

Daring to dream

Youth learn, perform summer musical

BY KYRA CASE
Ellsworth County I-R

Each summer for nearly 24 years, Pam Curtis has returned to her hometown of Ellsworth to provide a musical experience for youth. This year, the kids took on a musical review of 100 years of Disney, “Dare to Dream.” The group performed June 28 at the Performing Arts Center.

“They’re all Imagineers in training is the concept,” Curtis said.

This undertaking isn’t a one-woman job. Brittany Kasper helped choreograph some of the dances in the musical, using her experience from teaching Ellsworth Tumble and Dance classes. Her 11-year-old daughter, Berkeley, also participated in the musical. She had a solo in “How Far I’ll Go.”

“We just started joining because Berkeley was interested in musicals, loves performing,” Kasper said. “And so just when we showed up, Mrs. Pam had known I was a dance teacher and so we just asked to have some help on a few things.”

Kasper lead kids through some of the more “difficult” numbers on the stage, helping balance the workload between the two.

“I think it really helps them kind of express their personalities and get more comfortable, not only speaking in front of people, but performing in front of people,” Kasper said. “(It) just gives them another aspect of being confident in who they are and just kind of branching out a little.”

This year, 35 kids participated, a significant jump from Curtis’ first year when only 12 joined. After auditioning for musical roles at the end of the school year, the students learn which songs they need to master. They then spend several weeks practicing the music on their own, fol-



PAM CURTIS/Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter

Tess Gray sings “I Just Can’t Wait to be King” as she strikes a pose with the cast of “Dare to Dream.”



KYRA CASE/Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter

Pam Curtis, right, directs students June 25 in the Ellsworth Jr./Sr. High School PAC.

lowed by a week of onstage rehearsals.

“They get their CDs in their school,” Kasper said. “So when they come here, they should know all their music already.”

“My vision and goal from the start was always to give them an experience in theater,” Curtis said. “I know I’m not getting the real theater experience, but if I put that taste in there, then maybe when they get into high school and beyond, they’ll still want to do it. It’s joyful work. It’s just fun to get up there and dance around the kids.”

Practicing for three hours a day until their dress rehearsal on Friday and performances at the

PAC on Saturday, the kids worked hard to learn the choreography, which Curtis said is learned at an accelerated rate.

Not only is this an opportunity to take on a “joyful role” for Curtis, it’s also an opportunity to integrate her son, Hudson, into the community. Curtis, a teacher at Bluemont Elementary School in Manhattan, makes the drive from Manhattan each day of the week to rehearse with the kids from 8:30-11:30 a.m.



PAM CURTIS/Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter

The “Dare to Dream” cast explains that “The Bare Necessities” are all you need in life.

“This is where I grew up, and it’s my home,” Curtis said. “My parents lived here until they passed away. There’s so many connections I have here. This will be Hudson’s first year. Most of my kids up here have done the show since they were third graders. And the high schoolers in the crowd helping? They’re my graduates. They’ve done the show. They did the show for six years. This is their first year to not do the show, so they

come back and help and I don’t ask them to. They just come back and help.”

High schoolers learn the dances and help lead the kids through each dance to make the learning curve a “little easier.” During the show, they will be onstage.

“I think the most

amazing thing is that they are like sponges and they just pick it up,” Curtis said. “I explain it and show it, and then they just do it. They just remember it.”

Curtis said she often jokes about how she should get her teacher evaluations while she’s helping the kids in the theater.

“This is when I’m doing my best teaching,” Curtis said. “They’re all so into it. They’re so engaged. I just have to tell them once or twice. We do it so many times, they don’t realize that it’s getting ingrained in their brains.”

To ensure the kids can “hit all of the notes,” Curtis works with a company called Music Theatre International.

“They’re called Broadway Junior shows,” Curtis said. “They change the music for kids so the kids can hit the notes and it’s easier notes. And the songs are shorter. The shows are an hour so nobody gets bored, nobody gets in too much trouble.”

Doing the musical, Curtis said, is a way to build confidence one never could in any other way.

“I hear it from their parents all the time,” Curtis said. “That confidence — they carry that confidence with them — so they’re not intimidated to try new things. Just like that song “Try Everything”

Curtis plans to do this show “for as long as possible.”

“Teaching and staging the show with the kids is my favorite part,” Curtis said. “My body says I can still do it, so I’ll just keep doing it.”

Rocket Mortgage v. Stacher

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent Reporter, June 26, 2025)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
ELLSWORTH COUNTY, KANSAS
CIVIL DEPARTMENT

Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC Plaintiff,
vs.
Cynthia Lee Stacher; Unknown Spouse, if any, of Cynthia Lee Stacher; Foundation Finance Company, LLC; John Doe (Tenant/Occupant); Mary Doe (Tenant/Occupant) Defendants.

