

PLEASE SEE **DOGS** PAGE 10



## Don't let it become 'that's the way it was'

SIXTY-THREE YEARS AGO, Walter Cronkite shocked the world when he closed his first-ever half-hour nationwide newscast.

Instead of saying “and that’s the way it is,” as he did for the next two decades, he ended with: “That’s the news. Be sure to check your local newspapers tomorrow to get all the details on the headlines we are delivering to you.”

CBS was horrified, and Cronkite quickly relented. Still, the person who epitomized news through one of the most turbulent times in American history continued to believe that, for democracy to function, citizens needed to be informed beyond the brief snatches of information available in something as short as a half-hour newscast.

Imagine how horrified he would be today to see citizens getting most if not all of their information not from the brief headlines of half-hour newscasts or even the less thorough, more biased views of comics and talking heads on late-night TV but from one- or two-line blips of pseudo-information posted by who-knows-who on anti-social media.

As we approach July Fourth, we’re reminded not only of the freedoms American democracy allows but also of the responsibilities it demands. Keeping informed — fully informed, not just getting all atwitter about some spin spewing forth from your cell phone — is every bit as necessary to continued democracy as are the valiant sacrifices our courageous military personnel make in times of war.

When our founding fathers were crafting the Constitution for the world’s first successful democracy, it wasn’t “one big, beautiful bill.” It was something average citizens debated and discussed in detail after being informed by such things as 85 essays in the “Federalist Papers.”

Compare that to the 85 or more flames you’ll see on Facebook, Instagram, or X anytime we publish anything that even vaguely mentions some hot-button issue. No one’s minds are changed, in part because their minds have been so starved of actual information that they cannot function in ways other than to repeat meaningless slogans.

Those who think their time enjoying family life is more valuable than learning about how democracy lets that to happen deserve neither democracy nor the family enjoyment it allows.

That’s why we were horrified last week to learn of the cavalier manner in which Marion County residents were dealing with a legislative vacancy. In the end, only one citizen came forward to try to join the depleted group of precinct committee members who will select our next legislator. And she had to battle bureaucratic reluctance and practically threaten legal action to be included.

We also were saddened last week to learn that Hillsboro Free Press — which earlier admitted it wasn’t a full-service newspaper — was abandoning even the “newspaper” name and beginning to call itself a “shopper” publication.

We understand the challenges publisher Joey Young faced in trying to publish a “free” newspaper in Marion County. He and his staff do a great job producing traditional, paid-circulation papers elsewhere. But with fewer and fewer local businesses, and more and more of them having to get permission from distant owners to advertise, the only way a newspaper can survive is on contributions from readers in the form of subscriptions.

A “free” newspaper, especially one that isn’t full service, does a disservice to democ-

racy by allowing readers to wrongly believe they get all the news they need from it. Joey, to his great credit, understood this, and we’re certain it figured at least in part in his decision to transform the Free Press into a “shopper.”

Newspapers face other challenges, as well — a U.S. Postal Service that continually increases its rates, as it is doing this very week, by far more than the rate of inflation and a general reluctance among young journalists to relocate to unfamiliar rural areas.

We consider ourselves considerably lucky to have been able to hire Finn Hartnett, who hails from Tribeca in lower Manhattan and graduated from the University of Chicago, to join our staff a year ago.

For Finn, working in Marion is like former Marion High School valedictorian Emmy Hess’ decision to spend a year in the jungles of Guatemala. It’s a gap year of service, motivated in part by his desire to contribute to a small, locally owned newspaper with traditional journalistic values and special needs after being illegally raided by police.

We won’t be able to keep Finn much longer. Like the Wichita Wind Surge, small community newspapers are a farm system for the nation’s bigger news organizations. Sometimes you can find someone local to help out, as Joey did with Laura Paulus Fowler, but her departure also was a key element in the decision to transform the Free Press.

We’ll try our best to avoid being forced to cut back when Finn departs and our three full-time team members staffers over the age of 65 finally begin to retire, but it will be challenging.

Journalism is not a business for those with thin skins or weak hearts. We’re constantly cussed out, accused of “fake news,” portrayed as biased, and lumped together with all those non-journalist spinmeisters on late-night TV, in blogs, and on anti-social media.

We don’t even have the “but you’re on TV” allure than allows such places as local TV stations to pay their journalists what in some cases is less than half what we have to pay.

Some politicians — particularly those too obsessed with enjoying family life to seek out and study full information needed for democracy — might disagree.

But a corollary to the adage “show me a beloved newspaperman and I’ll show you a sh\*\*\*y newspaper,” is the adage that newspapers and communities tend to rise or fall with the same tide.

An informed citizenry leads to an enlightened and progressive community. A community that insists on never examining itself honestly in the mirror that journalism provides ends up growing unkempt and sickly.

Public TV and radio, where our former reporter, Alex Simone, now works in New York State, has it right. Subscriptions are like donations to democracy, and ads not only help sell goods and services; they also support democracy and should be considered at least in part to be underwriting, not just advertising.

If rural communities such as ours understand and appreciate that, we’ll be confronted with fewer things like the Free Press becoming a shopper or dailies in towns like Salina, McPherson, Newton, El Dorado, and Abilene becoming mere shadows of their former selves.

This Independence Day, all of us need to remember that independence depends on information. Supporting institutions that professionally provide information is a fire-cracker of an idea.

— ERIC MEYER



## Another Day in the Country Going downhill

By PAT WICK

© Another Day in the Country

THE THING I’ve dreaded most about aging is the “going downhill” phenomenon.

It isn’t good news: the look in people’s eyes when they lower their voice, look away discretely, and say to a person next to them, “I’m afraid she’s going downhill.”

Going downhill, it seems to me, should be and always has been a joyous thing.

Riding a bike, for instance. There’s nothing quite as great as going downhill. It’s like flying. You might have exhausted yourself climbing that hill, but the minute you hit the crest, it’s free sailing — exhilarating and so much fun.

I still love driving long, straight Kansas roads, where you can see rolling hills coming in the distance.

When we’d come over the crest of a hill, my dad would speed up so that coming down the other side was so exciting your heart dropped deliciously into the pit of your stomach and you had to catch your breath.

How did going downhill get associated with dying?

Throughout my life, I’ve been pretty careful with my body. I was raised with the notion that the body is sacred, and because it houses the breath of life, it’s synonymous with an indwelling holiness and so should be treated with great respect.

Maybe because of that upbringing, good genetics, or luck, I haven’t had much sickness, no traumatic illness, only one minor broken bone. My immune system is miraculous, and I give thanks that bodies heal and repair themselves every day.

Then, January came around, and things changed. They weren’t big things, but I knew my body was battling something. Some disease definitely was cropping up, and the location seemed to move around.

One week it would be my lungs. That wasn’t anything new; asthma runs in our family. We know what to do to help it heal.

Then, suddenly, something was wrong somewhere else.

There were carpal tunnel problems — something I’d never had in my life. I hadn’t been on a computer and couldn’t figure out any logical reason why

suddenly my wrists were painful, swollen, and didn’t work. Of course, I Googled it.

Wrists! We should give thanks for those little hinges every hour on the hour. When wrists stop functioning, 90% of your freedom is gone. Wrists are even more vital than knees in my book.

At times like these, I rustle up every natural remedy I know of — giving my wrists support, cold packs, and massage, trying to figure out what I have done to cause this malady.

Thankfully, slowly, the wrists got better.

How many weeks are in three months? Twelve! And every week or so there was something new happening in my body.

Early on, I wondered if it was COVID, but I tested, and it wasn’t. Was I going downhill?

For sure, it didn’t feel like after you’d hiked up a hill and now could go down an incline. That would be a relief.

This succession of weeks felt more like a long slog, and just about the time I thought I could see light at the end of the tunnel, the power would go down.

During this three-month siege of strange maladies, I gathered tools to help me cope.

I felt like a walking first-aid kit. Already I carried oversized bandages and disinfectant in case some tree branch, riser at a ballgame, or shopping cart touched me just the wrong way and barked off my fragile skin.

I already had an inhaler that goes wherever I go, but now I also had a nebulizer at my house, cold packs and wrist braces, ibuprofen, Ace bandages, and long-sleeved shirts.

I was telling a friend who is a trained acupuncturist about the perplexing set of maladies I’d been dealing with.

“Something is triggering infections in different parts of my body,” I said. “I don’t understand it. Is this just old age catching up with me? Is this what I should expect from here on out?”

“In Chinese medicine,” Wil-low replied, “they say that your immune system is like a powerful dragon coming to your rescue. Let’s call upon that in our session today.”

A couple of days later, I had

an appointment with my favorite dentist for some minor procedure.

When I arrived, he said, “Bad news. Your X-rays show that your root canal is infected, and that tooth needs to be removed.”

Instead of being chagrined, I was excited.

Could that be the explanation for all the weird things that have been happening to me?

Sure enough, all the pesky maladies, the omnipresent aches and pains surfacing at random, stopped once that infected tooth was gone.

I’d never dreamed that an infected tooth could be so powerful. It hadn’t even registered that I still had one root canal in my mouth. No nerves in the tooth meant no toothache warning me something was very wrong.

I’ve told you this long, meandering tale to encourage you all to take care of your teeth.

So many times, especially as we age, our teeth get neglected. I didn’t grow up flossing. That’s been the hardest habit to establish. I brush every day, but it’s a new concept to brush more than once a day and a new skill to get flossing down — all something my grandson does without prompting as part of his routine on another day in the country.

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## Letters TO THE EDITOR

### Deporting the arts

To the editor:

That \$800,000 that was earmarked for Sunflower Theatre in Peabody as part of the National Endowment for the Arts will now be redirected to the Chicago field office for ICE, just down the road in Cottonwood Falls.

And we’re just in Act I of this comedic tragedy. Can’t wait for the intermission!

Thane Schwartz  
Marion

### The middle class

To the editor:

The middle class is the backbone of our country.

It is the source of economic growth. It is the primary source of an educated workforce as well as the primary source of con-

sumers. That stable consumer base drives investment.

The middle class is necessary for innovation. It is a bastion of civic engagement, improving our local communities and communities across the United States. It promotes education and other long-term investment.

But the middle class has been decreasing in size. It fell from 61% in 1971 to 50% in 2021. Simultaneously, the upper-income tier increased from 14% in 1971 to 21% in 2021.

While incomes of the middle class have risen by 50%, it is disproportionate to those of the upper-income households, which have risen by 69%.

Although we’re told the current Republican Party stands for ordinary citizens standing up to powerful elites, the Budget Reconciliation Bill (a/k/a the “One Big Beautiful Bill”) being considered in the Sen-

ate is the most regressive, least populist policy package in 40 years.

Besides tax cuts to benefit the rich, it targets spending cuts that hurt mostly middle- and low-income families.

It would reduce income among the poorest 20% of Americans by 3.8% while also increasing the income of the richest 20% by 3.7%, which is a range of 7.5 percentage points.

Cuts made in President Trump’s first term amounted to a difference of 2.5 points, with the poorest 20% having a 0.4% increase in income and the richest 20% having a 2.9% increase.

President Bush’s tax cuts in 2001 resulted in increased income for the poorest 20% by an average 0.5% and for the richest 20% by 3.2%, amounting to a difference of 2.7 points.

Weakening the middle class

further will not make America great again.

Please contact Senator Moran at (202) 224-6521 and Senator Roger Marshall at (202) 224-4774 and ask them to oppose this bill if you haven’t already.

Kathy L. Fox  
Council Grove

### Term limits

To the editor:

It seems almost every time I read the Marion County Record, I see some news article or opinion piece that either pertains to the governor of Kansas or to a governor of another state.

Since this is 2025, and the 2026 gubernatorial election is still more than a year away, this would be a golden opportunity for the Kansas Legislature to enact term limits for future governors.

I have nothing against Laura Kelly or some of those who preceded her, such as Bill Graves and Sam Brownback, who were elected to two terms. I have met both of them.

The oldest living former governor of Kansas, John Carlin, was elected to two terms. He concluded his second term in January, 1987. By that August, he was my professor at Wichita State University.

I must say I learned a lot in his class. He was rigorous and insisted on excellence in all his students. I can vouch for that. He was my most distinguished professor at WSU. I like him.

That being said, I am afraid that Kansas can do better than “geriatric politics.” With all due respect, Laura Kelly is 75 years old. Even Catholic bishops are required to tender their resignations at age 75. I approve of that.

True, some people are

blessed with good health, and some people aren’t. Nevertheless, Kansas is not a small state. Nor is America a small country. We have a population that would easily enable greater turnover.

