



USD 417 District Spotlight
Tyson Eslinger
USD #417
Superintendent of Schools



While students enjoy their well-deserved summer break, USD 417 Morris County remains a hub of activity as staff and administrators work diligently to prepare for an exciting new school year ahead.

Facility Improvements Underway
Summer provides the perfect opportunity for major facility upgrades across the district. Maintenance crews are hard at work refreshing classrooms with fresh paint, updating flooring, and ensuring all systems are running at peak efficiency. Technology work continues over the summer in getting old devices removed from the rotation and new devices set up and ready to go, as well as other technology upgrades and repairs throughout the district.

Three big projects that will continue through the summer and into the start of the school year are installing new HVAC in the small gym at CGJSHS, remodeling CGES Courtyard, and an energy-efficient project involving new control systems and scheduling software, among other technologies that will result in a projected \$1.2 million in energy savings over 12 years.

Professional Development in Full Swing

While classrooms may be quiet, USD 417 educators never stop learning. Throughout June, teachers participated in talent development workshops focused on teaching strategies and district initiatives. Some of our summer work has been with two different Summer SAC teams focused on SEL and our PreK program. Our administration team has been working hard by reflecting on this past year and collaborating and planning for the 2025-26 school year.

We have already welcomed new staff members into the district to get a jump start on onboarding them and ensuring they feel successful when they officially start in August.

Summer Programming Serves Students

Despite the break from regular classes, USD 417 continues to serve students through various summer programs. Summer school sessions are providing academic support and credit recovery opportunities for students who need additional assistance. We also offered, for the first time, a Summer STEAM Camp at CGES for 6th-8th graders. This program was offered in partnership with K-State.

The district’s nutrition program continues operating through the month of June, ensuring that students who rely on school meals maintain access to nutritious food throughout June with our summer meals program.

Athletic and Activity Updates

Summer is prime time for athletic conditioning and skill development. USD 417 student-athletes are participating in strength training, sport-specific camps, and team-building activities that will prepare them for fall, winter, and spring sports seasons.

Our High School Choir students have the opportunity to work on singing through a program that takes place from June to August. We also have many students participating in the community summer musical.

Planning for Academic Excellence

Behind the scenes, administrators and our director of teaching & learning are working on strategic

planning for the 2025-26 school year. This includes reviewing and updating curriculum standards, analyzing assessment data from the previous year, and implementing improvements based on student performance and feedback.

The district is also finalizing new program initiatives that will debut in the fall, including expanded STEM opportunities, continuing to work on career and technical education pathways, the JAG-K program, and additional support services for students with diverse learning needs.

Community Connections Continue

We are very appreciative of all the support from our community, both individuals and businesses. We are very excited about The Apothecary’s recent announcement that they are providing all the student supplies for students at CGES and PHES. What a huge gift for our students and families. We can’t thank them enough for supporting our students in that way. Follow them on Facebook to learn more.

Looking Ahead

As we move through the summer months, USD 417 Morris County remains focused on our mission, which is that our school community is committed to preparing each student to be an adaptable, resilient learner and a productive contributor. The work being done now—from facility improvements to talent development to program planning—ensures that when students return in August, they’ll find an even better learning environment waiting for them.

Families are encouraged to watch for back-to-school information, including enrollment details and important calendar dates for the 2025-26 academic year, which will be distributed in July. We will also be releasing information on our new communication platform and our new website, which is currently live but still being developed. You can check it out at www.usd417.org

Our staff’s dedication, our community’s support, and our students’ enthusiasm continue to make USD 417 Morris County a district we can all be proud of. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another outstanding school year!

Sincerely,
Tyson Eslinger

FHSU Announces Spring 2025 Deans’ Honor Roll Recipients

HAYS, Kan. (June 25, 2025) - Fort Hays State University has named 1,841 students to the Deans’ Honor Roll for the Spring 2025 semester. **Wyatt McDonnell of Alta Vista** is one of the students named to the Dean’s Honor Roll.

The Deans’ Honor Roll includes undergraduate students only. To be eligible, students must have completed 12 or more credit hours and earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.60 for the semester. Full-time on-campus and FHSU Virtual College students are eligible.

