

For the RecordCONTINUED

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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

July 7 — Matthew McJimsey, 29, Hillsboro, was arrested on a warrant issued for his failure to appear in Hillsboro Municipal Court. Police transported a juvenile found in Lawrence back to Hillsboro. Drivers were warned for an unspecified infraction in the 400 block of N. Ash St. and for speeding in Memorial Park. Police patrolled Tabor College on foot.

July 8 — A homeless person reportedly camped out at the city's recycling center was not found. A fire alarm in the 200 block of S. Elm St. proved to be a false alarm

July 9 — A homeless person at Casey's General Store was removed at the store's request and taken by police to Abilene. A dog was reported loose in the 300 block of E. D St. Police helped the Department of Children and Families and Wichita police with investigations. A driver was warned for speeding at Prairie Pointe Ct. and D

St. No problems were found in checking on an alarm at Bomgaars.

Thursday — Reported accumulation of trash reported in the 200 block of N. Lincoln St. was not found. No problems were found in checking on an alarm at Hillsboro Hometown Pharmacy. Police patrolled Main St. on foot and checked drivers' speed with radar on S. Main St.

Friday — Keys found on Main St. were returned to their owner. Drivers were warned for speeding in the 400 block of N. Ash St. and for having no taillights at Main St. and Grand Ave.

Saturday — An 9-year-old boy with autism who wandered away from his home in the 100 block of S. Lincoln St. after dark was found by a family member near his home after Hillsboro and Marion police and Hillsboro firefighters searched for 1¼ hours using thermal imaging and a drone. A driver at Birch and C Sts. was warned for not displaying a license plate.

Sunday — A water leak at Date and D Sts. was reported to the city water department. A dog loose in the 400 block of S. Birch St. was returned to its owner. Drivers were warned for speeding at US-56 and Ash St. and for running a stop sign at Ash and 3rd Sts. A hard-to-see bicyclist with-

out reflective clothing on US-56 at Chisholm Trail Dr. was told to stay out of traffic lanes. Police met with a resident about a civil issue.

MARION

July 7 — A dog loose in the 400 block of Walnut St. was picked up by its owner. Drivers were warned for defective license plate lights in the 100 block of N. Coble St. and near US-56 and Timber Rd., for running a stop sign at Main and Roosevelt Sts., and for speeding near US-56 and Cedar St.

July 8 — A disturbance in the 400 block of S. Roosevelt St. resulted in two arrests — those of a 41-year-old woman suspected of domestic battery and of an 18-year-old male suspected of battery and child endangerment. Three dogs loose near Lincoln and Sherman Sts. were returned to their owner. Drivers were warned for speeding near Main and 3rd St. and for failing to signal a turn near Main and Freeborn Sts.

July 9 — A burglary in the 100 block of S. Cedar St. led to the arrest in the 600 block of S. Freeborn St. of a 14-year-old juvenile suspected of aggravated burglary and criminal trespassing and of a 15-year-old suspected of aggravated burglary. Police talked to a resident of the 400 block of S.

Freeborn St. about a scam. Suspicious activity reported at 1st and Burbridge Sts. was not found.

Thursday — Police helped a motorist with a dead battery at the courthouse and helped deputies with a traffic stop near US-56/77 and 250th Rd.

Friday — Police investigated collisions in the parking lots of Casey's General Store and the Sports and Aquatics Center, answered questions about an eviction notice in the 100 block of Billings St., and spoke to a resident of the 400 block of Walnut St. about possible abuse that apparently did not happen. A driver was warned for having a defective tag light and ticketed for having no liability insurance near US-56 and Cedar St. Another driver was warned for having a defective headlight at the same location. Police helped with traffic control at a fatality accident on US-77 near 140th Rd.

Saturday — Police helped with investigation of a fatality at US-50 and Nighthawk Rd. and joined in a search for a missing 9-year-old who was found safe in Hillsboro.