Sadly, many people don’t run for elective office for fear they or their families’ lives will be put through a gristmill of dirty politics and stilted media tainted by big money or big name recognition.

I feel we must break that celebrity cycle in elections. Furthermore, I think future Kansas governors would do better if they didn’t have to worry about the yoke of re-election.

There would be fewer incentives for lobbyists, and governors would be forced to make their mark and get out.

Public service wasn’t intended to be a lifelong career. Let them go back to private life in-

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Eighth-grader Caden Ackland explores Wholesale Fireworks in Marion.

STAFF PHOTO BY FINN HARTNETT

## Fuse lit for firework stores

By **FINN HARTNETT**  
Staff writer

With the Fourth of July just around the corner, seasonal fireworks stores have shot into life like a roman candle.

In Peabody, The Boom Box opened this week on the corner of 9th and Walnut Sts.

In Hillsboro, Charlie's Fireworks opened on W D St., next to the city pool.

Marion has seen two shops open: NF Explosions next to D and J Liquor on E. Main St., and the Wholesale Fireworks tent at Main and 1st St.

It is the eighth year of running the blue-and-white wholesale tent for Allison Shults and her husband, Darrel.

"It's a lot of work, but it's fun to see the kids come in," Shults said. "We have a lot of repeat customers."

Eighth-grader Caden Ackland parked his bike next to the tent and wandered into the store Tuesday afternoon.

"I'm kind of new here," he said. "Moved a couple weeks ago."

Ackland explained that his family had moved to the county after his father was hired as superintendent of Centre schools.

The fireworks he wants to buy this year will depend on his budget, Ackland said.

"I would say 200-gram cakes are the smallest you can get," he said. "I'm try-

### Displays set for weekend

Peabody's 104th annual ground display fireworks extravaganza may be the most dramatic display in the county, but it's not the only fireworks show people can see this weekend.

Ramona and Marion County Fire District No. 3 will have a meal of hamburgers and hot dogs, chips, and beverage for a free will donation at 6:30 p.m. Friday. A fireworks show put on by firefighters will begin after dusk.

Marion County Park and Lake will

get into the act Saturday. The event will begin with a cruise around the lake 7 p.m. Live music by the Wheat State Revival band will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the beach. Fireworks will begin after dark.

On Sunday, Aulne Bible Church will have an annual ice cream social and fireworks display. A program will begin at 7 p.m. It will be followed by an ice cream social. Fireworks will begin at dark.

ing to go for smaller ones, because I've noticed that although they look small, they're breaking a lot bigger."

Ackland highlighted a ten-shot, purple-and-gold willow cake called "Wild Wild Willows" as one he was interested in picking up.

The Shultses are contracted by Wholesale Fireworks, a large chain with locations in Kansas, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Mississippi and West Virginia.

"It started when my kids were in school as fundraisers for different things they were involved in," Allison Shults said.

Last July was rainy, Shults recalled; storms knocked over their tent when they first tried to set it up.

"Luckily, we weren't stocked," she said.

The Fourth also fell on a Thursday in 2024, which meant sales were down.

This year, with the Fourth on a Friday and sunny weather for most of the week, Shults is expecting better business.

"I can handle the wind blowing stuff off the tables," she said. "As long as it's not raining."

Both Shults and her husband work in the Marion school system.

Shults said she planned to use this year's proceeds to buy supplies for her second and third grade special-ed classrooms.

## Ex-athlete to plead in double fatality

By **PHYLLIS ZORN**  
Staff writer

A Tabor football player who crashed his car south of Hillsboro, killing two passengers, has reached a plea agreement in a criminal case filed against him.

At the time of the accident Feb. 27, 2022, Jonathan M. Medina was a 22-year-old, 5-foot-11, 170-pound freshman full-back from Arlington High School in Riverside, California.

Medina's 2001 Toyota 4Runner left Indigo Rd. pm Feb. 27, 2022, at a correction jog south of Hillsboro Feb. 27, 2022, overturned against an embankment, and burst into flames.

Passengers, Chris J. Castillo, 22, of Tu-

stin, California, and Johnethon J. Aviles, 23, of Paso Robles, California, who also were football players, died at the scene.

Hillsboro ambulance took Medina to Wesley Medical Center, Wichita.

Medina was not charged until nearly three years after the accident. On Jan. 27, he was charged with two counts of involuntary manslaughter while driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

County Attorney Michelle Brown said her predecessor, Joel Ensey, did not file charges, but Mothers Against Drunk Drivers complained, so she filed charges after he left office.

Details of Medina's plea agreement

are not yet available in court files, nor is a recommended sentence.

Arraignment, when Medina would be expected to enter his plea on the charges, is scheduled for Tuesday.

Brown said she was not requesting prison time because Medina is now quadriplegic.

Lasandra Aviles, presumably a relative of one of the victims, filed suit against Medina in July 2023.

Johnson County court records do not show the petition against Medina, so Lasandra Aviles' relationship to Johnethon J. Aviles is not known.

The case there was dismissed three months ago for lack of prosecution.

# County names new interim EMS chief

By **PHYLLIS ZORN**  
Staff writer

After serving as ambulance director for a year and interim director repeated times, Chuck Kenney is glad county commissioners appointed a new interim ambulance director Monday.

Commissioners appointed paramedic Mickey Price, a supervisor in the department, as interim director.

Price has worked for the department for nine years and is a full-time employee.

"I'm hoping to do a good job for the citizens of Marion County," Price said.

He is uncertain whether he would consider becoming permanent department head.

"I would be open to it, but there are some things we would have to talk about," Price said.

The county has hired five ambulance directors in seven years.

Kenney was interim director after Travis Parmley resigned in July, 2022. Parmley's resignation came after weeks

of contention over the department's policy on transferring patients needing care at larger hospitals.

The next permanent director, Kurt Hasart, spent 10 months on the job, then resigned in September, 2023, while under investigation for not disclosing pending criminal charges against him when he got his Kansas license — which he later lost.

Kenney again was appointed interim director. He became permanent director in October, 2023.

After a year as director, he resigned last September but offered to remain as interim director until a new director was found.

He spent seven months as interim director.

A new director, Kyle Burtch, was hired in April, but withdrew before he put in his first day of work.

Kenney continued as interim director.

## Jail suicide case spurs closed-door session

By **PHYLLIS ZORN**  
Staff writer

Kansas City lawyer Kevin Case met with county commissioners behind closed doors to discuss a wrongful death suit filed after a Marion woman committed suicide in jail Dec. 5, 2020.

Julie Starks had been arrested on suspicion of criminal deprivation of a motor vehicle, battery on a law enforcement officer, and disorderly conduct by then-Marion police officer Steven Janzen. Starks hanged herself with her shoelaces that night.

Her mother, Kathy Parrish, filed suit Sept. 15, 2022, against the city and the county on behalf of Starks' two children.

In the suit, Parrish contended that both Marion police and the sheriff's office knew Starks had a history of mental illness, substance abuse, and suicide attempts, but jailers did not put her on suicide watch. The suit

further contended that jailers failed to take away Starks' belt and shoelaces and failed to properly monitor her.

The suit claims that the sheriff's office mishandled Starks' death by having an inmate not trained in CPR perform it on Starks, lied about who performed CPR, and failed to properly notify emergency medical services, resulting in a 39-minute delay in treatment.

Parrish settled with the City of Marion for \$15,000. She dismissed the suit in Marion County and filed a new suit in Sedgwick County against Sheriff Jeff Soye and Marion County.

A Sedgwick County district judge ruled in February, 2024, that Marion County was the proper venue for the case, and the case was reinstated in Marion County District Court.

Trial is scheduled for Oct. 6 to 9.

## Marion may seek bigger tax levy

By **PHYLLIS ZORN**  
Staff writer

Marion City Council members got a tutorial on creating a budget Monday, and it appears the city will announce plans to exceed the revenue neutral rate.

Accountant Scot Loyd brought a sample budget based on last year's city budget and went over it with council members. He said he assumed the city would set a revenue neutral budget, but if council members wanted to exceed revenue neutral, they must take a number of special steps.

July 20 is the last day to notify the county clerk of intent to levy above revenue neutral rates and provide the clerk with a proposed tax rate and hearing dates.

The clerk will notify taxpayers by mail or email of all taxing subdivisions exceeding the revenue neutral rate at least 10 days before to the first budget hearing in the county.

A public hearing must be held between Aug. 20 and Sept. 20, and the date must be pub-

lished 10 days prior to the hearing.

If the city passes a resolution to exceed the revenue neutral rate before it adopts a budget, it then can formally adopt the budget any time after the resolution is passed.

The budget must be certified and provided to the clerk by Oct. 1.

Revenue would increase \$9,400 if the city kept last year's mill, he said.

"I think we should give notice that we will exceed the revenue neutral rate just because," Mayor Mike Powers told council members.

Loyd said the council had done nothing to the budget so far and had much work to do before it will be finished.

"That definitely was just the first round," Loyd said.

Council members asked Loyd to talk about the budget process with them because City Administrator Bryan Wells is new to working in Kansas, Loyd said.



STAFF PHOTO BY FINN HARTNETT

Hillsboro and Mennonite Housing officials break ground south of Dollar General for the city's newest housing development.

## Ground broken at housing project

By **PHYLLIS ZORN**  
Staff writer

Ground was broken Tuesday for a Hillsboro housing development a year and a half in the making.

Orchard Ridge will be a 24-unit affordable-housing project south of Dollar General.

It is being developed by Mennonite Housing, a non-profit organization in Wichita.

When completed, the project will consist of 12 duplex units that will be rent-

ed at below-market rent to families with household income no more than 80% of the town's median.

Duplexes will be two- and three-bedroom units, each with a garage, built in an energy-efficient manner and including all appliances.

The development will have a playground, basketball court, and a covered seating area.

Council members donated the land to Mennonite Housing in December, 2023, and Mennonite Housing received \$2 mil-

lion in tax credits toward the \$9.2 million project from Kansas Housing Corp.

"Our community is very excited for this project," Mayor Lou Thurston said. "We're addressing a big area of need within our community. Mennonite Housing has been an outstanding partner, and we look forward to a long, prosperous collaboration."

More information is available at [www.mhrs.org](http://www.mhrs.org) or (316) 942-4848.



## Snow in the sun



STAFF PHOTO BY FINN HARTNETT

Ellie and Zach Winsor sit in Central Park shade Thursday, selling snow cones and stickers. Ellie wants to make enough money to buy a truck when she reaches high school. “I come out here almost every day during summer,” she said. She recommended the cotton-candy flavored snow cone.

## Deaths

### Willie Ensز

Services for Willie Ensز, 91, who died Sunday at Bethesda Home in Goessel, will be 11 a.m. Tuesday at Hillsboro United Methodist Church.

Pastor Margaret Johnson will officiate. Relatives will receive friends 5 to 6:30 p.m. Monday at Jost Funeral Home, Hillsboro.

Born Dec. 16, 1933, to Abe and Margaret (Nikkel) Ensز, he married Marilyn Wiens on July 29, 1954, in Hillsboro.

She survives along with son Scott Ensز. Sons Rick and Kelley Ensز preceded him in death.

Memorials have been established with the church, the nursing home, and Community Care Hospice.

A complete obituary is planned for next week’s paper.

### Evelyn Regier

Services for Evelyn Regier, 90, who died June 24 at Hillsboro Community Hospital, were Saturday at Hillsboro Mennonite Brethren Church.

Born Sept. 5, 1934, to Harry and Salome (Claassen) Funk, she married Jack Regier on Oct. 14, 1951, in Hillsboro. He died in 2018.

Survivors include sons Rex Regier of rural Hillsboro and Gene Regier of Garden Plain, daughter Cheri Shrum of Wichita, sister Marlene Kroeker of Hillsboro, five grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and a great-great-grandchild.

A memorial has been established with the church.

### Jerry Suderman

Services for rural Hillsboro farmer and stockman Jerry D. Suderman, 80, who died June 18 at his home, will be 3 p.m. July 12 at the Big Shed Birthing Suite at his farm, 1333 Kanza Rd.

Visitation will be 5 to 7 p.m.

July 11 as Jost Funeral Home, Hillsboro.

Born July 9, 1944, to Leon and Ruby (Grunau) Suderman, he was raised with three siblings on his family’s farm south of Hillsboro and graduated in 1962 from Hillsboro High School.

In addition to farming, he raised and sold club animals, starting with a small flock of Hampshire sheep and eventually including show lambs, calves, and pigs and greyhounds for coyote hunting.

