

Keep kids safe as they head back to school

Tips for walkers, bus passengers, bicycle riders and more

KANSAS — It’s almost time for kids to head back to their classrooms, and the American Red Cross of Greater Kansas offers ways to help keep your students safe as they return to school for the upcoming year.

“Whether it’s your student’s first time at school or their senior year, instilling good habits is the perfect way to start out,” said Jane Blocher, Executive Director of the Red Cross of Greater Kansas. “Remember to update your family emergency plans, too, if there are changes like where students attend school. The Red Cross wishes all families a safe, happy and successful school year.”

If your student is younger or going to school for the first time, teach them:

- Their phone number, address, how to get in touch with their parents at work, how to get in touch with another trusted adult and how to dial 911.
- Not to talk to strangers or accept rides from someone they don’t know.

If your child walks to school, teach them to:

- Walk on the sidewalk. If no sidewalk is available, walk facing traffic.
- Stop and look left, then right and left again to see if cars are coming.
- Cross the street at the corner, obey traffic signals and stay in the crosswalk.
- Never run out into the street or cross between parked cars.

If your student takes the bus to school, teach them to:

- Get to their bus stop early and stand away from the curb while waiting for the bus to arrive.
- Board the bus only after it has come to a complete stop and the driver or attendant has instructed them to get on. And only board their bus, never an alternate one.
- Stay in clear view of the bus driver and never walk behind the bus.

If your student rides their bike to school, teach them to:

- Always wear a helmet.
- Ride on the right in the same direction as the traffic is going.

If you drive your child to school, make sure to:

- Always use seat belts. Younger children should use car seats or booster seats

until the lap-shoulder belt fits properly (typically for children ages 8-12 and over 4’9”), and ride in the back seat until they are at least 13 years old.

If you have a teenager driving to school, make sure they:

- Use seat belts.
- Don’t use their cell phone to text or make calls and avoid eating or drinking while driving.

If you are considering getting your student a cell phone:

- Download the free Red Cross First Aid and Emergency apps to give them access to first aid tips for common emergencies and full weather alerts. Find the apps in smartphone app stores by searching for the American Red Cross or going to redcross.org/apps

DRIVERS, SLOW DOWN! Drivers should slow down as children head back to school. Know that yellow flashing lights indicate a school bus is getting ready to stop — motorists should slow down and be prepared to stop. Red flashing lights and an extended stop sign indicate the bus is stopped and children are getting on or off.

Motorists must stop when they are behind a bus, meeting the bus or approaching an intersection where a bus is stopped. Motorists following or traveling alongside a school bus must also stop until the red lights have stopped flashing, the stop arm is withdrawn, and all children have reached safety. This includes two and four-lane highways. If physical barriers such as grassy medians, guide rails or concrete median barriers separate oncoming traffic from the bus, motorists in the opposing lanes may proceed without stopping. Do not proceed until all the children have reached a place of safety.

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation’s blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or CruzRojaAmericana.org, or follow us on social media.

Beloit USD 273 approves maximum price for HVAC project at BES

BY BRIAN DEBEY

The Beloit USD 273 school board approved the maximum price for the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) project at BES on Monday, July 28.

With the aid of a slide show presentation, Project Manager Chris Billinger with Nabholz reviewed the progress of the process in recent months. On March 14, Nabholz received local contractor input on early design development documents. On June 11, there was a local contractor summit at the district office.

A bid advertisement was published in the Beloit Call, the Building Connected public planroom and the planrooms of Drexel Technologies and Builders Association on June 16. The next day, the construction manager’s manual was published. On June 24, there was a pre-bid job walk, which 15 people attended.

The process will be repeated before HVAC work begins at Beloit Junior-Senior High School.

2,546 companies were invited to bid, and 32 bids were received. Eleven local contractors were invited to bid, including Heineken Electric, Schroeder Building & Supply, and Abrams Ready-Mix.

Glassman Mechanical was selected as the HVAC contractor for the project. Its work is well-known in the district and Nabholz.

Project Executive Brett Collins, who oversaw pre-qualification for the project, accompanied Billinger for the presentation. Other team members with Nabholz are Site Superintendent Terry Berndt and Project Engineer Caleb Pahl.

Included in the presentation was a diagram of the phasing plan. The project will be completed in six phases. The work is scheduled to start Aug. 25, 2025, and end Aug. 14, 2026.

Following the presentation, the board approved the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$3,909,001 for the HVAC project at BES. This sets the maximum price for the construction of this project.

