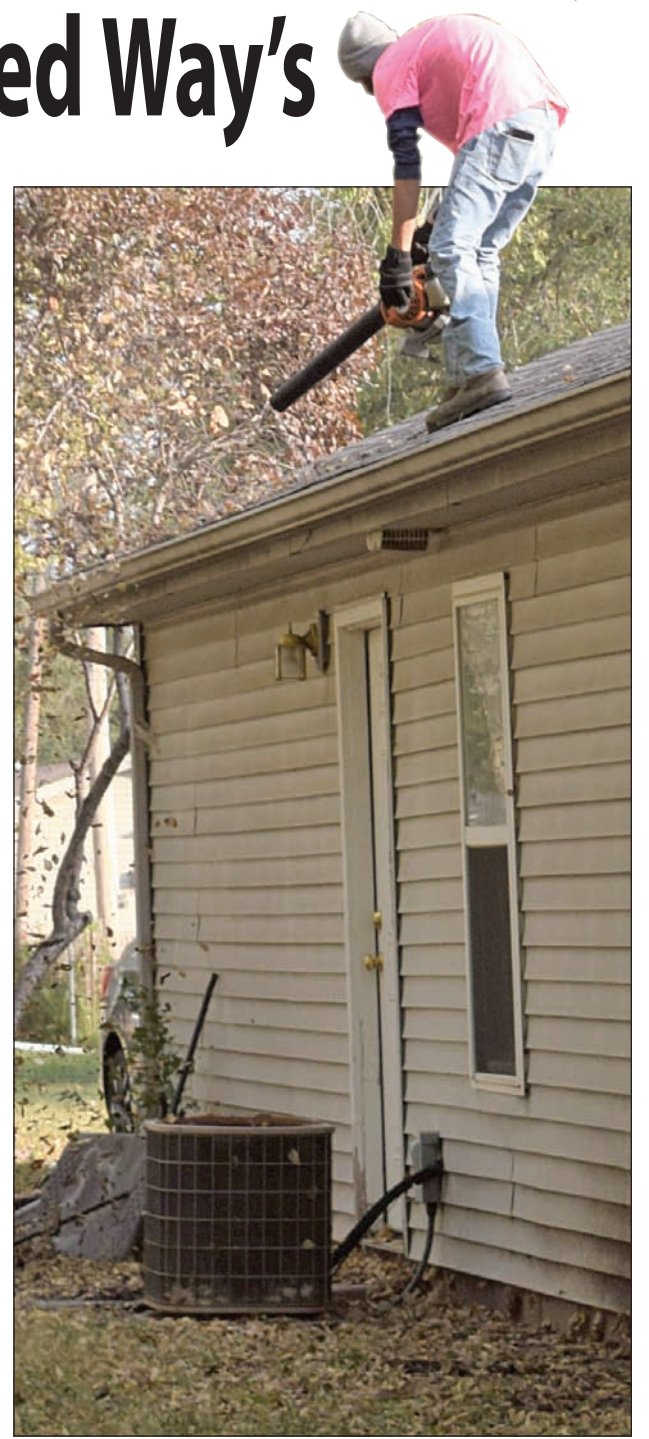
"I would want people to be nice to my mom," Mader said. "It's really important to just let them know that they are valued."

One of the volunteers, Maggie Birchmeier, said her grandparents have passed away but she would have wanted someone to take care of them if they were in need. She knows how important it is for the senior community to have people who will step up and help when they can.

"I wanted to give back to the community where I grew up," she said while raking leaves at a house on St. Mary's Road.

Across town, on 12th Street, Mitchel McCloy joined several employees of Witt's Mowing & Services, as they tackled mowing and cleanup at several homes. He was on the roof of one house with a leaf blower cleaning out the gutters.


Please see **United Way**, 8A




Gail Parsons • Union

Mitchel McCloy blows leaves out of a gutter at one of several homes that employees of Witt's Mowing & Services volunteered to help clean up and do yard work at during Saturday's United Way Day of Caring.

Candidates for office respond to questions prior to election




Rebecca Nordyke



Diana Dean



Brad Scholz




Patricia Giordano



Charles Stimatz




Alex Tyson



Keith Ascher



Dan Jackson



Fred Reid

Please see **Election**, 3A

USD 475 to vote on roof repairs, strategic planning

BY GAIL PARSONS
Junction City Union

Geary County USD 475 Board of Education members will revisit the decision on what company to contract to lead the process of developing a new strategic plan during a special board meeting at 5:30 p.m. Monday.

In September the board had postponed choosing a company until they received more information, which they received at their Oct. 5 meeting when they heard presentations from three companies.

Staff will also ask the board to approve allocat-

ing an additional \$94,300 in capital outlay to make roof repairs.

According to information listed in the board agenda, which is available to the public on the USD 475 website, the insulation in the roof at the HD Karns Building had completely failed or was non-existent. At the Professional Learning Center an inspection revealed two roofs. Code requirements mandate a complete tear off, down to the decking.

Several presentations are slated for the evening, which will not require board action. Among them are:

Please see **USD 475**, 3A

COVID-19 up by 11

Junction City Union Staff

Since Thursday afternoon, local cases of COVID-19 have risen by 11.

One new case was announced Friday afternoon and Thursday, 10 new people were announced as having tested positive, by the Geary County Health Department.

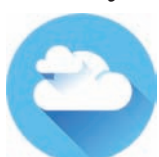
There are now 27 known active cases of the virus in the community, according to the health department.

As of now, four community members have died of COVID-19 in the community and one person remains hospitalized with the illness.

According to the Kansas Department of Health and the Environment's COVID-19 map, which can be found on its website, there have been a total of 512 cases of the virus in Geary County since it was first found here earlier this year.



Today's Weather



High 51
Low 37

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