### IN MEMORIAM EXPANDED EULOGIES

“In Memoriam” listings are expanded paid obituaries, phrased as the family requests, and may include enhanced information or photographs that might not fit within free death notices.



Gene Schimpf

### Gene Schimpf

A celebration of life for Gene Schimpf, 78, who passed away peacefully in a hospital Saturday, June 21, 2025, with family and friends at his side, will be scheduled later.

Born in Hillsboro to Ezra and Kathryn (Heiser) Schimpf, Gene spent his childhood in Marion, where he attended Marion High School.

A natural athlete, he played basketball and football throughout his high school years.

After graduating, he attended Kansas State University and Pittsburg State University. His

competitive nature allowed him to enjoy playing football at both universities.

On Aug. 14, 1968, Gene married his high school sweetheart, Connie Jost.

Gene’s career with Ford Motor Co. took him and his family to various locations in the United States.

His daughter, Stephanie, often would ask: “Daddy, when do we get to move again?”

After retirement from Ford, Gene and Connie moved to Black Mountain, North Carolina.

Gene loved the Blue Ridge Mountains, where he helped build their mountain home, which they enjoyed for 20 years.

Together, they shared many wonderful years filled with love, laughter, adventures, and cherished memories.

When they left the mountain, they moved to Givens Highland Farms retirement village in Black Mountain. Gene soon became involved at Givens Highland Farms with various committees and activities.

Gene was a man of deep faith, being an active member of the Black Mountain Presbyterian Church. He served as an elder and a deacon and on the church’s endowment, personnel, and property committees.

He was also known for his active involvement and enjoyed the prison ministry of Karios. For many years, he participated, led, and sponsored attendees to Emmaus, a spiritual retreat.

He always was guided by the principle of doing the right things for the right reasons and was greatly respected by all.

Gene was a loyal member of Black Mountain Kiwanis Club, where he served as president.

Gene had a passion that started at an early age and contin-

ued until retirement for building and working on cars.

He had a knack for fixing things and an even greater gift for light-hearted mischief — especially when it came to teasing friends and relatives, a pastime he truly relished.

He loved telling jokes and even had a few good ones now and then.

Gene was ornery but fiercely loyal, endlessly entertaining, and always himself. His heart was indeed one of the biggest ever known.

Whether volunteering in his church, helping fix a car, giving somebody a ride, or helping a friend, Gene’s generosity knew no bounds. He never hesitated to lend a helping hand. His presence was a source of joy, strength, and unwavering support to many.

He was a devoted father and husband and the best friend one could ask for.

Gene is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Connie Schimpf; sisters-in-law Susie Schimpf of Willard, Missouri; Karen Enns (and husband Pete) of Kingsburg, California; and Cindy Wohlgemuth of Claremore, Oklahoma; as well as his cousins, nephews, and nieces — all of whom Gene loved.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Stephanie Callahan; his parents, Ezra and Kathryn Schimpf; his brother, Jon Schimpf; and brother-in-law Willis Wohlgemuth.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to the organizations Gene was deeply passionate about: Black Mountain Presbyterian Church Endowment, 117 Montreat Rd, Black Mountain NC 28711 and Givens Philanthropy, Highland Farms Life Enrichment, 200 Tabernacle Rd, Black Mountain NC 28711.

## Farmers market vouchers offered

Vouchers that allow low-income seniors to get fresh produce from farmers markets, produce stands, and farm stores will be available July 14.

The program had been delayed this year because of budget uncertainty.

To qualify, participants must be 60 years old or older and meet income requirements. Members of Indian tribal organizations qualify at age 55 and

older if they meet the same income requirements.

Weekly income limits are \$557 for a household of one, \$753 for a household of two, and \$196 for each additional household member.

Vouchers may be picked up 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. starting July 14 at Marion County Department on Aging in Marion Senior Center.

## Free movies planned at library

Marion City Library will show free movies at 2 p.m. four consecutive Wednesdays, starting July 9.

Snacks will be served. All ages will be welcome, but children 8 and younger must be with an adult.

The library isn’t allowed to announce movie titles in the newspaper but can provide them by phone at (620) 382-2442.

Here’s a schedule and summary of the plots of the movies:

**July 9** — A 90-minute, PG-rated film in which adventurous Harold can make anything come to life simply by drawing it. His trusty purple crayon sets

off more hilarious high jinks than he thought possible.

**July 16** — A 104-minute, PG film in which 12-year-old Bea moves into her grandmother’s apartment and discovers a hidden world of imaginary friends she tries to reunite with their original children.

**July 23** — A 96-minute, PG film about teenager Riley Andersen whose world is about to change upon entering high school.

**July 30** — A 91-minute PG film about a police dog who is fused with his human police officer during harebrained surgery after they are injured and must stop a villainous cat from creating an evil kitten.

### MENUS SENIOR CENTERS

Menus subject to change. Milk available with all meals.

#### HILLSBORO

Reservations accepted at (620) 947-2304.

**Thursday** — Cheeseburger on bun with lettuce, tomato, and onion; potato salad; coleslaw; strawberries and bananas.

**Friday** — Closed.

**Monday** — Sloppy Joe with bun, potato wedges, green beans, apricots, cookie.

**Tuesday** — Salmon patty, macaroni and cheese, California blend vegetables, applesauce, garlic bread.

**July 9** — Barbecue pork on bun with coleslaw, baked beans, peaches.

**July 10** — Taco salad, Spanish rice, refried beans, salsa, hot spiced apples, corn chips.

#### MARION

Reservations accepted at (620) 382-2942.

**Thursday** — Cheeseburger on bun with lettuce, tomato, and onion; potato salad; coleslaw; strawberries and bananas.

**Friday** — Closed.

**Monday** — Sloppy Joe on bun, potato wedges, green beans, apricots.

**Tuesday** — Ham and beans, coleslaw, apricots, cookie, cornbread.

**July 9** — Taco salad, refried beans, salsa, apples, chips.

**July 10** — Barbecue pork on bun, coleslaw, baked beans, peaches.

#### PEABODY

Reservations accepted at (620) 983-2226.

**Thursday** — Cheeseburger with bun, lettuce, tomato, and onion; watermelon; strawberries and bananas.

**Friday** — Closed.

**Monday** — Sloppy Joe with bun, potato wedges, green beans, apricots, cookie.

**Tuesday** — Salmon patty, macaroni and cheese, California blend vegetables, applesauce, garlic bread.

**July 9** — Oven-fried chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans with onions, strawberry shortcake, dinner roll.

**July 10** — Barbecue pork with bun, coleslaw, baked beans, peaches.

### COLLEGE DEGREES AND HONORS

These Marion County students were listed this past week as receiving degrees or honors from colleges or universities. Grade-point averages of 4.00 indicate all A’s; 3.00 indicate all B’s.

#### FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

**Dean’s honor roll** (3.60 GPA or better)

**Goessel** — Kale Funk.  
**Hillsboro** — Eyerusalem Driggers.  
**Lehigh** — Jessica Saunders.  
**Marion** — Calli Burkholder.  
**Peabody** — Ashley Eggers.

#### WASHBURN UNIVERSITY

**Bachelor’s degree**

**Burns** — Austin Broadie, finance.

## Church directory

### Up-to-date schedules provided by churches

Email weekly updates to church@MarionCountyRecord.com.

#### AULNE BIBLE

1404 Pawnee Rd., Marion

Bryan Lowery, Pastor

Worship ..... 9:10 a.m.

Sunday school ..... 10:45 a.m.

Nursery and children’s church available during morning worship.

Wednesday — Work on Operation Christmas Child boxes, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Phoebe Janzen’s house.

Thursday — Women’s prayer group, 7 p.m., Betty Just’s house.

Friday — Women’s Bible study, 10 a.m. or 2 p.m., Phoebe Janzen’s house.

#### FLORENCE UNITED METHODIST

201 W. 5th St., Florence

Gathering/coffee ..... 10 a.m.

Worship ..... 11 a.m.

Guest pastor, Kevin Seuser.

#### HOLY FAMILY PARISH

Roman Catholic churches in Florence, Marion, Pilsen, and Tampa

Father Isaac Coulter

Florence ..... 5 p.m. Saturday

Marion ..... 8:30 a.m. Sunday

noon Tuesday, noon July 9

Pilsen ..... noon Thursday,

10:30 a.m. Sunday

Tampa ..... 6:30 p.m. Friday

Confessions 30 minutes before every

Mass for 20 minutes.

Saturday — Extra confessions, 3 p.m., Marion.

July 9 — Sacristan training, 7 p.m., Marion.

#### OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN

320 Cedar St., Marion

John Werner, pastor

Bible class ..... 8 a.m.

Divine service ..... 9 a.m.

Thursday — Mission projects, 1 p.m.

Tuesday — Executive board meeting, 7 p.m.

#### OTHER AREA CHURCH SCHEDULES

##### ALEXANDERWOHL MENNONITE

Sunday school ..... 9:30 a.m.

Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.

##### BURDICK UNITED METHODIST

Worship ..... 11 a.m.

##### BURNS CORNERSTONE BIBLE

Worship ..... 9 a.m.

##### CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF FLORENCE

Worship ..... 10:45 a.m.

Free breakfast ..... 8:30 a.m.

Sunday school ..... 9:30 a.m.

Evening service ..... 6:30 p.m.

##### COMMUNITY OF CEDAR POINT

Worship ..... 9 a.m.

##### EASTMOOR UNITED METHODIST

Worship ..... 9:45 a.m.

**EBENFELD MENNONITE BRETHREN**

Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.

##### EMMANUEL BAPTIST

Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.

##### FIRST BAPTIST OF DURHAM

Sunday school ..... 9:30 a.m.

Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.

##### FIRST BAPTIST OF PEABODY

Sunday school ..... 9:30 a.m.

Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.

Facebook live ..... 11 a.m.

##### GRACEPOINT

Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.

**GOOD NEWS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.

**HEBRON LUTHERAN OF BURDICK**

Worship ..... 9:30 a.m.

##### HILLSBORO FIRST MENNONITE

Sunday school ..... 9:30 a.m.

Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.

##### HILLSBORO MENNONITE BRETHREN

Sunday school ..... 9:15 a.m.

Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.

##### HILLSBORO UNITED METHODIST

Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.

Weekly services posted on YouTube.

##### HOLY TRANSFIGURATION ORTHODOX

CHRISTIAN OF HILLSBORO

Liturgy ..... 10 a.m.

##### MARION CHRISTIAN

Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.

Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday — Bible study, 9 a.m.

##### MARION PRESBYTERIAN

Praise team rehearsal ..... 8 a.m.

Worship ..... 9:30 a.m.

Sermon discussion ..... 7:30 p.m.

##### PARKVIEW MENNONITE

BRETHREN, HILLSBORO

Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.

Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.

##### PEABODY CHRISTIAN

Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.

##### PEABODY UNITED METHODIST

Worship ..... 10:40 a.m.

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN OF LINCOLNVILLE**

Worship ..... 10:45 a.m.

##### ST. JOHN LUTHERAN OF TAMPA

Worship ..... 9:15 a.m.

##### ST. PAUL LUTHERAN OF PEABODY

Worship ..... 9 a.m.

##### STRASSBURG BAPTIST

Sunday school ..... 9:45 a.m.

Worship ..... 10:45 a.m.

##### TRINITY LUTHERAN OF RAMONA

Worship ..... 10:45 a.m.

##### VALLEY UNITED METHODIST

Sunday school ..... 9:30 a.m.

Worship ..... 10:45 a.m.

##### ZION LUTHERAN OF HILLSBORO

Bible class ..... 9:15 a.m.

Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.

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Compiled from newspaper files

## 15 YEARS AGO

JULY 7, 2010

Kansas Department of Commerce has awarded \$250,000 in tax credits to St. Luke Hospital Foundation for expansion of physical therapy and associated facilities.

Former Marion resident Private 1st Class Ryan Grady, 25, of West Burke, Vermont, was killed Friday when his patrol vehicle struck a roadside bomb outside Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan. Four others were seriously wounded. Grady's aunt is Diane Carpenter of rural Marion.

Richard Sardou of R&L Creations is pictured on the front page as he sculpts a tree stump with a chain saw at the vacation home of Dean Staver at Marion County Park and Lake.

The 60th annual Marion County Fair will be July 28 through 31 at the fairgrounds in Hillsboro. "Apple Pies and Family Ties" will be this year's theme.

A crowd gathered Saturday on 240th Rd. west of Lost Springs to witness the unveiling of an interpretive plaque on a 1908 monument that has been relocated from the south to the north side of the road at the historic Lost Spring Station site. The event included a demonstration by the Fort Riley commanding general's mounted color guard.

