



Hot mess

Getting all tied up in holiday activities

► PAGE 3



Hot shot

Full page of Independence Day coverage

► PAGE 10



Hot flash

Predict when we'll hit 100° and win

► PAGE 6



Marion County RECORD

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WEDNESDAY, **JULY 9, 2025** — MARION, HILLSBORO, and PEABODY, Kansas

10 pages



This is how water came out of a tap last week at Kristina Kraemer's home in Tampa.

Trouble on tap

Rural district serves up water that looks more like coffee

By FINN HARTNETT
Staff writer

Last week, *Record* columnist Pat Wick was host for her grandson at her home in Ramona.

"All of a sudden, he came out of the bathroom and he said, 'Baba, there's something weird with the water,'" Wick said. "I looked, and it was the color of coffee."

Brown water in Rural Water District No. 1, which covers Tampa and Ramona, is nothing new.

"It's gotten to be sort of a normal

thing," Wick said. "When I go to wash clothes, I check the water first. I fill the tub before I know what color clothes I can put in."

The water system itself is around 60 years old, according to Tampa resident and former water board member David Mueller. Some of the water lines are only slightly newer.

"I was married 50 years ago, and they put the lines in not long before that," Tampa resident Virginia Bentz said.

The district's water comes from a well northwest of Lehigh.

"It's a small finger of the Ogallala aquifer," Mueller said.

Lehigh, part of a different district, and Durham, which operates its own system and was ranked as having the second-best tasting water in the state last year, run wells in the same area.

RWD No. 1's old water lines break fairly often, which allows dirt and sediment to build up in the system.

After a break, water dark with iron and manganese must be flushed out by water

PLEASE SEE **PROBLEM** PAGE 6

Complaints many; answers few

By PHYLLIS ZORN
Staff writer

Residents appalled by brown and black water sought help Monday from county commissioners, but the path forward seems perhaps as cloudy as the water emerging from their taps.

Nathan Brunner said Rural Water District No. 1's problems had been lasting longer, usually one to two days of dirty, brown or black water.

"This last event," he said, however, "has lasted six to nine days depending on where you live within the water district."

The water district told residents it was

flushing the lines but didn't give a timeline, Brunner told commissioners.

"We are told this water is just a little high on iron, and the dirty look is from manganese, but it's OK to drink," Brunner said. "Many have reached out to Kansas Department of Health and Environment, who advised they have taken many complaints. We were also told that the samples show our water to be normal, but they didn't share the testing dates."

The problems have cost customers hundreds of dollars, Brunner said. People have lost clothing, appliances, and water filters, he contended.

Tampa resident Kristina Kraemer set a bottle of dark brownish water on a table before she spoke to commissioners.

"If you're planning to turn us away again without action, then I'd like to see one of you take this bottle of our tap water and drink the whole thing," Kraemer said.

She didn't get her wish, but after the meeting adjourned, commissioner Mike Beneke removed the bottle's cap and took a swig.

He said the taste didn't seem bad.

PLEASE SEE **SOLUTION** PAGE 6

Bank to be sold to St. John group

By PHYLLIS ZORN
Staff writer

Tampa State Bank, with offices in Tampa and Marion, is expected to become a branch of SJN Bank, headquartered in St. John, by the end of this year.

Tampa bank has a long history in Marion County.

The bank was chartered in 1901, bank president Micky Lundy said, and built its Marion the branch in 1998.

Her brother, former bank president Chris Costello, died two years ago.

Tampa and SJN have agreed that personnel will remain the same, so there will be no change in familiar faces customers see, Lundy said.

"It's a good group, and I'm

confident everything will go on as it is," Lundy said. "The name will stay the same. It will be Tampa State Bank, a branch of SJN."

The acquisition must be approved by both state and national regulators.

"This is just the beginning phase," Lundy said.

She expects the merger to be completed by the end of the year.

Working through details of the merger won't be done until after regulators give approval, SJN president Chad Fisher said.

Fisher said the decision to merge with Tampa State Bank

PLEASE SEE **BANK** PAGE 6

Pet rescuer faces charges after dog kills cat

By PHYLLIS ZORN
Staff writer

Two dogs that escaped and killed a cat Saturday are owned by a would-be animal sanctuary operator with no license from the state or the city.

Interim Police Chief Zach Hudlin said officers were sent at 8:15 p.m. to Fairway Dr. to investigate a report of two dogs roaming the neighborhood.

The caller said the dogs were friendly.

A short time later, police were notified that one of the dogs had killed a cat at 4 Fairway Dr.

"The people who owned the cat said that there were two dogs loose," Hudlin said. "Officers went to look and couldn't find them."

Jake Sigel, who owned the cat, said he thought they were Victor Buckner's dogs.

Police went to Buckner's residence at 106 Ashley Dr.

"Vic wasn't in town," Hudlin said. "They were in Colorado. His daughter was taking care of his dogs."

Since the dogs had returned home and their gate was locked, officers didn't take possession of them.

"We were told the cat had a rare fungal infection that was transmitted by saliva," Hudlin said.

Police didn't want to infect canine handler Aaron Slater's car.

PLEASE SEE **DOG** PAGE 9

Discord in Peabody leads to challenge

By FINN HARTNETT
Staff writer

Months of political tension in Peabody will lead to an electoral showdown in November between the incumbent mayor and incumbent council president.

Two years ago, council president Kevin Burke considered running for mayor of Peabody. But one thing held him back.

"I needed to gain some experience," he said.

Burke ran for council instead, winning his seat in November, 2023. At the same time, former council president Catherine Weems was elected mayor.

This June, Burke officially filed for mayor. He will be the only challenger to Weems, who is seeking re-election.

Burke was born and raised in Peabody. Prior to serving on the council, he spent over

30 years in the trucking business.

"When I'm in the cemetery, I'll be the fifth generation buried out there," he said. "My family has been here since before Peabody was put together."

Though he declined to share specific qualms, saying he didn't want to come across as a complainer or a "bully," Burke expressed frustration with Peabody's budget and a perceived lack of transparency.

"I'd expect to lead with honesty, integrity, transparency," he said. "I'd expect that the council could work together to become outstanding stewards of the taxpayers' money, none of which I think is being done now."

During a July 1 meeting, Burke voiced concerns about

PLEASE SEE **PEABODY** PAGE 9

Stopping fat cats from gnawing at our wallets

AMID THE HERD of potential candidates unwilling to serve our county by seeking to fill a legislative vacancy, a dark horse stands out. Actually, it's a dark cat — my black-and-white tabby, Zenger.

Zenger proved his readiness for politics the other night when I departed in a hurry to marvel at fireworks at the county lake and left out a carryout box that still had a few slices of pizza in it.

Upon my return from the “ooh, ahh, I liked that one,” I found the box shoved onto the floor and thrust open. Rather than gnaw on pepperoni, cheese, or even crust, however, Zenger had chosen to chew up and spit out several handfuls of cardboard.

Either he's a particular eater, preferring things with a consistency similar to the kibble he normally dines on, or he simply doesn't understand the fundamentals of feline food filching.

Rather, he seems inclined to take after another breed of fat cat — elected officials who don't really understand one of their primary duties: budgeting money they get from taxpayers.

Even a true wildcat like Elon Musk has a sense for how budgeting is supposed to be done. First, you itemize essential needs and your best idea of what they will cost. Then, you set aside money for expected future major expenses — a roof that eventually will need replacing or a child who eventually will need braces or want to go to college. It's always best to overestimate these before budgeting for things that would be nice but not necessary.

In the end, you total it all up and compare it to what money's likely to come in. If your regular paycheck or pension will cover it all, you can take the excess and save up for a big vacation or other splurge. If you won't have enough, you consider whether you should look at moonlighting or maybe downsizing.

Too often at this time of year, elected officials do budgeting the other way around. They start with the maximum amount of money they think they can squeeze out of taxpayers' financial turnips without the taxpayers throwing them out of office, then they look at all the ways they can lavish that money on worker raises, new equipment, and other projects that will help them get re-elected.

Rather than stick — as most of the rest of us have to do — with the same amount of money coming in, they opt instead to spend as much as they think they can get away with even before they determine in detail what their community's needs are.

Being politicians, they wrap it all up in what they regard as a white lie: “No, we aren't increasing taxes. We're keeping the tax rate the same. And we can always lower this later.” But they ignore that massive increases in assessed value will mean that the same rates generate lots more money — well more than mere inflation would dictate.

In the City of Marion, for example, reimposing last year's tax rate would mean almost every taxpayer would end up paying a lot more — 10.5% more, on average. That's why state law requires governments to calculate the so-called revenue-neutral rate — so taxpayers will know when supposedly holding the line is just another line trying to make you think taxes aren't increasing when, in fact, they are.

That's not to say that all government spending is bad or that sometimes tax increases aren't good. As any businessperson can tell you, you often have to spend money to make money. But the rewards and payback must be clear — not only for the large portion of our community earning meager retirement incomes but also for businesses and others considering locating here.

Combining city and school taxes, a business or resident looking to come to Marion will pay 50.21% more in local taxes than one also considering locating in Hillsboro. If Marion doesn't provide 50.21% more local services that potential businesses or residents actually want, they never locate here even if Marion hires the world's best economic developer.

Now is the time for all good elected officials to do what they promised to do before being elected and come to the aid of those paying the bills. They should be rolling up their sleeves and putting in the hours needed not just to rule on whatever government employees want to add to our spending but also to examine every continuing expenditure to see whether there might be a less expensive way to accomplish almost the same thing, if it's needed at all.

Fancy folks have a name for this. It's called zero-based budgeting. For the rest of us, it's simple. Now is not the time for elected officials to casually spend a few minutes giving thumbs up or thumbs down to requests for new funding but to actually work to make sure every cent they spend on our behalf provides the payback we have every right to expect and demand.

— ERIC MEYER

Another one bites the dust

*What happens to a dream deferred?
Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun?
Or does it explode?*

— Langston Hughes

RURAL COMMUNITIES TOO often awaken from the American dream to find that it has vanished. Opportunities that once kept their best and brightest at home shrivel to the point that the communities they lovingly sought to serve end up dispassionately imploding from lack of leadership.

As happened in central cities that inspired Hughes' poetry, rural areas are seeing more and more local institutions that young people could aspire to someday own and operate become snatched up by distant owners.

Those with ambition to steer these institutions to make a difference in their hometowns find their latitude limited and options foreclosed upon. Able to aspire only to become managers, unable to fully implement their dreams, they abandon communities they love.

To be sure, not every local business that becomes a link in a distant chain fails to treat the community it serves with the respect and love it deserves. But taking away from young people the opportunity to make their mark ends up depriving communities of the type of leadership that caused them to flourish in the first place.

It's not enough that a business pays tax-

es and provides jobs. Locally owned businesses are far more likely to pay homage to and expand upon what originally made their communities great.

It would be unfair and unproductive to wade into the surf and demand that the tide washing away locally owned businesses not roll in. Corporatization, globalism, economies of scale, and the already growing impact of abandonment by the best and brightest make the trend inevitable.

But the situation hints of the No. 1 challenge our communities face — retooling our economies to focus less on branches of distant businesses rooted in traditions other than our own and to focus instead on boutique institutions and services where local ownership, leadership, and preservation of local values can flourish.

It's fine to lament that Tampa State Bank is poised to become the latest in a long line of businesses that no longer will be headquartered here and to hope — with some justification — that new ownership will preserve the bank's tradition of community stewardship.