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“The legacy of brave men and women who have fought and died for their country is the freedom we enjoy as Americans.” — Lucian Adams



Weekly report from the office of the  
Wabaunsee County Sheriff

The Wabaunsee County Sheriff’s office submitted the following report for service calls for the week of June 18-24, 2025.

**June 18**  
6:51 am-Wamego; Traffic Stop  
9:42 am-Alma; Follow up  
10:59 am-Lake Wabaunsee; Extra Patrol  
11:16 am-Eskridge; Extra Patrol  
12:12 pm-Harveyville; Extra Patrol  
12:43 pm-Eskridge; Extra Patrol  
12:56 pm-McFarland; Attempt to serve process

1:34 pm-Paxico; Attempt to serve process  
2:05 pm-Wamego; Extra Patrol  
2:16 pm-Alta Vista; Extra Patrol  
2:18 pm-Alma; Traffic Stop  
2:26 pm-Alma; Traffic Stop  
2:38 pm-McFarland; Traffic Problem  
2:40 pm-McFarland; Extra Patrol  
2:54 pm-Alma; Lost/Stolen Tag  
4:47 pm-Alta Vista; Traffic Stop  
5:16 pm-Lake Wabaunsee; Extra Patrol

5:20 pm-Maple Hill; Speak With Deputy  
6:25 pm-Maple Hill; Extra Patrol  
6:25 pm-Maple Hill; Traffic Stop  
6:35 pm-Paxico; Traffic Stop  
6:53 pm-Paxico; Extra Patrol  
9:35 pm-Alma; Traffic Stop  
9:43 pm-Alma; Traffic Stop  
10:07 pm-Alta Vista; Extra Patrol  
10:14 pm-Paxico; Traffic Problem  
11:16 pm-Maple Hill; Medical Call  
11:58 pm-Maple Hill; Traffic Stop  
12:20 am-Topeka; Suspicious Vehicle

**June 19**  
12:31 am-Alma; Traffic Stop  
12:45 am-Alma; Traffic Stop  
1:07 am-McFarland; Traffic Stop  
2:24 am-Traffic Stop  
3:54 am-Paxico; Accident N/ Injury

5:28 am-Maple Hill; Traffic Stop  
7:58 am-Harveyville; Attempt to serve process  
7:59 am-Alma; Traffic Stop  
8:08 am-Alma; Traffic Stop  
8:35 am-Eskridge; Attempt to serve process

9:57 am-Paxico; Attempt to serve process  
11:30 am-Harveyville; Extra Patrol  
1:01 pm-Paxico; Traffic Stop  
1:11 pm-Paxico; Motorist Assist  
1:13 pm-Paxico; Follow up  
2:16 pm-Alma; Traffic Stop  
2:23 pm-Alma; Traffic Stop  
2:32 pm-Alma; Traffic Stop  
4:08 pm-Lake Wabaunsee; Extra Patrol

4:24 pm-Eskridge; Extra Patrol  
4:42 pm-Harveyville; Extra Patrol  
4:56 pm-Maple Hill; Extra Patrol;  
5:14 pm-Eskridge; Traffic Stop  
5:51 pm-Paxico; Extra Patrol  
6:06 pm-Paxico; Traffic Stop  
6:16 pm-Paxico; Motorist Assist  
6:35 pm-Alma; Traffic Stop  
10:56 pm-Eskridge; Traffic Stop  
11:29 pm-McFarland; Extra Patrol  
11:57 pm-Maple Hill; Traffic Stop

**June 20**  
12:08 am-Maple Hill; Traffic Stop  
1:05 am-Paxico; Traffic Stop  
1:26 am-Eskridge; Building Check  
2:04 am-Alma; Traffic Stop  
7:15 am-Maple Hill; Accident/ Injuries

9:52 am-Paxico; Assist a Citizen  
1:04 pm-Harveyville; Speak With Deputy

2:03 pm-Alma; Traffic Stop  
3:42 pm-Maple Hill; 911 Hang Up  
4:13 pm-Alma; Traffic Stop  
4:43 pm-Belvue; Fire - Vehicle  
4:58 pm-McFarland; Traffic Problem  
7:14 pm-Wamego; Extra Patrol  
7:29 pm-Wamego; Traffic Stop  
7:30 pm-Paxico; Traffic Stop  
7:42 pm-Wamego; Extra Patrol  
8:12 pm-Paxico; Extra Patrol  
8:27 pm-McFarland; Extra Patrol  
8:41 pm-Alma; Traffic Stop  
9:28 pm-Lake Wabaunsee; Extra Patrol