## 30 YEARS AGO

JULY 12, 1995

Reports of harvest are mixed. Yields generally are much lower, and quality often is poor. Youngtown correspondent

Dorothy Hayen writes, "Men don't talk about their yields. They talk about their problems, like mud holes, breakdowns, and runs for repairs."

Barbara Graham and Beverly Ehrlich, known as the Twin B's, will display their collection of dolls and discuss dolls in general at Doll Day from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday at Marion Historical Museum.

Ruby Dalke of Hillsboro has written a book, "Life with Pop," that details adventures of living with her father, Peter A. Koslowsky. Born July 4, 1878, he died June 28, 1963.

Bob and Shirley Smith were hosts over the July 4 weekend to a number of guests while also sponsoring their annual picnic for relatives and friends.

Reporter Brenden Sager, writing articles entitled "Eating around the county," this week features Turkey Red Restaurant in Peabody. Owner Mike Collins believes in making everything, including bread, from scratch. "We cook the way they did 75 to 100 years ago," Collins said.

## 45 YEARS AGO

JULY 9, 1980

Marion Chamber of Commerce's third annual July Jamboree will be Saturday. A carnival atmosphere on Main St. will include games, refreshments, and bargains galore, climaxing at 9 p.m. with free, fun-filled family movies in Central Park.

The Meierhoff garden in Jex Addition is one of the most productive in town and the envy of less energetic folks, who marvel at the produce Ernie gets from his ground. Other than effort, one reason Ernie has such success is a good supply of wa-

ter from his windmill-driven well.

Among early entries in the Herington Junior Miss competition July 20 and 21 are Gena Helmer and Jan Nuss of Marion and Kim Schaffer of Florence.

Jamie Shirley and Linda Williams were voted to the all-star team of 10 players at a University of Kansas basketball camp for girls June 19 to July 4. Jamie also won a trophy as "Outstanding Jayhawk Camper."

"Fifty Years of Family Fun" will be the theme for the 50th annual Marion County Fair parade Aug. 28. The theme was submitted by Virgil Peters of Hillsboro in a contest. Peters received a complete set of tickets to grandstand events.

## 60 YEARS AGO

JULY 15, 1965

Santa Fe Trail Miniature Wagon Train passed through Marion County this week.

The caravan, piloted by youngsters 9 through 16 years old, accompanied by sponsors and adult guides, was experiencing many of the rigors of the old Santa Fe Trail and meeting every emergency in true frontier fashion.

Mike Good, Doug Marler, and Brad Case were winners in a drawing to select kids to serve as city officials during the wagon train's visit. Mike was mayor, and Doug and Brad were commissioners.

A good roster of capable instructors is on hand for the second session of Red Cross swimming lessons that will begin July 30.

Instructors will include LaVonda Hett, Judy Pankratz, Helen Jackson, Nancy Klenda,

Roma Roebke, Jackie Thomas, Patty Plenert, and head instructor Jean Morse.

City workers were busy this week helping put a new slurry seal on asphaltic concrete pavement on Main St.

Marion's softball team beat Burns' team 24-14 Monday. Harriet Bina and Frances Hunt paced the winners with four hits each. Bina had a home run, a double, and two singles while Hunt had two doubles and two singles. Mary Ann Finke held the losers to nine hits. Shirley Bredemeier was catcher.

## 75 YEARS AGO

JULY 13, 1950

KFBI farm announcer Lester Weatherwax will be master of ceremonies July 18 at the 4-H Businessmen's Picnic in Marion's city park.

Construction was started Monday on a new vocational agriculture and gymnasium building on S. Lincoln St.

More than 70 cars converged Monday night on Marion as the first annual Flint Hills Hereford Tour made a stop here for supper, a program, and an overnight stay. Marion Chamber of Commerce served an evening meal to close to 200 guests who filled the city building's basement dining room.

A geyser of water shot 30 feet into the air last week when a water main at the town's busiest intersection let loose as workers were preparing to replace a leaky section with new pipe.

Annual boat races at Marion County Park and Lake have been set for Aug. 13. This year's races may prove more thril-packed than those of previous years. Organizers are expecting 50 to 70 drivers, many of them known for daredevil antics.

Johnny Williams and Dan Brodhead of Marion took part in Indian ceremonies July 4 at the second National Boy Scout Jamboree at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

## 110 YEARS AGO

JULY 8, 1915

The weatherman certainly did his part to make the Fourth glorious this year. The day was so cool that folks wore extra wraps in the evening. On the night of the Fourth, the thermometer went down as low as 46.

A.E. Case has received word from J.S. Wise that his father, Tom Wise, is critically ill at his home in Wichita. Mr. Wise was one of the earliest settlers of the county, and his very many old Marion County friends hear this news with deep regret.

Ladies of the town who have been taking an active interest in purchase of a site for a Carnegie library have listed subscriptions to the amount of nearly \$700. They have in mind lots on the corner across from the park.

About 35 folks enjoyed a picnic Monday at Locklin's grove southeast of town, and the affair was much in the nature of an old settlers' gathering. Three who were present have been here for 55 years, having come to Marion — or rather, to the place where Marion is now — in 1860. Those three were Mrs. S.C. Locklin, Mrs. E. Baxter, and Mrs. Fred Lewis. Another, S.C. Locklin, came in '61, and W.H. Roberts came in '63. It is of interest to note that while all came to this country in prairie

schooners, all went to the picnic in autos.

## 145 YEARS AGO

JULY 9, 1880

A grand mass meeting and basket picnic by the temperance people of Marion County are planned for July 24 at Marion Centre. Governor John P. St. John has formally accepted an invitation to be present and address the people.

Mr. Brewerton has broken ground for a fine stone business building on Main St. — 25 by 80 feet. Thus, the boom continues.

A train bearing General Grant westward stopped Monday afternoon in Florence long enough to give citizens of that place an opportunity to shake the old hero's hand.

Kable and Grady, carpenters and contractors and proprietors of the Marion Centre steam sash and door factory, have dissolved partnership, Mr. Kable assuming the whole business and becoming responsible for debts of the firm.

During a heavy rainstorm Monday afternoon, lightning struck Lockwood's business house. It demolished one of the chimneys, and the descending flue entered a room in the second story occupied by Mr. Walton, following the stove pipe into the stove, scattering soot and ashes all over the room and considerably frightening Mrs. Walton, who was in the room at the time, but doing no other damage. It was fortunate it wasn't worse.

## Casey's lack of gas not from leak

By PHYLLIS ZORN

Staff writer

Rumors may say otherwise, but gasoline storage tanks at Casey's General Store in Marion are not leaking, according to Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

For several weeks, fuel pumps at Casey's in Marion have had yellow bags over the nozzles of all regular pumps.

Lately, yellow bags have been over nozzles of some premium gas pumps as well.

County zoning and environmental director Sharon Omstead spoke with KDHE officials, who sent a team to Marion to see what was going on.

KDHE later reported no gasoline was leaking into the ground.

A spokesman for Casey's at first didn't shine much light on why pumps were not being used.

"We are in the process of servicing the fuel tanks at this store so cannot provide fuel at this time," Tierney Israel said. "We apologize for the inconvenience."

Israel later issued another statement.

"We have no indication of an issue, and today the Kansas Department of Health and Environment conducted a third-party inspection and found no issues. We are working to complete the maintenance to

the tanks as quickly as possible and apologize for the inconvenience."

Three workers with Clean Fuels National were lowering chains down open covers of fuel storage tanks last week at Casey's. A Casey's employee had told one of them that the tanks had been filled the night before but showed as empty Thursday.

Residents' concerns were related to test wells installed in mid-June because of fuel found in groundwater as a result of earlier fuel leaks elsewhere.

KDHE had eight test wells drilled along Main St. to check for groundwater contamination. One test well was

across the street from Casey's, and another across an intersection. Residents were concerned whether storage tanks at Casey's might be leaking.

A 1990s spill at the county road and bridge department shop was known to have contaminated groundwater in the area. Test wells were drilled last month because it appeared contamination was more widespread than earlier believed.

Main St. has had several gas stations spanning it over the years.



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# Rains leave wheat quality discouraging

By **FINN HARTNETT**  
Staff writer

After last week's heavy rains delayed wheat harvest, county farmers are finishing up this week.

Makenzie Joseph at Cooperative Grain and Supply in Hillsboro said a wave of farmers came in after the weather cleared up.

"Definitely more calls wanting to sell and get their loads into the elevators," she said. "A lot of people are trying to dodge the rain."

Jerry Beharano, an elevator operator in Hillsboro, concurred.

"It was going good here over the weekend," he said. "Then we got some rain on Sunday."

Alan Hett, who was three days away from finishing his harvest, reported decent yields but said quality was poor.

"It's bleached and a lighter test weight than what it should be," he said.

Rain discolored and shrank the mature grain.

County extension agent Rickey Roberts was more measured in his comments, calling the wheat quality "pretty average."

Hett said he had seen 55- to 58-pound-per-bushel test weights, and that he thought elevators would dock prices for test weights of less than 59.



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC MEYER

At 10 p.m. Saturday, farmers delayed by rain line up to bring their grain to Cooperative Grain and Supply's elevator in Marion.

## Hail at Hillsboro damages cars

Quarter-sized hail fell Saturday at Hillsboro, damaging cars at dealerships there.

Randy Hagen, office manager and former owner at Hillsboro Ford, said an insurance adjuster already has inspected car damage.

A dent repair company from Newton is

coming to do repairs, Hagen said. Some but not all cars will be finished and ready to go before the weekend, he said.

A spokesman for Midway Motors did not return a call Tuesday.

Beharano said those numbers sounded accurate.

"The price is already below break-even price, and

now some of it's going to get docked for quality issues, too," Hett said.

He said some wheat farm-

ers might quit growing wheat in the future.

"We have to grow some wheat for rotation because

there's nothing else," he said. "But it's discouraging."

Hail storms in Hillsboro over the weekend were another concern for farmers, but none of the people interviewed had experienced or even heard about hail harming county wheat.

"I don't think the hail did too much," Beharano said.

Roberts said he was more concerned about wheat "shatter," when excess grain is spilled onto the ground because of rain at harvest time.

"Later this summer, we're going to have volunteer wheat everywhere, and that can give us problems with next year's wheat if we don't spray it," he said.

"Volunteer wheat" is exactly what it sounds like — wheat that grows unintentionally because of past crops.

It can spread streak mosaic virus unless it is promptly killed.

# Implement dealers hopeful

By **PHYLLIS ZORN**  
Staff writer

Many factors, including weather, the overall and farm economies, interest rates, delays in harvest, quality of harvest, and concern over tariffs could affect farmers' decisions on buying new implements.

Commodity prices are probably the biggest driver of whether farmers buy, or delay buying, new implements, Mike Rhodes, salesman at G&R Implement in Durham, said.

"There's some uncertainty on that," Rhodes said. "I think there's interest rates as well."

New equipment sales are strongest early and late in the year because that's when farmers have figured out their taxes and have a better idea whether it's the best time to buy new, he said.

No one seems to be delaying new equipment purchases out of fear of tariffs, he said.

"I would say new equipment sales are down from previous years," he said. "I would say it's because of dry conditions in the last few years and commodity

“Our business is geared more toward the hay harvest. In our business, the rain definitely helps.”

— G&R IMPLEMENT SALESPERSON

prices. The prices are on the low side right now.

"I've been hearing that, for the wheat harvest, the yields are doing good, and the outlook for the fall harvest is looking good because we're sitting good on moisture."

After years of drought, Rhodes also expects this year's late rain to make for better sales.

"Our business is geared more toward the hay harvest," Rhodes said. "In our business, the rain definitely helps."

He said interest rates, trending down a bit, likely would help boost sales.

Sales aside, G&R has been doing a booming repair business.

"Parts have been good," he said. "There is a lot of older equipment being worked on."

Mark Berner, outside sales-

man and management team member at KanEquip in Herington, also said repair business was good this year.

"I would think the tariffs are a concern, especially for new equipment," he said. "We've had plenty of rain, so farmers are buying what they need."

This year's hay crop is good, so KanEquip's sales are indicative of the season, he said.

"I don't see people buying things that are frivolous. They're buying what they need right now," Berner said. "We're seeing people buying hay equipment right now. They're not buying a ton of tractors."

KanEquip also is doing well with repair work.

"Our shops are busy with repairs," he said. "They are tractors, combines, balers, and swathers."

Although farmers always are concerned about interest rates, that's not as important as the year's harvest, he said.

