Summer 2026

CK Cowboy BEAT

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Cody-Kilgore Unified Schools 360 W. 4th Street, Cody, Nebraska 69211 www.cody-kilgore.com Vol. 10 Issue 5

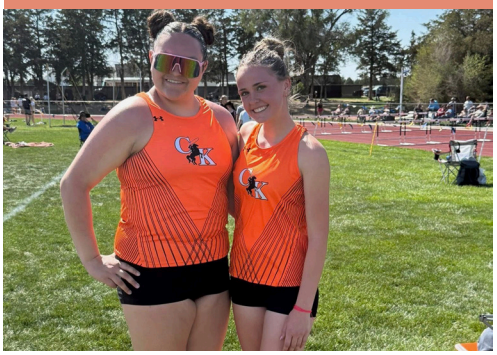
2026 at the Crossroads



Photos Courtesy Ms. Bailie

Congratulations to the Cody-Kilgore Unified School District Class of 2026 Graduates. Front row (L-R): Makynna Tucker, Kynzee McConaughey, Rachel Farley, Elliah Wolff, Kayleigh Ravenscroft. Back row (L-R): Hesston Fay, Ethan Pitkin, Kaden McNare, Cash Cooper, J.D. Morris, Blake Lancaster, and Josh Calendacion.

Lilly & Aubry STATE BOUND

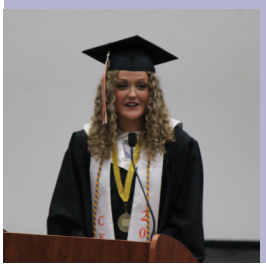


Kynzee & Rachel earn FFA State Degrees



Check out CK Grad Speeches by Kynzee and Kayleigh





MEME me up, sCKotty





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School District #30 Board of Education Agendas are kept continuous and are available at the office of the Superintendent. 360 West 4th Street, Cody, NE 69211

Mark Your Calendars UPCOMING EVENTS

June 8 School Board Meeting @ Cody, Nebraska, 6:30PM MT
June 8 5th-8th Grade Boys and Girls Basketball Skill & Drills, 9-11:00 AM MT
June 9 9-12 Grade Boys & Girls Basketball Skills & Drills 7-9:00 PM
June 9 5th-8th Grade Boys and Girls Basketball Skill & Drills, 9-11:00 AM MT
June 10 5th-8th Grade Boys and Girls Basketball Skill & Drills, 9-11:00 AM MT
June 11 5th-8th Grade Boys and Girls Basketball Skill & Drills, 9-11:00 AM MT
June 11 9-12 Grade Boys & Girls Basketball Skills & Drills 7-9:00 PM
June 15-18 Same Schedule for 5th-8th and 9-12th Basketball Skills and Drills
June 18 HS Football Team Camp at Potter Dix
June 19 6-8th Grade Boys Basketball Team Camp @ Valentine, 9-1:00 PM CDT
June 25-26 Black Hills State University Basketball Camp
Grade (3-6th grade 9-11 am) (7-12 grade 1-4pm)
July 22-23 Cody Gym Closed - Floor maintenance
July 27 SWAY Baseline Testing Grades 6-12, 3-5:30PM MT @ Cody, Nebraska





What are your plans for summer vacation? Staff Edition



CK Q&A:

"Going to the Henry Doorly Zoo for the first time with Easton."
- Mrs. Szakacs, 2nd Grade

"I'm going to Las Vegas with Grace to see BTS "
- Ms. Carrie, English

"My daughter and I are going on a trip to the rocky mountains in Estes Park."
- Mrs. Anderson, Social Studies

"Going to the Black Hills."
- Ms. Reimers, Intervention Specialist

"My son is getting married in July, so I'm excited for that, but honestly going to the lake and drinking coffee...hanging out with the grand kids." - Ms. Jodi, Front Office

"Looking forward to going to Door County, Wisconsin. Plan to spend time in my garden and enjoying time with family ."
- Ms. Jennie, Business Manager

"Going to NC to see my grand kids."
- Mr. Hamilton, Physical Education



Comments, Questions?

E-Mail them to cknews@cody-kilgore.com or mail to CKHS: 360 West 4th Street, Cody, NE 69211 Please note that all contributions will be previewed by the CKUS administration. Publication for each edition of the CKBeat will occur quarterly, with a brief break during summer.

NSAA Academic All State

Speech:



Kayleigh



Kynzee

Music:



Kynzee



Lilly

Track and Field:



Lilly



Aubryanna



Congrats CK Class of 2026!



CK State FFA: State Degrees for Farley, McConaughey, and Nollette

By Rachel Farley

FFA Reporter



Proud sponsor: Mr. Nollette with Kynzee and Rachel and their State Degrees.

State FFA was a blast. We started out the trip in Cody at 8:00am. Mr. Nollette was racing to go with a brand new fancy, pink, fuzzy steering wheel cover from his loving FFA students. That didn't last long. Then we started our trip to Grand Island to take a tour of Raising Nebraska, where we learned about all of Nebraska's food. Through this experience we learned where our food comes from and to appreciate the work and dedication that goes into making our food. The most interesting thing that I learned from the trip was that popcorn and potatoes are Nebraska's leading products produced. While there we also did a scavenger hunt for prizes where we had to run around the facility and find answers to facts about Nebraska, while answering questions we also had to find hidden potatoes around the place and if you found a potato you would get a prize at the end, but you had to answer all the questions first. The overall experience was very informational and fun and definitely worth the stop. After this we were on our way to Lincoln.

When we arrived at Lincoln and headed straight to our hotel to settle in and get a game plan of where we were going to eat, first we wanted to go to Texas Roadhouse, but Mr. and Mrs. Nollette strongly encouraged us to branch out and made the executive decision that we would eat at Lazlos. I'm glad they did, the food was amazing and definitely worth it! After a long day of traveling we headed back to the hotel to get some sleep for the first day of the 98th FFA State Convention.

The first day of convention was packed we started out the day watching Ag demos, there were definitely interesting ones there but the one that was my favorite was the one about goat soap these girls got a recipe and goat milk from a local farmer and they are turning it into their business and experimenting with the soaps and scents. After that we headed to East Campus to participate in the activities happening there. As a group we ultimately decided that we would take this time to socialize and connect with people. Also to get a sweet treat at the ice cream shop. Then we headed to The Cornhusker to be in a leadership academy lecture called Stretch your Mind- Without pulling a Hamstring. This was an interesting speaker, he talked mainly about being more open to people and reaching out can start new friendships. Finally we headed to the opening session at PBA. This was the first session of the 98th FFA State Convention. In this session Kynzee McConaughey and myself received our state degrees which is the highest degree you can receive in high school.