Sunday — A dog loose in the 100 block of S. Roosevelt St. was picked up by its owner. Police helped with an

injury accident at the US-56/77/K-150 roundabout. Drivers were warned for failing to signal a turn near US-56 and Cedar St. and for having a defective tag light near US-56 and Timber Rd.

TRAFFIC DIVISION CASES

This information was filed last week in court. Court costs are included in any fines listed. If no hometown is listed, no address was available on court records.

Marlo W. Becker, driving on left in no-passing zone June 13, \$183.

John N. Bilha, 79 mph in 65 zone June 5, \$177.

Ginger L. Britton, 75 mph in 65 zone June 7, \$153.

Adam N. Brown, 75 mph in 65 zone June 9, \$153.

Matthew G. Burr, 80 mph in 65 zone June 1, \$183.

Leyton E. Coover, failure to wear seatbelt (age 18 or older) June 4, \$30.

Raymond J. Crawford, failure to yield at stop or yield sign June 15, \$183.

Bruce Emmy D., 75 mph in 65 zone June 18, \$153.

Alvin B. David, 88 mph in 65 zone June 6, \$240.

Devin M. Dunford, 88 mph in 65 zone June 5, \$240.

Robert Hector, 81 mph in 65 zone May 31, \$189.

Ethan L. Hill, 81 mph in a 65 zone June 7, \$189.

Martin G. Hooper, 65 mph in 55 zone June 11, \$153.

Erick O. Kabara, 88 mph in 65 zone June 9, \$240.

Rebecca L. Minton, driving on left in no-passing zone June 14, \$183.

Cody J. Morse, 75 mph in 65 zone June 15, \$153.

Emily B. Myers, 75 mph in 65 zone June 11, \$153.

Colin J. Ratzlaff, 82 mph in 65 zone June 10, \$195.

Parker W. Schultz, 55 mph in 35 zone June 1, \$213.

Rael Simon, operating a motor vehicle without a valid license May 31, case dismissed.

Staci L. Staatz, passing on left with insufficient clearance June 9, \$183.

Calvin L. Taylor, 88 mph in 65 zone June 7, \$240.

Jeremiah D. Welle, 75 mph in 65 zone June 4, \$153.

WATER: New pipes, new well, new treatment pondered

FROM PAGE 1

er when two breaks in the main line caused water to turn dark brown two weeks ago.

“It was black as chocolate,” Elmer Ronnebaum, general manager of Kansas Rural Water Association, said. “It’s unconscionable to think that it came out of a public water supply system.”

Iron and manganese are not considered health risks by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Nonetheless, large amounts of the chemicals affect taste, odor, and appearance, leaving a brown product with sediment at the bottom. Few want to use such water for any purpose.

Manganese is on the EPA’s “emerging contaminants” list, meaning it may be classified as a health risk in coming years.

The water industry recommends a treatment process when iron and manganese levels are exceeded; the district uses a polyphosphate solution to treat the chemicals but is looking at altering the treatment after experiencing dark-brown water two weeks ago.

Water operator Autumn Chisholm said the district’s water was drinkable throughout the “brownout” even though the district handed out free bottles of water at the Ramona post office and Tampa library.

“It seemed drinkable,” board member Luke Wingerd said. “Did anyone want to drink it? No.”

What the district can do — or should have already done — to improve its system is contentious.

“We have offered to provide



STAFF PHOTO BY FINN HARTNETT

Daryn Martin (left), assistant general manager of Kansas Rural Water Association, is interviewed by a Wichita TV station after acting as intermediary between water district officials and the public, Monday night.

help to that district for 30-plus years,” Ronnebaum said.

He said his organization could help find financing for improvements “in a couple months, if not sooner,” from KDHE, USDA Rural Development, or Rural Water Finance Agency.

“They have to spend a little,” Ronnebaum said. “But there’s funding available to help.”

Former water board member David Mueller said the board had attempted to apply for grants little success.

Wingerd said board members “always have” been working with the state association.

Roughly 20 residents attended a water board meeting Monday. Many expressed discontent with leadership they perceived as passive and uncommunicative.

