



A complete listing of 4-H and open class premium winners at the Scott County Fair pages 29-40

Scott County

# Record

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## EMS considering more ambulance transfers

Expanding the role of the Scott County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to include more interfacility transfers is being pursued as one way to eliminate some of the department's red ink.

"There's really only one good way to make money with an EMS service and that's interfacility transport. That's the way reimbursements are structured," says Scott County Hospital CEO Chuck Welch.

As a general rule, says Welch, a hospital or EMS agen-

cy loses money on 911 calls.

Interfacility transports by ground ambulance are relatively low cost and the reimbursements more than cover the expense, according to Welch. Interfacility transport refers to the movement of patients between two healthcare facilities

"That's why the commercial, for-profit transport companies will come into a community

and offer to provide EMS, but only with interfacility transports," Welch explains.

As a cautionary tale, Welch quickly adds that if a community then disbands their EMS because the transport company is available "that's when they got you."

Scott County did have a transport service available for a few years, but they pulled out

because staffing wasn't available.

The staffing issue surfaced during a meeting between hospital administration and county commissioners when question was raised about a patient being air lifted from SCH to Garden City.

That's was a staffing situation, says Welch, acknowledging that from a financial stand-

point, the air flight cost \$30,000 to \$50,000, compared to about \$2,000 for ground transport.

"That's where the training of the nurses who can be used for ground transport will prove valuable to the hospital - and a cost-savings for patients," says Welch.

### Cross-Training Staff

In order to lay the groundwork for more interfacility transfers, nine nurses at the Scott County Hospital have in-

(See TRANSFERS on page 14)

## City trims PD funding; cuts tax levy

Aided by a budget cut of about \$175,000 in the police department, the Scott City Council was able to slice more than 1.1 mills off the tax levy in the 2026 budget.

The budget, which is on the agenda for approval at the Sept. 2 meeting, set a levy of 59.301 mills, compared to 60.408 mills in the 2025 budget.

That's more than a nine mill decline from 2023 when the levy was 69.471 mills.

From a property tax perspective, the mill levy will generate \$2.354 million in 2026, compared to \$2.308 million in revenue for the 2025 budget.

The reason the city is able to raise more property tax revenue with a slightly lower levy can be attributed

(See TAX LEVY on page two)

## Record will begin publishing on Wednesdays

Starting in September, *The Scott County Record* will return to a Wednesday publication date to meet changes in the printing schedule at *The Hutchinson News*, where *The Record* is printed each week.

*The Record* was originally a Wednesday publication, but moved to Thursdays 10 years ago in when it made the switch from printing at Spearville to Garden City.

It also helped with the coverage of sports and other activities on Tuesday evenings.

Every effort will be made to continue getting Tuesday sports in that week's issue of *The Record*.

In order to assist with the new publication date, it's asked that all advertisers, and those submitting legal publications and news articles, provide that information by noon on Monday unless other arrangements have been made.

## more cow bell



Renowned cow bell aficionado Jeni Carmin joined The Tones when the band played "Honky Tonk Women" during last Saturday evening's performance at Lake Scott State Park. She is flanked by band vocalists Scott Wagner (left) and Alan Graham. (Record Photo)

## USD 466 mill levy down slightly; staff gets additional bump in salary

USD 466 (Scott County) closed out its 2024-25 fiscal year with a slightly better cash balance than anticipated and that turned out to be good news for the district's employees.

The board of education and the teachers' association had previously negotiated a 2.68% pay raise for all staff members effective with the 2025-26 school year.

Once Supt. Jamie Rumford and the board had a better idea of the potential carryover of funds, the base pay was increased to 2.7%, with a 3.2% average increase in staff salaries.

"When we negotiated the earlier amount, it was always our intent to circle back and address this again in

hopes we could boost it a little more and we did," Rumford says.

Rumford says the board has made a conscious effort to hold the overall mill levy at about 62 mills in recent years. It's ranged between 62.26 and 62.83 mills in each of the last three years.

The general fund and capital outlay funds remain constant at 20 and eight mills, respectively, each year.

The remaining 34 mills are split between the local option budget (LOB) and bond and interest funds.

"Should a situation arise when those two are more than 34 mills, then we have the option of reducing the capital outlay level below eight mills," noted Rumford.

### The Healy Impact

The addition of the Healy school district was a factor in reducing the levy by about one-half mill.

Healy added about \$10 million to the overall valuation in USD 466 - boosting the assessed valuation from \$104.8 million to \$114 million.

"This is about what we anticipated," says Rumford.

The addition of the Healy school district contributed to a reduction in the local option budget (LOB) levy from 18.131 mills to 17.089 mills.

By lowering the LOB, Rumford says it allowed for a slight increase in the bond and interest levy. More money in bond and interest allows the dis-

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