The second day of convention was more relaxed, but we still had to get up pretty early for a session at PBA. Luckily for the rest of us we didn't have to be there as early as Kayleigh Ravenscroft cause she was in the FFA state choir and had to be at session an hour before the rest of us to rehearse. Later after the session Lilly Ravenscroft had to go and compete in junior public speaking, then we all went to a hypnotist, Steve Meade. After the hypnotist we headed to PBA to session 3 of State Convention which was a really fun session because that's when the Huskers played Iowa to move on in March Madness, this was really fun because while session was going on the FFA put the game on the Jumbotron which was very entertaining. Although they of course had to shut the game off when keynote speakers were giving their speeches.



CK FFA State Attendees: Front Row: (L-R) Alex Barnes, Knox Wobig, Bentley Ford, and Connor Simmons. Back Row: (L-R) James Walkling, Lilly Ravenscroft, Kynzee McConaughey, Rachel Farley, Kayleigh Ravenscroft, and Wesley Willert.

After the session we headed to the Museum of American speed which had a lot of cool and old fascinating cars, planes, and motorcycles, along with a lot of cool facts about everything related to motor vehicles. There they even had a kids room which they opened for us. In this room there was a mini Lightning McQueen that was made for toddlers, but that wasn't stopping me from trying to drive it around. Unfortunately the battery was taken out but we figured out our own way to get it moving and James Walkling pushed me around the kids room. There was also a life size Lightning McQueen and a Mater outside the facility.



All in the family: Mr. and Mrs. Nollette with Mrs. Nollette's State Degree.

After that we went to eat and then we sent off the agscience team of Alex Barnes, Connor Simmons, Bentley Ford, and Knox Wobig. While they were competing, everyone else headed to session 4. In this session Kayleigh Ravenscroft nominated Joslyn Nollette, our Co FFA advisor, to receive the Honorary State Degree award, which is a very high honor.

The third day which is also the last day of the 98th FFA State Convention. This day started early for Kynzee McConaughey and Lilly Ravenscroft as they had to get up and leave the hotel at 6:00 a.m. to head to their leadership development event and individual events state qualifiers breakfast. Which is just a nice thing that the FFA does for the state qualifiers. Everybody else had to be up, packed, and out the door by 8:00 a.m. Then we headed to the morning session and listened to Ranger Nick. This was an interesting speaker as he had animals in his presentation and one FFA kid got to go on stage and hold a snake. We then headed to The Fort and shopped around then headed to Lincoln's indoor and outdoor mall. After we were done shopping we had a convention celebration. Now we went to the 6th and final session of the 98th FFA State Convention which is always the session that feels the longest.

After the session closed we headed straight for Kearney to drop off state speech students having a fun ride home till RaeLynn cried. It took Bentley Ford and I a long time to try and get her to sleep but all she wanted was her mom which was difficult because she was driving. It's safe to say that it took us a little bit longer to get home but we got home safe and overall we all had a great experience.

Mrs. Arnold's Musical Musings



By Mrs. Arnold

CK Beat

The sounds of spring sprung early this year at our house. With the weather warming sooner than usual and the dry conditions, we began watering our lawn in April rather than late July and the birds began to return to our yard in droves to enjoy the sprinklers. I love spring. I love the baby calves, the fresh smell in the air, the bird songs, and most importantly the feeling of a new hope and life.

Just as spring brings renewal to the earth, music brings renewal to the human spirit. From the rhythmic songs of birds in the morning to the melodies we play on the way to school or work, music surrounds us in countless ways every day. It has the power to shape our emotions, strengthen our memories, unite communities, and even heal wounds that words alone cannot touch. Music is far more than entertainment; it is one of the deepest forms of human expression and connection.

One of the most powerful ways music impacts our lives is through emotion. A single song can instantly change a person's mood. Upbeat music can energize us during a workout or brighten a difficult day, while slower melodies can calm anxiety and provide comfort during stressful moments. Many people turn to music during both celebrations and hardships because it gives voice to feelings that are often difficult to express. Whether it is a joyful wedding dance, a heartfelt lullaby, or a song played at a funeral, music becomes part of life's most meaningful moments.

Music also has a remarkable connection to memory. Certain songs can transport us back to a specific place or time within seconds. A melody heard years ago may remind someone of childhood road trips, school dances, family gatherings, or first loves. Because music engages both emotion and memory, it often becomes woven into the stories of our lives. This is why hearing an old favorite song can feel like opening a treasured photo album in our minds.

Beyond personal experiences, music connects people across cultures and generations. Every society throughout history has created music to celebrate traditions, tell stories, and bring people together. Concerts, festivals, church choirs, and community bands create spaces where individuals can feel united by a shared experience. Even when people speak different languages, music can communicate feelings that everyone understands. Rhythm, harmony, and melody become a universal language capable of building bridges between people from very different backgrounds.

Music also plays an important role in mental and physical health. Studies have shown that music can reduce stress, improve concentration, and support emotional well-being. Hospitals and therapy programs often use music to help patients cope with pain, trauma, or illness. For many individuals, playing an instrument or singing provides a healthy creative outlet and a sense of accomplishment. In classrooms, music can help students focus and improve learning, while in workplaces it can increase motivation and productivity.

In many ways, life itself has a soundtrack. We associate songs with milestones, seasons, relationships, and emotions. The gentle sounds of birds in spring, the laughter shared around a campfire with music in the background, or the familiar tune played during celebrations all remind us how deeply music is connected to human experience. It enriches ordinary moments and gives greater meaning to extraordinary ones.

As the birds continue singing outside our windows this spring, they serve as a reminder that music has always been part of the world around us. It inspires hope, encourages connection, and helps us express what words alone cannot say. In every stage of life, music continues to shape who we are and how we experience the world. As the spring semester draws to a close, I hope that students will remember the music of this season of their life and that it will enrich their lives as they grow.

Yard Wars, 2026: There will be grass



By Mr. Arnold

CKBeat

This is not my first rodeo trying to tame the prairie, but maybe I picked the wrong year to expect a perfectly manicured lawn. I think we can all agree it is a bit dry in the Sandhills, but drought or not, I am determined to green up the scenery.

