

The Galena Sentinel-Times

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Take Note!

Notices for Take Note should be turned in to the Sentinel office no later than 10 a.m. Tuesdays. Call: 783-5034 Fax: 783-1388 Email: gstimes@kans.com

The Galena High School Class of 1955 will be observing their 50th year reunion the weekend of 16-17-18 of September. The classes of 1954 through 1959 are invited to join all classes from the 1950s decade for the Friday Night Homecoming, Sept. 16, and a picnic at Schermerhorn Park on Sunday, Sept. 18.

Crafters sought for craft show-The SE Kansas Nature Center is seeking artisans and crafters for the "Day in the Park" craft show which will be held on Sept. 24th at Schermerhorn Park just south of Galena. This event is a fun day in a beautiful outdoor setting which helps support educational programs throughout the year at the Southeast Kansas Nature Center. Those interested may call 620-783-5262 or email: seknaturecenter@yahoo.com.

Midnight madness co-ed softball tournament to be held Saturday September 10th at the Baxter Softball field with the first game starting at 9pm and will play until we are finished. Entry fee is \$100 with 1st place taking home their \$100 entry fee. Proceeds benefit Kendra Lawrence who was recently dx with Syringomyelia and has to travel to New York in November to see a team of Specialists. For more information or to get your team signed up please call Angie @ 783-5052 or 529-7275.

The Galena High School Class of 1956 is invited to join all classes from the 1950's for the Friday Night Homecoming Game, Sept. 16, and a picnic at Schermerhorn Park on Sunday Sept. 18. For more info call Rayma (Morton) Crane at 620-848-3356(home), 620-762-0350(cell).

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Local Deaths

- Ruby Carver, Galena, age 85
- Edna Livingston, Galena, age 96
- Jo Stevens, Baxter Springs, age 79
- Mervin Fichtner, Westminster, Calif., age 81



Last year's CNC Coach of the Year, Johnny Mallatt, goes over strategy with his team after their first scrimmage game. The Bulldogs play their first game against Girard this Friday.

School tax rates to be lower for tax-payers

By V. Hopkins

Annual budgets for Districts #499, Galena, and District #404, Riverton, as well as other Kansas school districts, are expected to be approved this week and most show increased spending but also, lower property taxes for residents. This comes as a result of the Kansas Supreme Court action in July which forced the legislature to mandate increased school funds for 2005-06 school terms.

The 2005-06 budget for the Galena School District was approved at the budget meeting Monday night, August 29. It includes a 22 % increase in spending, \$10,417,946 as opposed to \$8,535,668, but it also has a lower property-tax rate of 49.03 mills, down from 50.312 mills in 2004-05.

A home owner with property appraised at \$70,000 would be taxed \$348.69 next year, down from \$359.01 this year.

Riverton's budget hearing will be held Tuesday, August 30. It proposes an increase of spending of 17 %, from \$8,781,533 to \$10,250,727. The property tax will be 40.66 mills, down from 41.177 in 2004-2005.

Property with a market value of \$70,000 in Riverton will pay taxes of \$281.31 this next year, down from \$285.47 in 2004-05. The school districts of Baxter Springs and Columbus also have budgets with similar increases in spending and lower school taxes.

Actual tax amounts from the county treasurer may vary when tax notices are mailed this fall because the above figures do not include taxes levied by the city, county or state. However, property owners can expect a reduction in school taxes this year, if not large, at least certainly welcome.

Southeast Kansas resident responds to Hurricane Katrina

The American Red Cross launched the largest mobilization of resources in its history for a single natural disaster. Hurricane Katrina, a deadly Category 4 storm, barreled ashore along the Gulf Coast and has left widespread devastation and claimed several lives.

"Hurricane Katrina is wreaking havoc for Southeast Florida and the Gulf coast states," said Aaron Phillips, Executive Director of the local Pioneer KS Chapter. "The Red Cross will meet the challenge by doing what we do best: coming together to respond with tireless effort."

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Why We're In Iraq (the Scott Abram View)

The following is a letter from Capt. Scott Abram, U.S. Army, Operation Iraqi Freedom III. Capt. Abram graduated from CUHS in Columbus, Kans., in 1994 and from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1998. He's been serving in Iraq since January, 2005. He is the son of Pat Smith & Gail Abram both of Columbus.



