

FAIR: Exhibitors, horses develop long-term bonds

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agreed.

“The amount of work it takes to get here is through the roof,” he said.

During the first event, “horsemanship,” horses are judged on appearance, gait, and how they are handled.

A calm horse is essential for a good score.

“This horse is totally broke,” Andres said of Levi. “You can set a small bomb next to it, and it won’t do nothing.”

Clarissa Peterson’s daughter, in contrast, was skipping the horsemanship event.

“Her horse likes to bite her,” Peterson laughed.

In the second part of the showcase, 4-Hers mounted their steeds and navigated a trail pattern full of obstacles.

“It’s something you might incur if you’re out pasture riding, where you might be stepping over logs, going over a bridge,

or opening a gate,” Toews said. “We ask them to do a side pass, too, so they have to walk sideways with the horse.”

Horses were judged on footwork, maneuverability, and “smoothness in the saddle.” No one likes a bouncy ride.

Sixteen-year-old E.V. Cannon of Goessel rode Reba, a chestnut-colored red roan.

“She’s going to stand with you and listen,” E.V.’s mother, April Tucker, said. “She’s not going to throw a fit out in the arena like some of the others might.”

The Cannons purchased Reba in October.

“She’s kind of a spoiled brat,” Tucker said. “She likes to be babied.”

Even without many competitors, the horse show took around three hours to complete.

Roberts complained joking-

ly about Toews’ commitment to the show.

“Brett makes us stay all night,” he said. “At least we got a breeze.”

Unlike livestock, which are showcased at the fair in part so they can fetch high prices at auction, horses are a permanent fixture in riders’ lives.

“A lot of these kids will keep these horses for their whole career,” Toews said. “They’re very attached to them.”

Often, a seasoned horse will spend many years at showcases, having grown up alongside its rider.

For local youths, competing is less about a high score than it is about an evening out with a four-legged friend.

“They spend hours to get 15 minutes in front of the judge,” Roberts said. “But the journey is what develops those life skills that we think are so important.”



STAFF PHOTO BY FINN HARTNETT
Nine contestants competed in the Marion County Fair horse show Sunday.

DERBY: Fair event is in the blood

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“We’re getting the youngsters involved so we can retire,” Druse said.

The scheduled finale of this week’s Marion County Fair is a demolition derby Saturday evening.

The derby is arguably the most loved event of the fair. Bleachers are so packed it always is difficult to find a place to sit.

Relatives, friends, and strangers who admire a driver’s skill cheer them on.

The derby brings competitors from a wide swath of territory.

Last year, 59 drivers competed. Many were longtime derby competitors.

Fire departments from around the county will stand ready in case they are needed, and an ambulance will stand ready as well.

Training day



STAFF PHOTO BY FINN HARTNETT
Turkey Creek Rd. was closed Thursday and Friday between US-50 and 80th Rd. for scheduled work on railway lines.

CAFE: Owner leaving to be with family

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menu.

While she said she’s recieved “nothing but positive feedback” from the community, business hasn’t been spectacular.

Dahlgren has tried karaoke nights, trivia games, and hours stretching long into the evening to attract more customers, but her clientele still “doesn’t represent the full population of Marion,” she said.

She has, however, found the regulars she so desired in a group of older men who drink coffee together in the mornings.

“One of them told me one day I was an answer to his prayers because I opened the shop,” she said.

During what could be the final weeks of The Sit Down, Dahlgren is trying a streamlined strategy to draw more business.

“I’m cutting down on the food, and we’ve expanded our drinks,” she said. “And I’m going to adjust my hours. There’s no point in me trying to stay open till seven, hoping people are coming.”

Asked what advice she’d give a replacement coffee shop, Dahlgren shared a few ideas.

“I do think they should have food,” she said. “I did well for a while last year and into the winter with certain sandwiches.

“And I wouldn’t change our espresso beans for anything.”

WILSON: Legislator visits Patriots group

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civilians.

One post incorrectly claims that because of a 2013 Supreme Court ruling, vaccinated Americans “are now owned and have no more access to human rights.”

More recently, Wilson posted a fake newspaper clipping asserting that 2024 Democratic vice presidential candidate Tim Walz was hospitalized after drinking horse semen and a picture of “the shooter at the KC Chiefs parade the press won’t show you.” (Multiple men have been charged in connection with the shooting.) He referred to the black man in the picture as a “thug” in the comments section.