Phase 1: Install an in-ground sprinkler system. After years of planting trees and failing (except for a couple of volunteers), I came to the conclusion that consistent watering is essential for any success. With that conclusion, I began pricing for a system to cover our 2-acre lawn, and quickly priced my way out of that being a reality. Plan B employs an intricate web of hosing to feed an ever-changing network of deployable sprinklers. This tactical system is designed to accomplish the same goals as an in-ground system, but lacks the elegance. With this realization, I am vigilant about timing and placement of each sprinkler to ensure proper hydration of my lawn.

So far, I have successfully nurtured about eight green circles. Not ideal, but I have always been a fan of celebrating small victories, no matter what.

Phase 2: Eradicate noxious weeds. This has proven to be easier said than done. Thistle and cactus continually encroach on our property. Regardless, I soldier on pulling, digging, and spot-treating problem spots as they seemingly prop up like a rash of vegetal warts.

Phase 3: Cut down dead trees. Unfortunately, one of our largest trees fell victim to Dutch Elm Disease earlier this spring. The pang of the loss stung until I parlayed this tragedy to upgrade my chainsaw, which helped the pain of the bereavement subside. The new saw fell the tree lickety-split, which, naturally, filled me with a sense of accomplishment for two reasons - 1: the tree is gone; 2: I did not inflict any catastrophic injuries on myself.

Phase 4: Varmint extermination.

Easily the most entertaining stage of the process is the thrill of the hunt to dispatch unwanted lawn pests. I will not go into particulars (OPSEC), but let's just say I have eliminated 4 gophers, 3 moles, and countless voles with extreme prejudice.

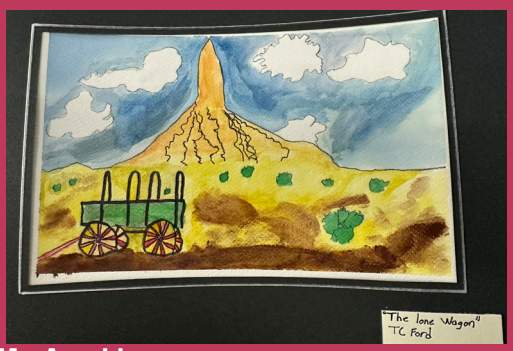
The jury is still out whether or not this year will prove a success, but the trials and tribulations of my annual Yard Wars have not been a total waste. If anything, my record may serve as an entertaining narrative of how an idiot does something over and over the same way expecting a different result: Landscaping insanity. Cheers to all the brown thumbs of the world! After all, life's a garden, dig it!

lil ck art gallery





The art featured here was created in Cody-Kilgore junior high and high school art classes under the guidance of Mr. McGuiness. Pieces curated for this issue include work by Elizabeth (left) and Gunner. (right).





The art featured here was created in Cody-Kilgore junior high and high school art classes under the guidance of Mr. McGuiness.. Pieces curated for this issue include work by T.C. (left) and Emma (right).

Photos Courtesy Mr. Arnold

Freestyle Dancing

Rules and competitions

By Wayne Orrock

Freestyle dancing may look easier on the outside, but it contains having a different mental and physical skill set to be able to do that sort of dance. Competition Dancing is a little different than the crowd voting. First, the judge's vote off of technique, creativity, musicality, and battle tactics that the dancer does. While other competitions like Dance Your Style, judging is based on the connection with the crowd. Each dancer gets 60 seconds to do their dance while the other responds to it by dancing after the 60 seconds.



Shuffle Dancing

www.google.com

Shuffle dancing is another way to freestyle dance because it is primarily improvised and spontaneous. While it has specific moves and movesets, it is often performed with a pre-set song or choreography, allowing the dancers to interpret the music in there own unique way. Like other dancing styles, shuffle dancing is based and relied on muscle memory where one puts together foundational moves into one dance. Shuffle dancing is like free dancing, but without the script and a rigid moveset and focuses more on individual personality and flow. Dancers listen to the beat and let their bodies react to the rhythm.



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CK BEAT

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Johans A Calendacion

ORIGINS

Around 50,000-70,000 years before modern times, prehistoric ancestors once found their way to the southernmost part of Asia. It was then how these places, rich with culture heavily inspired by Muslim tradition and near brimming with life, transformed into the islands of Asia. It was around this time where Muslim influence dominated as the subcontinent's main religion, and trade with other Asian countries were prosperous and thriving. This was until the influence of China during 111 BCE and European Expansionism in the late 1500s and early 1600s. Most notably, the Portuguese, the Spaniards, and the British.



VIETNAM

The Land of the Ascending Dragon and the S-shaped country, Vietnam is a country surrounded between the waters of the South China sea and the two countries Laos and Cambodia. It's a breathtaking area filled with many Chinese references and Buddhist statues, with places such as the Temple of Literature, the Marble Mountains, and the Hoàn Kiếm Lake. It's filled with wondrous places and interesting pieces of history,

Vietnam's rich history includes (but is not limited to) their resilience against the invasion of China; their march to the south, capturing cities across the bay which now forms their country's modern-day "S-shape;" French colonization; and the famous American-Vietnam War.

Vietnam's pure endurance and unbreakable spirit is what makes them a symbol of resilience all across Southeast Asia. Nowadays, it may not be a very popular or well-known country to everyone, but it still stands as a proud country that needs recognition.

Today, Vietnam is rich in culture with notable influences from China. They still hold strong as a great nation that is definitely worth checking out.



Wikipedia

Indonesia

If food is what you like, then there's no place like Indonesia to help you satisfy your hunger. Rice is especially Indonesia's specialty, since they rank first in producing rice all over Southeast Asia. They thrive on food, hospitality, and thriving culture.

Indonesia, which is the largest archipelago country, has about 17,500 islands and serves as a bridge to Asia and Oceania. It's ranked fourth worldwide in rice production, and first in all of Southeast Asia. Dishes can range from well-known rice dishes like Nasi Goreng (fried rice) to local specialties like Nasi Padang (curry rice).

Indonesia also hosts shadow puppet plays called Wayang Kulit, where a bright spotlight casts itself on a screen made of thin linen (Kelir) and the puppet's shadow is cast for the story to come to life. These shadow puppet plays are almost always held at night to see the puppets better, and for the relaxing atmosphere to help you fully enjoy the show.