"Lower prices drive interest rates up," Berner said. "It's part of the economy."

Although KanEquip is geared up for any farming need, the Herington shop does its best business in hay-related products and things that go along with that.

"With recent rains, there's a good hay crop out there right now, so farmers will invest in their equipment," Berner said. "If there had been a drought, we wouldn't be seeing the sales that we're seeing."

New as well as used balers and swathers are doing well at KanEquip.

"I hope it keeps raining for the soybeans and corn crops," he said.

Both G&R Implement and KanEquip sell an assortment of brands and makes of equipment.

## News

# Nursing home, business center get help

By **FINN HARTNETT**  
Staff writer

Salem Home in Hillsboro will see its heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system upgraded after city council members approved up to \$2.5 million in industrial revenue bonds Monday.

Salem technically will be titled to the city until the bonds are repaid.

"It's effectively like collateral," city administrator Matt Stiles said.

Stiles expects the loan to be repaid in 10 to 20 years.

"We'll have to work out with them what they're comfortable with in terms of repayment," he said.

The council also voted to spend \$30,000 on staffing for Central Kansas Entrepreneurship Center, which the city runs in partnership with Tabor College.

The only full-time employee is its director, Stiles said, so the money will go entirely to paying one employee.

Last year, Jeremy Ensey was director, but he is moving into a full-time teaching job, and a new director has not been announced.

Tabor provides the space, programming, and personnel

for the center, now in its fourth year of existence.

"The city has supported this initiative as a key component of its rural economic development strategy, while Tabor aligns the work of the CKEC with its institutional mission," Stiles said.

Two students are renting spaces for their businesses at the center. One runs a sports

agency, and the other a leatherworking business.

The center also sponsors events throughout the year. Usually, these are business-related challenges, but some stand out in their quirkiness, such as a fly fishing class for Tabor students in February and March.

Stiles said he wasn't con-

cerned about the low number of students renting space at the center.

"A lot of what the CKEC does is education and working with people," he said.

He added that the number probably would rise with improvements to the building.



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# Hillsboro man reaches plea agreement on porn charges

By PHYLLIS ZORN  
Staff writer

After spending more than two months in jail since he was arrested on suspicion of probation violation, a Hillsboro man is scheduled to enter a plea agreement Tuesday in three cases.

One is his second case alleging sexual exploitation of a

child by being in possession of child pornography.

Bane L. Spurlin, 21, Hillsboro, was charged Nov. 22 with 10 counts of sexual exploitation of a child for having child pornography on his computer. According to a complaint filed against him, Spurlin was in possession of the pornographic materials Aug. 19.

After a mediation confer-

ence Thursday, he is expected to enter a plea agreement Tuesday on the sexual exploitation case and two cases alleging violation of the offender registration act filed Sept. 3 and Dec. 5.

Spurlin was charged April, 2022, when he was a Goessel High School senior, with four counts of sexual exploitation of a child for having child pornography on his computer.

The complaint in that case said offenses took place between July 18 and Nov. 2, 2021.

He pleaded guilty Nov. 14, 2023, and was sentenced to three years' community corrections.

Terms of the plea agreement he is scheduled to accept were not available.

# Canton man scheduled for plea on 49 sex charges

By PHYLLIS ZORN  
Staff writer

After spending nearly a year and a half in jail awaiting his day in court, a Canton man is scheduled to enter a plea Tuesday on 49 sex charges filed against him Dec. 18, 2023.

Matthew W. Dudte, 52, is

scheduled for a plea hearing, not an arraignment.

In an amended complaint filed June 12, 2024, Dudte was charged with rape; rape of a child younger than 14; and 17 counts of aggravated criminal sodomy.

He also was charged with 19

counts of aggravated indecent liberties with a child younger than 14; six counts of pornographic sexual exploitation of a child younger than 14; two counts of sodomy; two counts of aggravated indecent liberties with a child; and one count each of aggravated incest, ag-

gravated endangering a child, and incest.

According to the complaint, the alleged crimes took place between July 10, 2009, and Dec. 29, 2022.

Dudte has remained in jail since his arrest Dec. 19, 2023.



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Items on this page are obtained from inspection of public records, are supplied by public agencies as a matter of routine, or are gathered by monitoring of public radio frequencies. Involved parties sometimes request that embarrassing items be excluded. However, no public agency is legally allowed to withhold information that is part of the public record, and to be fair to all, the newspaper never excludes any item unless it is legally removed from the public record by legislation or court action.

## ACCIDENTS REPORTED

These accident reports were released this past week by law enforcement agencies:

### SHERIFF

#### US-56 at Diamond Rd.

Attempting to pass a 2002 Ford Escape that was turning left in rainy weather, Eliseo Cisneros, 64, Sunland Park, New Mexico, clipped the car with his 2004 Chevrolet Colorado at 2:34 p.m. June 17.

Both vehicles ended up in a ditch, according to one of four accident reports released Friday by the sheriff's department.

The Escape, owned by Nancy Gibson and driven by Katrina L. Furrer, 19, of the same rural Hillsboro address, sustained disabling damage to its left front, hood, and undercarriage and was towed. Erik F. Roistacher, 20, of Fontana, California, was a passenger.

Cisneros's pickup remained drivable with damage to its right rear. Lucia R.D. Cisneros, 63, of the same New Mexico address was a passenger.

Deputy Clayton Philpott's report blamed the accident on rainy weather. No tickets were listed as being issued.

#### US-77 south of 30th Rd.

Chelsey D. Lair, 33, rural Potwin, hit a deer at 11:16 a.m. June 20 with her 2013 Honda Odyssey, which then veered off the road to the right.

The minivan, bearing Georgia license plates, remained drivable with damage along its right side.

Passengers were listed as Forest, Nev, Ari, and Llewyn Lair, all of the same address. Their ages were redacted without required justification from the open, public record of the wreck.

#### 190th Rd. east of Holly Rd.

Fourteen-year-old Kinsley M. Watts of rural Hillsboro drove a 1985 Chevrolet S-10 off the road to the right, through a ditch, and into a field after its engine reportedly died at 1:23 p.m. June 24.

Deputy Clayton Philpott's report listed her as complying with terms of what he recorded as a "J09" restricted license, but such licenses are not issued to drivers younger than 16. Her license number was redacted from the open, public report of the wreck, so its restrictions could not be verified.

The pickup, owned by Richard J. Watts of the same address, remained drivable with damage to its right front and hood.

#### 190th Rd. east of Pawnee Rd.

Allison N. Shults, 49, Marion, hit a deer at 9:22 p.m. June 24 with her 2011 Buick Encore, which remained drivable with damage to its left front and hood.

### HILLSBORO

#### US-56 at Ash St.

Edmund W. Hartl, 78, Calhan, Colorado, was ticketed for failing to yield after he stopped his northbound 2015 Ford F-150 on Ash St. at 8:33 a.m. Saturday and turned left onto US-56 in the path of an eastbound 2022 Ford F-150 owned and driven by Brock A. Lucas, 30, Fairway.

Both pickups sustained disabling damage and were towed. Hartl's was damaged on its driver's side and undercarriage; Lucas', along its front half, undercarriage, windshield, and windows.

Hillsboro ambulance and firefighters were called to the wreck, but no fire was reported, and no one was taken to a hospital.

## CIVIL DIVISION CASES

This information was filed last week in civil division of district court. If no address is listed, no address was available.

Mone Fritz and Kirshawn Stevens were ordered June 18 to pay Credit Acceptance Corp. \$12,880.74 plus costs and interest for unpaid bills owed to Midwest Wholesale.

## COUNTY JAIL ARRESTS AND BOOKINGS

This jail roster was obtained Tuesday from the jail's inmate listing system.

### NEW JAILINGS

Joshua A. Bradley, 40, Sylvan Grove, jailed Friday for 60 days on court orders. Previously jailed Oct. 10 to 15 for allegedly violating his probation; March 14 and 15, 2023, for failing to appear in court; and June 21, 2022, on suspicion of soliciting to distribute a depressant, possessing marijuana and drug paraphernalia, failing to have a drug tax stamp, speeding, and failing to display evidence of vehicle liability insurance.

Angela D. Doty, 47, Peabody, arrested Thursday by a sheriff's deputy for allegedly violating her probation.

Held in lieu of posting a \$10,000 bond. Previously jailed seven times for a total of all or part of 36 days between Dec. 21, 2022, and May 9, 2025. Previous jailings were on suspicion of possessing stimulants and drug paraphernalia, having no drug tax stamp, and failing to exhibit a driver's license on demand; on court orders five times; and for allegedly violating her probation twice.

Iris T. Laudermilk, 24, Wichita, arrested Monday by a sheriff's deputy on suspicion of recklessly fleeing or attempting to elude a law enforcement officer, driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, transporting an open container of alcohol, reckless driving, and driving while her license was canceled, suspended, or revoked. Bond not set.

### FROM PREVIOUS WEEKS

Dakota L. Dillshaw, 31, Marion, jailed since Sept. 6.

Matthew W. Dudte, 52, Canton, since Dec. 19, 2023.

Ernest L. Edens, 50, no address listed, May 20, 2024.

Curtis L. Findley, 33, Peabody, June 14.

Paul A. Huddleston, 27, Marion, March 29.

Sara J. Lanham, 30, Newton, June 14.

Richard T. Litton, 39, Peabody, Oct. 20.

James R.A. McColl, 52, Lehigh, Jan. 19.

Mitchell W. McMillen, 47, Peabody, June 7.

Patric G. Patterson, 27, McPherson, July 2, 2024, though he was absent from the jail roster for several weeks during that period.

Nicholas C. Peterson, 41, Peabody, June 5.

Eric C. Pettit, 42, Galva, Feb. 14.

Bane L. Spurlin, 21, Hillsboro, March 28.

Brandon S. Toon, 40, Arkansas City, Nov. 13.

Athen J. Turner, 24, Loveland, Colorado, Jan. 31.

Christopher L. Walker, 19, Hillsboro, May 23.

## CRIMINAL DIVISION CASES

This information was filed last week in criminal division of district court. If no address is listed, no address was available on court records or from jail booking records.

Jaden A. Cutsinger, 29, Hutchinson, pleaded no contest March 18 to driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Sara J. Lanham, 30, Newton, formally was charged Monday with possession of methamphetamine, trafficking contraband in a correctional facility, possession of drug paraphernalia, and unsafe turning or stopping.

Brian M. Scheikofsky, 43, Florence, formally was charged Monday with domestic battery and disorderly conduct.

## DEEDS RECORDED

These deeds were reported last week as recorded by the register of deeds. Property addresses come from appraisal records. Agricultural property descriptions use common road references derived from appraisal records.

Dale Ade Trust to Debra Lynn Schraad, trustee deed to undivided third interests in 149.91 acres northwest of 240th and Alamo Rds. and 124.83 acres south of 330th Rd. between Alamo and Bison Rds.

Allen R. and Leora J. Grunau Calp Trust to Patrice K. Brown, trustee deed to 404 S. Washington St., Hillsboro.

In separate transactions, Gary L. and Terri A. Penner to Tania A. Sorensen and Cody L. Penner, 1028 US-56 along with 32.96 acres.

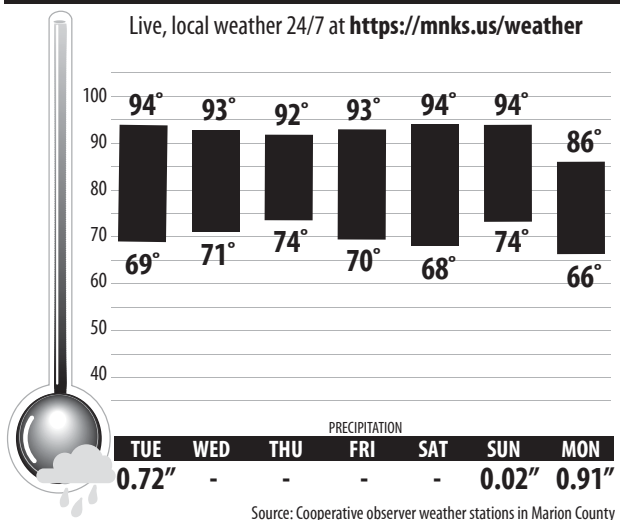
Todd A. and Dawn J. Helmer to Taylor Ann and Garrett Daniel Helmer, transfer-on-death warranty deed to 214 S. Eisenhower St., Hillsboro.