9:38 pm-Eskridge; Traffic Stop  
9:50 pm-Eskridge; Traffic Stop  
10:03 pm-Alma; Traffic Stop  
10:22 pm-Eskridge; Extra Patrol  
10:49 pm-McFarland; Check Welfare  
11:13 pm-Paxico; Theft

**June 21**  
5:44 am-Alma; Motorist Assist  
7:23 am-Eskridge; Extra Patrol  
8:36 am-Alma; Traffic Stop  
8:37 am-Alma; Theft

10:05 am-Maple Hill; Traffic Problem  
10:15 am-Alma; Traffic Stop  
10:38 am-Alma; Traffic Stop  
1:07 pm-Topeka; Animal Complaint  
2:06 pm-Maple Hill; Traffic Stop  
2:21 pm-Maple Hill; Traffic Stop  
2:40 pm-McFarland; Suspicious Vehicle

3:24 pm-McFarland; Theft  
5:21 pm-Eskridge; Attempt to serve process  
5:51 pm-Eskridge; Traffic Stop  
7:14 pm-Alta Vista; Extra Patrol  
8:09 pm-Lake Wabaunsee; Drunk  
8:44 pm-Paxico; Pedestrian  
8:52 pm-Eskridge; Extra Patrol  
9:24 pm-Paxico; Motorist Assist  
9:35 pm-Maple Hill; Extra Patrol  
9:45 pm-Maple Hill; Traffic Stop  
9:53 pm-Eskridge; Other Jurisdiction Courtesy Rp  
10:30 pm-Eskridge; Traffic Stop  
11:26 pm-Eskridge; Extra Patrol  
11:38 pm-Harveyville; Extra Patrol

11:45 pm-Harveyville; Traffic Problem  
**June 22**  
12:32 am-Eskridge; Extra Patrol  
1:11 am-Alma; Suspicious Vehicle  
2:26 am-Alma; Traffic Stop  
2:41 am-McFarland; Motorist Assist  
2:54 am-McFarland; Extra Patrol  
3:24 am-Paxico; Extra Patrol  
3:48 am-Alma; Speak With Deputy  
8:01 am-Alta Vista; Accident N/ Injury  
8:35 am-Manhattan; 911 Hang Up  
10:41 am-McFarland; Information Only  
10:43 am-Alma; Speak With Deputy

12:10 pm-Eskridge; Attempt to serve process  
12:57 pm-Eskridge; Extra Patrol  
1:02 pm-Eskridge; Motorist Assist  
2:37 pm-Paxico; Motorist Assist  
2:57 pm-Alta Vista; Extra Patrol  
3:23 pm-McFarland; Motorist Assist  
9:07 pm-Alta Vista; Extra Patrol  
9:43 pm-Lake Wabaunsee; Motorist Assist  
9:58 pm-Lake Wabaunsee; Extra Patrol

10:16 pm-Eskridge; Extra Patrol  
10:21 pm-Eskridge; Trespassing  
**June 23**  
12:00 am-Topeka; Traffic Stop  
12:33 am-Maple Hill; Extra Patrol  
3:38 am-McFarland; Extra Patrol  
4:06 am-Wamego; Extra Patrol  
5:28 am-Alma; Traffic Stop  
7:48 am-Paxico; Extra Patrol  
7:50 am-Wamego; Suspicious Vehicle

8:06 am-Harveyville; Attempt to serve process  
8:35 am-Eskridge; Attempt to serve process  
8:39 am-Alma; Alarm  
9:31 am-Wamego; Extra Patrol  
10:53 am-Alta Vista; Extra Patrol  
12:30 pm-Wamego; Accident N/ Injury

12:57 pm-Wamego; Theft  
2:39 pm-Wamego; Traffic Stop  
5:44 pm-Alma; 911 Hang Up  
7:10 pm-Paxico; Accident N/ Injury  
7:52 pm-Paxico; Traffic Stop  
8:48 pm-Belvue; Medical Call

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Celebration of Life Service



**Jack T. Webb**

Jack T. Webb, 86, formerly of White City, passed away in Merriam, Kansas on May 19, 2025.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Shawnee Golf and Country Club located at 6404 Hedge Lane Terrace, Shawnee, Kansas 66226 on July 13th, 2025, from 2-4 pm, where friends and family will gather to share stories and celebrate the remarkable life he led.