You can see many places and animals while you're in Indonesia. Komodo dragons and it's huge range of islands are only the tip of what you can discover. Make sure to watch where you go as well, as Indonesia loves its active volcanoes!



Wikipedia

Singapore

Singapore is a uniquely interesting country. Imagine this; the capital of Singapore is Singapore, why? Because Singapore is a city-state, meaning that it's both an independent country and a city at the same time. This makes it one of the very few city-states that exists, with about 6.11 million residents on the island, which makes it the most cramped island in the entire world!

Once previously a part of Malaysia, Singapore and Malaysia's relationship grew negatively with the rise of political and racial tensions. The union between these two nations barely lasted for two years before Singapore was expelled from Malaysia on August 1965 and became the independent country we know today.

Singapore is hailed as one of the most safest countries in the world, and a technological wonder at that. This city-state gets its title, "The City in a Garden," for blending nature with high-tech architecture. This unique way of architecture invites the use of all types of agriculture without taking the space that Singapore desperately needs. Singapore is also known for its multicultural heritage. Thanks to the country being a popular finance, shipping and aviation hub, countries like China and India have contributed to its culture here.



Wikipedia

There are many other places to explore in Southeast Asia. The countries that were listed in this feature were the countries in this continent I wish to visit myself. On the contrary, this does not mean other countries in Southeast Asia aren't just as beautiful, as every country is unique in their own way. You just need to explore a little about each country in your own way.



Explore Southeast Asia on a Budget: 10 Affordable Week-Long Itineraries Under Rs.1 Lakh (Pune Pulse)

2026 SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



Quote: "If your path seems easy, it may not be the right path." - Joshua
Plans: Josh plans to attend Mid-Plains Community College. He is majoring in music.

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Quote: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the things you did do." - Mark Twain
Plans: Cash plans to attend Laramie County Community COllege and major in Ag Business. Cash will rodeo for the LCCC rodeo team.







Quote: "Rubber ducks are tiny reminders to keep floating, no matter what."
- Unknown
Plans: Rachel will attend the University of Nebraska-Kearney. She plans to study Pre-Chiropractics.



Quote: "I knew exactly what to do. But in a much more real sense, I had no idea what to do."
- Michael Scott
Plans: Hesston will be attending Mid-Plains Community College and major in Diesel Technology. He will also be part of the MPCC rodeo team.

2026 SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



Quote: “We don’t rent pigs.” - Gus McCrae
Plans: Blake plans to attend Mid-Plains Community College and major in Building Construction Technology. Blake also plans to be a part of the MPCC rodeo team.



Quote: “Guilt and regret kills many a man before their time.” - Matthew McConaughey

Plans: Kynzee plans to double major in Psychology and Political Science at the University of Nebraska at Kearney while studying abroad. She was also accepted to the Kearney Law Opportunities Program and will continue her education at the University of Nebraska College of Law following undergrad.



Quote: “Don’t cry because it’s over, smile because it happened”- Dr Seuss
Plans: Kaden plans to attend Mitchell Tech and major in Diesel Mechanics.



Quote: “Hard work beats talent when talent doesn’t work hard.” - Unknown
Plans: J.D. plans to attend the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture and major in Livestock Industry Management.

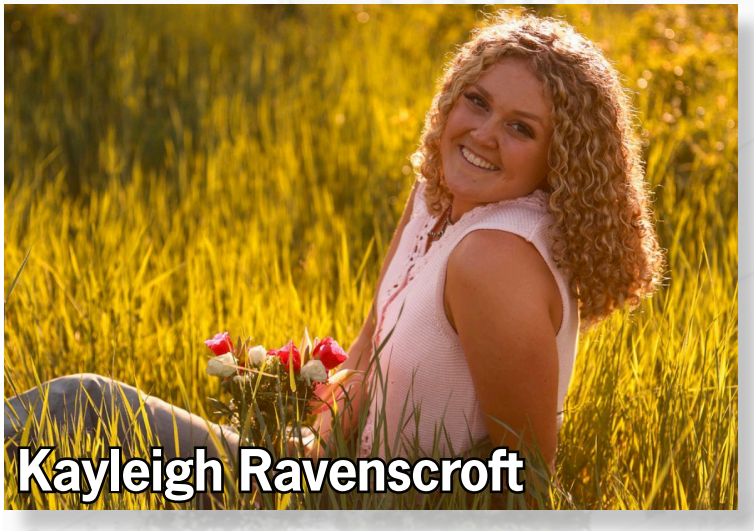
2026 SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



Quote: “Be fearless in the pursuit of what sets your soul on fire.” - Jennifer Lee
Plans: After graduation, Makynna will attend military training for the Nebraska Army National Guard. Makynna will then attend Northeast Community College to become a registered nurse.

Quote: “They say great things take time, that’s why all my assignments were late.”
- Ethan Pitkin
Plans: Ethan plans to seek employment after graduation.





Quote: “Don’t chase people. Be yourself, do your own thing and work hard. The right people – the ones who really belong in your life – will come to you. And stay.” - Will Smith
Plans: Kayleigh is attending Wayne State College. She was a recipient of the Rural Health Opportunities Scholarship and will major in nursing.



Quote: “Don’t put off until tomorrow what you can do today.” -Benjamin Franklin
Plans: Elliah will be attending Chadron State College. She plans to study Elementary Education and receive a supplemental endorsement in Early Childhood Education.



2026 SENIOR WALK







2026 SENIOR WALK





Class of 2026





2026 SENIOR WALK







2026 SENIOR WALK





Class of 2026





Kynzee McConaughey's Graduation Speech



Good morning, everyone! To the teachers, staff, administrators, families, friends, and most importantly, the Class of 2026 — welcome, and congratulations. We finally made it. And honestly, there were moments when that did not seem possible. Today is a day we've talked about for years, but never thought would actually happen. Graduation always felt like one of those things that adults talked about to "motivate" us. Like chores. As freshmen, we thought seniors had life completely figured out. Now that we're the seniors, we've learned something important: absolutely nobody has life figured out. Some of us still panic when a teacher says, "Don't worry, this assignment is easy." Some of us still hope that if we stare long enough at the assignments in canvas they'll magically do themselves. But somehow, despite all of that, we made it to this stage together.

