

McCRACKEN NEWS

by Carolyn and Shirley

Birthdays: August 13, Michael Morgan, Ashleigh Allen, Easton Windholz, Paytyn Dimick; August 14, Matt Pfannenstiel, Katherine Kerney, Brian Legleiter; August 15, Brooke McClelland; August 16, Kari Groff, Gary Anderson, Leslie Underwood, Hattie Enslow, Tena Barber, Silas Albers; August 17, Megan Janke, Sharla Albers; August 18, none; August 19, Ann Baus, Robin Pfannenstiel, Kerry Desbein, Samuel Hurt.

Anniversaries: August 13, Tylee and Molly Kerns, Pat and Jackie Casey, Nathan and Michelle Swanson; August 15, Ron and Janice Rein; August 18, Kyan and Sarah Knight.

It was Nicole Fehrenbach's birthday on Monday. Phyllis Conrad brought cherry cheesecake and Becky Foos, Nicole's mother, brought Tiramisu cupcakes for the party. Those attending were Jan North, Twila Higgins, Pat Derr, Phyllis Conrad, Carolyn Thompson, Lynn Litson, Sharon George, Cathy Sandstrom, Ruth Crawshaw, Debbie Rogers, Susan Keith.

Memberships to the McCracken Historical Museum include: Heritage member, Janice Haney, David and Carolyn Davenport; Wild Mustang members, Alicia Rues, Patricia Derr, Mary Margaret McCormick. Memorials: Al and Arline Rues and Rose Rues Diehl from Alicia Rues; Lyle and Midge Davenport from David and Carolyn Davenport.

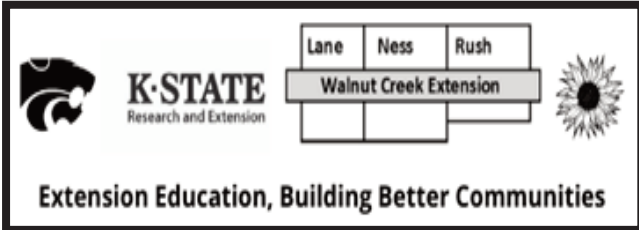
Mike, Susan and Shannon Keith, Carolyn Thompson, David and Janet Dennis, attended the 40th Wedding Anniversary for Bryan and Susan Pixler at the at Bixler's Art Barn at rural Pratt on Saturday. On Sunday they had a Renewal of Vows at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Our sympathy to the family of Alma Fortin Lubbers/Richardson, 95, who died August 2, 2025 in McCook Nebraska. David and Janet Dennis and Carolyn Thompson attended the Mass on Wednesday for their aunt, August 6 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Grinnell. She was buried beside her husband David Lubbers in the church cemetery. Surviving are her six children and families.

Richard Showalter, Jason Showalter and John Horesky traveled to Knoxville, Iowa, to attend the Knoxville Nationals World of Outlaws sprint car races from August 6-9.

History Notes

1951: Town team basketball played Otis on Saturday. Team members include W. Irvin, B. Davis, C. Wilson, T. Schlitter, H. Harper, W. Higgins and I. Koerner. Since the draft takes



INSIGHT WITH EXTENSION

Barntalk: Testing Bales
by Jared Petersilie, Agriculture Agent
Walnut Creek Extension District

By the time you are reading this, all 3 fairs for the Walnut Creek District will be 'in the books.' That means school is not far off for the majority and while we have had many hot days, we've had plenty of humidity to go along with it. Moisture continues to be spotty and streaky, but everyone has received something. Bales are a common sight around the area and there are definitely more to come. As you move and stack those bales, keep in mind that a nutrient analysis will go a long way to keeping these high priced critters happy and healthy.

If drought stress is prevalent in the forage sorghums, keeping the knives or sickles up 6-8" will help keep the Nitrates in the field and not in the bale. A little extra stubble will also help get some regrowth late this summer and into this fall. Nitrogen is a building block for protein, so a little 'N' in the feed is not a bad thing, but a little too much means we have some headaches to work thru.