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# For the Record

## WEATHER

June 24 through 30, 2025



to themselves as trustees, quitclaim deed to 44.2 acres along with 1660 160th Rd., 154.79 acres southeast of Old Mill and 190th Rds., and 2466 Sunflower Rd. along with 3.6 acres.

In separate transactions, Charlotte A. King-Nickel to William and Jessica Dykens, then William Dykens, also known as William Allen Dykens, by power-of-attorney, and Jessica Charlotte Dykens to Lupita E. Guerrero, 704 W. Grand Ave., Hillsboro.

Gary and Lisa Suderman to Jacob William and Cajs Diane Vondenkamp, part of 59.34 acres north of 240th Rd. between Alfalfa and Bluestem Rds.

Gary W. and Paula Loveless to themselves, 118.93 acres north of 250th Rd. between Unicorn Rd. and US-56/77, 230.59 acres east of US-56/77 between 240th and 250th Rds., and undivided fourth interest in 1 acre north of 250th Rd. between Ulysses and Unicorn Rds.

Wayne Miles Shirk Revocable Living Trust to Scott Frederick and Melissa Lynn David, trustee deed to 152.5 acres northeast of Limestone and 290th Rds. and 78.87 acres west of Limestone Rd. between 270th and 280th Rds.

Ronald J. and Kathleen S. Beeton to Paul J. and Ronda S. Lapping, 6 Hill Rd., Marion County Park and Lake.

James Kastl and Dana Kastl Revocable Living Trust to Mary Ann Boice, 306 N. Olive St., Peabody.

Donna D. Slatten to Alan E. Peimann, transfer-on-death warranty deed to 705 N. Olive St., Peabody.

David Leslie Brown to Spencer Kenneth Hemmert, 201 S. Lincoln St., Hillsboro.

Jennafer A. Severt to Skylre L. Stucky, 201 N. Locust St., Peabody.

Mennonite Housing Rehabilitation Service Inc to Orchard Ridge LLC, a lot southwest of Orchard Dr., Hillsboro.

## EMERGENCY DISPATCHES

Broadcasts about these fire and ambulance calls were monitored this past week by the newspaper.

### JUNE 24

**5:18 a.m.** — An 81-year-old man with gastrointestinal bleeding was transferred by Marion ambulance from St. Luke Hospital, Marion, to Wesley Medical Center, Wichita. The ambulance returned to Marion at 8:23 a.m.

**8:53 a.m.** — An 82-year-old woman who may have suffered a stroke at Salem Home, Hillsboro, was transferred by Hillsboro ambulance to Ascension Via Christi St. Francis Hospital, Wichita. The ambulance returned to Hillsboro at 12:04 p.m.

**1:41 p.m.** — A fire alarm at Goessel Junior and Senior High School was determined by a maintenance worker to be a false alarm before most Goessel firefighters arrived.

**2:16 p.m.** — An uninjured 79-year-old woman who, according to an alerting service, fell at a home in the 1100 block of Denver St. in Marion was helped up by Marion ambulance attendants. She declined to be taken to a hospital. A Tampa ambulance at-

tendant contended that Tampa ambulance pagers wrongly were activated for the call.

**5:10 a.m.** — A 75-year-old man, red-faced and experiencing pain in his head and arms at a house in the 200 block of N. Maple St. in Peabody, was taken to NMC Health, formerly Newton Medical Center, by Hillsboro ambulance. The ambulance returned to Hillsboro at 6:52 p.m.

**10:46 p.m.** — An 88-year-old woman with a slow heartbeat was transferred by Hillsboro ambulance from Hillsboro Community Hospital to Kansas Heart Hospital, Wichita. The ambulance returned to Hillsboro at 1:04 a.m.

### JUNE 25

**1:04 a.m.** — An uninjured 62-year-old woman who fell at Homestead Affordable Housing in Marion was helped up by Marion ambulance attendants. She declined to be taken to a hospital.

**1:34 a.m.** — A 12-year-old boy with complications from diabetes was transferred by Marion instead of Hillsboro ambulance from HCH to Wesley. The ambulance returned to Marion at 4:04 a.m.

**8:24 a.m.** — A dehydrated 53-year-old woman throwing up at house in the 100 block of E. 9th St. in Florence was taken to St. Luke by Marion ambulance.

**8:30 a.m.** — A fire alarm at Westview Manor in Peabody was quickly determined by Peabody's fire chief to have been a false alarm.

**1:17 p.m.** — A sparking power outlet at a home in the 100 block of S. Roosevelt St. in Marion was checked by Marion firefighters, who used a thermal camera to make sure it had not started a fire in a wall.

**2:39 p.m.** — A 69-year-old man about to pass out after being out in hot weather in the 100 block of W. 7th St. in Florence was taken to St. Luke by Marion ambulance. Florence first responders were paged but did not answer.

**6:29 p.m.** — Dispatchers contacted Marion ambulance by telephone to arrange for an unspecified transfer from St. Luke to Wesley at 7:11 p.m. The ambulance returned to Marion at 10:28 p.m.

**7:03 p.m.** — Hillsboro ambulance stood by in Peabody while a sheriff's deputy evaluated a possibly emotionally disturbed person there. Tampa ambulance was ordered to stand by in Hillsboro in case of additional calls. Both were told to stand down at 7:34 p.m.

**7:29 p.m.** — Hillsboro Fire Department's ladder truck was at Joel Wiens Stadium until 9:28 p.m. for water games.

### THURSDAY

**12:11 a.m.** — A garbled call from an elderly woman sent Hillsboro ambulance to a farmhouse near 250th and Indigo Rds. The ambulance took a "familiar" 78-year-old man with worsening shortness of breath to HCH.

**11:41 a.m.** — A 70-year-old woman who tripped and fell at Town and Country Café in Florence was taken to NMC Health by Marion ambulance.

**5:28 p.m.** — An 87-year-old woman who fell out of a wheelchair and hurt her hip at Salem Home in Hills-

boro was taken to HCH by Hillsboro ambulance.

### FRIDAY

**11:14 a.m.** — Hillsboro Fire Department's ladder truck was at Hillsboro Elementary School until 1:47 p.m. for water games.

**4:39 p.m.** — Marion ambulance and firefighters were dispatched but quickly were told they would not be needed at a wreck in which a mower rolled into a ravine at 170th Rd. and Lakeshore Dr. at Marion County Lake.

**4:52 p.m.** — An uninjured 75-year-old woman who fell at Indian Guide Apartments community center in Peabody was helped up by Marion ambulance attendants, who answered the call instead of Hillsboro ambulance, to which the call initially was assigned. She was not taken to a hospital.

**8:36 p.m.** — A 20-year-old woman complaining of heat exposure at Casey's General Store in Hillsboro declined to be taken to a hospital by Hillsboro ambulance.

**8:50 p.m.** — In a call arranged by telephone instead of dispatchers, Marion ambulance opted to go to HCH instead of Hillsboro ambulance and transfer an unspecified patient to Wesley.

### SATURDAY

**8:38 a.m.** — Two people involved in a two-vehicle wreck at US-56 and Ash St. in Hillsboro declined to be taken to a hospital by Hillsboro ambulance. Marion ambulance headed that way as well but was told to stand down. Hillsboro firefighters checked the vehicles for fire danger.

**10:27 a.m.** — Hillsboro ambulance and Peabody firefighters initially were sent to a one-vehicle wreck at 110th and Indigo Rds. but were told they wouldn't be needed.

**10:55 a.m.** — Goessel firefighters were sent to Bethesda Home in Goessel to reset an errant fire alarm.

**3:33 p.m.** — Goessel firefighters spent more than two hours directing traffic after a non-injury accident blocked K-15 and 80th Rd. A wedding nearby complicated the situation.

**4 p.m.** — A 78-year-old woman, dizzy and with low blood pressure at a home in the 600 block of Sherman St. in Marion, was taken to HCH by Marion ambulance.

**5:53 p.m.** — An EagleMed helicopter transferred an unspecified patient from St. Luke to Wesley.

**10:37 p.m.** — A 90-year-old woman with an obstructed esophagus was transferred by Marion ambulance from St. Luke to Wesley.

**10:57 p.m.** — Burns firefighters were called to check a neighbor's unattended brush fire in the 400 block of N. Cincinnati Ave. in Burns. They did not extinguish the fire but told the neighbor to watch its smoldering embers.

**11 p.m.** — Hillsboro ambulance was told to wait until 1:18 a.m., when Marion ambulance returned, to transfer an 86-year-old woman with internal bleeding from HCH to Wesley. The ambulance returned to Hillsboro at 3:21 a.m.

### SUNDAY

**6:45 p.m.** — A 44-year-old woman who may have suffered a seizure or a cardiac episode at a home in the 300 block of S. Ash St. in Hillsboro was taken to NMC by Hillsboro ambulance after attendants first conferred by radio and telephone with HCH personnel. The ambulance returned to Hillsboro at 8:20 p.m.

### MONDAY

**12:10 a.m.** — A 75-year-old woman with a heart condition was transferred by Marion ambulance from St. Luke to Wesley Woodlawn Hospital, Wichita.

**12:29 a.m.** — Peabody firefighters were dispatched for another false alarm at Westview Manor.

**11:16 a.m.** — A bicycle rider reportedly hit by a car was checked outside the sheriff's office in Marion but declined to be taken to a hospital by Marion ambulance.

**3:29 p.m.** — An 82-year-old man at a farmhouse near 110th and Chisholm Trail Rds. was taken by Hillsboro

ambulance to NMC Health after falling outside the day before. Goessel first responders were paged but did not answer.

**4:48 p.m.** — With Hillsboro ambulance not yet back from Newton, Marion ambulance was sent to Parkside Homes in Hillsboro to take an 82-year-old woman with a diminished blood-oxygen level to NMC Health.

## OFFENSES REPORTED

These offense reports were released this past week by law enforcement agencies:

### SHERIFF

#### Vehicle theft

A 2008 Ford Edge owned by Daryl D. Regier of rural Newton and valued at \$6,000 was reported stolen between 1 a.m. June 18 and 1 a.m. June 24 from where it was parked near 110th and Falcon Rds., according to one of two offense reports released Friday by the sheriff's department.

#### Misdemeanor theft

Four tires and rims, together valued at \$1,000, were reported by owner Nancy Marr of Hillsboro as being stolen June 22 or 23 from the former Cedar Rest "poor farm" that she owns near 160th and Old Mill Rd.

## POLICE ACTIVITY REPORTS

Law enforcement agencies provided these reports of their activities this past week. Routine activities such as patrols, inspections, training, report-writing, and assistance to other agencies are excluded. Dates may reflect starting or ending dates of officers' shifts rather than actual dates of occurrence.

### HILLSBORO

**June 23** — Police talked to a resident about a dog bite and warned a driver for running a stop sign at US-56 and Ash St.

**June 24** — A driver was warned for being in Memorial Park after hours. Police talked to a resident about a civil matter and helped a driver at D and Washington Sts.

**June 25** — Rural Water District No. 4 was notified of a leak at US-56 and Indigo Rd. A driver was warned for running a stop sign at Ash and D Sts. Police met with a resident about a civil issue.

**Thursday** — Police patrolled downtown on foot, checked city streetlights, spoke to a resident about a civil matter, and helped collect from a ditch cargo a driver lost at US-56 and Kanza Rd.

**Friday** — A dog was reported loose in the 600 block of S. Lincoln St. Property seized in an earlier case was returned to its owner.

**Saturday** — A driver was ticketed for failing to yield while turning left after a wreck at US-56 and Ash St. A dog reportedly left inside a vehicle in the 100 block of N. Main St. was not found. A dog loose in the 200 block of N. Washington St. was captured and taken to a veterinary clinic. Police helped a driver at US-56 and Falcon Rd.

**Sunday** — Police followed a vehicle about which a traffic complaint had been made in McPherson County but observed no infractions. They also checked on a false alarm at Hillsboro Elementary School.

### MARION

**June 24** — Police investigated a shoplifting complaint at Dollar General but filed no charges. They also talked to a resident about registering a special-purpose vehicle.

**June 25** — Drivers were warned for speeding near Main and Elm Sts., near US-56 and Ridge Rd., and near US-56 and Cedar St. and for having a defective license plate light at Kellison St. and Eisenhower Dr.

**Thursday** — Police helped search for a stolen semi-trailer truck, but it

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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6 Wanted	19 Work wanted
7 For sale	20 Bus. opportunity
8 Livestock	21 Special notices
9 Food	22 Special services
10 Cars & trucks	23 Cards of thanks
11 Land	24 Kansas classified
12 Feed & seed	25 Public notices
13 Lawn & garden	

## 01 PERSONALS

**FACED WITH** a drinking problem? Perhaps Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) can help. Weekly meetings. Open to the public. Come see us 7 to 8 p.m. Mondays at St. Luke Medical Clinic basement, 537 S. Freeborn St., Marion.