But lamentation is not enough. Lest we shrivel like a raisin in the sun or explode from lack of leadership, each of us must become committed to engaging in dialogue to address rather than merely accept the challenges we face.

— ERIC MEYER



Another Day in the Country Something for nothing

By PAT WICK
© Another Day in the Country

AN OLDER friend of ours decided it was time to stop driving. She bequeathed her car to my sister in her will and said, “There's no sense in the car just sitting around, not being used, so why don't you come to Oregon and get it now?”

When I flew to California for my grandson's graduation from high school, my sister flew to Portland to pick up the car.

Jess drove down to Napa Valley for Dagfinnr's graduation, and I said to my grandson, “How would you like to take a road trip with us back to Kansas?”

He said, “Yes,” and I was ecstatic.

How many more summers will we be able to do this kind of thing? Going to college is a big shift in life — the launch pad into the future. Times they are a-changing in my family.

It seems to me that well-planned road trips usually start with, “Early in the morning, we began our journey. The car was already loaded.”

None of that was true for us. We fiddled around over breakfast and loaded up the suitcases while Dagfinnr read the owner's manual to see how this newfangled automobile actually worked.

There were so many bells and whistles, apps and programs, features and fiddle-fiddle to get used to that it was mind boggling.

“What's that sound now?” Jess would ask in despair as she tooted down the highway.

She had her co-pilot, Dagfinnr, working the car's computer system, turning off unnecessary gadgets left and right.

“It's like playing Whack-a-Mole,” she grumbled as another bell chimed.

Not only were we navigating a new car. We also were navigating a new route from West to Midwest. We wanted to see somewhere we'd never been before, and we checked that off

our to-do list as we headed for Mono Lake, a salt-water lake in the Sierra foothills.

“There must be something exciting to see like old, abandoned mining towns around here,” Jess said.

No sooner said than done, I Googled it and found just such a spot within 20 miles of where we were driving.

We rerouted our trusty map guide with a sultry voice and turned off the main road on a real adventure in really unknown territory as we climbed our way, like a four-wheeler, toward what used to be Bodie, California, a ghost town that had housed more than 8,000 people during the Gold Rush.

“Auntie Jess, would you like me to drive?” Dagfinnr asked.

Did she ever! We were on dirt roads, and every few feet, it seemed, rocks had tumbled onto our path. Some we had to get out of the car and move off the road. Jess wondered whether oil pans in Toyotas were well protected.

Finally, we rounded a corner after 15 miles of dirt trails and saw what was left of the village on a hillside.

Thanks to the State Park Service, the absolute last of the town's businesses have been preserved, pretty much as they were a hundred years ago. Current budget cuts from Washington, D.C., had not yet trickled down to hamper us visiting this treasure from the past. That was pretty much Day One.

On Day Two, we wondered whether we ever were going to get out of California as we wound around and down mountain roads.

On Day Three, we hit Las Vegas and couldn't wait to get out.

On Day Four, we took Dagfinnr to tour the Grand Canyon.

Day Five found us in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where we went to the Meow Wolf Museum, which all of us voted as the highlight of the trip.

By then, the lot of us were weary. This road-tripping thing takes a toll. We were ready to

head straight for home and finally, at one o'clock in the morning, drove down the familiar main street of Ramona. We were home!

We'll never forget our adventure in Vegas. I'd booked in advance a show that had to do with Harry Potter, knowing my family enjoyed all the books and movies.

I had hoped this entertainment in Vegas would be good. It wasn't. We walked in, sat down, they started, and after five minutes I thought, “This is awful,” and sneaked a peak at my sister, who had a pained expression on her face.

I waited a few more minutes and said to my grandson, “Are you enjoying this at all?” He shook his head, “Is it OK with you if we leave?” He nodded.

It seemed as if we walked forever to get back to Harrah's, where we were booked to spend the night. After waiting endlessly in line, a clerk said, “You've been upgraded.”

There was a pause. “I don't understand why,” she said, followed by another pause as she double-checked with her superior. “Yes, you have an upgrade, and here is your keycard.”

Our bamboozled threesome, tired, hungry, and discouraged, pulled our overnight bags through a smoke-drenched lobby to the elevator, found our room number, opened the door, and walked into a penthouse suite on the top floor of a high-rise building for the first time in our collective lives.

For \$98, we'd reserved one room with two beds and a roll-away and knew we'd never dare eat anything from the mini-bar since we couldn't afford to pay \$16 for a bottle of water or \$22 for a bag of nuts.

Spacious windows overlooked the whole of Las Vegas. There were three huge beds, three living rooms, three bathrooms, three big television sets on the wall just for the three of us to enjoy after a very long day driving cross-country.

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Customers come with creativity

By **FINN HARTNETT**
Staff writer

For Bill and Essie's BBQ in Marion, building a customer base has taken time and effort. But it also requires a strong dash of creativity, Megan Jones said.

Daryl, Megan's husband and the restaurant's chef, has cooked at the senior center and sold food at a variety of community events.

They have invented many different daily specials — "Fish Fridays," "Meatloaf Mondays" — which do a good job of drawing customers, at least until interest tapers off, Jones said.

"You have to let them die for a minute and then bring them back," Jones said.

The restaurant has even taken the unusual step of adjusting its hours so it can be open when other Marion restaurants are not.

When Bill and Essie's first opened, Jones said, "there weren't very many places open on Monday, and I don't think there were any places open on Sunday."

The restaurant is open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. for similar reasons (though also because the couple enjoys late lunch, Jones said).

"We try to be present for the community in a variety of different ways," Jones said.

She was at a restaurant table photographing a new dish — loaded pretzel bites — to post online while she spoke.

For Jones, opening Bill and Essie's represented a homecoming.

Jones had grown up in Marion since kindergarten, when her father took a job at Marion Reservoir, where he worked for the Corps of Engineers as a park ranger.

"I had good friends," she said. "I also had big falling-outs with friends."

After marrying Daryl and living in Olathe for a time, Megan decided to go back to her roots to raise her family in 2022.

"There's something to be said for growing up or raising children in this small-town community," she said. "Whether you like it or not, everybody knows you. Everybody knows who your kids belong to."

Her mother and Daryl's father both were ill and lived nearby. That also contributed to the decision.

While still living in Olathe, Megan and Daryl tried to determine how they would make a living in Marion.

They decided to go bold: Daryl, who always had dreamed of opening a restaurant, would start his own barbecue joint.

It would be called Bill and Essie's after his parents, though perhaps not in the way one would expect; Daryl's mother had the nickname Wild Bill, and his father, though he went by E.J., was named after his own father, Essie.

Daryl went to work in the Kansas

PLEASE SEE **BBQ** PAGE 5

Marion to keep tax option open

By **PHYLLIS ZORN**
Staff writer

Although it's not certain that Marion will exceed its revenue neutral rate for 2026, council members voted Monday to notify the county clerk that it intended to do so.

"You have to give notice that you may do it," city administrator Bryan Wells told council members. "We want to keep our options open at this moment."

The proposal reviewed by the council includes a mill rate of 70.728 and ad valorem taxes of \$1,021,736.60. That would result in an overall tax increase of \$97,663.59.

Less than \$22,000 of that could be used on everyday expenses. The city was ordered last month to reimburse *Marion County Record* lawyer Bernie Rhodes \$75,748 for legal bills after a district judge ruled that the city illegally withheld incriminating text messages subject to state open records law.

Notifications of intent to exceed revenue neutral rates must be delivered to the county clerk by July 20.

The clerk then is required to 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 on the city's exceeding of the revenue neutral rate is scheduled for 5 p.m. Sept. 2.

A roll-call vote of council members to exceed the revenue neutral rate must be passed at the hearing, before the budget is adopted.

The city can formally adopt a budget any time after the resolution is passed but it must be certified and provided to the county clerk by Oct. 1.

In other business Monday night, the council learned that July will be the last month Marion will be in the recycling business.

Under an agreement with the city, Nisly Brothers will pick up recyclables every two weeks beginning in August.

Payment for recycling will be made to Nisly, not included in city utility bills.

A flyer in current utility bills explains the cost and procedures for signing up.

Family fun in Florence



STAFF PHOTOS BY NICHOLAS KIMBALL

A granddaughter at a Town and Country Café family gathering in Florence over the weekend picks up paper streamers the best way she knows how — by wrapping them around herself.



Kids took advantage of free swimming Fourth of July weekend at Florence's city pool, jumping and doing flips off a diving board Thursday.



During free swimming Thursday, a little girl practiced jumping into the water, starting on the side and working her way to a diving board.

44 sex charges dropped, but prison unaltered

By **PHYLLIS ZORN**
Staff writer

A Canton man originally charged with 49 sex charges made a plea bargain Tuesday and was convicted on five charges.

Matthew W. Dudte, 52, agreed to plead no contest to aggravated criminal sodomy, aggravated indecent liberties with a child, and three counts of aggravated endangering of a child.

The plea agreement hammered out between County Attorney Michelle Brown, Dudte, and his lawyer, Stephen Ariagno, calls for all sentences to run consecutively and to be the maximum allowed by law for a defendant with Dudte's record.

"The parties anticipate the total number of months the defendant shall serve in prison will be 247 months with lifetime post release supervision," the agreement states.

A sentence of 247 months would be 20 years and 6 months.

Depending on previous criminal history, sentencing guidelines suggest a sentence of up to 54¼ years in prison

for aggravated criminal sodomy; up to 20½ years in prison for aggravated indecent liberties with a child; and 5 to 13 months' probation for each count of aggravated endangering of a child unless Dudte had two or more earlier convictions for crimes against people.

Under sentencing rules, the most prison time Dudte could receive is twice his aggravated criminal sodomy sentence. Cutting the number of guilty pleas from 49 to 5 makes no difference in the sentence he will receive.

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

Before reaching the agreement, Dudte was charged with rape; rape of a child younger than 14; 17 counts of aggravated criminal sodomy; 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, aggravated endangering of a child, and incest.

State tournament set for Peabody

By **PHYLLIS ZORN**
Staff writer

A state Babe Ruth baseball tournament for kids 16 and younger and an alumni reunion for former players are planned starting July 16 in Peabody.

Eight or more teams and 350 to 400 players and families are expected to descend on Peabody for the tournament.

Games will start at 10:30 a.m. July 17 and will begin at 2½-hour intervals, coordinator Jonathan Richstatter said.

People interested in volunteering or singing the National Anthem are encouraged to call Richstatter at (316) 217-1609 or assistant coordinator Christina Philpott at (620) 381-3410.

"Anybody that loves baseball, come out and watch and have fun with us," Philpott said. "Come enjoy baseball in the park."

The tournament will continue through July 20.

Players must be 16 and under as of Aug. 31.

A reunion for people who played, coached, or participated in Babe Ruth baseball in Peabody in the past 55 years also is planned for July 16.

Check-in for the reunion will be at 6 p.m. at City Park.

People unable to attend may send information to Richstatter and still be announced at the reunion.

A fireworks show will be the reunion finale.

"This is a special year and quite possibly the last opportunity to get back together and see where the program is today," city council member Linda Martinez said.

Tournament games are scheduled for seven innings.

Admission will cost \$7 a day for adults and \$5 a day for ages 6 to 12. Children younger than 6 will be admitted free. More information is available from Richstatter or Philpott.

FBI takes over investigation of Peabody's ex-clerk

By **PHYLLIS ZORN**
Staff writer

State officials have concluded their investigation of now-deceased Peabody city clerk Jonathan Clayton and turned the case over to the FBI.