Hansen Foundation awards Vital Grant to Smoky Hills PBS

BUNKER HILL, KS – Smoky Hills PBS is honored to announce a generous grant from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation. This grant was awarded earlier this spring, during a time when our future was full of promise. However, with the recent elimination of all federal funding for public media, the landscape has dramatically shifted.

This grant is more than support — it is a beacon of hope. In this period of uncertainty, funding from partners like the Dane G. Foundation is essential to our survival and our ability to continue serving the communities that rely on us. It allows us to continue providing meaningful children’s programming and producing local stories that reflect the heart of our communities. We are truly grateful for the Foundation’s belief in our mission and in the power of public media to educate, connect, and inspire.

“This grant from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation is more than financial support — it’s a lifeline,” said Betsy Schwien, General Manager of Smoky Hills PBS. “In a time of great uncertainty, this gift allows us to continue delivering educational content to children, telling the stories of our local communities, and remaining a vital resource to families across Central

and Western Kansas.”

To learn more about how you can support Smoky Hills PBS and help keep local programming alive, visit SmokyHillsPBS.org or follow the station on social media. (@SmokyHillsPBS)

The Dane G. Hansen Foundation is committed to providing opportunities for the people of Northwest Kansas to enjoy the highest possible quality of life. The foundation advances its mission by investing in the areas of education, health care, economic development, community social services and security, conservation and environment, arts and culture and community beautification.

Smoky Hills PBS serves 71 counties in Central and Western Kansas. Smoky Hills PBS is available over the air with an antenna, on many cable systems, DirecTV, DirecTV Stream, and Dish Network, HULU + LIVE TV, YouTube TV, and Amazon Prime. You can also access Smoky Hills PBS via the FREE mobile app for Android and iPhone devices and is also available to stream by clicking here: video.smokyhillstv.org/livestream. More information on Smoky Hills PBS and its programs and projects are available at SmokyHillsPBS.org or by calling 1-800-337-4788.

Kansas Game Warden Q&A

BY LANDEN CLEVELAND

No Wake Zones

Something we all must do when we launch or load a boat is drive through a no wake zone. I know this because the law states we must stay at no wake speeds of 5 mph or less within 200 feet of a boat ramp. It goes on to add a dock, bridge, moored or anchored vessel, boat storage facility, sewage pump-out facility, concessionaire’s facility (marina), non-motorized boat, and a person swimming to the list of things you must observe in wake zone speeds within 200 feet of a boat ramp. I mean, most of us think the only no wake zones on the lake are marked by no wake zone stickers. While those are no wake zones, a no wake zone isn’t limited to what only buoys represent.

To be fair, we really can’t have a floating halo of buoys 200 foot around every fishing boat setting in the middle of the lake. I have been asked, “How do I tell how fast I am going without a speedometer?” My quick and easy explanation is that if you can see white water behind your boat you are going too fast. If you have a speedometer on your boat or PWC, great! If you don’t, just watch your wake and pretend you are trolling, and you will be good to go.

If you would like to read the statute pertaining to this, it is KSA 32-1119. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at: landen.cleveland@ks.gov

City

continued from 1

Lackey said they had to issue a citation to one individual so far for getting into the working zone on Walnut Street.

The Beloit Police department is looking into car systems and a most important piece to their uniforms.

- Roberson covered for Emily Benedick who was absent, for the Community Development report. She reported that the Patterson grant awards are starting to come into town, everything is going great on the North Campus projects, and they are in cue with the EPA inspections.
- During the Public Hearing items, the owners of the 502 N. Campbell unfit structure attended the meeting and reported that they have every intent to make good on what needs to be done to fix the property. They have started on things and intend to work on it when time allows, to make it structurally sound. “With your blessings, I just ask for some time to be able to make this possible. I feel the potential is there,” said Gayle Overmiller.
- The unfit structures of 208 S. Independence and of 704 N. Campbell were both closed.
- The City Council meeting minutes of July 16-2025 were approved during the Consent agenda.
- Resolutions 2025-36 208 S. Independence unfit structure, 2025-37 704 N. Campbell unfit structure, 2025-38 KDOT Connection Link Agreement, and 2025-

DOE

continued from 1

Proposed 2026 Budget which is what is collected for 2025 taxes entities that are wanting to collect more tax dollars than the prior year (2024), and their upcoming hearings include:

Cawker City
RNR – 41.411
Proposed Rate – 43.595
Hearing – 9/10/2025 at 7:002 p.m.
Cawker City Hall 804 Locust St Cawker City, KS