**MARION CHAPTER** of TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 9:30 a.m. Thursdays, Hilltop Manor, 1501 E. Lawrence St., Marion.

## 6 WANTED

**WANT TO** rent: row crop farmland. Will pay top dollar. Call Brock Baker (316) 249-1907.

## 16 DWELLINGS FOR RENT

**COUNTRY LIVING** - 3 bed/2 bath farmhouse coming up for rent in northern Marion County. Call (785) 479-7555 for details and availability.

## 17 FOR RENT

**STORAGE UNITS** available - North Roosevelt or South 3rd Street, Marion. Many sizes, yearly rates. Call Jim, (316) 284-2231 or call (316) 284-1299.

## 18 HELP WANTED

## 24 KANSAS CLASSIFIED

**FAMILY OWNED** / operated silage harvesting business hiring full-time mechanic/seasonal truck driver. Will pay \$20 to \$30 an hour. Pay based on experience. Located outside Newton, Please call or text (316) 204-0960 if interested.

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**470A UNTAMED** wilderness - hardwood timber, covered draws with wet weather creeks, 6 ponds, good internal accessibility, northwest Wilson County, Kansas. Liz Hendricks, L2 Realty, (620) 330-2438, Ehendricks@L2Realtyinc.com

**SECLUDED 3B** 1½-bath stone home on 1.8 acres with 2-car garage and 2,500-sqaure-foot shop. Cedar Vale, Kansas. Liz Hendricks, L2 Realty (620) 330-2438, Ehendricks@L2Realtyinc.com

**ATTENTION: VIAGRA** and Cialis users! A cheaper alternative to high drug store prices! 50 pill special, only \$99! 100% guaranteed. Call now: (866) 481-0668

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**CASH PAID** for high-end men's sport watches. Rolex, Breitling, Omega, Patek Philippe, Heuer, Daytona, GMT, Submariner, and Speedmaster. Call (866) 481-0636

**GOT AN** unwanted car? Donate it to Patriotic Hearts. Fast, free pick up. All 50 states. Patriotic Hearts' programs help veterans find work or start their own business. Call 24/7: (877) 560-5087

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**WATER DAMAGE** cleanup and restoration: a small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: (877) 586-6688. Have ZIP code of service location ready when you call!

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**NEED NEW** windows? Drafty rooms? Chipped or damaged frames? Need outside noise reduction? New, energy efficient windows may be the answer! Call for a consultation and free quote today. (866) 766-5558. You will need to have your ZIP code t

## 25 PUBLIC NOTICES

First published June 18, 2025, in the Marion County Record, Marion, Kansas (3t)

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARION COUNTY, KANSAS**

In the Matter of the Estate of Deana L. Olsen, Deceased

Case No. MN-2025-PR-000021

Notice of Hearing

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Lorri L. Jost, one of the heirs of Deana L. Olsen, deceased, praying:

Descent be determined of the following described real estate situated in Marion County, Kansas:

An undivided ten percent (10%) interest in the Southeast Quarter (SE/4) of Section Thirty-Five (35), Township Nineteen (19) South, Range Three (3) East of the 6th P.M., Marion County, Kansas, EXCEPT a tract more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a point on the South line of said SE/4 of Section 35-19-3 - 836 feet West of the Southeast corner of said SE/4; thence N 90°00'00" W a distance of 303.99 feet; thence N 00°00'00" E a distance of 350 feet; thence S 90°00'00" E a distance of 411.51 feet; thence S 18°18'18" W a distance of 342.32 feet thence S 00°00'00" W a distance of 25 feet to the point of beginning, containing 2.84 acres more or less subject to existing road right- of-way.

An undivided five percent (5%) interest in a part of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (NE/4 SW/4) of Section Thirty-Five (35), Township Nineteen (19) South, Range Three (3) East of the 6th P.M., Marion County, Kansas, more particularly described as follows, to wit: Beginning at the Northeast corner of the SW/4 of said Section 35; thence West along the North line of said Quarter 880 feet; thence South 671.7 feet more or less to a point that

is 1,980 feet North of the South line of said Quarter; thence East 880 feet to the East line of said SW/4; thence North 671.7 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning.

and all other Kansas real estate owned by decedent at the time of death. And that such property and other Kansas real estate owned by the decedent at the time of death be assigned pursuant to the laws of intestate succession.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before July 21, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., in the District Court, Marion, Marion County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

Lorri L. Jost, Petitioner

WISE & REBER, L.C.

120 W. Kansas Ave., Suite B McPherson, KS 67460

(620) 241-0554

Attorneys for Petitioner

M-40-41-42-2731

First published July 2, 2025 in the Marion County Record, Marion, Kansas (3t)

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARION COUNTY, KANSAS**

**CIVIL DEPARTMENT**

Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Novastar Mortgage Funding Trust, Series 2007-2, Novastar Home Equity Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2007-2

Plaintiff,

vs.

Byron McFadden aka Leslie Byron McFadden (Deceased), Carol A. McFadden aka Carol Arlene McFadden, Jane Doe, and John Doe, et al., Defendants

Case No. MN-2025-CV-000029

Court No.

Title to Real Estate Involved

Pursuant to K.S.A. §60

First published July 2, 2025, in the Marion County Record, Marion, Kansas (1t)

**NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING**

The governing body of

**Doyle Township**

**Marion County**

will meet on July 22, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at 873 Bluestem Rd, Florence for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax.

Detailed budget information is available at Marion County Clerk's Office-200 S. Third St. Suite 104, Marion and will be available at this hearing.

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

Proposed Budget 2026 Expenditures and Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2026 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

Fund	Expenditures	Prior Year Actual 2024		Current Year Estimate 2025		Proposed Budget 2026	
		Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	3,413	1.389	3,140	1.310	17,000	4,379	1.310
Totals	3,413	1.389	3,140	1.310	17,000	4,379	1.310

Less: Transfers	0	0	0
Net Expenditure	3,413	3,140	17,000
Total Tax Levied	4,447	4,447	

Assessed Valuation:

Township	3,200,295	3,393,383	3,342,085
Outstanding Indebtedness,			
Jan 1	2023	2024	2025
G.O. Bonds	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Lease Purchase Principal	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

\*Tax rates are expressed in mills.

\*\*Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

Kathy Inlow

Treasurer

M-42-2737

## NOTICE OF SUIT

STATE OF KANSAS to the above named Defendants and The Unknown Heirs, executors, devisees, trustees, creditors, and assigns of any deceased defendants; the unknown spouses of any defendants; the unknown officers, successors, trustees, creditors and assigns of any defendants that are existing, dissolved or dormant corporations; the unknown executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors, successors and assigns of any defendants that are or were partners or in partnership; and the unknown guardians, conservators and trustees of any defendants that are minors or are under any legal disability and all other person who are or may be concerned:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in the District Court of Marion County, Kansas by Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Novastar Mortgage Funding Trust, Series 2007-2, Novastar Home Equity Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2007-2, praying to foreclose a mortgage on the following described real estate:

LOTS 1, 2, 3 AND 4, BLOCK 3, KLEIWER'S SECOND ADDITION TO THE CITY OF HILLSBORO, MARION COUNTY, KANSAS.

AND

LOT 1, BLOCK 2, PRIEB'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF HILLSBORO, MARION COUNTY, KANSAS. Parcel ID No. 057-138-33-0-40-06-013.00-0. Commonly known as 209 S Date St., Hillsboro, KS 67063 ("the Property") MS 189070

and all those defendants who have not otherwise been served are required to plead to the Petition on or before August 12, 2025 in the District Court of Marion County, Kansas. If you fail to plead, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the request of plaintiff.

MILLSAP & SINGER, LLC

First published July 2, 2025, in the Marion County Record, Marion, Kansas (1t)

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**Doyle Township**

**Marion County**

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Jan 1	2023	2024	2025
G.O. Bonds	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Lease Purchase Principal	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

\*Tax rates are expressed in mills.

\*\*Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

Kathy Inlow

Treasurer

M-42-2737

By: Dwayne A. Duncan, #27533

dduncan@msfirm.com

612 Spirit Dr.

St. Louis, MO 63005

(636) 537-0110

(636) 537-0067 (fax)

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

MS 189070.456436 KJFC

MILLSAP & SINGER, LLC IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

M-42-43-44-2735

First published July 2, 2025, in the Marion County Record, Marion, Kansas (3t)

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARION COUNTY, KANSAS**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF GERALD SCOTT FRANZMANN, Deceased

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified that on a petition for issuance of Letters of Administration was filed in this Court by Michael P. Franzmann, an heir of Gerald Scott Franzmann, deceased.

All creditors of the decedent are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate within the later of four months from the date of first publication of notice under K.S.A. 59-2236 and amendments thereto, or if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, 30 days after actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Michael P. Franzmann, Petitioner

3467 Vamoose Court

Castle Rock, CO 80108

(303) 548-6555

michael.franzmann@gmail.com

M-42-43-44-2736

Now accepting applications for

- CNA FT evenings, and nights
- FT HIM/Medical records
- CMA PT evenings
- Evening shift nurse

Applications can be obtained at [www.salemhomeks.org](http://www.salemhomeks.org) or you can fax resume to (620) 947-1465 attn: Virgie



704 S. Ash St., Hillsboro, KS 67063

**Marion County Attorney's Office**

is looking to hire a part-time

**Administrative Specialist**

Position involves routine clerical and office duties, including filing and scanning documents and assisting other staff members. At least one year of office experience is preferred. A positive attitude, great organizational skills, and attention to detail are important in this position. Background check is required.

Applications available at Marion County Administrator's office in the Courthouse or at [www.marioncoks.net/employment](http://www.marioncoks.net/employment). Return completed applications to the Marion County Attorney's Office: 202 S. 3rd St., Suite A, Marion. (620) 382-2243. Open until filled. EOE.



**MARION**  
COUNTY, KANSAS

# CHIEF: Offer contingent on background check

FROM PAGE 1

most recent job, the main school resource officer at Rose Hill schools.

He was chief of the school's police department, a separate entity from the Rose Hill police department, from 2019 to 2024. He was the only officer in the department for the majority of his time with the school.

School resource officers provide security and attempt to build relationships with students. Officers possess the same

authority as those in regular law enforcement.

The department was created because the school "didn't have a great working relationship" with Rose Hill police department, school district human resources director Lucy Brown said.

"He's a very nice guy," Brown said. "He had some health issues, and had to take a leave of absence, and I honestly thought he wasn't going to be

able to do police work any longer. I'm glad to hear that that's changed."

She declined to comment on specifics of Neal's health problems.

Neal was a patrol officer in Hutchison from 2000 to 2007, a chief in Halstead in 2008 and 2009, and a chief in St. John for seven months in 2011.

He has worked other jobs as well, including a 11-month stretch as a criminal justice in-

structor, 18 months as a business consultant, and almost three years as a morning show host and play-by-play announcer on Ad Astra Radio.

Mayor Catherine Weems said Neal's employment would hinge on a psychiatric evaluation, drug screening, and background check. The background check will focus on any criminal history and law enforcement training.

The city has conducted private meetings over the past few weeks in which different candidates have interviewed for the position.

Those present at the meetings have included the council, Weems, and private residents, Roxanne Dalke and Joe Hutchison.

The city started off with eight candidates.

Neal "was the top pick unanimously," Weems said.

Peabody's other vacant city position is that of city clerk.

A report from Weems on June 9 stated that a clerk should be hired within a week, but plans have fallen through.

"We thought there was going to be somebody that was going to be good for the job, but it wasn't going to end up working out in the end on her side," Weems said. "I think her boss realized that they really wanted to keep her and roped her back in."

Also discussed at Monday's council meeting was a water quality report mailed to Peabody residents.

The report, while emphasizing that tap water in Peabody is safe, revealed that three times in the past five years, city offi-

cials had failed to conduct mandatory water testing.

The violations occurred in October, 2020; November, 2023; and May 2024.

"No bacteriological samples were pulled during those months," Hillsboro water supervisor Morgan Marler said. "The city clerk and the certified operator at the time would have been notified via email and paper copy in the mail multiple times."

Peabody receives water from Hillsboro, but is responsible for testing.

"We were not aware of this until this report came out," Weems said. "The people that were accountable for these instances are gone."

Many cities do not mail full reports to residents, but state law can require mailing if certain violations occur.