“There’s no open communication,” one woman said.

Arguments over adequacy of an email list run by Chisholm led to her storming out of the meeting halfway though.

Not only is the district’s water quality questionable, the system is inefficient.

Last month, the district lost 43% of its water from pump to customer, Daryn Martin, assistant general manager of KRWa, said.

The system also ranks first in the county for gallons of water pumped per capita per day — an average resident uses 120 gallons a day.

Those in the city of Marion come second with 112 gallons a day.

Those levels far exceed consumption in the two other ru-

ral water districts, which use 90 and 61 gallons respectively.

Higher per capita use may be because ranchers use the system to water livestock, but it also suggests to leaks and residents running taps to clear sediment.

Ramona resident Nathan Brunner said district customers sometimes were told to run their taps for two hours to clear away sediment.

Getting sediment out of the system will involve increased flushing of pipes and possibly drilling a new well to replace a sentiment-heavy one currently in use.

“The logical thing to do, if it were me, would be to hire a groundwater hydrologist and do a little water well expiration in that area to see if there’s not a better water supply,” Ronne-

baum said. “We know that in one well that was drilled they drilled into iron pyrite.”

Iron pyrite also is known as fool’s gold.

Water service in Ramona and Tampa would have to be interrupted if the board moved to carry out extensive improvements, but there may be no other option if discolored water persists.

“It’s not logical to try to provide the water that I’m seeing to customers,” Ronnebaum said. “It’s not going to go away. It’s been there since Day One.”

After a tumultuous meeting Monday, the board took small steps toward improving the system, moving to meet biweekly for the next two months and hiring a Clay County engineer to evaluate the water system.

However, if the board ne-

glects to take meaningful action in the future, more extreme measures could be taken by district members.

Petitions of complaint can be filed to remove a director.

If enough petitions are filed, a director can be removed with a 75% majority vote.

Directors must be notified of charges against them at least 10 days in advance of any special meeting.

Voting out a district water board member never has been done in Kansas, according to Ronnebaum.

Even conduction of a vote is extremely rare.

A spokeswoman for Leavenworth County RWD No. 7, who declined to be named, said there was a vote against a district director “30-something years ago,” but the supermajority was not achieved, and the director remained on the board.

County commissioners also may influence the fate of the district. Commissioners are able to create, organize, and combine districts.

To create districts, commissioners must receive a petition signed by at least half of the landowners in the area. But K.S.A. 82a-639 also allows commissioners to merge districts without prior approval so long as they do not create a “special benefit district” in the process.

Landowners can petition the water board to release them from the district if their land is not “economically or adequately served by the facilities of the district,” per K.S.A. 82a-646.

ClassifiedCONTINUED

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ficial bid packet and a list of required certifications, contact Megan Unruh at munruh@sckedd.org or (316) 440-3472.

A MANDATORY pre-bid tour will be held on Wednesday, July 30th, 2025, starting at 9:30 AM at the City of Peabody Council Chambers, 300 N Walnut, Peabody, KS 66866. Attendance is required. Bids from contractors not attending the tour will be deemed non-responsive.

Sealed bids for the project will be received by the City Clerk at 300 N Walnut, Peabody, KS 66866 until August 13th, 2025 at 1:00PM, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud. Any person with a disability requiring special accommodations must contact the City of Peabody no later than 7 days prior to the bid opening. Digital bids are permissible though a secure Dropbox link. Please email munruh@sckedd.org to request this accommodation. All bid documents may be examined at the City of Peabody after this date.

The City of Peabody hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The City of Peabody is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We encourage all small and minority owned firms and women’s business enterprises to participate. No bidder may withdraw his bid within (60) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

A detailed listing of all subcontractors shall be provided by the Bidder. In accordance with the Contract Documents, documentation that the prospective contractor and its subcontractors meet minimum qualifications shall be provided and submitted.

The owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any or all bids.