Asherville Township
RNR – 16.226
Proposed Rate – 17.927
Hearing – 8/27/2025 at 7:00 p.m.
Asherville Fire Station 1399 Leann Ln, Asherville, KS

Bloomfield Township
RNR – 9.182
Proposed Rate – 11.031
Hearing – 8/27/2025 at 7:00 p.m. Bob & Janet Holway Residence 3385 O Rd Beloit, KS

Blue Hill Township
RNR – 13.722
Proposed Rate – 19.824
Hearing – 8/21/2025 at 7:00 p.m. Ron Heller Residence 1921 W Rd Hunter, KS 67452

Lulu Township
RNR – 9.698
Proposed Rate – 11.826
Hearing – 8/25/2025 at 8:55 a.m.
Mitchell County Commissioners Room 111 S Hersey Ave Beloit, KS

USD 273
RNR – 47.31
Proposed Rate – 47.98
Hearing – 9/8/2025 at 6:10 p.m.
Board of Education Office 3075 US Hwy 24 Beloit, KS

39 Solar Expansion and Authorizing General Obligation Bonds were all approved.

Representatives were present to talk about the solar project and financing analysis, including legislative updates, which will begin on July 3, 2026 of next year. Solar project financing tax credits. Ordinance 2019, has already been authorized with its ability, and also a 20-year fixed interest rate. The year 2027 should be paid off with tax credits, for savings.

“So we borrow the full amount and when the tax credits come, we will pay off the bonds?” said Gengler.

The Resolution 2025-35 502 N. Campbell unfit structure was tabled and allowed the owner six months to improve what was needed to improve. “I believe his word and he is in very good faith in doing what is needed,” said Tony Gengler. He was answered with a yes, you can pay down as much as you can with tax credits.

“The electric portfolio will be a huge cost savings and pay itself off,” said City Clerk, Mandy Lomax.

Breaking ground for the solar project is set for the end of February, 2027. If they can break ground in July, they would be getting ahead of the game. Materials are available right now. After surveys, environmental tests, geo tech tests, etc., things can get started.

- In Formal actions, the 2026 Budget and the 2025 Audit Engagement were both approved.

USD 298
RNR – 49.01
Proposed Rate – 51.49
Hearing – 9/8/2025 at 5:45 p.m. Lincoln School District Office 133 E Lincoln Ave Lincoln, KS

USD 299
Rate – 27.75
Proposed Rate – 31.14
Hearing – 9/8/2025 at 7:00 p.m. Sylvan-Lucas Unified Jr/Sr High School 504 W 4th St Sylvan, KS

Mitchell County Rural Fire District #3
RNR – 2.770
Proposed Rate – 3.075
Hearing – 8/25/2025 at 9:20 a.m.
Mitchell County Commissioners Room 111 S Hersey Ave Beloit, KS

Hunter Fire District
RNR – 2.833
Proposed Rate – 3.062
Hearing – 9/10/2025 at 7:00 p.m.
Lincoln County Courthouse 216 E Lincoln Ave Lincoln, KS

Tipton Fire #2
RNR – 1.509
Proposed Rate – 3.192
Hearing – 8/25/2025 at 9:10 a.m.
Mitchell County Courthouse 111 S Hersey Ave Beloit, KS

Central Kansas Library
RNR – 1.434
Proposed Rate – 1.737
Hearing – 8/27/2025 at 10:00 a.m.
Fossil Creek Hotel & Suites 1430 S Fossil St Russell, KS

Post Rock Extension District
RNR – 1.988
Proposed Rate – 2.410
Hearing – 9/10/2025 at 6:30 p.m.
Mitchell County 4H Building, Mitchell County Fairgrounds Beloit, KS

The Beloit Senior Center offers meals (served at 11:30 a.m., Monday-Friday) for the cost of \$3.50 to \$4 through the North Central-Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging Beloit 785-738-5802 / Glen Elder 785-545-3444		
SR CENTER MENUS		
Beloit/Glen Elder Senior Center Week of Aug. 18 to Aug. 22	Tuesday- Ribette or Fish, Potato Wedges, Mixed Vegetables, Strawberries & Blueberries Wednesday- Pork Roast, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Cauliflower, Dinner	Roll, Cinnamon Apples Thursday- Chicken Tetrazzini, Peas & Carrots, Beets, Ambrosia, Bread Friday- Fish & Cheese on Bun, Tater Tots, Sliced Onion, Pineapple Tidbits
Monday - Club Sandwich, (Swiss, Lettuce, Tomato), Potato Salad, Fruit, Cookie		