This speech is about our class, because no one else could truly understand what these years were like except the people sitting here up on this stage. We experienced everything together: the tests, the early wakeup times, the awkward homecoming dances, the unforgettable memories, and the moments where we all collectively pretended we understood the homework. But above all, we survived. Somehow. We survived the group projects where magically one person disappeared, another was asleep, one was working, and the other would always "do something tomorrow". We survived the tests that made us stare at the ceiling like the answers might magically appear there.

But that's part of what makes this class special. We may not always have been organized, but we always found a way through. Whether it was helping each other study five minutes before a test, reminding someone about an assignment they forgot existed, or sharing answers like "I got number three… wait, I think that's right," we got through it together. But let's be honest, school was never just about academics. It was about the memories that happened outside the classroom. The golf-cart flipping, the mice in the school, and of course, a certain administrator's car that apparently wanted to experience a little bit of freedom all proved to be the actual reasons we came to school every day. And every joke made along the way. Every class has its personality, and ours definitely had the best one.

We could take one sentence said at exactly the wrong moment and somehow turn it into a joke that lasted for years. Things like fruit punch and Body Armour somehow became a banned product in our class. And the crazy part is that none of these stories make sense to anyone outside our class. If we tried explaining them to another person, we would sound completely insane. But to us, those tiny moments became unforgettable. That's what makes high school meaningful. Not just the big events like prom, graduation, or winning games. It's the random Tuesday moments where everyone laughed so hard the teacher had to stop class. It's hearing the same joke 400 times and somehow still laughing at it. It's walking into school exhausted and somehow leaving with a story you'll tell for the next ten years. And while we joke about all of this now, the truth is these years shaped us more than any extracurricular ever could.

This class has been through challenges, too. There were stressful moments, difficult days, disappointments, and times when life felt overwhelming. But what stands out most is the way we all showed up for one another. Behind all the jokes and laughter, this class has a lot of heart. We supported each other through struggles, celebrated each other's successes, and kept moving forward even when things got difficult. That resilience matters, even though it's not always talked about. Because life after graduation is going to be full of uncertainty. Some of us are heading to college. Some are entering the workforce. No matter where we go next, though, we'll always share this experience. Years from now, we may not remember every assignment or every formula we memorized the night before a test. But we'll remember each other. We'll remember the people who sat beside us during some of the most important years of our lives. We'll miss walking through these halls and getting taken out by flying backpacks. We'll miss seeing our friends every day. We'll miss the routines we used to complain about constantly, and we might even miss some of the chaos.

Today is also a reminder that none of us got here alone. Our parents, guardians, families, teachers, coaches, and mentors supported us every step of the way. They encouraged us when we were stressed, believed in us when we doubted ourselves, and listened to us complain about homework more times than they probably wanted to. Teachers answered our questions, even the ones that could have been solved if we had just read the directions first. Coaches pushed us to improve. Parents dealt with our stress, our procrastination, and our "I'll do it later" phase that somehow lasted four straight years. They helped shape who we are, and above all, they deserve our gratitude.

To the Class of 2026: We should be proud of ourselves. Not because we were perfect, because we definitely weren't, but because we persevered. We learned, adapted, failed, sometimes succeeded, and continued growing through it all. We entered these years as nervous freshmen trying to figure out where we belonged. Today, we leave as a class full of talented, capable, funny, determined people ready for whatever comes next. And even though our paths are about to go in different directions, we'll always share the memories that brought us here. So let's celebrate everything that made this class unforgettable: the friendships, the laughter, the chaos, the hard work, the inside jokes, the early mornings, and every single moment that led us to this stage. Congratulations, Class of 2026. We did it. Thank you.

Kayleigh Ravenscroft's Graduation Speech



Good morning parents, family, and guests. If you are sitting in this gym today, you have touched the life of an individual. More specifically, an individual that is a part of the graduating class of 2026. As we sit up here this morning, we are welcomed with the view of loved ones. The smiles of those who have cared for us are now sending us to the next chapter. The smiles of those who are no longer with us are looking down upon us with pride and joy in these aspiring students who join me on this stage today. Many of us are sitting here with anxious feelings. We may not know exactly what we're feeling today, but we do know that what was once an "I can't wait" has abruptly turned into a "I'm finally here".

It's the first day of kindergarten. Many of us couldn't wait to be in school. We got to pick out our first backpacks, our first day of school outfits, and met many new friends for the first time. Many of our mothers dropped us off with tears in their eyes, and we weren't sure why. We couldn't wait to go to school, but for our mothers, this was them sending their baby girl or boy off into life for the first time. A life where they would be hurt so many times, but experience so many highs. We walked into an environment that would soon feel very familiar. Many of us went and found our desks, cubbies, and name tags. Life outside of home had officially begun. Thank you to any mothers who did the hardest thing a mother could do. Sending their babies off into the world of elementary.

Elementary may be a blur for many of us, but this is where we learned many foundational skills and hobbies that would define us through our lives. Many of us couldn't wait to go to recess so we could play basketball, football, volleyball, or even race to see who was the fastest. In elementary, if you were the fastest, your status automatically went up. Others couldn't wait for art or music to come. The sounds and colors fascinated them. For me, it was basketball. My dad engraved a deep love of basketball into my soul. A love that I will carry with me forever. I anticipated recess every day so then I could work to make my first basket on a big kid hoop. When that day came, I felt like I was on top of the world with my yellow youth basketball in hand. Some of my peers may have core memories of shooting their first deer, starting up an old car for the first time, or even throwing a football in the yard with their dad as the sun went down each night. I'm sure the feeling of being on top of the world was in their hearts as well. Our dads looked at us with big smiles as they saw their babies growing up to be big kids, and we could not wait. Thank you to any dads who did what dads are supposed to do. Teaching your babies their favorite hobbies.

With elementary coming to an end, we had officially begun middle school. Hormones were rising and eye rolls were becoming more common. We were officially big kids now, so we thought. We were thirteen going on thirty. We navigated the world of middle school. The drama, the tears, the cringe. Through this chaos came many of our closest friends. Our BFFs. The ones we called when there was drama. The ones we made plans with to go get an after school snack. With these friends, we would talk about how we couldn't wait for high school and the things we'd do once we were in high school. These friends were foundational. Many of us learned hard lessons in middle school. This wasn't elementary anymore and assignments turned into to-do lists. None of this mattered though, because we had that one friend. Thank you to the middle school best friends that taught us so much about friendships.