Case No. EW-2024-CV-000001
Court Number:
Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 60

NOTICE OF SALE

Under and by virtue of an Order of Sale issued to me by the Clerk of the District Court of Ellsworth County, Kansas, the undersigned Sheriff of Ellsworth County, Kansas, will offer for sale at public auction and sell to the highest bidder for cash in hand, at the Front Door of the Courthouse at Ellsworth Ellsworth County, Kansas, on July 17, 2025, at 10:00 AM, the following real estate:
The East 35' of Lot 22, and All of Lot 23, in Block 45, in the City of Ellsworth, Ellsworth County, Kansas, commonly known as 310 W 3rd St, Ellsworth, KS 67439 (the “Property”) to satisfy the judgment in the above-entitled case. The sale is to be made without appraisal and subject to the redemption period as provided by law, and further subject to the approval of the Court. For more information, visit [www. Southlaw.com](http://www.Southlaw.com)
Kenny Bernard, Sheriff
Ellsworth County, Kansas
Prepared By:
SouthLaw, P.C.
Blair T. Gisi (KS #24096)
13160 Foster, Suite 100
Overland Park , KS 66213-2660
(913) 663-7600
(913) 663-7899 (Fax)
Attorneys for Plaintiff
(243185)

Tillman Infrastructure Tower, Wilson

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent Reporter, July 03, 2025)

Tillman Infrastructure, LLC is proposing to build a 345-foot guyed tower (355 ft w/appurtenances) located south of Ave C, approximately 490 feet south of 165 Ave C, Wilson, KS 67490. Structure coordinates are: (N38-50-26-8)/(W98-28-25.8). The tower is anticipated to have FAA Style E (dual medium intensity) lighting. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR Form 854) file number is **A1316414. Environmental Effects:** Interested persons may review the application at www.fcc.gov/asr/applications by entering the file number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest within 30 days of the date that notice of the project is published on the FCC’s website. Online filings are strongly encouraged. Mailing address for a paper filing is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, ATTN: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554.

1t 7/3

Resolution 2025-21 Summary

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent Reporter, July 03, 2025)

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-21 SUMMARY

On June 23, 2025, the Governing Body of the City of Ellsworth, Kansas, passed a Resolution entitled:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ELLSWORTH ADOPTING THE KANSAS HOMELAND SECURITY REGION F HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.

By this Resolution, the City Governing Body adopted a Hazard Mitigation Plan in compliance with federal programs and in coordination with federal agencies such as FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security. The complete text of the ordinance may be obtained or viewed free of charge at the office of the City Clerk, 121 W. 1st Street, Ellsworth, KS 67439. A reproduction of the Resolution is available for not less than 7 days following the publication date of this summary at www.ellsworthks.net

This summary is hereby certified to be legally accurate and sufficient pursuant to the laws of the State of Kansas by Ellsworth City Attorney Patrick G. Hoffman. Dated June 23, 2025.

1t 7/3

Resolution 2025-20

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent Reporter, July 03, 2025)

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-20 SUMMARY

On June 9, 2025, the Governing Body of the City of Ellsworth, Kansas, passed a Resolution entitled:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ELLSWORTH AMENDING RESOLUTION 2024-12 (A) EXTENDING THE DECLARATION OF A WATER WARNING

By this Resolution, the City Governing Body amended Resolution 2024-12A and extended the water warning restrictions. The complete text of the resolution may be obtained or viewed free of charge at the office of the City Clerk, 121 W. 1st Street, Ellsworth, KS 67439. A reproduction of the Resolution is available for not less than 7 days following the publication date of this summary at www.ellsworthks.net

This summary is hereby certified to be legally accurate and sufficient pursuant to the laws of the State of Kansas by Ellsworth City Attorney Patrick G. Hoffman. Dated June 23, 2025.

1t 7/3

Cara Hall Variance

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent Reporter, July 03, 2025)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF ELLSWORTH BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

The City of Ellsworth Board of Zoning Appeals will conduct a Public Hearing on August 6, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, located at 121 W 1 st Street, Ellsworth, Kansas to consider granting a variance in a Single-Family Dwelling District (R-1). The purpose of the variance request is to put a carport closer than the 8-foot setback requirement. The carport would be the same width as the existing garage.

17.28.070 - Yard regulations.
2. Side Yard.

a. Except as hereinafter required in the additional height, area, and use regulations of this Ordinance, there shall be a side yard having a width of not less than ten (10) percent of the width of the lot with a minimum of eight feet on each side of the principal building, except as provided for zero lot-line development.

Applicant: **Cara Hall**
507 N Missouri
Ellsworth, KS 67439

Legal Description: **BRISCOE’S 2 ND ADDITION, N70’ OF LOT 141 LESS N2.7’**

1t 7/3