

Talk of the Town

City of Victoria

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From the Mayor...

The upcoming months will be a busy time for the City of Victoria. Almost all of the preliminary paperwork for the improvements to our water system has been completed, and the actual project will begin in earnest in the next few months. Construction of a new water tower will be the most visible change to our town, with construction of it to begin sometime this spring. The new tower will be on the northern edge of town, in the Knights' Addition. This site was chosen as it is the best site to improve the water distribution for the entire town.

Trego Rural Water District #2 is also working on bringing their service to Victoria. The water from Trego #2 will be used to supplement our supply from the existing well fields. Some of our current water wells will also be refurbished to enable them to produce more efficiently.

A number of the older water lines will be replaced to improve the water pressure throughout the city. Part of this phase of the water project will include tearing up Cathedral Avenue to access and replace the current water line. Traffic along Cathedral may have to be shut down to one-way only when this part of the project begins.

Most of the work for this project should be completed by this time next year, assuming we have favorable weather. Please be patient as the work will be completed as quickly as possible.

John Schulte



February 17 — Trash will be picked up as usual.

City Officials

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City Clerk: Mary Pfeifer

Utilities Clerk: Nancy Piatt

City Treasurer: Jerry

Schmidtberger

City Superintendent:

Brad Schmidtberger

Public Works Assistants:

Terry Riedel

Jeff Dorzweiler

Police Chief: Cole Dinkel

Patrol Officer: Ryan Mauch

Fire Chief: Tom Tholen

Assistant Fire Chief: Kevin Klein

City to gain Bookmobile services



The Hays Public Library is happy to announce that a new bookmobile will make regular stops in Victoria once it arrives in Hays later this year! A Dane G. Hansen grant of \$76,200 and a matching contribution from the Hays Public Library Foundation will make this a reality.

The bookmobile, expected to arrive by April, will be equipped to provide a variety of services including getting a library card, browsing the collection and requesting alternative items for future stops. It will also be a Wi-Fi hotspot for patrons needing access to the internet.

Times and locations are yet to be determined, but the Hays Library Outreach Department intends to coordinate stops with the city and likely the school district to coordinate with afterschool hours, as well as swimming pool visits in the summer. It will likely visit Victoria twice per month.

According to director Brandon Hines, Victoria residents already take advantage of the library as there are 539 cardholders with a Victoria zip code. It is hoped that that number will grow. Library outreach to date has primarily stayed within Hays city limits because funding comes through property tax in the City of Hays. However, thanks to the Hansen Foundation support and their commitment to the people of northwest Kansas, the new bookmobile will offer services throughout Ellis County on a limited basis.

Herzogfest Update

The Herzogfest Committee would like to wish you all a happy new year and thank those of you who supported our holiday fundraiser in December. We hope to be able to offer more events like that in the future. Now that the holidays have passed, we are full steam ahead with planning Herzogfest 2020 (scheduled for the SECOND weekend in August). It takes a small army to pull off the festival and we need your help in the form of more committee members and volunteers. Though we all work hard, we need more people to make it the best it can be. If you are interested in helping in any capacity, please call Ashley at 785.639.0788 or Jordan at 785.735.8078.

Though it's cold now, Spring is just around the corner—time for golf! We invite you to start forming your 4-person team for the annual Herzogfest Golf Tournament set for Saturday, April 25. You can sign up by calling the Russell golf course at 785.483.2852. Please follow us on Facebook to keep up with the latest festival happenings.



All dogs and cats are required to have a tag issued by the City. The cost is \$2.00 for spayed/neutered pets and \$5.00 for others. Deadline is Mar. 1. Proof of current rabies vaccination is required when tag is issued.



All ATV license renewals are now due. Cost is \$25.00 and proof of current insurance is required.



Sewer averaging for the next year is figured on customers' consumption during the months of December through March. The new rates will be reflected on May bills.



Property owners are reminded that they are responsible to remove all snow and ice from their sidewalks within 12 hours after a snow or ice storm ends. This is required by City Ordinance.



The City crew asks that residents remember to put their trash out **NO EARLIER** than the night before collection day and that bags are securely tied.



The City office once again asks that you notify us of your cell number if you have given up your land line. It is important that we be able to contact you in case of an emergency or water/sewer/billing issue.



If you write a check for your monthly bill, please be sure to do so in **BLACK OR BLUE INK** only. The check scanner that we use will not read any other colors. Thank you for your cooperation!

**You know that extra day you've been wishing for? It's COMING—
FEBRUARY 29!**





It's that time again! The City has the dates set for the community-wide garage sale and cleanup. **Mark your calendars for April 25.** If you wish to advertise your sale, please provide us with a short list of items and an \$8.00 fee to help with the cost of advertising **NO LATER THAN April 17.**

The dumpsters will be available the following weekend **May 1, 2, and 3.** Hours will be as follows: Friday, 4-8; Saturday 9-8, Sunday 9-4. This will be the **ONLY** time this year that the dumpsters will be available.

leap Day fun fact

You have around a 1 in 1,461 chance of being born on February 29th. This means that there are around 4 million people in the world who are leap year babies and around 187,000 people in the U.S.