We typically keep analysis bags for Servi-Tech (Dodge City), SDK (Hutchinson) and MidWest Labs (Omaha based) on hand. Each lab runs tests a little differently and reports their findings a little differently too, but the data at the end is relatively the same. Each lab provides results that are just as good as the sample that was sent in. This is why stopping in to check out a bale probe is important... we want very random samples from a wide cross sampling of bales. If you swathed and baled with the contour (terraces) or swathed the drought stressed feed separately from the 'big stuff' then we might recommend two or more tests.

Over the last several years, we have a renewed awareness of Nitrates, but we also need to be cognizant of Prusic Acid (both for haying and grazing). If you have worked to prepare a 'good' sample for analysis for nitrate testing, then take it one small step further and get a nutrient analysis as well. This will tell us what TDN (total digestibly nutrients), DM (dry matter), CP (crude protein), ADF/NDF (Fibers), and just as important is what the energy numbers for maintenance, milk, and growth are. When balancing rations, the net energy (NE) availability is critical. This is why a pound or two of corn or milo (starch) every day or every few days makes a huge difference in a cows' Body Condition Score.

Many producers pride themselves on not feeding grain to the cows, but with the current grain prices relative to the cattle prices, its the cheapest and most efficient way to not only boost their nutrition but to actually feed in some quantity if equipped to do so.

If the feed to be tested is alfalfa, then we can get RFV (relative feed value) or RFQ (relative feed quality) results. These numbers are very helpful in marketing hay, but are not used in balancing rations. Grass type forages can get an RFV, but its not useful to marketing or to rations. When checking the boxes on the bag, be sure to ask what each option means and if its something you can use.

Another tid-bit of information: Blister Beetles are swarming. They are not new by any means, but they are showing up in places that we have not typically seen them before. If you have horses or are sourcing alfalfa for horses, please be vigilant. Deciphering the test results is a conversation for another episode, but visit your local extension office for help in determining what tests are needed and how to use the results.

men this age, it is hard to hold a team together, Harold Harper said. Altar Society officers for the coming year are Winifred Gaschler, Eleanor Halbleib, Margaretha Gerritzen and Betty Casey. Leonard Dugan will report to the Pentagon on April 17. He was a captain before his discharge. Born to Mr. and Mrs. Wilfrid Higgins, a son, named Richard Allen on June 11, and born to Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Davenport, a son, David Paul, July 3, at Hadley. Dr. F. K. Bowser will open an office in the McCracken Hotel every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. Jean McCormick and August Schutte were married November 19, in St. Mary's Church. Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Barnes were attendants. Bill Moran has arrived from Camp Ord, California to spend Christmas here. McCracken Grade School enrollment 119, high school enrollment 37.

News from Pat Petz

My mom certainly had many of us worried throughout the last two weeks. She was so sick, but thankfully by the end of this week she's doing much better. DeWayne and Vicky stayed with her last weekend until Tuesday.

I had a dental appointment in Hays on Monday and then picked up some supplies. I went home and went through all of my mail that had accumulated throughout the last couple of weeks, washed some clothes and repacked for the upcoming week. I stayed with Mom again from Tuesday through Friday morning.

Since Mom was doing better on Friday, I left for Liberal for the 5 State Fair Home & Craft Show. After I was all set up, several friends and I left for supper at the Brickhouse, a well known barbecue restaurant.

Saturday, my daughter, Angie, and my grandson, Grant, came from McPherson, to stay with Mom over the weekend. They had a nice visit with her and enjoyed seeing Mom's improvement from last week.

My craft show was Saturday and Sunday. Although it wasn't a great show, I enjoyed visiting with my customers, meeting new vendors, and enjoyed chatting with my vendor friends that I've known over the years. It's hard to believe that in July, I started my 22nd year of selling magnetic jewelry. I guess if you enjoy your job, you stick with it as long as you can!

Sunday morning, I attended Mass at St. Anthony's Catholic Church. The stained glass windows that surround the church really amaze me. They are so beautiful!