His posts frequently are blurred by Facebook for missing context or misinformation,

which Wilson sometimes objects to in the comments section.

“Partly false means mostly true,” he wrote in one comment, accompanied by an American flag emoji.

Wilson did not respond to Facebook messages requesting comment on his posts.

A farmer outside of Abilene, Wilson and his wife, Marcia, joined 22 others at Sunday’s Patriots for Liberty meeting in the county lake hall.

State Senator Scott Hill, who Wilson replaced as representative, also attended the first 10 minutes of the meeting before departing for Wichita to meet with Senate President Ty Masterson.

Masterson announced later Sunday he was running for governor.

Hill gave a goodbye speech to the Patriots, though he assured them he’d be back.

“I’ve loved every minute of coming down here,” Hill said. “Marion County is a really important part of the 70th District. It’s important because you guys are solid conservatives. You’re people we can relate with. You have a lot of common sense. Greg’s going to do a fantastic job of representing your interests.”

Wilson gave a speech at the start of the meeting and spoke with constituents afterward.

“I’ll guarantee you, I am a conservative vote, every vote,” he said. “If it’s not constitutional, and it’s not common sense, it won’t pass my muster.”

Wilson said he was working on printing business cards, and until then constituents could

reach out to him on social media.

“I’m on Facebook,” he said.

After the meeting, Wilson said he planned on attending more Patriot events in the future.

Asked whether he would work to restore state and federal funding for commodities programs in Marion County, Wilson said he hadn’t heard of the cuts.

“I don’t personally know that yet,” he said. “Trump is taking care of his farmers, which he did the first time he was in office. But I don’t know about that. ... We’ll visit if we have the parameters.”

WATER: Pipes being flushed

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after the evaluation whether to construct a treatment plant, drill a new well, or take a different direction.

“It would be more economical to look for a different well source,” Ronnebaum said, citing high costs associated with constructing and maintaining a treatment plant.

Chisholm said the engineer’s evaluation would take time.

“There’s a lot that has to happen before they come out,” she said. “This is not an overnight fix. And it’s not that we haven’t been working on it for

a long time. We have. But nobody thinks we have.”

Rural water boards are elected by district members at annual meetings required by state bylaws.

These meetings are typically poorly attended, Ronnebaum said.

Some districts have tried to lure members to their annual meetings with guest speakers, live entertainment, and home-cooked food.

“I know of... a couple in southeast Kansas who provide a supper to encourage people to attend,” Ronnebaum said. “Generally, they have from 50 to 100-plus of the members.”

Classified CONTINUED

First published July 23, 2025, in the Marion County Record, Marion, Kansas (1t)							
NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING							
The governing body of							
Clear Creek Township, Marion County							
will meet on August 5, 2025 at 7:00 PM at Lincolnville Communitiy Building, Lincolnville, 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 the Marion County Clerk's Office, 200 S. Third St., 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	764	0.094	840	0.091	3,166	751	0.087
Totals	764	0.094	840	0.091	3,166	751	0.087
Funds Supported by Township Only - Revenue Neutral Rate**					0.000		
Funds Supported by Township and 3rd Class City - Revenue Neutral Rate**					0.087		
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditure	764		840		3,166		
Total Tax Levied	749		749				
Assessed Valuation: Township	7,967,981		8,198,286		8,606,887		
Township Assessed Valuation Only					7,480,546		
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							
Marcus Carlson, Treasurer							

First published July 23, 2025, in the Marion County Record, Marion, Kansas (1t)							
NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING							
The governing body of							
Tampa Community Cemetery, Marion County							
will meet on August 18, 2025 at 7:30 PM at Tampa Board Room, 315 Main St, Tampa, KS for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to levied. Detailed budget information is available at the Marion County Clerk's Office, 200 S. Third St., 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	9,960	1.525	12,975	1.502	30,304	8,456	1.458
Debt Service							
Totals	9,960	1.525	12,975	1.502	30,304	8,456	1.458
Revenue Neutral Rate**					1.458		
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditures	9,960		12,975		30,304		
Total Tax Levied	8,456		8,456				
Assessed Valuation	5,543,043		5,628,862		5,798,193		
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							
Ronald Mueller, Secretary/Treasurer							