"Our KBI case is closed," Kansas Bureau of Investigation public affairs specialist Natalie Turner said. "The Federal Bureau of Investigation adopted the case from us."

An FBI public affairs specialist in Kansas City declined to provide information on status of the case.

"It's FBI policy to neither confirm nor deny the existence of investigations," spokesman Dixon Land of FBI's Kansas City office said.

Kansas Department of Commerce spokesman Pat Lowry said his agency also had finished its investigation of how grants awarded to Peabody Main St. and Mullinville, administered by Clayton were handled.

"The Kansas Department of Commerce and the third-party consultant, Witt O'Briens, have closed the BASE grant investigation and found no ev-

idence of impropriety or fraud at the Department of Commerce," Lowry said. "In August, 2024, we voluntarily provided records pertaining to Mullinville and Peabody to the FBI Wichita office, KBI, and the Treasury Department office of inspector general."

Lowry said Commerce has received no questions from any of those agencies.

When questions originally arose, Commerce said required reports had not been provided.

"We did all that double checking, and the audit," Lowry said.

Clayton's handling of state grants to his hometown of Mullinville and Peabody came into question amid investigation of alleged theft of money from Mullinville's Main Street organization and a cemetery district account there.

Allegedly, he had transferred money into a personal bank account in Dodge City.

Besides overseeing grants at a local level, Clayton worked for Commerce,

where he was in charge of American Rescue Plan Act grants when the investigation began.

He lived in Mullinville before moving to Peabody in 2023 and become involved with getting the Peabody grant.

He and his husband, Christopher King, opened a craft store in Peabody with a portion of Peabody's grant money.

At Peabody, Clayton oversaw what

PLEASE SEE **CLERK** PAGE 5

Peabody hears a voice from above

By **FINN HARTNETT**
Staff writer

“I’m kind of embarrassed to ask this, but does anyone know what time the parade starts?” Aaron Waddell said into the microphone. “Is it at 4 or 5?”

Waddell was sitting in a swivel chair in an announcer’s booth above Peabody’s baseball field. His voice traveled through loudspeakers and washed over the city park.

A car in the parking lot honked five times in response.

“Thank you very much,” Waddell said.

A local musician and entertainer, Waddell has become a defining element of Peabody Fourth Fest since he took over the role of festival announcer from Brian McDowell nine years ago.

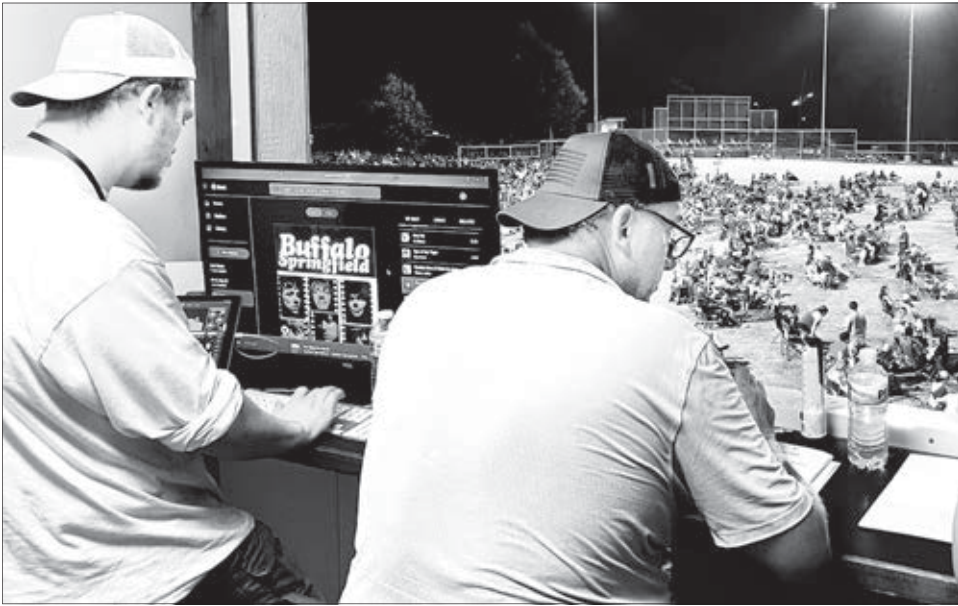
His voice is comic, engaging, and frequently sarcastic.

Paige Barnes, who joined him in the booth during the ground fireworks show, described him as a “one-man comedy show who’s been kicked out of more garages than he’s played in.”

On Friday, Waddell and his son, Hap, arrived in the booth around 10 a.m. to set up their equipment.

Hap didn’t seem interested in taking over his father’s position anytime soon.

He worked as an audio technician, queu-



STAFF PHOTO BY FINN HARTNETT

Hap (left) and Aaron Waddell work in an announcing booth at Peabody’s ballfield a few minutes before Fourth Fest’s fireworks show.

ing music and sounds, while his father did the talking.

The city pays to rent Waddell’s equipment, he explained, but his announcing is technical-volunteer work.

“I try to quit every year,” he said. “They won’t let me.”

In the early afternoon, music played loudly in the booth and over the loudspeakers.

Waddell has basically free rein to play what

he wants.

He spoke about his love for jam bands like the Grateful Dead and Phish but held back on playing anything too psychedelic, sticking with American anthems like “Proud to Be an American” and older pop music like “Hooked on a Feeling.”

“Kind of like any show, you start off with your softies and play your bangers at the end of the night,” he said.

Waddell spent years touring as a guitarist, he said.

For a while, he backed up Savanna Chestnut, a Kansas country artist who appeared on NBC’s “The Voice” in 2021.

“When I was a traveling musician, the Fourth of July was always a good week for me,” Waddell said. “I’d lose a lot of money coming home to do this.”

His penchant for improvisational bands seems to influence his announcing style.

Waddell dislikes reading from a script. He recruits a guest each year to read the script a Fourth Fest committee provides him about each firework. (This year, that was Barnes.)

Waddell is more comfortable as an emcee, where he can react to the action rather than

PLEASE SEE **VOICE** PAGE 5

Deaths

Bettie Batt

Services for Bettie Batt, 98, Marion, who died Monday, will be 2 p.m. Saturday at Eastmoor United Methodist Church, Marion.

Visitation with her family will be 5 to 7 p.m. Friday at Yazel-Megli Funeral Home, Marion.

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

land Walter of Malaga, Spain, and Joseph M. Walter III of Farmington, New Mexico; daughters Patty Den Hartog of McPherson, Ruthie Anderson of Overland Park, and Debbie Shoberg of Kansas City, Missouri; brother Edgar Bergen of New York; 15 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.

A memorial has been established with Ebenfeld Missions.

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.



Viola Hiebert

Viola Hiebert

A celebration of life for Viola Hiebert, 97, who passed away May 28, 2025 at Schowalter Villa in Hesston, will be 7 p.m. July 18, 2025, at Koerner Heights Church in Newton.

A graveside service was at 3 p.m. Saturday, May 31, 2025, at Ebenfeld Cemetery, rural Hillsboro.

She was born Nov. 17, 1927, in Saskatchewan, Canada, to Henry and Ann (Klaassen) Jost.

She married Victor Hiebert on Sept. 27, 1946, in Hillsboro. He preceded her in death in 2001.

Survivors include son Wayne (and wife Cindy) Hiebert of North Newton; daughters Jeanette (and husband David) Smith of Maryville, Tennessee, and Nadine Hiebert of Arlington, Texas; four grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

A memorial has been established with Koerner Heights Church in care of Jost Funeral Home, PO Box 266, Hillsboro KS 67063.

Online condolences at www.jostfuneralhome.com.

Velda Hiebert

Services for Velda Klein Hiebert, 100, who died June 6, were Monday at First Mennonite Church in Hillsboro. Jost Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Born Dec. 16, 1924, to Ephraim J. and Agnes (Hein Foth) Klein, she grew up on a farm in the Ebenfeld community and was baptized by G.W. Lohrenz at Ebenfeld Church.

She attended both regular school and German school and spoke both English and low German.

At age 17, she moved to Hillsboro with her family then to Albuquerque to help her sister’s family, returning to Hillsboro to work four years for dentist Herbert Eitzen.

She met husband Melvin Hiebert when he had dental work done. In 1947, she moved to Manitou Springs, Colorado, where Melvin and his brother had bought a gas station. She married Melvin at Colorado City, where she pumped gas and worked as a restaurant cashier.

The couple moved back to Hillsboro in 1948. After sons Jack and Edward reached high school, she worked for the local hospital for 30 years, retiring as central supply technician. She then became a full-time quilter, with clients nationwide and winning prizes at county and state fairs. She also volunteered at Hillsboro Senior Center, Et Cetera Shop, and Camp Mennoscah.

Fourteen half-brothers and sisters preceded her in death.

Janette Walter

Services for Janette Walter, 93, who died Sunday at Parkside Homes in Hillsboro, will be 1 p.m. Saturday at Ebenfeld Church, rural Hillsboro.

Born Nov. 26, 1931, at Ransom, she married Joseph M. Walter Jr. on June 28, 1953, in Goltry, Oklahoma.

He and a granddaughter preceded her in death.

Survivors include sons Ro-

In Brief

County qualifies for disaster loans

Low-interest federal disaster loans are available to Marion County businesses, nonprofits, and residents with losses from storms and flooding June 3 to 7.

Businesses and nonprofits may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace real estate,

equipment, inventory, and other assets.

Homeowners and renters may borrow up to \$100,000 to replace or repair clothing, furniture, cars, appliances, and similar items. Homeowners also may apply for up to \$500,000 to replace or repair a primary residence.

Loans may increase by up to 20% for addition of mitigations such as new storm windows.

Farmer and ranchers generally are ineligible.

Rates can be as low as 2.81% for individuals to as low as 4% for businesses for terms of up to 30 years.

Applications are available

until July 24 in the former driver’s license room of the Butler County courthouse, 205 W. Central Ave., El Dorado.

More information is available at (800) 659-2955 and disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

Youth deer hunt planned

Applications are open for those 17 and younger who want to participate in a special deer hunt Dec. 13 and 14 at Marion Wildlife Area.

Hunters will be limited to harvesting one deer. Each will be assigned a blind. Department of Wildlife and Parks staff will take hunters to their blinds and help with deer removal.

Hunters must be Kansas res-

idents and be accompanied by an adult 21 or older, who will not be permitted to hunt. Hunters also must purchase a valid permit for the deer management unit where the special hunt is scheduled.

Applications may only be made online at <https://ksoutdoors.com/Hunting/Special-Hunts-Information>.

Cemetery board to meet

Public comment will be invited when Prairie Lawn Cemetery Board will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Peabody Senior Center.

Topics discussed will include payroll, payables, burials, budget, cemetery-related problems, suggestion, and concerns.

COLLEGE

DEGREES AND HONORS

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

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY

Dean’s honor roll

(3.4 to 3.99 GPA)

Burns — Austin Broadie.

Hillsboro — Karley Loewen.

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, Wes Stewart.

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

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

Father Isaac Coulter

Florence 5 p.m. Saturday

Marion ... noon Friday, 8:30 a.m. Sunday

Pilsen noon Thursday,

10:30 a.m. Sunday, 11:30 a.m. Tuesday,

11:30 a.m. July 16

Confessions 30 minutes before every Mass for 20 minutes.

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

Monday through July 18 — Totus Tuus, Pilsen.

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.