Since the show was over at 4, I was able to start packing my extra supplies early, and then my friends from Dodge City helped me load my van. It was nice to get home before the darkness set in. Liberal is such a long drive. Two calls to my daughter and my mom, made the trip go much faster.

I have a few appointments this week, but hopefully it won't be quite as busy or stressful. I'm hoping you all have a great new week!

Notice of Hearing 2025-2026 Budget							
The governing body of Unified School District 489 will meet on the 8th day of September 2025 at 6:35 PM at 323 West 12th, Hays, KS 67601 for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to be levied. Detailed budget information, including budget profile, building needs assessment and Board state assessments review is available at Rockwell Administration Center and www.usd489.com on the district website and will be available at this hearing.							
The Amount of 2025 Tax to be Levied and Expenditures (published below) establish the maximum limits of the 2025-2026 Budget. The 'Est. Tax Rate' (column 7), shown for comparative purposes, is subject to slight change depending on final assessed valuation.							
Code 99 Line	2023-2024 Actual		2024-2025 Actual		2025-2026 Proposed Budget		
	Actual Expenditures (1)	Actual Tax Rate* (2)	Actual Expenditures (3)	Actual Tax Rate* (4)	Budgeted Expenditures (5)	Amount of 2025 Tax to be Levied (6)	Est. Tax Rate* (7)
OPERATING							
General	06	24,867,069	20.000	26,279,692	20.000	27,653,143	7,519,060
Supplemental General (LOB)	08	7,748,375	12.192	8,341,372	13.704	8,862,232	6,339,042
SPECIAL REVENUE							
Federal Funds	07	4,450,248		3,759,780		4,039,432	
Adult Education	10	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0.000
Preschool-Aged At-Risk	11	528,415		522,005		528,651	
Adult Supplemental Education	12	0		0		0	
At-Risk Education Fund	13	4,101,394		4,139,692		4,371,341	
Bilingual Education	14	281,514		199,177		242,005	
Virtual Education	15	165,460		142,502		258,580	
Capital Outlay	16	5,424,873	7.962	6,999,234	8.000	7,336,278	3,588,302
Driver Training	18	68,590		70,763		145,500	
Declining Enrollment	19	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0.000
Extraordinary School Program	22	216,579		268,766		375,065	
Food Service	24	2,731,519		2,687,968		2,999,119	
Professional Development	26	147,271		170,196		228,115	
Parent Education Program	28	138,025		131,298		130,990	
Summer School	29	5,559		148,547		215,000	
Special Education	30	5,769,976		7,094,847		7,967,575	
Cost of Living	33	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0.000
Career and Postsecondary Education	34	670,208		704,748		875,865	
Gifts and Grants	35	597,124		523,987		528,318	
Special Liability Expense Fund	42	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0.000
School Retirement	44	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0.000
Extraordinary Growth Facilities	45	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0.000
Special Reserve Fund	47	0		0		0	
KPERS Special Retirement Contribution	51	3,673,242		3,697,696		4,244,955	
Contingency Reserve	53	0		0		0	
Textbook & Student Material Revolving	55	557,097		1,265,817		0	
Activity Fund	56	1,471,341		1,172,693		0	
DEBT SERVICE							
Bond and Interest #1	62	6,740,350	11.158	8,534,350	11.262	8,573,975	4,995,778
Bond and Interest #2	63	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0.000
No-Fund Warrant	66	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0.000
Special Assessment	67	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0.000
Temporary Note	68	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0.000
COOPERATIVES							
Special Education	78	9,468,910		11,881,027		12,936,978	
TOTAL USD EXPENDITURES	100	79,823,139	51.312	88,736,157	52.966	92,513,117	22,442,182
Less: Transfers	105	12,916,016		13,609,329		14,529,678	
NET USD EXPENDITURES	110	66,907,123		75,126,828		77,983,439	
TOTAL USD TAXES LEVIED	115	20,688,009		21,970,351		22,442,182	
1. Sponsoring District Only							
*Tax Rates are expressed in Mills							
Code 99 Line	2023-2024 Actual		2024-2025 Actual		2025-2026 Proposed Budget		
	Actual Expenditures (1)	Actual Tax Rate* (2)	Actual Expenditures (3)	Actual Tax Rate* (4)	Budgeted Expenditures (5)	Amount of 2025 Tax to be Levied (6)	Est. Tax Rate* (7)
OTHER							
Historical Museum	80	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0.000
Public Library Board	82	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0.000
Public Library Board Employee Benefits	83	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0.000
Recreation Commission	84	1,367,700	2.986	1,484,010	3.000	1,432,355	1,343,692
Rec Comm Emp Benefits & Spec Liab	86	171,122	0.378	181,548	0.382	235,000	171,054
TOTAL OTHER	120	1,538,822	3.364	1,665,558	3.382	1,667,355	1,514,746
TOTAL TAXES LEVIED	125	\$22,095,774		\$23,462,188		\$23,956,928	
Assessed Valuation - General Fund	128	\$379,429,303		\$370,245,653		\$375,952,998	
Assessed Valuation - All Other Funds	130	\$419,856,907		\$441,655,400		\$447,971,736	
Assessed Valuation - Capital Outlay	129	\$416,348,693		\$437,655,076		\$448,537,738	
Outstanding Indebtedness, July 1							
General Obligation Bonds	135	143,500,000		143,500,000		141,660,000	
Capital Outlay Bonds	140	0		0		0	
Temporary Note	145	0		0		0	
No-Fund Warrant	150	0		0		0	
Lease Purchase Principal	153	8,228,001		7,843,847		0	
TOTAL USD DEBT	155	151,728,001		151,343,847		141,660,000	
*Tax Rates are expressed in Mills							
Curt C. Vapian				Joni Relim			
Board President				Clerk of the Board			