Services to honor Jack’s memory will be held at Zion Lutheran Church in Latimer, Kansas, on July 15th, 2025, at 11 am. Inurnment for Jack and Lois Webb will be in the St. John Cemetery, White City. Zeiner Funeral Homes – Herington Chapel, is assisting with arrangements.

**Billy Vaughn Hayes**

Billy Vaughn Hayes, lovingly known as “BV” by his family, passed away on June 23, 2025, at St. Luke’s Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri. He was 76 years old.

Born on September 24, 1948, in Emporia, Kansas, Billy lived a life marked by quiet strength, a strong sense of duty, and deep commitment to those he loved. He honorably served as a Staff Sergeant during the Vietnam War, completing two tours. From that defining experience, he carried a lasting sense of discipline and resilience. Later, he continued his service to the country as Deputy Facility Manager at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center for the Department of Defense, supporting U.S. operations abroad while living in Germany.

Billy is survived by his devoted wife, Marylou Hayes; his eldest son, Levi Hayes, and Levi’s spouse, Ray Elliott; his youngest son, Jesse Hayes, and Jesse’s wife, Katie Hayes; and his beloved grandson, Lucas Hayes.

In life, Billy enjoyed camping, fishing, and black powder muzzle-loading sports. He will be remembered as a steady, principled man someone who took his responsibilities seriously and cared deeply for his family. His legacy of service and quiet dedication lives on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.

A visitation for family and friends will be held on Thursday, July 10, from 5-6 pm at Sawyer Funeral Chapel in Council Grove.

A graveside service will be held on Friday, July 11, 2025 at 11 am at the Alta Vista Cemetery.



134th Continental Congress Daughters of the American Revolution Convenes in Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON, DC - More than 4,000 members of the Daughters of the American Revolution convened this week in the nation’s capital for the 134th Continental Congress, the latest gathering of the longstanding service organization’s annual meeting. The week-long convention consisted of business sessions, committee meetings, and social functions, and was topped off with formal evening ceremonies at which national DAR award recipients were honored. In attendance was **Colleen Anderson**, member of the Council Oak Chapter located in Council Grove, Kan.

At the Opening Night Ceremony, Chuck Leavell received the DAR President General’s Medallion for his musical achievements and advocacy for our nation’s forests. The National Defense Night Ceremony, celebrating our nation’s military personnel and veterans, welcomed Gina Bennett, counterterrorism expert and former CIA Analyst as the DAR Patriot Award winner. Other national awards were presented during the week to outstanding individuals celebrating excellence in historic preservation, education and patriotism. While at Congress, Anderson served as a Congress Insignia Volunteer and also served as a reunion page—her last time having paged was in the 1970s and 1980s.

“Continental Congress is a time-honored tradition and opportunity for our members to come together to share ideas and celebrate our country’s rich history. This year is particularly exciting as we prepare for our nation’s 250th anniversary,” said Pamela Wright, President General. “Service to our country is at the heart of everything DAR does, and it is always inspiring to welcome more than 4,000 Daughters here at our historic headquarters in Washington, DC. Working together, we are dedicated to advancing historic preservation, education, and patriotism for generations to come.”

The DAR Continental Congress is an annual gathering that has been held in Washington, D.C. since the organization’s founding. National, state and chapter leaders as well as other members from across the country and around the world meet at the DAR National Headquarters to report on the year’s work, honor outstanding award recipients, plan future initiatives and reconnect with friends.

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*The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution was founded in 1890 to promote historic preservation, education and patriotism. Its members are descended from the Patriots who won American independence during the Revolutionary War. With more than 190,000 members in approximately 3,000 chapters worldwide, DAR is one of the world’s largest and most active service organizations. To learn more about the work of today’s DAR, visit [www.DAR.org](http://www.DAR.org).*



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