July 16 — Voters meeting, 7 p.m.

OTHER AREA CHURCHES

ALEXANDERWOHL MENNONITE

Sunday school 10:45 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, MARION

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, HILLSBORO

Worship 10:30 a.m.

GOOD NEWS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, MARION

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, MARION

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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Memories

Compiled from newspaper files

15 YEARS AGO

JULY 14, 2010

William Least Heat-Moon will preview his new documentary film, “Return to Prairierth” July 24 at Pioneer Bluffs Ranch barn one mile north of Matfield Green in Chase County.

Centre received approval Friday from Kansas State Board of Education to begin offering online study this fall to students anywhere in Kansas.

Librarian Janet Marler is pictured as she reads “Marley and the Kittens” to children during a final session of this summer’s story time at Marion City Library.

Marion swim team won the Mid-Kansas Swim League meet Saturday. Coach Rod Garman told team members they could kick him off the high-dive board if they won. He is pictured as swimmer Zach Hammond does just that.

Centre graduate Amanda Baxa has begun clinical training at the University of Kansas School of Medicine in Wichita.

Sara Pohlman of Peabody and granddaughters Eva and Maggie of South Carolina are pictured as they select eggs at Marilyn Jones’ stand Saturday at Doyle Valley Farmers Market in Peabody.

30 YEARS AGO

JULY 19, 1995

Agricultural visitors from Morocco’s largest city were in Hillsboro this past week to learn what makes a good farmer. On the visit were four of

Morocco’s largest feed millers, a Kansas State University administrator, and Dan Holub of Marion, chairman of the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission.

Florence Ambulance Service, which operates independently of Marion County Emergency Medical Services through the City of Florence, took possession Friday of a new ambulance. It joins 1975 and 1982 models in the town’s fleet and will be the city’s first-response vehicle.

David Impson is pictured as he prepares a soda fountain to serve customers at Olde Towne Restaurant in Hillsboro.

“Fast Eddie” Parker, model for the classic film character in “The Hustler,” will perform a pool shooting exhibition Thursday at Coneburg Inn, Peabody.

A native stone marker is in place at the Marion / McPherson county line, just north of US-56. The Chisholm and Santa Fe trails crossed just north of the marker, which was paid for by Marion County Economic Development Council and Cottonwood Crossing Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association.

45 YEARS AGO

JUNE 16, 1980

Marion city commissioners, trying to cope with a month-long drought, voted Monday to ask Marion residents to refrain from watering lawns and washing cars. “We’re trying to keep from going to a mandatory shutdown,” Commissioner Larry Loomis said.

Even clowns couldn’t keep from frowning occasionally as their makeup melted in

sizzling sunshine Saturday at the July Jamboree. More than 30 clowns participated in the day’s parade.

Ruth Meyer’s personality profile this week focuses on Gus Carpenter, who along with his son, Gerald, operates Carpenter Garage at Cedar Point and runs a wrecker service along US-50 between Emporia and Newton.

Mike Kelsey, 12-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Kelsey, is the *Marion County Record* player of the week. Pitcher and catcher for Jackson’s Junior Babe Ruth baseball team, Mike pitched a no-hitter and a two-hitter this past week, throwing a total of 11 strikeouts in 12 innings.

Davey Hett is pictured as he takes to the waves near sunset Wednesday evening at Marion County Lake. It wasn’t long before the young skier had the wood off his feet and rode the churning water barefoot.

60 YEARS AGO

JULY 22, 1965

Marion Lumber Co. has been purchased from Harold Woerz by three brothers, Ralph, Jim, and Jack Richmond of Marion. The Richmonds will continue to operate the business under the same name.

Even turtles thought the concrete was hot Saturday during games at Kids Day in the park. They needed a great deal of prodding by racers Lance Alexander, Russell Bowers, Roger Hannaford, Glen Hett, Wanda Hett, and Melody Myers.

A new attorney has hung out his shingle in Marion County. Gaylord Maples has become associated with D.M. Ward in the Ward Law Office in Peabody.

Susan Hansen, Bryce Olsenberger, Daniel Steinel, Mike Steinel, and Kathy Westerhaus of Marion High School attended Summer Music Camp on the Kansas State Teachers College campus in Emporia. They are pictured with Melbern W. Nixon, director of the camp.

Rosse Case was winner in a recently completed match play tournament at Marion Country Club. Lowell Ensey took first in the first flight, Bob Phillip in the second flight, and Vernon Moore in the third.

75 YEARS AGO

JULY 20, 1950

A Marion landmark, the airplane on the high school lawn, was moved away and out of town Thursday, leaving the school grounds with a vacant but more attractive appearance.

The plane was a Navy Hellcat F-6F fighter, the type used extensively during World War II. It was sold to a salvage company and will be taken to Texas.

Mary Margaret Hannaford and Sarabel Wolf planned and successfully carried out a surprise party Tuesday evening to honor John Newcomer’s 16th birthday.

The “Mystery of the Missing Conflagration” or “Where in Blazes is the Blaze” was solved Tuesday night when the cause of a siren blast was found to have been a telephone operator pushing a wrong switch while turning on the city marshal’s call light at Main and 3rd Sts.

Girl Scouts preparing to leave for a week at Camp Mary Dell include Judy Coons, Pat Dixon, Billie Herbert, Linda Johnson, Nancy Keazer, Con-

nie Long, Kay Navrat, Alda Ratts, Jeanette Russell, Carmen Siebert, Maymie Swehla, and LeNore Wheeler.

110 YEARS AGO

JULY 15, 1915

The German school that has been in progress for several weeks with Miss Friesen as teacher at Valley School closed Tuesday. There was a good attendance, interest was fine, and those who attended felt that the instruction was excellent. The teacher gave her pupils a surprise on the closing day by serving ice cream.

Life is full of tragedies. The other day a couple of boys went swimmin’, and when they emerged from the old swimmin’ hole and looked for their clothes, they found an old cow calmly chewing one perfectly good pair of pants, having already lunched on the boys’ underclothes and a sack of candy. The clothes that were left were sufficient for escape.

Florence has been making business for police officers recently. Last week, 15 or 20 young fellows from there were brought up here on a charge of shooting craps. Each pleaded guilty. It cost them something more than \$18 apiece. Several of them belong to prominent Florence families.

This experience ought to be valuable to them, though they should be able to get along without it. And because we believe that no good purpose would be served in this case, since it was the first time most of them had been in any trouble of the sort, we did not publish their names.

ADVERTISEMENT

A beautiful line of street, party, and housedresses and

children’s parasols at half price at Mrs. McCormac’s.

145 YEARS AGO

JULY 16, 1880

Marion County candidates will have to wrestle with 2,500 voters this year.

A whiskey exchange calls Marion Centre the “headquarters of the temperance party” in central Kansas. Quite a compliment to our prosperous, growing, substantial, and sober young city.

Peabody has let up on the coal boring business after going down more than 700 feet. We are sorry for their failure to find the precious mineral for we fear that it settles the coal question for this section of the state. We hope, however, that the salt found will prove of profit so that the enterprising citizens may not have entirely lost their labors.

That new brickyard on Jex’s farm adjoining town is a fixed fact. Thus, the industries multiply.

A grand temperance mass meeting to be held July 24 in Central Park, Marion Centre, promises to be a great success. Governor St. John will positively be present to address the people.

We wouldn’t be surprised to see as many people attend the celebration as assembled at the railroad jollification nearly a year ago.

Lyons people in Rice County have chartered six cars for the occasion, McPherson people are coming in great numbers, and from all parts of Marion County we hear of great crowds coming.

CLERK: FBI takes over

FROM PAGE 3

organizations received Commerce grants.

Clayton was fired from Commerce and went to work as Peabody dogcatcher. He was promoted to interim city clerk before disappearing Aug. 3, 2024. He later was found dead in a pickup crash amid reports of irregularities in handling of grant money.

An email from Clayton’s account was sent to numerous email addresses five days after his disappearance. It claimed Commerce’s allegations that he had mishandled grant money were “unilaterally unfounded,”

that he thought the allegations were revenge, and that if anything happened to him, people should suspect Lieutenant Governor Dave Toland, who also serves as Commerce secretary.

Before being hired by Commerce, Clayton was convicted in 2016 of three felony financial crimes in Philadelphia. He still owed \$195,712.50 restitution for forgery, theft, and conspiracy to commit theft.

Lowry said state law did not permit Commerce to do national investigations of new employees. That law was changed during the 2025 legislative session.

VOICE: Tradition of jokes, jabs, games continues

FROM PAGE 4

create it.

He frequently throws in jokes and jabs during routine announcements, such as when police tell him to announce that a car in the parking lot needs to be moved.

When the top three finishers in an early afternoon turtle race all had the same last name, Waddell was thrilled.

“You guys must have an award-winning turtle farm in your basement!” he said.

Waddell also plays the role of game-show host. Last year, he created a series of competitions for local kids, a low-key

event two hours before fireworks begin.

He was inspired to create the event after seeing audience members “bored out of their minds,” he said.

He drew inspiration from the carnival rides that used to be a staple of the festival.

“I’m not sure how we lost the rides,” he said. “It brought the carneys into town, who blended in well.”

This year, kids competed for gift cards and food donated by festival vendors. The first game saw blindfolded contestants race to peel and eat two bananas.

“How does it feel to be the

winner?” Waddell asked one boy.

“I don’t know,” he replied. “I just ate two bananas.”

While Waddell frequently spoke about being jaded — “I took one year off; I sat at home and watched a movie. It was nice,” he laughed — it didn’t stop him from bringing energy and optimism to the job.

One of his final acts as announcer before the fireworks was to encourage a round of applause for a boy named Michael who was celebrating his 5th birthday.

The crowd, getting comfortable in lawn chairs and blankets, duly obliged.

After the Pledge of Allegiance and national anthem, floodlights around the field dimmed and turned off.

Volunteers gathered next to ground displays, a few holding torches. It was time for the fireworks show.

“How are you guys tonight?” Waddell asked. The large crowd murmured. Waddell took a beat. “Let’s try that again,” he said. “How are you guys doing tonight?!”

BBQ: Challenges aplenty, but creativity helps

FROM PAGE 3

City area to see how much he could learn from restaurateurs in one of the barbecue capitals of the world. (Todd Johns, the owner of Plowboys Barbecue, was apparently a big help.)

The couple applied for grants and small business loans to purchase the building they desired on 301 E Main St. in the heart of Marion’s downtown.

“We did get two grants, and we were able to take advantage of a private business loan and a few Network Kansas business loans,” Jones said.

There still were roadblocks, mostly to do with finding funding for building renovations.

“If you want it hard enough, you can push past every road-

block, but it will never be an easy path,” Jones said.

In February 2024, though their building was not yet fully renovated, the couple decided to open their kitchen to serve people and build word-of-mouth while raising money.

The dining room eventually was completed in July, 2024, and the restaurant officially became open for business.

“One thing I will say about Marion is it is completely unpredictable,” she said. “In most places you can count on Friday and Saturday being crazy busy, but not here. Sometimes ... it’ll be a random Monday.”

Bill and Essie’s has built up a loyal following, and Megan

enjoys knowing which regulars are coming in when.

“On Sundays, for instance, I’ll make sure that we have plenty of iced tea,” she said.

The restaurant’s future and level of success is still unknown; keeping any business afloat in a town of less than 2,000 is hard work. But Jones is optimistic.

“Bills are getting paid, and we’re only a year into our operation,” she said. “I feel like that’s about all you can ask.”