Exceeding Revenue Neutral for the 2025-2026 School Year							
The governing body of Unified School District 489 will meet on the 8th day of September 2025 at 6:30 PM at 323 West 12th, Hays, KS 67601 for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to be levied. Detailed budget information, including budget profile, is available at Rockwell Administration Center and www.usd489.com and will be available at this hearing.							
Revenue Neutral							
	2024-2025		2025-2026		2025-2026		
	Actual Taxes Levied	Actual Tax Rate	Revenue Neutral Taxes	Revenue Neutral Tax Rate	Proposed Taxes to be Levied	Proposed Tax Rate	
General	\$7,404,913	20.000	\$7,404,928	19.697	\$7,519,060	20.000	
ALL OTHER FUNDS							
Supplemental General (LOB)	\$6,053,027	13.704	\$6,052,459	13.511	\$6,339,042	14.151	
Adult Education	\$0	0.000			\$0	0.000	
Capital Outlay	\$3,537,758	8.000	\$3,533,251	7.878	\$3,588,302	8.000	
Cost of Living	\$0	0.000			\$0	0.000	
Special Liability Expense Fund	\$0	0.000			\$0	0.000	
Extraordinary Growth Facilities	\$0	0.000			\$0	0.000	
Bond and Interest #1	\$4,974,653	11.262	\$4,973,935	11.104	\$4,995,778	11.152	
Bond and Interest #2	\$0	0.000			\$0	0.000	
No-Fund Warrant	\$0	0.000			\$0	0.000	
Special Assessment	\$0	0.000			\$0	0.000	
Temporary Note	\$0	0.000			\$0	0.000	
Historical Museum	\$0	0.000			\$0	0.000	
Public Library Board	\$0	0.000			\$0	0.000	
Public Library Board Employee Benefits	\$0	0.000			\$0	0.000	
Revenue Neutral Calculation							
Total Taxes Levied Including General Fund	\$21,970,351	52.966	\$21,964,573	52.190	\$22,442,182	53.303	
Total Taxes Levied Excluding General Fund	\$14,565,438	32.966	\$14,559,645	32.493	\$14,923,122	33.303	
Curt C. Vapian				Joni Relim			
Board President				Clerk of the Board			