The summer after eighth grade. Friends were starting to get drivers licenses and others of us had to wait patiently for our turn. We couldn't wait to start driving. The first day of high school came quickly. Sports and clubs were a thing now. Our time was occupied with practices, FFA, and other extracurricular activities. We were no longer babies. We were high schoolers with real accountability. Friendships changed and people left our lives. Other people came into our lives. From first loves to brutal heart breaks, our lives were moulding into shape. We didn't realize it when we were freshman, but high school shaped us into the amazing people we are today. All twelve of us sitting on this stage had experiences through high school that changed us. Life lessons that were hard, had been taught. People like teachers, friends, and family became the closest people in our lives while we navigated this tough environment of preparing for adulthood. Speaking of which, we couldn't wait to graduate. With that being said, thank you to the teachers, friends, and family who moulded us into the young adults that we are today.

As we sit here today, an "I can't wait" turned into, "I'm finally here". There are many more "I can't wait" phrases that will be spoken by the individuals sitting up here today. We can't wait to go to college. We can't wait to get that degree. We can't wait to start making money. We can't wait to start families. We can't wait to drop our kids off at kindergarten or teach them our favorite hobbies. Whatever that "I can't wait" may be for any of you. I urge us all to take a moment to appreciate the small things in life. It took me eighteen years to realize that "I can't wait" goes really fast. As we achieve great things and make our families proud, I have one thing to say to the Class of 2026. Never let anyone tell you that you can't do something. God planted a dream in you for a reason. With that being said, the Class of 2026 will all be like siblings to me. Thank you for making my high school experience unforgettable.

Schmit tosses district competition, snags two titles



By Mr. Arnold

CKBeat

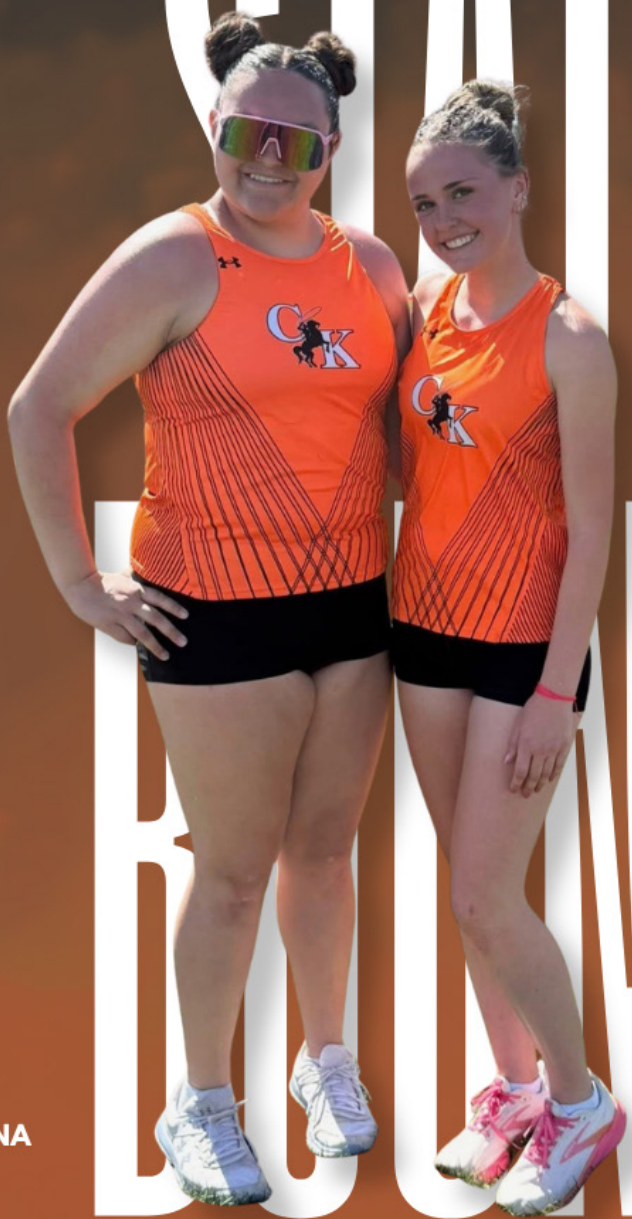
It has been quite a successful year for Cody-Kilgore Track and Field, especially for the dynamic duo sophomores, Lilly and Aubryanna. Both Lilly and Aubryanna qualified for the Nebraska State Track and Field Championships held at Burke Stadium in Omaha, Nebraska May 22-23. Aubryanna will compete in both discus and shot put, while Lilly will run the 3200 meters.

At the D8 district meet in Paxton, Aubryanna won individual titles in discus and shot put. Lilly finished as the D8 Runner-up in the 3200 meters.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ATHLETES!

STATE BOUND

STATE TRACK AND FIELD QUALIFIERS



DISCUS
SHOT PUT
3200M

LILLY &
AUBRYANNA

CK

NSAA

Schmit Medal Haul: 3rd Discus; 5th Shot Put



By Mr. Arnold

CKBeat

Records are made to be broken, and that's exactly what Aubryanna has done this track and field season. In her second campaign representing the Cody-Kilgore Cowgirls, Aubryanna broke the Cowgirl Discus record set by former CK exchange student Urte Noreikaite to claim ownership of both throwing records for the Cowgirls (she broke Urte's Shot Put record during her freshman year), but she didn't stop there. Aubryanna then proceeded to break both her new Discus and Shot Put records throughout the season. It all ended with an impressive medal haul at the Nebraska Class D Girls Track and Field Championships where she placed third in Discus and fifth in Shot Put.

Ravenscroft Rambles to 19th finish in 3200M

Top 20!