To that end, Bill and Essie’s will celebrate one year of the restaurant being open through next week.

Sales have been up, Jones said, since last July.

LAND AUCTION

6 p.m. Tuesday, July 15
106 N. Walnut St., Peabody

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PROBLEM: Dirty water has plagued rural district for years

FROM PAGE 1

operators.

This water is meant to emerge from “flush hydrants” scattered around the district, but depending on the location and size of the break, dirty water often emerges from personal taps.

Wick estimated that her water had turned brown 20 times so far this year.

“It does seem to be a growing problem,” she said.

Usually, the water clears up within a day.

But recently, two large breaks in RWD No. 1’s main caused some customers to go without clean water for as many as 10 days.

Ramona and Tampa are far-

ther away from the well field than Lehigh and Durham; their main stretches 12 miles from pumps to tower.

Hundreds of miles of pipe branch off to each residence.

“It’s at least a half-mile of line per customer,” Mueller said. “It’s completely unlike a city.”

After breaks 10 days ago, the district gave out free bottles of water at the Ramona post office and Tampa library.

The district stated June 30 that it was flushing lines.

But over the next week, residents still were reporting dark brown water.

“This is the worst I’ve seen it,” Wick said Friday. “I’ve never seen water come out of the faucet that was coffee-colored,

and I’m talking coffee with no cream.”

After taking a cup of water and letting it settle in a pint jar, she reported a quarter-inch of sediment.

Other residents shared pictures of their own dark-brown water. Some complained that their water filters had broken because of heavy sediment.

RWD No. 1 is operated by a board of local volunteers.

Ramona resident Nathan Brunner said communication from the board had historically been an issue.

“Two years ago, we had no communication when there was a break,” he said. “We had to call in and ask. In the last six to

eight months, they’ve gotten a lot better.”

An email list created by water operator Autumn Chisholm is used to inform residents about flushing and line breaks. More than 100 addresses are on the list.

But some residents, particularly the elderly or those who are new to town, still are out of the loop, Brunner said.

Chisholm said she had worked hard to keep residents in the know.

“I have asked for emails a number of times in years past,” she said. “Some give; some don’t.”

A third-party notification service like Everbridge could be used to inform residents via

cell phone, but this would cost money the district doesn’t seem to possess.

As is, mixed messages have been sent to the list.

On July 3, Chisholm wrote that the dirty water was “a mixture of iron and manganese and not harmful, but ugly.”

Two days later, Chisholm sent another email, which included a passage from Kansas Department of Health and Environment recommending that those with manganese discoloration in their water find an alternative source for drinking.

As of Tuesday, the water was back to normal in Ramona and Tampa.

“Right now, they have clear water,” Chisholm said.

Wick confirmed that her water had cleared up.

But the dam has broken for certain residents continuing to apply pressure to RWD No. 1.

Brunner and Tampa resident Kristina Kraemer both spoke at the county commissioners’ meeting on Monday and have reached out to different state agencies to see if they can help improve the district.

“We’ll work with Kansas Department of Emergency Management, or we’ll work with somebody above the [county] commissioners,” Brunner said. “Eventually, something will happen.”

SOLUTION: County not as powerless as it thinks

FROM PAGE 1

“This isn’t just a nuisance,” Kraemer said. “It’s summer in Kansas, and we are dealing with dangerously high temperatures. My husband is a farmer, working 12-hour days in this heat for harvest, and he can’t even fill up his water jug and home to take to the field. My kids are on summer break and they don’t have access to clean drinking water in their own home, so I have to continuously buy bottled water.”

Elmer Ronnebaum, general manager of Kansas Rural Water Association, said that the water was “not usable,” and that assistance could be given to the water

district for immediate needs and to repair infrastructure.

He said the association had been attempting to help the district but the district hadn’t taken action.

County commissioner Kent Becker told Kraemer that there is little the county could do to force the district to do anything.

He labeled it a for-profit, private corporation.

Becker was incorrect.

Ronnebaum said rural water districts were quasi-municipal corporations.

“They are a public agency,” he said.

Ronnebaum said the associ-

ation suggested that the district hire a groundwater geologist to help with its water.

The water’s iron level is much higher than it should be, he said.

“They need to thoroughly flush the system in a systematic way,” he said. “If they would just let us help them, we would do it.”

In 1991, the state association removed a long, black, snake-like sludge of iron from 1½ miles of pipe in the district. Although removing the sludge increased the amount of water flowing, the district still has not done anything more to remove sludge since, Ronnebaum said.

BANK: Name to stay

FROM PAGE 1

was a natural fit.

“When we look at anywhere to merge with, we look at the community and whether the community is like-minded with ours,” Fisher said. “We think the communities of Marion and Tampa have a lot of pride and are very strong. Those are the types of places I’d like to live. We believe this merger will be beneficial to both Tampa State Bank and SJN.

“We are excited to partner with the current management of Tampa State Bank to continue to be part of the Marion and Tampa communities. We

have a small-town mindset that we like.

The merger will allow Tampa State Bank to do more for its customers, Fisher said. SJN will invest in technology and pool its resources in the best way possible.

SJN opened in 1905 as St. John State Bank. In June of that same year, it became St. John National Bank.

The bank changed its charter back to a state bank in 2014 and changed its name to SJN Bank.

SJN also has branches in Macksville, Hudson, Greensburg, LaCrosse, and Burdett.



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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-77 south of 150th Rd.

James W. Steele, 40, Sedgwick, hit a deer at 2:55 a.m. June 28 with his 2000 Dodge Dakota, which sustained disabling damage to its front, hood, and undercarriage and was towed, according to one of five accident reports released Thursday.

K-15 at 80th Rd.

A northbound 2023 Ford F-150 turning left onto 80th Rd. was rear-ended at 3:30 p.m. June 28 by a 2008 Subaru Impreza that had been following the pickup.

Both lanes of K-15 were blocked when the Subaru became pinned beneath the pickup's trailer hitch.

The Subaru, owned by Arlene V. Kreier of Salina and driven by Patricia A. Kreier, 63, Walton, sustained extensive damage to its front half, windshield, and windows and was towed.

The pickup, owned and driven by Diana L. Gordon, 69, Livingston, Montana, sustained damage characterized as minor to its left rear.

Passengers in the pickup were identified as Craig Kamps, 52; Michelle Kamps, 47; and Aaron and Ella Kamps, whose ages were redacted without required justification, all from the same Montana address.

Deputy Clayton Philpott's report did not assess blame for the accident, and no tickets were listed as being issued.

Indigo Rd. north of 100th Rd.

Kekoailanakila T. Vincent, 22, Park City, lost control of his 2018 Scion tC at 10:23 a.m. June 28. It veered off the road to the right, he overcorrected, and the car slid across the road and into the left ditch, striking a culvert and rolling onto the car's top.

Deputy Landis Goodman's report listed the car as a total loss and blamed the accident on inattentive driving, but no tickets were listed as being issued.

K-15 south of 270th Rd.

Michael A. Dotterer, 40, Clay Center, hit a deer at 5:57 a.m. June 30 with his 2023 Ford F-150, which ran off the road to the right but remained drivable with damage to its left side.

Limestone Rd. south of 320th Rd.

Marie L. Howell, 43, Mount Juliet, Tennessee, was injured but not taken to a hospital after a blowout at 4:55 p.m. July 1 caused her 2005 Freightliner Columbia semi-trailer truck, owned by Konarik Farms of rural Marion, to run off the road to the right and overturn.

The semi sustained extensive damage and was towed.

HILLSBORO

Willow Rd. north of Park Ave.

A postal vehicle and a sport-utility vehicle, both of which had stopped for a semi-trailer truck that blocked the street while backing into a driveway, collided when the postal vehicle started up again at 12:10 p.m. June 30.

Leonard A. Frantz, 76, rural Hillsboro, told police that he had thought the SUV had stopped and that he had been distracted by the semi when he attempted to pass the SUV with his postal vehicle.

The right side of the postal vehicle, a 1993 GMC / Grumman LLV, became locked against the left side of the SUV, a 2004 Dodge Durango owned and driven by Alan H. Eitzen, 80, Hillsboro.

Damage to the postal vehicle was characterized as minor. Damage to Eitzen's SUV was listed as more significant, but the Durango remained drivable.

Assistant Chief Randy Brazil's report blamed the wreck on improper passing by Frantz, but no tickets were listed as being issued.

Orchard Dr. west of Ash St.

A second accident 2½ hours later also involved vehicles whose drivers were attempting to maneuver around a semi.

Backing up his eastbound 2018 Chevrolet Silverado, which had been stopped at a stop sign, to allow a semi coming from the north to turn to the west, Dennis J. Shippy, 58, Hope, backed into a 2021 Ford Edge stopped behind his pickup.

Damage to the rear of the Chevrolet and to the front of the Ford, owned and driven Gayla L. Ratzlaff, 68, Hillsboro, was characterized as minor. Don R. Ratzlaff, 68, of the same address was a passenger in the Ford.

Assistant Chief Randy Brazil's report blamed the wreck on improper backing by Shippy, but no tickets were listed as being issued.

MARION

Locust and Lawrence Sts.

An 18-year-old bicycle rider was taken by police to St. Luke Hospital after being hit by a car at 10:20 a.m. June

30 in an unusual accident in which both the biker and the driver left the scene and later sought out police.

Driver Tamara Higby, 55, Marion, was ticketed for inattentive driving and failure to yield after her southbound 2022 Chevrolet Trailblazer hit westbound bike rider Joshua French, 18, Marion, in the middle of the intersection.

French flew off his bicycle, landing near a curb. Higby told police that she stopped but that French insisted to her that he was all right before she drove on. She later flagged down a sheriff's deputy, who informed Marion police.

Higby wasn't sure of the exact location of the accident, but aided by a witness Interim Chief Zach Hudlin found tire tracks from Higby's braking at Lawrence and Locust.

Minutes later, Hudlin was called by a jailer who reported that French had gone to the lobby of the sheriff's office. Hudlin called Marion ambulance and offered to take French to St. Luke so he would not have to pay for an ambulance bill.

Hudlin reported that French suffered scrapes and that the entirety of French's GT Aggressor bicycle was damaged.

Cedar and Lawrence Sts.

Motorcyclist Jason G. Miller, 38, Marion, suffered possible injuries but was not taken to a hospital after he lost control of his southbound 2013 Honda while veering to avoid a westbound Ford Mustang that he thought had been proceeding into the intersection.

Mustang driver Galen Funk, whose age and address were not listed in the report, told Interim Chief Zach Hudlin that he had stopped at a stop sign and had begun creeping forward to get a better view of oncoming traffic.

Miller's tire tracks indicated he swerved right and attempted to brake north of the intersection before his cycle fell on its side and scraped its way to the south side of the intersection.

The Honda suffered extensive damage but remained drivable. Miller was wearing a helmet at the time.

CIVIL DIVISION CASES

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

Matthew S. Gentry was ordered June 27 to pay Legacy Eyecare \$74.74 plus costs and interest for unpaid medical bills.

A case filed by Discover Bank against Brandon R. Granger for unpaid credit card bills was dismissed June 24 for lack of prosecution.

A suit earlier filed against Denzel W. Lane by Marion County seeking \$400 for an undescribed debt was dismissed June 18.