## Letters CONTINUED

FROM PAGE 2

stead of facing either the ballot box or a pine box.

Sadly, many voters don't do their own research and are lazy enough to vote for a faceless incumbent. I don't think endorse-

ments matter much either. The only endorsement that counts is your own vote.



# SHOP: Volunteers are mostly elderly, in short supply

FROM PAGE 1

from the bottom of a pair of donated shoes Friday.

She has worked at the store since 2009.

“It fills a void that the community needs,” she said.

Manager Mary Ann Conyers — affectionately known by her initials as “Mac” — has been with the shop since 2014.

On Saturday, Conyers fluttered around the second floor, picking out artificial flowers and wire sculptures to use in her weekly window display.

“You have to have a theme, not just tchotchkes,” she said.

The second floor, off-limits to customers, is arguably the most interesting part of the building. Most of that is because of the work of Walter Hein, a chatty co-chairman of St. Luke Auxiliary. Years ago, Hein made the faithful choice to use cardboard banana crates to house surplus items.

Hundreds of banana crates now dominate the room, all neatly stacked and organized by Hein in a thrifted Library of Babel.

Hein wore a straw hat, orange-tinted glasses, and an assortment of colorful jewelry Saturday, a look at once agrarian and gaudy.

He is one of two men who regularly volunteer.

The other is Don Molleker, a calm if quirky preservationist responsible for lifting heavy furniture, cleaning and dusting antiques, and scrapping the material that builds up from unwanted donations.

Saturday, Molleker was hard at work setting up a large beige recliner (\$35), which he then moved into one of the shop aisles. He donned a shirt that said “I’d rather do it myself.”

So dedicated is Molleker to conservation that he apparently smashes up every aluminum can he uses to recycle as scrap. He also likes to take home material found in the shop.

“I’d hate to see his house,” Hein joked.

The shop receives about 80% of its products from the Marion community, Blackman said.

The rest come from elsewhere in Kansas, usually people who have vis-



STAFF PHOTO BY FINN HARTNETT

Tiny tots appreciate the variety of children’s toys in the auxiliary shop.

ited the shop and prefer donating to it instead of to a larger chain.

“They see how clean and how nice we keep the shop, and they know that it’s going to our hospital,” Blackman said. “We had a woman who had been closing down her bridal shop in Hutchinson, and so instead of giving them to Goodwill or the other larger organizations, she brought seven beautiful brand new bridal dresses.”

The shop accepts all kinds of clothes, decorations, and appliances. Donations vary based on “who dies and when the kids clean out the garage,” as Molleker put it.

Things to avoid donating include lawn mowers, large equipment, and computers with unknown origins.

Clothes with holes or stains will be sent by the shop to mission organizations in Wichita and El Dorado.

“Though you have to be careful with these jeans that purposely have holes in them,” Blackman said.

The number of products is never a problem for the shop. Sometimes, the auxiliary gets so full it must stop accepting donations until items are sold.

Downstairs, Blackman and another woman stood behind a register.

Behind the store’s two registers, slightly more upscale items are kept. Among them are designer handbags (\$20 to \$80), a working receipt machine (\$20), and an atlas from 1899 (\$25, slightly used).

The most expensive item in the store was nearby: an antique Red Wing crock (\$225). It’s rare the shop has such a specialty item; volunteers expected it to be gone within the week.

Roughly \$3,500 is raised by the

shop each weekend. During the busiest days of the year, the number has exceeded \$10,000.

Cash is king at the auxiliary. The taxes and training that come with card readers, Blackman said, creates more trouble than the machines are worth. (Sales tax is calculated with a punchy old register.)

The store does accept checks, though this is contentious, as the biggest scam in auxiliary history involved a couple of ne’er-do-wells stealing \$400 worth of goods with a phony check. Police eventually tracked both thieves down.

The store no doubt could generate more money with stricter business practices. Clothes are frequently given away to those in need, half-price sales are frequent, and an unspoken rule is that low-income residents can sometimes barter at the register. Still, its communal ethos is beautiful, even inspiring.

When items are so cheap, and workers work for free, it becomes easy to feel a part of something greater than yourself.

But the shop can work only if enough people sign up to volunteer, and staffing is by far the biggest issue facing the auxiliary.

“We’re all getting old,” Blackman said. “I’d say the average age of the shop is between 75 and 80.”

While the shop’s website lists 150 volunteers, Blackman said she could depend on only around 50 to pick up a shift.

Some key volunteers, like Barbara Hardin, are moving out of town later in the summer, and others are at the end of their tether.

“Mac has worked 11 years, and she’s getting tired,” Blackman said.

Globalization and an emphasis on the individual in society has made it difficult to convince young people to volunteer.

“I moved to Marion in 1972, and at that time... you didn’t have the freedom and mobility you have today,” Blackman said. Nowadays, adults “want to keep their weekends free, go to their sports activities, their family activities, their vacations.”

Some hospital staff volunteer on occasion.

St. Luke marketing director Keri Collett was working the register Friday.

Collett said St. Luke Foundation was working on recruiting more volunteers.

“There was talk about maybe doing an open house for people to see the stations and putting it out for advertising,” she said. “Maybe talking to some high school students. ... It hasn’t really come to fruition yet.”

Convincing recent retirees to volunteer probably will be the shop’s best bet.

“We’ve had some new volunteers come in that are younger, but you have to realize, young, to me, could be 60 years old,” Blackman said.

A problem with exclusively elderly volunteers is the physical strain the work demands.

Molleker seems to be the only regular capable of lifting heavy furniture.

A conveyor belt leading to the second floor has been a life-saver in transporting objects up and down stairs.

“We certainly need some male volunteers to fill in... to help carry heavy things in or to unload the furniture,” Blackman said.

Hein expressed a hopelessness towards recent recruitment efforts.

“I could care less if we tried to get more,” he said. “We’ve tried everything.”

While St. Luke could survive without its thrift shop, the money the auxiliary has contributed to the hospital is significant.

It has financed new equipment and even branches of the building. The shop is honored with a multitude of plaques on hospital walls.

More than that, the shop is community-led in the best kind of way.

Its unflappably selfless way of doing things almost forces neighbors to care about each other, and the process puts some of the cheapest clothes and decorations in the hands of those who need them most.

Collett was confident the shop wouldn’t be shutting down anytime soon.

“Ultimately, the Auxiliary is under the umbrella of the Foundation,” she said. “And I don’t think we’d let it.”

# DOGS: Tickets possible, but warnings more likely

FROM PAGE 1

knocking me down to the concrete, repeatedly biting my head and face.”

Westmoland suffered two wounds to the head and had emergency surgery, receiving 28 stitches on her face and neck and 40 staples in her head, she said.

She has become so worried about dogs on her property that she now carries a Taser and a firearm while doing yard work.

She admits she is more worried than most about angry dogs.

Police can issue citations to owners of loose dogs, but when they do so is up to their discretion.

More often, a loose dog whose owner can’t immediately be found is taken to a veterinary clinic.

“Generally, if it’s a one or two-time issue, we don’t issue a citation,” Hudlin said. “People are generally fairly embarrassed when that happens. They have to go to the vet, pay the bill.”

If the same dog repeatedly poses a problem in Marion, a citation is issued, and the dog is tagged, taken to Animal Health Center, and receives shots if needed.

The owner must pay a \$10 to \$15 registration fee at Animal Health Center and \$20 for every day the dog is kept there.

Hillsboro police similarly tend to forgive residents the first time a dog gets loose.

“If we wanted to be aggressive and wrote everybody a ticket every time their dog was out, you’d probably have less dogs out,” Hiebert said. “But by the same token, I think people de-

serve the opportunity to correct the problem if it didn’t hurt anybody.”

If the dog bites or shows aggression toward a human, its owner almost will always receive a citation, Hiebert said.

Hiebert pointed out the financial burden a citation could place on a family; court costs in Hillsboro are \$145, and a ticket hovers around \$60.

In Marion, court costs are \$110 and a fine is \$50.

Hiebert conceded that loose dogs had been a problem his entire career and that his staff was not well equipped to do animal control.

During one memorable instance, officers had to track down a tranquilizer rifle so they could knock out an aggressive dog.

“We don’t have the equipment to deal with vicious animals,” Hiebert said.

Westmoland thinks police used to write a proper amount of citations but have since become lax.

On a recent occasion, Westmoland claimed a neighbor’s dog approached her fence and attempted to attack her and her shih tzu.

“It could have easily knocked my fence down,” she said. “I had my Taser in my yard work bucket, but not my gun.”

Smith lives with his mother Misty. The family has two dogs, a boxer and a Chihuahua.

Both of them said Westmoland was exaggerating the situation, though Misty conceded that she had “flipped her off” before.

“We don’t ever go in this woman’s yard,” Misty said. “Ever since I moved in here, I have not talked to that woman. ... Something’s wrong with her.”

Misty said both of the fam-

ily’s dogs were service animals.

Hudlin said his department decided not to ticket Smith after reviewing Westmoland’s security footage.

“This dude’s riding his bike down the street,” he said. “He had the dog on a leash strapped to the handlebars of his bike. The dog darts off in one direction, and he wrecks his bike into her yard. She wanted to charge him with trespassing. We were like, ‘yeah, that doesn’t work.’”

Hudlin said Westmoland frequently complained about animals and that her “no trespassing” order had likely antagonized both parties.

“There’s no coming back from it,” he said.

Another neighbor, who requested anonymity because she “didn’t want to start a war,” also said Westmoland’s complaints might be exaggerated.

“She has an issue with everybody,” the woman said. “There aren’t a whole lot of loose dogs

down here, not as many as there used to be.”

Hudlin and Hiebert both said they thought their respective city dog laws were adequate.

“Our city ordinances are already fairly comprehensive as far as dealing with animals,” Hudlin said. “I don’t know that more legislation is necessarily the issue.”

Westmoland, however, wants things to change.

“The citations, maybe they need to go up every time that the dog gets out,” she said. “Nobody’s perfect. I get that, but not constantly, and especially with an aggressive dog.”

She has made some progress on this front.

On Monday, Marion’s planning and zoning commission said it would recommend an exception permitting her to build a taller fence.

“I told her I would allow a four-foot fence with one foot of lattice on top,” city inspector James Masters said.

Masters said Westmoland didn’t realize she could build a solid screen fence across the front of her yard and was excited to hear she could make that change.

“I think people deserve the opportunity to correct the problem if it didn’t hurt anybody.”

— HILLSBORO POLICE CHIEF

# CRIME: Marion records lowest rate

FROM PAGE 1

Peabody had the county’s second highest crime rate, 14.2. The 13 crimes reported there included two aggravated assaults or batteries, four burglaries, five thefts, and two vehicle thefts.

Rural areas covered by the sheriff’s department had the county’s third-highest rate, 7.0, with 36 total crimes, including one rape, seven aggravated assaults or batteries, 12 burglaries, 12 thefts, and four vehicle thefts.

Among other county areas reporting crimes, Marion had the lowest rate, 6.3. Its reported crimes included four aggravated assaults or batteries, two burglaries, four thefts, and two motor vehicle thefts.

Three neighboring counties reported lower crime rates: 3.0 crimes per 1,000 residents in Morris County, 8.1 in Dickinson County, and 9.1 in McPherson County.

But some reported higher rates: 11.9 in Chase County, 12.4 in Butler County, 15.6 in

Harvey County, and a whopping 27.1 in Saline County.

Wyandotte and Sedgwick counties had the state’s highest crime rates, 46.8 and 43.9 crimes per 1,000 residents, respectively.

Data reported by KBI has significant limitations. It lists only reported crimes. Crimes not reported are not included. And because numbers of crimes in smaller jurisdictions are small, trends and comparisons between jurisdictions can be statistically insignificant.

Moreover, not all data are complete. In Marion County, for example, while data from the sheriff’s office covered all 12 months of the year, data from Hillsboro and Marion covered only 11 months, data from Peabody covered only nine months, and Florence and Burns did not provide data.

If all 12 months had been reported and crime occurred at the same rate in missing months, Hillsboro would have had a crime rate of 20.0, Peabody would have had a rate of 15.5, and Marion a rate of 6.9.

*Glow with the flow!*

# GLOW RUN '25

9 P.M. FRIDAY  
**JULY 25**  
MARION COUNTY FAIR

1 mile and 5k courses for all ages  
\$30 adults, \$15 ages 4 to 10  
includes T-shirt and glow gear

Register at Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce or participating businesses.  
Deadline for T-shirts is July 14; after that, T-shirts are first come, first served.