	LILLY RAVENSCROFT	NE GIRLS CLASS D TRACK & FIELD	
		19TH PLACE	COWGIRLS

CKUS May School Board Minutes

Cody-Kilgore Unified Schools
Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting
May 11, 2026
Cody High School
The regular Board of Education Meeting was called to order by President Tim Nollette at 6:31pm. Roll call vote. Ryan Orrock, Tony Galvin and Jennie Nollette were also in attendance. There were three guests present. President Nollette verified the posting of the Open Meetings Act, the meeting time & place.
It was moved by Bethany Swendener and Seconded by Shara Ford to approve the agenda with the addition of an Executive Session for student related matter. Roll call vote. Motion carried 6-0.
At this time, President Nollette recognized the visitors & asked for public comment. No comment. It was moved by Landon Miller & seconded by Kevin Ravenscroft to approve the consent agenda as presented, General Fund Claims for $300,779.56 and the Board Meeting Minutes for April 13, 2026. Roll call vote. Motion carried 6-0.
1. 2. 3. 4. New Business:
Depreciation plan items were discussed: shop exhaust – hold off until next year, transportation: it is recommended to get 3 certified vans and 2 suburbans, going to get quotes for painting. a. Bethany Swendener made a motion to approve the purchase of 2 Suburbans, not to exceed $75,000, Landon Miller seconded. Roll call vote. Motion carried 6-0.
Board policies #4002, 4003, 4004, 4005, 4006, 4007, 4008, 4009, 4010, 4011, 4011.1, 4012, 4013, 4014, 4015, 4016, 4017, 4018, 4019, 4020, 4022. Kilgore Building and Site Sale: Tract one and Tract two will be listed together for sale.
a. Landon Miller made a motion to advertise the Sale of both Tracts 1 & 2 together and to have sealed bids due by July 9th at 4pm, Nick Simmons seconded. Roll call vote. Motion carried 6-0.
Shop Items for Surplus, as well as technology items and building supplies. Advertise items available.
a. 7. Bethany Swendener made a motion to surplus the shop, building supplies and technology items, Landon Miller seconded. Roll call vote. Motion carried 6-0.
Handbooks 2026-2027 to be approved.
a. Landon Miller made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 Handbooks for staff, athletics and students, Kevin Ravenscroft seconded. Roll call vote. Motion carried 6-0.
ESU Contract for 2026-2027, we have a teacher on staff that is going to be our Early Childhood Coordinator so that has helped reduce the cost.
a. Landon Miller made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 contract for $146,160, Nick Simmons seconded. Roll call vote. Motion carried 6-0. NASB looking for people to be on their board.
Principal Report:
Mr. Galvin gave his AD and Principal report. Attendance had been great among elementary and middle school students. High school has had a little bit of a dip, but still doing good for this time of year. Behaviors are staying under control, 4 students had ISS last week. Testing was great across the board. 3-5th went on a trip to Halsey, Spring Concerts are taking place, fun day for elementary on Thursday. Teachers appreciated all the treats and gifts! High School students went to Freshman Impact in Martin, multiple stations set up with different scenarios. Bound will be synced to google to calendar, this will include all activities. Final game contracts are still coming in. Track season, Aubrey and Lilly are consistently competing for top placements.
Superintendent Report:
Mr. Orrock gave his Superintendents report. Teachers appreciated the gifts and breakfasts. Going to look into having sports physicals here at the school. Advisory committee met on April 21st, had a great turnout and lots of input. Hunter Rouse will be providing quotes: to finish playground, removal of lab tables in art room, removal of office entrance area. Whipple Construction added red rock to the west side for parking and removed a large rock from Kilgore. Seniors donated sod for front grass. Summer cleaning checklist was made. Work on Budget and developing a 5 year plan. Graduation will be held on
May 16th. Safety committee met with local law enforcement, fire, EMT, and emergency management.
End of year grill out is tomorrow. Lunch Bills are for the most part fine but a few families have gotten behind. Looking at how to hold kids accountable for attendance. Cell Phones have been a concern. Caffeinated drinks in the school have increased, something to watch.
1. It was moved by Bethany Swendener & seconded by Landon Miller to enter Executive Session for student related issue at 8:14pm. Roll Call Vote. Motion carried 6-0
2. It was moved by Landon Miller & seconded by Shara Ford to adjourn the meeting at 8:24pm. Roll call vote. Motion carried 5-0.
3. The date for the next regular Board meeting will be June 8, 2026, at 6:30 pm in Cody.
Claims submitted and approved: 3S FABRICATION & REPAIR LLC, Shop Supplies, $153.00; ACT FINANCE, ACT & PREACT, $838.50; AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, Classroom supplies, Liveschool, testing incentives, $2,410.21; Bennett County Golf Association, 8th Grade Incentive, $250.00; BOB'S SIGNS, Door Numbers, $225.00; BOMGAARS SUPPLY, Shop Supplies, $29.98; Bordertown Discount Fuel, Fuel, $2,954.98; CARDMEMBER SERVICES, hotel rooms, classroom curriculum, subscription, $1,634.45; CASEYS GENERAL STORE, Fuel, $1,165.13; CENTURY BUSINESS PRODUCTS, Copies, $1,509.69; Circle K Motor Co, Coach Bus - Tire Repair, $83.95; CIRCLE-C MARKET, meds, liveschool, supplies, $527.96; COACH MASTERS INC, Coach Bus Parts, $130.04; Cody Livestock, Shipping for Speaker Return, $78.00; D & K Pest Services LLC, Monthly Fee, Gopher/Mole, $150.00; DEMCO Library Labels, $206.69; DIVERSIFIED SAFETY & COMPLIANCE, Drug Testing, $41.06; EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT #17, SPED Services, $21,865.50; Ford, Shara, Teacher Appreciation Gift, $276.60; GREAT PLAINS COMMUNICATIONS, Phone & Internet, $1,793.40; HOMETOWN LUMBER, Shop Supplies, $100.47; Huskerland Hardware, Swiffer Kit, $30.99; INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS LLC, Kleenex, $9.08; InSPIRe Rehab, LLC, OT/PT Services, $2,176.40; KBR RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT, Electricity,
$5,412.24; KSB SCHOOL LAW, Legal Services, $164.00; Lumos Learning, Math/ ELA Books, $982.36; NASB, Workshop, $160.00; NEBRASKA SAFETY CENTER, 11 Hr Course – Jodi, $225.00; NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH, CPR, $110.00; ONE SOURCE, Background Check, $29.00; POWER SCHOOL GROUPS LLC, SIS System, Ecollect, $3,385.53; Rasmussen, Repairs to Unit, $2,297.79; SAND SHOOTERS, Teacher Appreciation Gift, $186.00; SCOTTYS RANCHLAND FOODS, Liveschool, $64.51; TONY GALVIN, Donuts Kindergarten Roundup, $56.00; US POSTAL SERVICE, Bulk Mailing Postage, $300.00; VALENTINE MIDLAND NEWS, Board Minutes, Job Posting, $306.52; VILLAGE OF CODY, Water, Trash, Sewer, $735.44; VOWAC PUBLISHING COMPANY, EL - Desktop Helpers, $452.30; WageWorks, Monthly Fee, $75.00; XS Farms, Gift Basket for Bus Drivers, $150.00; Total $53,732.77; Payroll & Benefits $247,046.79; Grand Total $300,779.56.
Respectfully Submitted, _____
_____, Secretary
School District #30 Board of Education
Agendas are kept continuous and are available at the office of the Superintendent.
360 West 4th Street, Cody, NE 69211