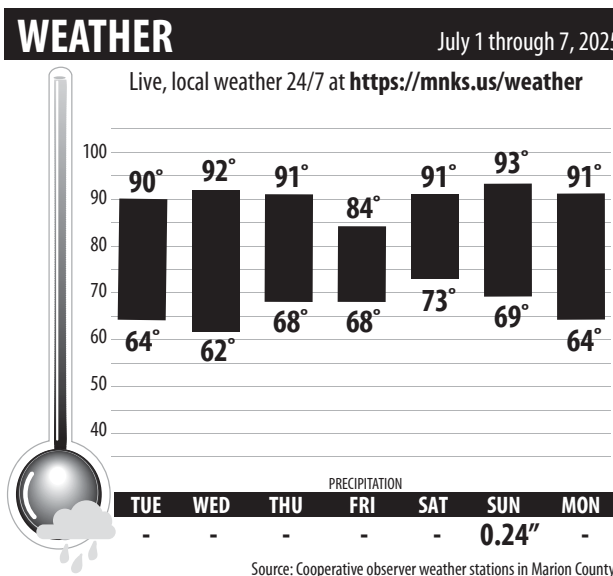
COUNTY JAIL ARRESTS AND BOOKINGS

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

NEW JAILINGS

Joseph E. Fiedler, 28, Wichita, jailed Monday for failing to appear in court. Bond not set. Previously jailed five times for a total of all or part of 94 days between Nov. 28, 2023, and Feb. 10, 2025. Previous jailings were on suspicion of possessing stimulants, marijuana, and stolen property, and of being a criminal possessing a weapon; for contempt of court once; for failing to appear in court two other times; and on court orders three times.

James L. Findley, 45, Peabody, arrested July 2 by a sheriff's deputy on suspicion of domestic battery and for twice failing to appear in court. Released 1½ hours later after posting \$2,000 in bonds. Previously jailed seven times for a total of all or part of eight days between Feb. 7, 2018, and



Sept. 27, 2021. Previous jailings were on an outstanding warrant and for failing to appear in court seven times.

Andrew M. Flores Jr., 48, Weatherford, Texas, arrested Sunday by a sheriff's deputy on suspicion of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, speeding, and possessing stimulants, an unknown controlled substance, and drug paraphernalia. Bond not set.

Jessica R. Freeman, 32, Abilene, jailed July 2 for failing to appear in court. Released 14 minutes later after posting a \$500 bond.

Matthew L. McJimsey, 29, Hillsboro, arrested Monday by Hillsboro police for failing to appear in court. Released three hours later after posting a \$500 bond.

Armando A. Ramirez, 29, Ulysses, jailed July 2 for failing to appear in court. Released a day later after posting a \$2,500 bond.

Samuel L. Rollings, 36, Wichita, jailed Thursday for failing to appear in court. Released half an hour later after posting a \$1,000 bond.

Lataija C. Scott, 29, Manhattan, jailed Friday for 72 hours on court orders. Previously jailed April 11 to 19 on court orders.

FROM PREVIOUS WEEKS

Joshua A. Bradley, 40, Sylvan Grove, jailed since June 27.

Dakota L. Dillashaw, 31, Marion, since Sept. 6.

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

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

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

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.

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.

Gabrielle A. Gomez pleaded no contest June 17 to driving 88 mph in a 65 mph zone and was sentenced to pay \$240.

Isis T. Laudermilk, 24, Wichita, formally was charged July 22 with fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer; driving while her license was canceled, suspended or revoked; driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol; transporting an open contain-

er of alcohol; reckless driving; and speeding.

Christine M. Novak was found guilty June 17 of unsafe turning or stopping and failure to yield at a stop sign. She was ordered to pay \$258.

A bench warrant was issued June 24 for Joshua J. Smalley, 41, Peabody, after he failed to appear in court.

Kelven J. Thorne pleaded no contest June 17 to driving with no proof of insurance and was ordered to pay \$408.

DEEDS RECORDED

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

Wade A. Brown to himself and Tami M. Sandler, 601 Marion St., Florence.

Mark V. Tajchman to Wayne J. and Amy M. Tajchman, mineral rights to 72.3 acres southeast of 235th and Alfalfa Rds.

Alma Lavona Loveless to Galen C. and Ruth A. Chizek, 101 Ashley Dr., Marion.

Randy L. Kralicek to Shawn M. Kralicek, transfer-on-death warranty deed to 309 E. 7th St., Peabody.

In separate transactions, Patriot Nationwide Government Contracting LLC and LTD PG Management LLC, quitclaim deed to Carolyn Anderson, then warranty deed from her to Pillar Home Buyers LLC, and then warranty deed from it to Cam Schmidt, 451 Grandview St., Florence.

Linda L. Campbell Trust to John J. Siebert, quitclaim deed to 2.22 acres east of Yarrow Rd. and north of Martin Creek.

800 W. 5th LLC to 851 S. Meridian LLC, 800 W. 5th St., Florence.

The Gray Group LLC to Dustin and Denni Raney, 30 Lakeshore Dr., Marion County Park and Lake.

Phyllis Irene Turk to Thane Schwartz and Judith Steinborn, 2756 Robin St., Pilsen.

Charles L. McLinden, executor, to Susan C. Morton, executor's deed to undivided one-eighth interest in 200.46 acres north of K-256 between Eisenhower Dr., Marion, and Upland Rd.

Callie Holland to Tommy Holland, quitclaim deed to 8 Pioneer Ct. and 74 Lakeshore Dr., Marion County Park and Lake.

Christopher L. Bundy and Susana Ruder Revocable Trust to Martha Lynne Maxwell, trustee deed to 122 Lakeshore Dr., Marion County Park and Lake.

Meysing Homes LLC to Andrew Dean and Patty Kay Sauber, 418 N. Coble St., Marion.

Sidney R. Ulmer and Suzann M. Elliott-Ulmer to Kenneth D. and Clara A. Holub, 30.92 acres on both sides of US-56/77 north of 240th Rd.

EMERGENCY DISPATCHES

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

JULY 1

11:36 a.m. — A 99-year-old woman not responding normally at Peabody Health and Rehab was taken to Ascension Via Christi St. Francis Hospital, Wichita, by Hillsboro ambulance.

11:56 a.m. — A 95-year-old woman who fell at Marion Assisted Living was taken to NMC Health, formerly Newton Medical Center, by Marion ambulance. Because both full-time ambulances were out of the county, part-time Tampa ambulance was told to stand by until 2:01 p.m. in Hillsboro in case of additional calls.

2:44 p.m. — A 63-year-old woman who fainted at Peabody Health and Rehab was taken to NMC Health by Hillsboro ambulance.

4:56 p.m. — A woman who suffered a critical head injury in a wreck on Limestone Rd. south of 320th Rd. was taken to Salina Regional Health Center by Tampa ambulance. Marion ambulance and Tampa firefighters also were dispatched. A helicopter ambulance was summoned, but the call was canceled before the helicopter arrived.

8:22 p.m. — Hillsboro firefighters stood by until 10:07 p.m. at the Igloo during a fireworks display.

9:39 p.m. — A 48-year-old man who fell, cut his head, and might have broken his hand while riding a bicycle was taken by Hillsboro ambulance to NMC Health from the 200 block of N. Plum St. in Peabody.

JULY 2

2:41 a.m. — A 91-year-old woman who fell at Parkside Homes in Hillsboro declined to be taken to a hospital by Hillsboro ambulance.

10:06 a.m. — A 65-year-old man who experienced cardiac or stroke symptoms while driving a semi-trailer truck on 270th Rd. half a mile west of K-15 was taken to St. Francis on an emergency basis by Marion ambulance. The call initially went to Hillsboro ambulance and Goessel first responders, but Marion ambulance answered instead, and the call to Goessel first responders were canceled. Durham first responders were dispatched instead three minutes later and arrived at 10:16 a.m., 15 minutes before the ambulance.

3:12 p.m. — A 71-year-old woman found on the ground outside Indian Guide Terrace Apartments in Peabody declined to be taken to a hospital by Marion ambulance.

3:56 p.m. — A 93-year-old woman having trouble breathing at Parkside Homes in Hillsboro was taken by Hillsboro ambulance, responding from Marion, to Hillsboro Community Hospital.

6:46 p.m. — A 64-year-old man needing surgery was transferred by Hillsboro ambulance from HCH to McPherson Center for Health.

THURSDAY

3:21 a.m. — A smoke alarm at Hillsboro Community Child Care Center was determined to be a false alarm before Hillsboro firefighters arrived.

3:39 p.m. — A 64-year-old man with extremely high blood pressure was transferred by Hillsboro ambulance from HCH to Kansas Heart Hospital, Wichita.

5:11 p.m. — With Hillsboro ambulance not yet back, Marion ambulance was dispatched for a medical alarm in the 300 block of W. B. St. in Hillsboro. A police officer was first to arrive and reported that a woman had fallen and needed help getting up. Hillsboro firefighters were dispatched to provide additional help, but before they or the ambulance arrived, police reported that the woman had successfully been helped up. She declined to be taken to a hospital.

6:33 p.m. — A 47-year-old man with sepsis was transferred by Marion ambulance from St. Luke Hospi-

tal, Marion, to Wesley Medical Center, Wichita.

8:30 p.m. — Marion ambulance was informed that when it returned to Marion another patient was to be transferred from St. Luke to Wesley. At 9:27 p.m., the ambulance began the transfer.

8:43 p.m. — Goessel firefighters stood by at the city ballfield until 10:04 p.m. in Goessel during a fireworks display.

9:53 p.m. — An unattended ditch fire near 170th and Turkey Creek Rds., at the west edge of Marion County Park and Lake, was extinguished within 15 minutes by Marion firefighters.

10:54 p.m. — An 81-year-old man vomiting all day at Parkside Homes was taken to HCH by Hillsboro ambulance.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

8:25 a.m. — A 90-year-old woman with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and having trouble breathing at a residence near 190th and Kanza Rds. was taken to St. Luke by Hillsboro ambulance. An ambulance supervisor also responded.

3:27 p.m. — Marion ambulance, Peabody firefighters, and the county emergency manager began standing by at Peabody's Fourth Fest parade and fireworks.

9:52 p.m. — A pregnant woman and a 10- or 11-year-old girl injured by fireworks south of Flying Eagle Truck Stop in Florence declined to be taken to a hospital by Marion ambulance, arriving from Peabody. Hillsboro ambulance replaced Marion ambulance in Peabody.

10:23 p.m. — A small grass fire caused by fireworks at a farm on 190th Rd. near Mustang Rd. was extinguished within 12 minutes by Hillsboro firefighters.

10:32 p.m. — A small grass fire south of US-50 near Newell Rd. was extinguished within 14 minutes by Peabody firefighters.

10:34 p.m. — A trash container on fire near 1st and Santa Fe Sts. in Marion was reported by police as being extinguished before Marion firefighters arrived to wet it down.

11:04 p.m. — A small grass fire caused by fireworks west of US-56/77 just north of Lincolnville was extinguished within two minutes by Lincolnville firefighters.

SATURDAY

12:04 a.m. — A large fire in a trash container at Midway Motors in Hillsboro was extinguished within 22 minutes by Hillsboro firefighters.

2:16 a.m. — An uninjured 86-year-old man who fell at an apartment in the 100 block of N. Washington St. in Hillsboro was helped up by Hillsboro ambulance attendants. He declined to be taken to a hospital.

12:04 p.m. — A 78-year-old man with atrial fibrillation and trouble breathing at Salem Home in Hillsboro was taken to HCH by Hillsboro ambulance.