Capt. Scott Abram, U.S. Army

I've been sitting here over the past few days and watching the protest in Crawford, Texas, by the mother of a soldier who was killed in Iraq, and it's started me thinking about why do I think we're here in Iraq and whether or not it's worth the sacrifice. This, of course, is a subject that is near and dear to the hearts of all soldiers throughout history. As Gen. Douglas MacArthur said in his speech to the Corps of Cadets in 1962:

"On the contrary, the soldier, above all other people, prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war. But always in our ears ring the ominous words of Plato, that wisest of all philosophers: 'Only the dead have seen the end of war.'"

With that in mind, and on this day when the Iraqi Constitution was finalized for submission to the people of Iraq for discussion, I look at why I think we're here.

1. My main reason for supporting the invasion when we did is because, let's face it, Saddam Hussein was a threat to the entire region. We can argue all day about whether or not he had WMD, but even without them he was still one of the absolute most evil men on the face of the earth. I have been in some of the palaces that he built for himself and have seen the beautiful marble floors and crystal chandeliers that adorn those buildings, and I contrast that with the absolute filth and grime that the majority of the Iraqi population live with each day. Fortunately we haven't found any in our area of operations, but I have heard from other soldiers about the torture chambers that have been found, the mass graves that we have uncovered, and the other evidence of Saddam's butchery. For me,

the fact that he is gone is a good thing for the world, and I don't care what the French and Germans think about it.

2. The Iraqi people, by and large, want freedom and the ability to determine their own destiny. I never cease to be amazed at how negative all of the news stories that come out of Iraq are when I have a chance to see American news. The focus is always on how many died, how many wounded, and how terrible things are over here. It just doesn't fit with the things that we see on the ground here. We see people that are trying their best to do the right things and get their country on its feet again. We see police and Iraqi Army soldiers bravely standing their posts, knowing that they are as much of a target as we are. In fact, they are an easier target, because while we sleep in a well-protected base camp each night, they go home and sleep with their families in neighborhoods where some of their friends might try to kill them in their sleep. Funny how we never hear about

those soldiers or policemen and their bravery. Even in our area, which is highly anti-U.S., the Iraqi Army soldiers are training and preparing to provide their own security so that we can leave, knowing that the area is in good hands. That makes it worth it to me.

3. A lot of people don't buy this argument, but I believe it's true: We are killing and detaining foreign fighters in Iraq by the dozens, and that helps keep them off our streets at home. People continue to argue this point back and forth, but the bottom line is that the more Egyptians, Jordanians, Syrians, Iranians, and other SOB's that we catch or kill here in Iraq fighting us is one less "Totally Committed" jihadist ready to blow himself up in an airplane, at a mall, or somewhere else in the U.S. I do not believe that there is an infinite supply of these terrorist punks, so the more we kill here makes less to cause trouble elsewhere. One of my

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Galena/Riverton schools welcome new teachers



Carry DeGruson
Speech/Drama
Galena/Riverton High School



Lisle Messer
Math
Galena High School



Diana Moss
Civics
Galena High School



Jamie Davis
Wood Shop
Galena High School



Lacey Baker
Family and Consumer Science
Galena High School



Rushelle Gunlock
Spanish
Galena High School



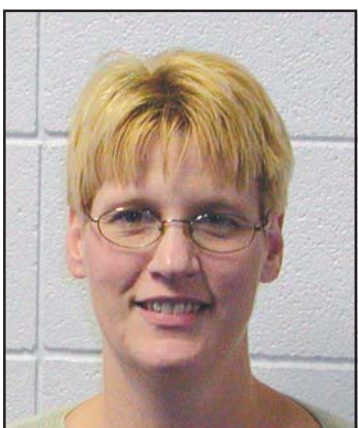
Casey Hudson
English
Riverton High School



Salli Chowning
Special Education
Riverton High School



Mia Elliott
Special Education
Riverton High School



Jayne Jones
Science
Riverton High School



Sharon Stice
Counselor
Riverton High School