THE WOOD LIVES ON!!!

Last summer Victoria alumni, students and parents were excited about knowing that the old VHS gymnasium floor was going to be replaced, thanks to generous community donors. Most looked forward to seeing the new, shiny replacement.

Some, however, didn't want to see all that old wood go to the landfill. According to VHS Principal Dylan Dronberger, several individuals made requests that they be allowed to purchase some of the flooring for sentimental reasons.

Leroy Schmidtberger knew that he wanted to create something for his son Colin, a VHS grad, former basketball player and now VHS boys' basketball coach. Using the carpentry skills he learned many years ago from his teacher Jerry Cronister, Leroy worked for several months designing and building a table that includes an intricate top design made by Colby Schippers. The finished product was a surprise for Colin's birthday and now has a place of honor on his patio.

Melissa Schmidt made a purchase hoping to surprise her son Kyle with a piece of his high school days. Kyle, now a PE teacher and boys' basketball coach in LaCrosse, also spent many hours playing on the old floor. His 'piece of history' ended up being a framed wall hanging, designed by his next door neighbor, Jerry Brungardt, a retired VHS teacher and coach.

Former VHS girls' basketball coach Bob Leikam, got the biggest piece – a surprise gift from his three daughters Sarah, Anne, and Chrissy – all VHS graduates as well. His spans a whole wall and now resides in his man cave at his rural home north of Hays.

Dan and Mary Kay Schippers, members of the VHS class of 1974, employed the woodworking skills of Bob and Terry Dinkel to create a coffee table and side table out of most of their purchase of the floor. But they had enough left over to give each of their class members a small 4" X 4" memento when they had their reunion at homecoming.



Victoria alum Kyle Schmidt proudly displays his piece of the floor.



Leroy Schmidtberger planned and built this patio table for his son, Colin.



Former girls' coach Bob Leikam received his floor piece as a gift from his three daughters.

SCHOOLHOUSE NEWS



Havanna Moos is pictured with her teacher Kim Taylor, who is using yard signs to express pride in her students.

Throughout the first semester, many Victoria first grade students in Kim Taylor's class have received a special recognition visible not just to them and their families, but to the whole community. It's a colorful sign posted in the student's yard that states: "Mrs. Taylor is proud of me!" Thus far, 15 students have received the sign. Taylor awards the sign based on a variety of criteria including helpfulness, kindness, effort and more. The sign was designed by Kaylene Gabel, district art instructor.

High school students continue to enjoy using the newly renovated library turned Active Learning Center. This room is largely used to house the students who take online electives. First semester, 17 students took online elective courses from various colleges including Colby, Flint Hills Technical, and FHSU. The majority of the courses fell under Senate Bill #155, which covers the cost for tuition. This bill will cover the cost of four students to take their Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) course and training as well as one student's Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) course during the spring semester.

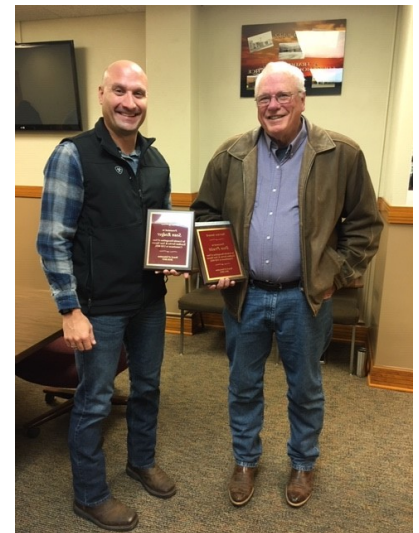


Thanks to two members of FCCLA, Kinsey Riedel and Morgan Dorzweiler, a Kindness Club has been started at the grade school. The group meets every Tuesday after school and participates in different activities each time, although each activity focuses on spreading kindness. So far, the kids have learned a kindness oath, painted kindness rocks, painted pumpkins and gave them to someone they thought needed them. At Christmas, they decorated cookies and gave them away as well as created a kindness chain. They also made cards of kindness and colored posters. The high schoolers created this project for an FCCLA Star Event.

Members of the Victoria FFA and their sponsor Jacy Littrell recently attended the National Western Stock Show and Rodeo in Denver. In addition to attending many stock shows and a rodeo, they also got to watch collegiate judging teams in action, explore the grounds and attend several educational demonstrations. In addition, they visited the Plains Conservation Center and Denver Botanical Gardens to learn about the prairie, plants, and conservation.



Anyone interested in ordering a middle school yearbook can do so by calling the middle/high school office.



Outgoing members of the Victoria School Board, Don Pruitt and Sean Rodger were recognized at the December Board meeting for their service to the school district. Pruitt served for eight years and Rodger completed the term of Shannon Radke.