2:53 p.m. — Presumably the same patient was transferred from HCH to Kansas Heart by Hillsboro ambulance.

7:59 p.m. — Marion firefighters stood by until 10:26 p.m. at the county lake for fireworks.

10:59 p.m. — A diabetic woman who fell out of bed at a home in the 300 block of N. Washington St. in Hillsboro was helped up by Hillsboro ambulance attendants but declined to be taken to a hospital. An ambulance supervisor also responded.

11:11 p.m. — A fire alarm that led to an evacuation of Westview Manor in Peabody was determined by Peabody firefighters to have been a false alarm.

SUNDAY

11:13 a.m. — A confused 61-year-old woman at a farmhouse near 100th and Alamo Rds. was taken to NMC Health by Hillsboro ambulance. Goessel first responders arrived within seven minutes, 16 minutes before the ambulance, and reported that the woman's problems might be related to alcohol.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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- CLASSIFICATIONS**
- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Personals | 14 Real estate |
| 2 Pets | 15 Homes for sale |
| 3 Lost & found | 16 Dwellings for rent |
| 4 Garage sales | 17 For rent |
| 5 Public auctions | 18 Help wanted |
| 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 | |

1 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.

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17 FOR RENT

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18 HELP WANTED

Marion County Attorney's Office
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Applications available at Marion County Administrator's office in the Courthouse or at 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.



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25 PUBLIC NOTICES

First published July 9, 2025, in the Marion County Record, Marion, Kansas (1t)
NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING
The governing body of
Cottonwood Valley Drainage District, Marion County
will meet on August 14, 2025, at 7:00 pm at 2052 Timber Rd., Marion, KS 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, KS 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	Prior Year Actual 2024		Current Year Estimate 2025		Proposed Budget 2026		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	2,836	3.110	32,479	2.954	133,424	16,266	2.788
Totals	2,836	3.110	32,479	2.954	133,424	16,266	2.788
Revenue Neutral Rate**							2.788
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditures	2,836		32,479		133,424		
Total Tax Levied	16,266		16,266				
Assessed Valuation	5,229,885		5,505,697		5,833,308		
Outstanding Indebtedness,							
Jan 1	2023		2024		2025		
G.O. Bonds	0		0		0		
Revenue 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
Darvin Markley, Treasurer

M-43-2743

AGING ROOF? New homeowner? Storm damage? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call (877) 589-0093. Have ZIP code of property ready when calling!

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!

PROFESSIONAL LAWN service: Fertilization, weed control, seeding, aeration and mosquito control. Call now for a free quote. Ask about our first application special! (833) 887-1317.

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 to connect to the right provider.

25 PUBLIC NOTICES

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

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

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

First published July 9, 2025, in the Marion County Record, Hillsboro Star-Journal, and Peabody Gazette-Herald (1t)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR MARION COUNTY, KANSAS QUARTER ENDING June 30, 2025

FUND		BEGINNING BALANCE	RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS	ENDING BALANCE
County General	1	\$3,218,680.87	\$1,833,397.93	\$1,528,822.38	\$3,523,256.42
Sheriff Concealed Weapons	2	\$28,858.93	\$1,285.00	\$0.00	\$30,143.93
Sheriff Drug Fund	3	11,887.36	0.00	0.00	\$11,887.36
Lateral Entry Pilot Proj	4	50,000.00	0.00	605.07	\$49,394.93
Landbank	5	17,239.00	0.00	0.00	\$17,239.00
E911 Fund #2	6	72,086.50	20,506.86	4,187.09	\$88,406.27
Bad Check Fund	10	3,964.88	0.00	0.00	\$3,964.88
Atty Forefeiture Fund	20	7,197.64	0.00	0.00	\$7,197.64
Sher Forefeiture Fund	21	24,890.55	0.00	0.00	\$24,890.55
Risk Management Fund	100	198,974.66	0.00	0.00	\$198,974.66
Ambulance	102	1,592,139.69	442,810.81	315,979.32	\$1,718,971.18
Rescue Spec. Equip.	103	174,960.00	0.00	124,871.41	\$50,088.59
Appraiser	104	381,393.90	95,368.42	92,036.07	\$384,726.25
Department On Aging	110	101,232.62	33,455.08	32,369.29	\$102,318.41
Diamond Vista	112	1,418,627.17	0.00	191,592.89	\$1,227,034.28
Sunflower Wind	113	357,184.00	0.00	0.00	\$357,184.00
Election	114	234,974.21	52,792.43	16,956.28	\$270,810.36
Employee Benefit Fund	118	1,804,643.66	764,616.62	657,735.73	\$1,911,524.55
Lake Patrol	125	37,247.66	8,669.04	7,056.57	\$38,860.13
Health	130	307,143.25	107,148.86	141,774.41	\$272,517.70
Noxious Weed	136	251,548.29	87,427.07	101,448.38	\$237,526.98
Noxious Weed Capital Outlay	137	20,918.07	0.00	3,145.00	\$17,773.07
Park	140	151,841.02	122,951.88	95,902.63	\$178,890.27
Park Bait Shop	141	15,510.58	11,494.71	7,522.00	\$19,483.29
Road and Bridge	146	5,021,037.88	1,586,985.83	1,220,765.41	\$5,387,258.30
Bond & Interest	147	361,276.77	193,891.64	3,650.37	\$551,518.04
Jail Sales Tax	148	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00
Solid Waste / HHW	152	109,900.58	3,200.26	6,577.02	\$106,523.82
Transfer Station	153	480,440.86	251,699.34	193,740.93	\$538,399.27
Special Bridge	154	543,608.20	87,824.48	142,424.43	\$489,008.25
Special R&B Two Mill Levy K.S.A. 68-1103	157	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00
Special Equipment Road and Bridge	160	263,472.49	166,786.27	315,456.84	\$114,801.92
Capital Improvement Fund	170	2,413,405.07	341,019.00	0.00	\$2,754,424.07
Capital Project Fund-Hlth	180	0.00	191,592.89	191,592.89	\$0.00
Special Alcohol and Drug	966	0.00	1,558.43	1,558.43	\$0.00
Clerk Tech	987	2,163.82	1,048.00	0.00	\$3,211.82
Register of Deeds Tech	988	26,042.90	4,192.00	443.30	\$29,791.60
Treasurer Tech	989	5,787.60	1,048.00	2,559.01	\$4,276.59
Transient Guest Tax	996	17,202.17	2,302.04	4,000.00	\$15,504.21
Marion Co Leadership	997	21,081.35	0.00	522.65	\$20,558.70
		\$19,748,564.20	\$6,415,072.89	\$5,405,295.80	\$20,758,341.29

The above is a statement of beginning and ending cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each fund from which warrants were paid.

A detailed statement of expenditures is available for public inspection at the County Clerk's Office, Courthouse, Marion, Kansas. Copies of such statement shall be available upon request.

K.S.A. 19-228(b)
(seal)
Ashley Herpich
Marion County Clerk
A-43-2740

First published July 9, 2025, in the Marion County Record, Marion, Kansas (1t)
NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING
The governing body of
Eastshore Improvement District No. 1, Marion County
will meet on September 18, 2025, at 9:00 am at 2137 Kruse, Marion, KS 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, KS 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	Prior Year Actual 2024		Current Year Estimate 2025		Proposed Budget 2026		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	7,302	2.836	8,314	2.587	113,968	2,548	2.525
Totals	7,302	2.836	8,314	2.587	113,968	2,548	2.525
Revenue Neutral Rate**							2.525
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditures	7,302		8,314		113,968		
Total Tax Levied	2,549		2,549				
Assessed Valuation	898,638		984,954		1,009,297		
Outstanding Indebtedness,							
Jan 1	2023		2024		2025		
G.O. Bonds	0		0		0		
Revenue Bonds	0		0		0		
Other	0		0		0		
Lease Pur. Princ.	0		0		0		
Total	0		0		0		

*Tax rates are expressed in mills.
**Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988
Brad Gorsuch, Treasurer

M-43-2744

First published July 9, 2025, in the Marion County Record, Marion, Kansas (1t)
NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING
The governing body of
Catlin Township, Marion County
will meet on August 19, 2025, at 7:00 pm at 1425 110th, Peabody, KS 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, KS 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	Prior Year Actual 2024		Current Year Estimate 2025		Proposed Budget 2026		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	1,326	0.190	1,310	0.188	2,348	1,343	0.195
Totals	1,326	0.190	1,310	0.188	2,348	1,343	0.195
Funds Supported by Township Only - Revenue Neutral Rate**							0.000
Funds Supported by Township and 3rd Class City - Revenue Neutral Rate**							0.195
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditure	1,326		1,310		2,348		
Total Tax Levied	1,345		1,343				
Total Assessed Valuation	7,061,173		7,125,027		6,873,743		
Township Assessed Valuation Only					6,510,798		
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
Mel Flaming, Treasurer

M-43-2742

PEABODY: Mayor, council president to face each other this fall

FROM PAGE 1

Peabody interviewing for a city administrator position without the council approving and advertising the position.

Weems denied that the city had interviewed for an administrator. She referred to the position as “clerk-slash-administrator” before adding that the candidate “applied for the clerk position.”

During a May 27 meeting, Burke questioned Weems over what he saw as a lack of budget transparency.

“I don’t like the idea that you, as the mayor, have control over the budget, over the bills, and that none of us do,” he said. “I just want everyone on the council to be more involved.”

Weems said Tuesday that she thought that the city was as transparent as it could be.

“My door is always open,” she said.

As a council member, Weems said, she was part of a bloc which voted to include expenditure receipts in agenda packets provided to council members.

However, during her time in office, those same receipts were removed from the packet provided to the public. They are now accessible to the public only through Kansas Open Records Act requests.

Weems said the information no longer was provided to the public because the city “was having things out there that didn’t need to be shared,” such as private account numbers.

Burke said that, as mayor, he would put line item receipts back in the public packet.

“I don’t see any reason why it can’t be in the packets,” he said. “It’s public information anyway.”

Weems was on the council from 2022 to 2023 before she was elected mayor. She managed the City of Wichita’s finances and debts for 13 years before moving to Peabody and opening a food store, Peabody Market.

“When it comes to business and finance, I’ve got a lot to offer,” Weems said.

She ran for mayor, she said, because her business is dependent on the health of Peabody and because she thought she had the skills to take the city in a positive direction.

Since she was elected, the going has been tough. Two police officers, the city clerk, and the

public works director have all resigned.

“I haven’t accomplished the goals I’ve set out to accomplish,” she said. “We started on a path here to make some changes in the city, and I have not been able to really move forward. ... We’ve just kind of spent the last year or so just status quo, trying to maintain everything while we fill staff.”

When asked what specific goals she was looking to achieve, Weems said she wanted to get the city’s water project completed, improve upon code enforcement, and hire “good, consistent police.”

For Burke, budgeting is the biggest prerogative.

“I think we need to have a more detailed, specific budget oriented towards specific goals

and expectations for the city,” he said.

He also wants to encourage debate and democratize what information is shared with the council before meetings.

“Some people in the council know things, and the rest of us don’t,” he said. “There are just too many things that are already decided before council meetings ever take place.”

He declined to share further specifics.

Weems said that she had not been made aware of such complaints.

“I wouldn’t know how to respond to that,” she said.

Both mayoral “campaigns” will be fairly low-key.

“I typically do my campaigning face-to-face with folks,” Weems said.

Burke, as the challenger, will take things a little further.