Contact Person:

Questions – Megan Unruh at munruh@sckedd.org, 316-440-3472

Special Requirements:

A MANDATORY Pre-bid Meeting will be held Wednesday, July 30th, 2025, starting at 9:30 AM at the City of Peabody Council Chambers, 300 N Walnut, Peabody, KS 66866

Bid Opening Information:

August 13th, 2025 at 1:00PM

Bids will be opened virtually. Attendees can participate virtually or in person at City Hall, 300 N Walnut, Peabody, KS 66866. Bids will be awarded at the next regularly scheduled City Council Meeting.

M-44-2762

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Council member Byron Noeth objected, pointing out that no action could be taken after the meeting was adjourned.

The motion to adjourn passed, but the board reconvened after public comment at Noeth’s request.

During the forum, Noeth spoke about the board’s history of inaction.

“You saw who voted to close the meeting already without making any decisions tonight,” he said. “That’s part of it.”

Noeth gave prior examples of the board dragging its feet. A year ago, he said, he proposed hiring a Schwab Eaton engineer to evaluate leaks in the water system for \$45,000, but he could not get the motion passed.

“We have the \$45,000,” he said. “I’m not sure why we haven’t hired this engineer.”

Daryn Martin, assistant general manager of Kansas Rural Water Association, acted as mediator between the board and the public during public comment, sometimes proposing his own solutions.

“The issue is in the short term is, how do we get this stuff out of the water lines?” he said. “Then in the long term, what is

our plan? Is it chemicals that are going to mask this stuff?”

Martin recommended increased flushing and “pigging” of the water system.

For longer-term fixes, Martin recommended pursuing state revolving loans or a Kansas Water Office technical assistance grant.

Money could be used to hire experts to study the district’s wells and determine whether a new well or different treatments were needed, he said.

“Even if we decide today that we’re going to take action and hire somebody to do this, it’s going to be a couple of years before the process even begins and pipes are getting laid in the ground,” Martin said.

Chairman Donald Mueller said the district had not realized the extent of its problems until recently, when Ramona used district water to flush sewers, allegedly without permission.

“Somebody gave them the OK to use water from our district,” Mueller said. “They should have come to us.

“Then we had a major leak that followed that. Once we had a handle on things, we immediately started flushing. It was a bad situation. But what do

MEETING: Operator walks out

you do when someone’s stealing water?”

Some Tampa and Ramona residents objected to his assessment.

“This has been happening since I’ve lived here, and I moved here in 2000,” Ramona resident Jessica Gilbert said.

Residents expressed discontent with a board they characterized as passive and uncommunicative.

“I guess I just want to know who’s in charge,” Tampa resident Kristina Kraemer said. “I’ve lived here for three years, and I know it’s been a problem for 30. It’s like I’m in the Twilight Zone.”

Kraemer said it was her, not the board, who “begged” Martin to come to speak at the meeting.

“I’m very disappointed in the board,” another man said. “I’m hoping this rocks some people to start letting us help you.”

Chisholm said she has tried to communicate with the public though an email list.

“I have asked for email addresses and various communications, and some of you will not give them to me,” Chisholm said.

Kramer urged Chisholm to

provide text notifications instead via a service such as Everbridge. According to Noeth, the idea was discussed three months ago, but no action was taken.

“There are people that will help you,” Kraemer said. “The fire department has said that they will help you. Why are you digging your heels in about this? I’ve never seen this before.”

Chisholm promptly got out of her chair and left the building.

“I suggest you stay,” Noeth called out after her.

Afterwards, Ramona resident Pat Wick told Mueller he should have encouraged the district’s only operator to stay.

“She needs some help, I think, from you guys,” Wick said. “She’s in over her head.”

The board reconvened without Chisholm, moving to increase its meeting schedule from monthly to biweekly for two months. It also granted Noeth his wish, moving to hire a Schwab Eaton engineer to conduct a yearlong evaluation of the system.

The board then went into executive session for an unspecified performance review.

PUBLIC NOTICES
Your right to know!