CKUS June School Board Minutes

Cody-Kilgore Unified Schools
Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting
June 8, 2026
Cody High School
1. The regular Board of Education Meeting was called to order by President Tim Nollette at
6:34pm. Roll call vote. Nick Simmons absent. Ryan Orrock, and Jennie Nollette were also in attendance. There were three guests present.
2. It was moved by Bethany Swendener and Seconded by Landon Miller to approve the agenda.
Roll call vote. Motion carried 5-0.
3. At this time, President Nollette recognized the visitors & asked for public comment. No comment. President Nollette verified the posting of the Open Meetings Act, the meeting time & place.
4. It was moved by Kevin Ravenscroft & seconded by Landon Miller to approve the consent agenda as presented, General Fund Claims for $280,101.64 and the Board Meeting Minutes for May 11, 2026. Roll call vote. Motion carried 5-0.
New Business:
1. Depreciation plan items were discussed: 2 suburbans were purchased, Gym doors are now installed, Roofers have been working and new lights are getting installed. Painters came out and quoted $26,500, discussed waiting until next Fiscal Year. Will table until next board meeting.
2. Board policies #4023, 4024, 4025, 4027, 4028, 4029, 4030, 4031, 4032, 4034, 4037, 4038, 4039.
Policies were reviewed.
a. Landon Miller made a motion to update the #4040 Policy to modify the 8 conditional and 4 unconditional to 6 conditional and 6 unconditional for classified staff. Bethany
Swendener seconded. Roll call vote. Motion carried 5-0.
3. Reviewed Safe to Return Plan.
a. Bethany Swendener made a motion to approve the Safe to Return Plan. Landon Miller seconded. Roll call vote. 5-0.
4. Reviewed estimated costs for Casey Peterson, Ltd for 2025-2026.
a. Landon Miller made a motion to approve Casey Peterson to do our 2025-2026 Audit.
Kevin Ravenscroft seconded. Roll call vote. 5-0
Principal Report:
No report given.
Superintendent Report:
Mr. Orrock gave his Superintendents report. Advisory committee named their top five priorities. Hunter
Rouse finished playground, will work this week on front office and art room. Jake Ohlmann just finished gym doors, roofing is in progress. Elementary sinks are still clogging. Sod installation is completed. Budget and Finance retreat will be set up sometime in July. Valuations are going up, could be around $400,000 less in state aide. Cowboy GRIT approved to buy new bleachers at Football field. Summer school starting next week, youth basketball Skills and Drills started this week. Board elections have been pushed to November general election. August 18th we will be hosting NASB meetings.
1. It was moved by Landon Miller & seconded by Shara Ford to adjourn the meeting at 7:38pm.
Roll call vote. Motion carried 5-0.
2. The date for the next regular Board meeting will be July 13, 2026, at 6:30 pm in Cody.
Claims submitted and approved: ACT FINANCE, ACT Online Prep License, $204.54; AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, classroom, cleaning, and office supplies, Liveschool, $4,239.50; BOMGAARS. Shop Supplies, flowers, trashbags, bus, $343.58; Bordertown Discount Fuel, Fuel, $3,839.40; CARDMEMBER SERVICES, Postage, AED, Pizza, $6,261.69; Carrie Ford, Tuition Reim - Spring 2026, $2,958.09; CASEYS GENERAL STORE, Fuel, $674.40; CENTURY BUSINESS PRODUCTS, Copies, $2,311.92; CIRCLE-C MARKET, Teacher Appreciation, Incentives, $117.80; CODY HUB, Testing Incentive, $369.09; D & K Pest Services LLC, Gopher/Mole, $100.00; EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT #17, ESU Services, $15,574.00; ELIZABETH RAVENSCROFT, Fabric for FACS, $126.75; FERRIS HVAC & PLUMBING LLC, Sinks - shop & classrooms, $300.00; GREAT PLAINS COMMUNICATIONS, Phone & Internet, $1,698.58; HEART CITY LOCK & KEY, Keys, $150.00; HEINERT CUSTOM AG, Mower service and supplies, $529.61; HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT, ELA/Math, $2,320.00; Huskerland Hardware, Cable Lock, $12.99; INSPIRE, OT/PT Services, $609.52; Josh Whipple Trucking LLC, Red Rock - Parking lot, $2,825.00; KBR RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT, Electricity, $4,502.06; KSB SCHOOL LAW, Policy Update, Supt inquiry, $1,623.00; LaQuinta Inn & Suites, Transporation Conference - Hotel Room, $110.00; LOUP VALLEY LIGHTING, LED Lights, $975.00; MATHESON TRI-GAS INC, Miter Saw & Stand, $1,100.83; MENARDS – YANKTON, Lumber for Tables, $321.42; MIDLAND PRINTING, Lunch Receipts, $206.62; NCS PEARSON, INC, WIAT-4, $4.90; NEBRASKA SAFETY CENTER, Level 1 - 11hr training – Ryan, $225.00; NSTA, Transporation Conference – Jodi, $150.00; POWER SCHOOL GROUPS LLC, ECollect Forms, $1,487.67; Rapid Fire Protection, Fire Ext Repair, $334.95; Reed Ford, Gas Reim, $50.69; Ref Reps, LLC, RefReps Education Course, $900.00; Renaissance, FastBridge Subscription, $555.20; SCOTTYS RANCHLAND FOODS, EL Fun Day, $14.00; Sherri Westover, Half Ded Met, $525.00; VALENTINE MIDLAND NEWS, Meeting Minutes, $154.79; WageWorks, Monthly Fee, $75.00; ZANER-BLOSER, Handwriting Books, $639.21; Total Claims $59,521.80, Payroll & Benefits, $220,579.84, Grand Total, $280,101.64.
Respectfully Submitted, _____
_____
___, Secretary
School District #30 Board of Education
Agendas are kept continuous and are available at the office of the Superintendent.