“I’ll probably knock on some doors and [do] the typical sign thing,” he said. “I plan to get out and try to meet people at some public events.”

Weems appeared zen about having a challenger in the race.

“Everybody should be able to have a choice,” she said. “This is not something that I ever thought I’d do or even cared to pursue. I just felt like my community needed me, and I had the skill set to help.”

While she hopes to win, she said there would be a “relief” that came with losing.

“Am I going to be crushed if I’m not chosen?” she said. “No. I think my community will choose who they want to lead them.”

DOG: Cat killed; charges sought

FROM PAGE 1

But police did see that Buckner had four adult dogs at his residence. City ordinance permits only three.

Hudlin is asking the city prosecutor to charge Buckner with having a dog at large, having more dogs than city ordinance allows, and harboring a vicious dog that killed an animal without provocation.

He expects Buckner to have to appear in municipal court July 30.

Buckner has at various times said that he wanted to build a dog park and that he wanted to open an animal sanctuary on property north of US-

56 behind the former Pizza Hut building.

Ironically, a company owned by Sigel owns the tract between Buckner’s property and the former Pizza Hut.

Buckner established a non-profit entity, Wags and Wiggles Furever, and raises money for building an animal shelter.

He planned to finance a 25x30 foot structure with 15 kennels and raised bedding to house healthy pets and several rooms to shelter pregnant or sick animals.

Marion’s interim planning coordinator, Margo Yates, said Buckner talked to her in 2020

about putting a dog park in that location.

“The problem is, he’s got to have five acres there to have a dog park,” Yates said. “That’s as far as I got with him.”

The land is only 1.3 acres.

Buckner also does not have a license from Kansas Department of Agriculture to operate a kennel or animal shelter.

A spokesman for Kansas Department of Agriculture said a small animal complaint about the incident could be made to KDA.

Hudlin said he would fill out a complaint on KDA’s website.

For the Record

FROM PAGE 7

MONDAY

7:55 a.m. — What appeared to be a staffing shortage caused Marion ambulance to announced that it would be out of service. It returned to service at 6:43 p.m., but announced that Hillsboro ambulance would limited to first response, with just one medic on duty, until 11:10 p.m.

OFFENSES REPORTED

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

HILLSBORO

Theft

Hillsboro Mayor Louis J. Thurston, 66, told police July 30 that a Timberline bicycle valued at \$354 was stolen between 5 p.m. June 25 and 5 p.m. June 27 from his residence in the 300 block of Willow Rd.

Police reported finding no signs of force.

MARION

Burglary

A blue E-Z-Go golf cart valued at \$3,500 was stolen between 7 and 11 p.m. June 29 by a burglar who broken into a Sherry L. Hess’s garage in the 100 block of S. Lincoln St., according to an offense report released Tuesday.

The golf was recovered the next day more than three blocks away in the 700 block of Maple St. No charges have been filed.

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 30 — Police investigated two traffic accidents and a bicycle theft and stood by during a civil matter at Barkman Honey.

July 1 — A driver was ticketed for speeding on US-56 near Santa Fe St. Police checked on a person walking on US-56.

July 2 — Police talked to a resident about stray cats, helped a resident with a property concern, and provided a tow company’s contact information for a driver whose vehicle was stuck in mud. A driver was ticketed for running a stop sign in the 600 block of N. Ash St. Other drivers were warned for running a stop sign near US-56 and Adams St.; for not using headlights when required at the same location; for having no license plate light on Memorial Park Dr., in the 300 block of S. Adams St., in the 400 block of S. Birch St., and in the 200 block of E. D St.; for making an improper turn at the same location; and for failing to signal a turn on K-15 north of US-56.

Thursday — Police talked to a resident about a texting scam and about vehicle identification numbers.

Independence Day — Several people were warned about setting off fireworks in the street. Police met with a juvenile about harassment involving another juvenile. A dog was reported loose in the 600 block of S. Lincoln St.

Saturday — Police helped a driver change a flat tire in the Dollar General parking lot. A dog was reported loose in the 900 block of S. Ash St. A driver was warned for speeding at Indigo and 170th Rds. A resident was warned not to shoot fireworks in the street.

Sunday — A hit-and-run accident at Casey’s General Store remains under investigation, and no report is yet available.

MARION

June 30 — A golf cart reported stolen the day before from the 100 block of S. Lincoln St. was found more than three blocks away in the 700 block of Maple St. Police investigated an injury accident at Locust and Denver Sts. Police told a person in the 400 block of N. Coble St. to stop shooting fireworks until it was legal to do so the next day. Drivers were warned for speeding near Main and 2nd Sts., for having defective license plate lights twice near US-56 and Industrial St., and for having a defective headlight near US-56 and Cedar St.

July 1 — A woman who reported

a debit card as stolen later found it in her purse. Drivers were warned for failing to signal a turn in the 100 block of N. Cedar St. and twice for speeding near US-56 and Timber Rd.

July 2 — A felled tree blocked traffic near 3rd and Maple Sts. No problems were found in checking on a disconnected 911 call from the 500 block of Cleveland St.

Thursday — A dog loose in the 200 block of N. Roosevelt St. was taken to a veterinary clinic. Police warned a person shooting fireworks after hours in the 200 block of Garfield St. A vehicle reportedly parked improperly on Santa Fe St. was not found. Drivers were warned for running a stop sign at Coble and Maple Sts. and for having a defective headlight near Main and 2nd Sts.

Independence Day — Drivers were warned for speeding near Main and 5th Sts. and near US-56 and Cedar St., for having no headlights after dark at Main St. and Eastmoor Dr., and for having a defective license plate light near Main and 4th Sts.

Saturday — Police are seeking charges against the owner of a loose dog that killed a cat on Fairway Dr. The dog was located in a residence several blocks away on Ashley Dr. Two dogs loose in the 300 block of Lincoln St. were picked up by their owner before police arrived. A driver was ticketed for having no liability insurance and warned for speeding in the 400 block of W. Main St.

Sunday — No problems were found in checking on a disconnected 911 call from the 100 block of N. 3rd St. A driver was warned for having a defective tag light near US-56 and Cedar St.

FROM PAGE 8

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, KIEWER’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
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 9, 2025, in the Marion County Record, Marion, Kansas (1t)

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of
Gale Township, Marion County

will meet on August 1, 2025, at 7:00 pm at 2265 Pawnee, Marion, KS 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, KS 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.

	Prior Year Actual 2024		Current Year Estimate 2025		Proposed Budget 2026		
Fund	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	6,637	1.860	6,850	1.813	49,331	10,640	1.799
Totals	6,637	1.860	6,850	1.813	49,331	10,640	1.799
					Revenue Neutral Rate**		1.799
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditure	6,637		6,850		49,331		
Total Tax Levied	10,636		10,636				
Assessed Valuation: Township	5,716,905		5,866,433		5,913,219		
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

Marvin Meisinger, Treasurer

M-43-2745

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COMPRESSOR, WELDERS, WOODWORKING TOOLS, GENERATORS, PARTS BINS,
JOB BOXES, BUILDING SUPPLIES, PATIO & HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE & MORE!

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ESTATE OF: Richard Trey Thompson
OWNERS: Richard & Edna Thompson

CHUPPSAUCTION.COM DALE CHUPP (918) 630-0495



STAFF PHOTO BY FINN HARTNETT
Marsha Sebree portrays a young woman who migrated from Minnesota to Peabody in the 19th century at Peabody's Fourth Fest.

Celebrating America's 249th birthday



STAFF PHOTO BY NICHOLAS KIMBALL
Bright lights silhouette two people sitting on the edge of a dock near the swimming area at Marion County Lake during its 15-minute fireworks show Saturday. Fireworks displays also were offered in Peabody, Florence, Aulne, Hillsboro, and Goessel throughout the Fourth of July weekend.



STAFF PHOTO BY FINN HARTNETT
Two-year-old Clifton Montgomery stood next to an appropriate sign during Fourth Fest.



STAFF PHOTO BY FINN HARTNETT
Kids used the holiday to take to city streets on dirt bikes and go-carts in Peabody.



STAFF PHOTO BY NICHOLAS KIMBALL
Marion County Lake included a Fourth of July parade Saturday, including this sparkler-decorated float from Carlsons' Grocery.

Fourth Fest a blast even before fireworks

By FINN HARTNETT
Staff writer

Most out-of-towners waited until evening to show up for Friday's Fourth Fest in Peabody. Some arrived as late as 10 p.m.; that was when the fireworks show began, after all. But the festivities started much earlier than that, and so did many of the more interesting aspects of the day. By the early afternoon, a smattering of food vendors were setting up generators and fryers in the city park. Festival emcee Aaron Waddell tested the park's loudspeakers by cracking jokes to the sparse crowd. Brian Mosiman already had opened Grab 'N' Go Hot Dogs for business and served a few locals looking for lunch. In addition to wieners and a mass of toppings, he sold stir-fry. Mosiman grew up in Peabody and attended the Fourth Fest frequently as a kid in the '80s. In the early '90s, he left his hometown to join the military. In 2014, started Grab 'N' Go out of Emporia. That same year, he visited Jamaica with his wife. Inspired by the island, he began wearing his hair in dreadlocks. "It's more about their way of thought and philosophy than anything," Mosiman said. Mosiman continues to attend

Fourth Fest on and off. He has brought his hot dog stand six separate times. "It's good for business, and I like coming out here," he said. "I could do without the wind today. But it's not too hot." Cars pattered around town, most with American flags strapped to them. Local schoolboys manned dirt bikes, popping wheelies and racing down Walnut St. Three of them took a break from racing to grab ice cream outside Southside Creamery and Deli. The adolescent excitement and energy was palpable. "My dad never lets me ride it, but it's the Fourth," one boy said of his bike. Another boy arrived in a wiry blue go-cart. It resembled a shopping cart and seemed to be the most undesirable ride. "Do you want it?" the boy asked seriously. "I've flipped it three different times." A block away, Peabody Historical Society sponsored its 6th annual ice cream social from 2 to 4 p.m. Board members donned T-shirts identifying them as part of the "apple dumpling gang," and big band music hummed from inside the courtyard. Susan Mayo, Steve Haneman, and 102-year old Bob Delk were the performers. Mid-

day heat was eased by their music as much as the shade and wind rustling through the trees. Patty Traxson explained that the money raised for the historical society this year would go toward making its building's outdoor making its building's outdoor handicapped-accessible. "We've had music before," Traxson said. "Usually that draws quite a crowd in." A caricature booth, "Drawn Crazy," was a new addition.

The gathering was livened up by the arrival of Marsha Sebree, who came dressed in elaborate colonial attire and gave a monologue as Helen Lyons Cooper, a young woman who migrated to the Peabody area in the late 19th century. "When we came, we came by stagecoach," Sebree said. "1871, April. The train would only go as far as Council Grove. "In 1865, we quit using whalebones for our corsets be-

cause we had to tighten them so tight they were breaking," she said. "We switched to steel. If you could get the smallest pair of shoes on, it was nicer if your feet were tiny. ... The things we did to be on the up and up!" Emil and Greta Wortman, listening intently, had come to Fourth Fest from Bremen, Germany. The closest thing to Independence Day in Germany, they explained, is an Oct. 3 holiday that

celebrates the reunification of East and West Germany. The Wortmans were introduced to Peabody after their brother attended Peabody-Burns schools for an exchange program. "It's cute," Greta said of the town. Though they'd visited Peabody once before, this was their first Fourth Fest. "It's already a lot of fun," Emil said.

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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.