

Thursday Prairie Rib
 44 Village Plaza • Decatur, KS 62526-4300 • Monday - Saturday
 8:00 AM - 10:00 PM • 620-433-4444 • www.prairierib.com

"Halloween in the Park"
 The City of Decatur, Kansas, will host the 10th annual "Halloween in the Park" on Wednesday, October 9, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Decatur Community Center. Activities include a costume parade, pumpkin carving, and a haunted house. Tickets are \$5.00 per person. For more information, call 620-433-4444.

School board plans for public input at Wednesday meeting
 Competency grading up for discussion

The Board of Education will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, October 9, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Decatur Community Center. The agenda includes a presentation on competency grading, which is a method of evaluating student performance based on specific skills and knowledge rather than traditional letter grades. The board will also discuss the possibility of implementing this system in the district's schools.

Fair association annual meeting set for Oct. 17
 The Fair Association will hold its annual meeting on Friday, October 17, at 7:00 p.m. at the Decatur Community Center. The meeting will feature a presentation on the association's activities and plans for the future, followed by a dinner. Tickets are \$10.00 per person. For more information, call 620-433-4444.

County approves prairie chicken listing
 A resolution was passed by the Board of Commissioners to list the prairie chicken as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. The resolution was passed by a 4-2 vote. The listing is intended to provide additional protection for the species and its habitat.

LEADER & TIMES
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School financing
 City to discuss adding 1/2-cent sales tax for school expansions to ballot for public approval at today's meeting

The City of Decatur will discuss the possibility of adding a 1/2-cent sales tax to the city's budget for school expansions. The tax would be used to fund the construction of new schools and the renovation of existing ones. The city will hold a public hearing on the tax at its meeting on Wednesday, October 9, at 7:00 p.m.

Friends of the NRA sets date for annual banquet
 The Friends of the National Rifle Association will hold their annual banquet on Friday, October 11, at 6:00 p.m. at the Decatur Community Center. The banquet will feature a presentation on the organization's activities and plans for the future, followed by a dinner. Tickets are \$15.00 per person. For more information, call 620-433-4444.

Sen. Moran blasts VA for spending a half-million dollars on art
 Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) has criticized the Veterans Affairs (VA) department for spending a half-million dollars on art. He says the money should be used to improve the VA's healthcare services for veterans. He has introduced legislation to limit the VA's spending on art to \$50,000 per year.

Silver Lake man dies in riding mower accident
 A man from Silver Lake, Kansas, died on Monday, October 7, after being struck by a riding mower. The man was 65 years old and was working in his yard. The accident occurred while he was mowing the lawn. The man's family is mourning his loss.

Kan. defends school funding decisions before court
 The State of Kansas is defending its school funding decisions in court. The state has been sued by several school districts for not providing enough funding for schools. The state argues that its funding formula is constitutional and that the school districts are overfunding their schools.

Family: Man who set self on fire was mentally ill
 The family of a man who set himself on fire in a public place says he was mentally ill. The man was 35 years old and was in a public square in Decatur, Kansas. He was seen by several people before he set himself on fire. The man was taken to the hospital and died of his injuries. The family says they had been trying to get him help for a long time.