

THE WABAUNSEE COUNTY

SIGNAL-ENTERPRISE

VOLUME NO. 140, NUMBER 40 • ALMA, WABAUNSEE COUNTY, KANSAS 66401 • USPS 496-340 • THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025

\$1.00

Wabaunsee High School KAY Club Awarded The “Be the Spark” Grant

The local chapter of the Kansas Association for Youth (KAY) Club is one step closer to making their community more inclusive, thanks to a generous donation from Stockgrowers State Bank. The bank presented the KAY Club with a check for \$1,000 this week, specifically earmarked to start an account with the Alma Area Foundation for matching opportunities for the KAY Clubs “Be the Spark” project: adding ADA-compliant parking spaces at McKnight Park. The initiative, led by the KAY Club members, aims to ensure that individuals with disabilities have equal access to enjoy local sporting events. The WHS KAY Club has recently been awarded the “Be the Spark” grant for \$5,000 and with Stockgrowers State Bank’s help the project will soon become a reality.



Wabaunsee County Commission Meeting

Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, Kansas
Regular Meeting Minutes, May 12, 2025

The Board of County Commissioners meeting in session Monday, May 12, 2025. Commissioners conduct the meeting in person and over ZOOM. Members attending in person were Jim W. MacGregor, Nancy Hier, and Boyd Davis. Commissioner MacGregor called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. April Swartz, Emergency Management Coordinator Amy Terrapin, Road & Bridge Supervisor Josh Hinch, Sheriff Eric Kirsch, Under-sheriff Chris Herbel, Sherrif Admin. Terry Martin, Zoning Administrator Noel Sylvester, Sean Thurman, Andrew Onermaa, Attorney Tim Liesmann, and County Clerk Abby Amick were in attendance in person and others joined via zoom.

Audit Delivery

April Swartz, Auditor with Varney & Associates CPAs LLC, presented the 2024 Audit and Financial Statements to the Commissioners. Swartz reported that there were no findings for 2024. The audit will be filed with the State as a clean audit. Swartz reviewed each section of the audit document with the Commissioners.

Solid Waste Management Plan Hearing

Commissioner MacGregor opened the hearing for the Solid Waste Management Plan. Road & Bridge Supervisor Josh Hinch presented the Plan. The County is required to hold a hearing every 5 years for reviewing, taking public comment, and adopting a Solid Waste Management Plan. The proposed plan is an update to the prior version, including the updated board members: Leo Haynos, Chairman and members Chuck Kuntz, Pam McDiffett, Wyatt Anderson and Josh Hinch.

Commissioner Davis moved to adopt Resolution 2025-23 adopting the Solid Waste Management Plan for Wabaunsee County; Commissioner Hier seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Road & Bridge Update

Road & Bridge Supervisor Josh Hinch provided an estimate for the Hydrology Study to be performed by Cook, Flatt and Stroble. The cost is \$500 per structure, the county has 10 structures that they would like to evaluate to determine if a smaller tube could be installed to replacing the aging structures. The study uses mapping technology to evaluate the square miles of drainage, flood plains and ponds in the area. Commissioners approved the estimate.

Hinch reported that county crews are working on asphalt this week. Schilling Construction will move to McFarland Road once they complete Hwy 99. Harveyville Road has developed a hole spanning both lanes of traffic. That section of the road is closed until repairs are made. The hole was reported by a citizen, Hinch shared that the County relies on citizens to report things like this so that they can address it as soon as possible. The failing structure was determined to be more than 50 years old.

Hinch shared an update on the Belvue Bridge project. They are starting to frame up the deck and plan to start pouring the concrete by the end of May. Thomas Industrial is still sandblasting and painting underneath the structure. They are still on target for an October completion date.

Commissioner Davis asked to schedule the gate install at the public well off Nehring Branch Road, they set a date for Tuesday, May 20th.

Noxious Weed has been moving a lot of chemical. This was the first day of sending trucks out to start spraying. Commissioners asked if residents with a big chemical order could call ahead to make sure that staff is available to assist with loading.

Unbound Gravel

Sean Thurman, Race Director for Unbound Gravel announced that the dates of the ride will be May 30 & 31, 2025. The route is the same as last year with water stops and supply stations. The event is still asking for volunteer groups to assist for the duration of the event and with trash pick-up the next day as a fundraiser. The event will be stationed at the USD 329 facilities this year, and not at the Fairgrounds. Emergency Management Coordinator Amy Terrapin reported that she will have the EOC open that day and use this event as an exercise for the Emergency Operations Center. Zoning Administrator Noel Sylvester reported that the event has applied for their Special Event Permit and will be turning in their Certificate of Insurance shortly.

