

The Wabaunsee County **SIGNAL-ENTERPRISE**

Official newspaper for Wabaunsee County, USD #329, USD #330 and
The Cities of Alma, Eskridge, Harveyville, McFarland, Paxico, Alta Vista, and Maple Hill, Kansas

Lori Daniel, Editor • P.O. Box 158 • Alma, Kansas 66401 • 785-765-3327 • signal@embarqmail.com • *Established in 1884*

State Representatives and Senators for the State of Kansas,

My name is Lori Daniel. I am the editor of *The Wabaunsee County Signal-Enterprise* in Alma, Kansas. It is the only remaining newspaper in Wabaunsee County. At one time there were several.

I purchased this paper in June of 2016 after considerable thought. Well-intending people tried to sway me from my decision. Comments like: the industry is failing, you don't want to invest in something you can't count on; Congress is trying to take away the major part of your income by putting "legals" on the internet; and nobody wants the "paper" version . . . everything is digital. But I saw the need for small town newspapers . . . actually newspapers as a whole.

The comment about nobody wants the "paper" version is so WRONG! Living in a predominantly rural area, the "paper" version is more desirable. All the people in Wabaunsee County do not have access to decent Internet connectivity or use it on a regular basis. While some residents may be followers of Facebook, I can assure you that the vital legal information of our area will not be sought out and read at county and city websites on a daily basis. People rarely go to these websites unless there is something specific they are looking for. Bottom line, people won't take the time on a daily basis just for the sheer chance that there might be a legal piece that concerns them.

With my newspaper, people may not read every legal entirely, but they will check them out to discern if there is a "legal" pertinent to their lives. And unlike the internet where you will have to check more than one website, the legals are all together . . . city, county, school districts, etc.

I worked for this newspaper for 2 years during my high school days. Prior to purchasing the newspaper in June 2016, I worked here for a year and a half. The subscription base and ad sales had declined somewhat, the legals were a big part of keeping the business afloat. By observing and paying attention to what the newspaper content had become, I discovered what I considered a "flaw." The community coverage was getting a little lopsided. Wabaunsee County needed to be covered as a whole . . . no one community more important than the other.

Our newspaper represents all seven communities and two school districts in Wabaunsee County plus other small townships. We are a small staff, but try to attend as many activities and meetings as possible. We encourage people to contribute articles and pictures. Every week that we publish the paper, news is shared about what is happening in Wabaunsee County. And this is a BUSY county. We also provide many free promotional articles for our communities.

Since taking on my . . . to quote the school . . . "We Are Wabaunsee" attitude, I have increased my subscriptions and my ad sales somewhat in the last 7 months. So people clearly still want their local newspapers. However, it is no secret that a good portion of my financial support (nearly 1/3) still comes from legal publications from the county, cities, school districts, townships, improvement districts and cemetery boards. Loss of this revenue WILL jeopardize my existence as a SMALL TOWN BUSINESS.

I know in Wabaunsee County being transparent and sharing important information with the taxpayers is vital, and they look forward to and expect to see it in their local paper.

I sincerely request your support for the many small town newspapers that will suffer greatly if the proposal to post legal publications on the Internet is adopted. I fear the result will be that the only link of information that ties small towns and communities together will die – as so many newspapers already have. **Please support small businesses and OPPOSE House Bill No. 2247.**

Sincerely,

Lori L. Daniel, Editor

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