

ROGER KOCH
IS THE LEADER
WE NEED NOW!


MISSOURI STATE REPRESENTATIVE - DIST 162

VOTE TUESDAY - ROGER KOCH

Paid for by Veterans for Roger Koch, Victoria Ales, CPA, Treasurer

Jill Carter
For State Representative 162nd District
(Vote for 1)

Walter Hayes

Roger Koch

Roger That!



District 160 seat to be filled after long vacancy

Winner of Tuesday’s GOP primary
will run against Democrat Angela
Thomas in Nov. 4 general election

BY JOHN HACKER
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NEOSHO, Mo. — Neosho and part of Newton County have been without representation in the Missouri House of Representatives since May 2025 when Ben Baker resigned to take a job with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Gov. Mike Kehoe suggested in late 2025 that he planned to appoint someone to serve the final year of Baker’s term, but he ended up not appointing anyone, leaving the seat vacant during the remainder of the 2025 and all of the 2026 legislative sessions. People who live in House District 160 say they noticed the lack of representation but that they don’t think it has had any serious effects. “I don’t feel that there’s any real effect of that,” said Tim Meadows, who lives north of Neosho. “I think it would be nice to have somebody in there that we could communicate with for our legislative concerns, but I don’t believe it’s affected how the Legislature works or anything.” District resident Michael Mercado said he was able to reach out to representatives from surrounding districts when he had questions. “I missed having someone in that seat. I didn’t want to be without one,” Mercado said. “But I had good representation

SEE DISTRICT, 2A

Added to register



The Ku-Ku restaurant, initially shaped like a cuckoo clock, opened in Miami in 1965. Since purchasing it in 1973, Eugene “Gene” Waylan has added on twice, in 1977 and 1990, doubling the original seating.

GLOBE | KAYLEA M. HUTSON-MILLER

Last surviving Ku-Ku restaurant on Route 66 earns historical designation

BY KAYLEA M. HUTSON-MILLER
news@joplinglobe.com

M IAMI, Okla. — Community is a word Eugene “Gene” Waylan credits for his long-term

success in Miami as the owner of the last surviving Ku-Ku restaurant. From baseball and soccer players grabbing a bite after a game to community leaders helping him establish and maintain

the long-running business, Waylan said everything he’s achieved is because of the Miami community. Now Waylan and his spot on Route 66 are bringing more recognition to Northeast Oklahoma. The Ku-Ku is the newest addition to the National Register of Historic Places. “When they called me the other day (about the designation), I broke down,”

Waylan said. “None of this could have happened without the people of Miami. This was a good place for my kids to grow up and learn.”

LONG TIME COMING

The designation, which became official July 16, started “years ago” when an architectural survey

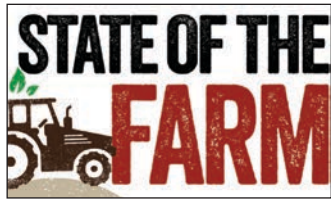
SEE KU-KU, 2A

Autonomous technology finds new ground in farms across country

EDITOR’S NOTE: This is fifth in a five-part series.

BY BENNY REEVES
Farm Talk

A four-row planter trolls through a field just off the highway in Miami, Oklahoma. Panic hits the drivers passing by as they notice the cab is empty and the machine, though distant, seems to be headed straight for the road.



Countless calls have been made to the local fire station, notifying first responders that an elderly farmer must have fallen out of his tractor, and they should prepare for the worst.

To their relief, the locals in the area have just been introduced to an autonomous tractor being beta-tested at Rendel Farms. Zach Rendel, owner and operator of Rendel Farms, and Nick Martin, general manager of ModernAg, recalled the incident with a laugh in a recent visit. Rendel and Martin’s new-found synergy has taken what seems like futuristic technology off farm show

floors and placed it in the field, both literally and figuratively. This story exemplifies what happens when farmers place their trust in emerging technology to do the work that they’ve done their entire lives.

‘ALWAYS EXPANDING’

Fledgling technology is not new in the agricultural community. Precision farming has been used to in-

crease operations’ efficiency for decades. Many farmers had learned to adapt to changing times long before tractors could operate with an empty cab. According to the American Farm Bureau, the use of variable rate fertilizer spreading, or using data and analytics to understand that different parts of a field hold different crop yields, can be seen as early as 1983. This is one of the first exam-

ples of precision farming, and the foundation of what is seen at Rendel Farms today. The first GPS auto-guidance system was used in an agricultural setting in 1996, and by mid-2000s, the technology was commonplace. “Yield monitors and auto-steer were probably around 2006, 2007, somewhere in there, when we

SEE FARMS, 2A



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