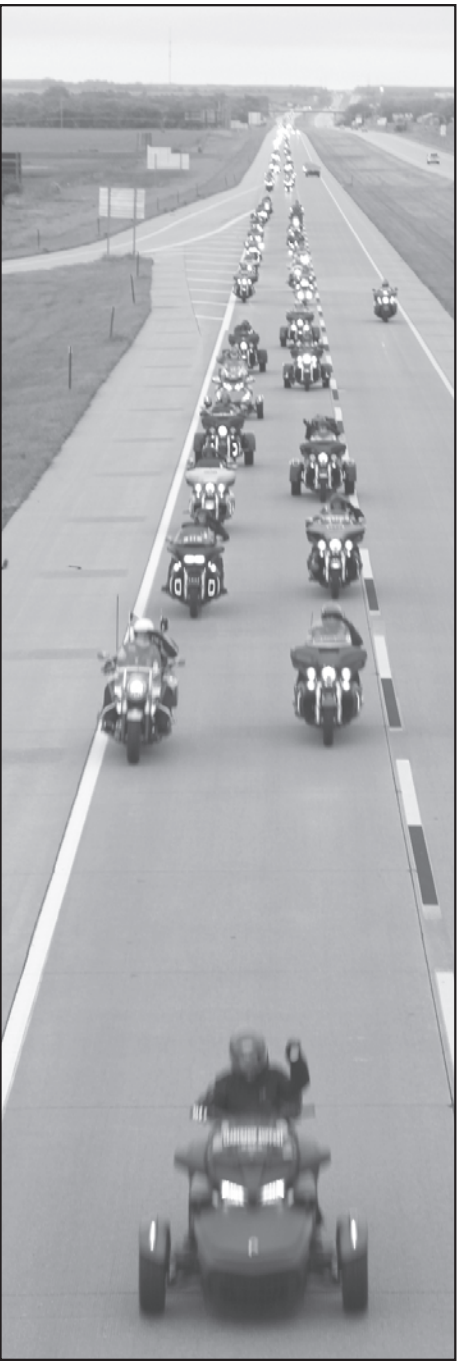
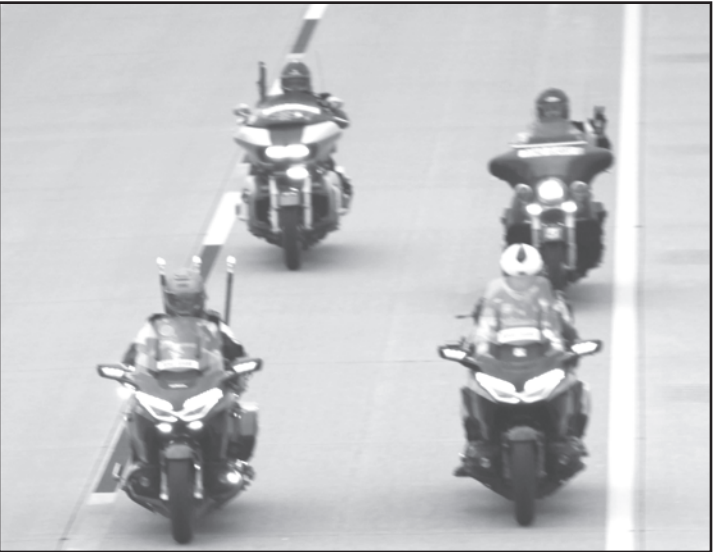
There was a question about the helicopter that filmed the event last year. Thurman responded that there will be a helicopter again this year, and the pilot has been told to stay above the FAA limits this year. They will not have a commentator onboard the helicopter this year and will not be seeking close-up footage. Sheriff Kirsch re-iterated that if there is photo or video evidence of the helicopter being below the FAA regulated minimum altitude of 500 feet, he will report it.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



50th Anniversary of the Wall
35th Annual “Run for the Wall”
436 Motorcycles Joined The “Run”

(Photos by Danielle Abrams)



MAILING LABEL

| HIGHLIGHTS | |
|--|-------|
| 2025 City & School Elections Information..... | 10 |
| Looking Back At History, <i>Greg Hoots</i> | 15 |
| “The Charger” – WHS Newspaper | 16-17 |
| Sports Happenings – WHS Track | 18 |
| Wabaunsee High School Prom | 19 |

| INDEX: | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Classifieds..... | 21 |
| Community Calendar .. | 7 |
| Courthouse News | 5 |
| From Our Files..... | 6-7 |
| Legals..... | 22 |
| Obituaries..... | 2-3 |
| Professional Ads | 23 |
| School Calendars..... | 3-4 |