

# Community News



## Southwind Extension District

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Family Consumer Wellness Agent

### Board games and life skills

#### Did You Know?

Board games can help people learn important soft skills like self-control, confidence, communication, getting along with others, and solving problems. These are the kinds of skills that help us do well at school, at home, at work, and in everyday life.

#### Soft skills vs. hard skills

There are two kinds of skills we all need: soft skills and hard skills. Both are important, but they help us in different ways.

Soft skills are about how we act and how we treat others. They include being kind, staying calm, listening, working with a team, and solving problems. These skills help us handle change and get along with people everywhere – at school, at home, or at work.

Hard skills are things we learn to do, like using a computer, reading a map, or doing math. These are usually taught in school or through practice. They help us complete tasks and do jobs.

While hard skills can change over time, soft skills always matter. Today, soft skills are not just “nice to have” – they’re something we must have to succeed.

#### How board games help kids learn and grow

Board games are not just fun – they help kids practice soft skills while playing. Here’s how board games help kids grow:

- Self-control and patience

Sometimes in games, you lose a turn or get a bad card. This teaches kids to stay calm, wait their turn, and keep trying even when it’s hard.

- Confidence and feelings

Board games help kids feel proud of themselves. They learn that trying their best is more important than winning and that it’s okay to make mistakes.

- Making friends and feeling happy

Playing games with others can help kids feel less lonely. It’s a fun way to make friends, spend time with family, and feel good inside.

- Talking and listening
- Games give kids a chance to practice speaking clearly and kindly. They also learn

to listen carefully and follow directions or rules.

- Getting along with others

In games, everyone has to take turns and sometimes work as a team. Kids learn how to share, be fair, and solve problems together.

- Thinking and solving problems

Many games make kids think hard, remember the rules, and make smart choices. They also learn to change their plans if something unexpected happens.

Working together helps close the job skills gap.

To help people get ready for future jobs, everyone needs to work as a team – businesses, teachers, families, and leaders. Soft skills like teamwork, problem-solving, and communication have become even more important.

Board games are a fun and powerful way to help people learn these skills. When families, schools, and communities use games to teach, they give kids and adults the tools they need to do well in school, at work, and in everyday life.

This article is the final one in a three-part series and comes from information in the “Bonding Through Board Games” fact sheets. For more information contact Tara Solomon-Smith, [tsolomon@ksu.edu](mailto:tsolomon@ksu.edu), 620-244-3826, or visit [https://www.southwind.k-state.edu/home-family/family\\_child\\_development/](https://www.southwind.k-state.edu/home-family/family_child_development/)

### FSCC graduates



Marti Wells-Smith/Special to the Tribune

The soon-to-be Fort Scott Community College graduates are pictured during the morning commencement ceremony. FSCC conducted commencement ceremonies at 9 a.m. and noon Friday, May 16 at the Danny and Willa Ellis Family Fine Arts Center. Graduates received certificates and associate degrees in Construction Trades, Cosmetology, Criminal Justice, Environmental Water Technology, Harley Davidson Motorcycle Service Technology, Heavy Equipment Operator, Heating and Air Conditioning, John Deere Agricultural Technology, Masonry, Welding, Farm and Ranch Management and Nursing.

### Briefs

#### Good Ol’ Days parade entries

The Fort Scott Area Chamber of Commerce announces it is accepting entries for the 2025 Good Ol’ Days Parade, which will kick off the 44th Annual Good Ol’ Days Festival in Fort Scott. The parade begins at 6 p.m. Friday, June 6 in Historic Downtown Fort Scott. The theme of this year’s parade is “44 years of crafting memories.”

Entering the parade is free, with the deadline for entries being 1 p.m. Wednesday, June 4. Ken Clary has been selected as this year’s Grand Marshal.

Registration forms can be filled out online at [fortscott.com](http://fortscott.com) under the “Events” tab, or a registration form may be picked up at the Chamber at 231 East Wall Street. The Fort Scott Area Chamber of Commerce encourages everyone to get co-workers, family, or friends together and enter a float, foot unit, golf cart, tractor, antique or classic car or truck or horse entry to make this the biggest Good Ol’ Days parade ever. Cash prizes will be handed out to first place winners in each category.

Contact the Fort Scott Area Chamber of Commerce for more information at 620-223-3566 or visit [fortscott.com](http://fortscott.com).

### Items from the past

#### Everyone needs to know where the city dumping ground is – and use it

##### 25 Years Ago

2000

##### May 17

The love bug didn’t actually bite in Fort Scott, but nipped gently instead. The “ILOVEYOU” virus that spread through computers worldwide May 4, hitting both corporate and personal computers, creating monetary losses in the billions of dollars, didn’t appear to hurt much locally.

##### 50 Years Ago

1975

##### May 17

Mrs. Sharon K. Miller has received word that her husband, Master Chief George K. Miller, U.S. Navy, is in Leningrad,

aboard the destroyer Tattall. The Tattall is one of the two U.S. ships that docked on the Soviet port on May 12 to participate in the 30th anniversary of the Allied victory over Nazi Germany. Miller is the son of Alice K. Miller.

##### 75 Years Ago

1950

##### May 17

The Crimson-Maroon, joint yearbook of the high school and junior college, was distributed this morning to 500 students. College students receive the 100-page volume free on their activity tickets. The high school student pays \$3 for the annual. Co-editors in chief

of the yearbook, called by many students and faculty members as one of the most beautiful yearbooks in many years, were Leon Shepard and Charles Galvin. Faculty advisor Shelby Coody was the art instructor. Other student members of the yearbook staff were Robert Riddle, Joe Bailey, Margaret Bland, Rose Wheaton, Margaret Wagner, Mary Sue Eshelbrenner, Wilma Lou Young, Charleen Johnson and Nelda Ann Hall.

##### 100 Years Ago

1925

##### May 18

A lot of people in Fort Scott want to know where the city dumping ground is

located. Then, again a lot of Fort Scott people do not seem to care where it is, for they dump their garbage wherever it seems to be the most convenient for them. A city ordinance fixes dumping ground regulations and people had better inform themselves and comply with the law. To find the city dumping ground, go down across the MK&T tracks and turn east on the south side of the Marmaton River. Follow the river down until you come to the dumping ground. A lot of people have been dumping garbage along the river before getting to the official dump. This will not be tolerated. At the dumping ground, a

man stays in a shanty and he will direct the unloading. You must either follow these instructions or settle with Dr. Perkins, the city health officer whose duty is to enforce sanitation measures.

##### 125 Years Ago

1900

##### May 17

The well which is being drilled just south of the Goodlander Hotel is now over 300 feet deep. The drillers are pushing the work and are making good progress. The drill has passed through three different veins of coal, the thickest of one was two feet and was at the depth of 200 feet.

### Zoning

Continued from Page 1

“As an example, zoning might say you can’t put an explosive test site or shooting range next to a hospital because the noise would be disruptive to the medical staff and patients,” Pemberton said.

Pemberton said there can be confusion as zoning can also contain codes through conditional use permits. Continuing with her example, she said the explosive test site may be required to locate in an area with no

residences within a mile and explosions can only occur between certain times.

“Zoning itself is not ‘codes,’ although the Conditional Use Permit process can allow a few codes to be written into zoning regulations,” according to the document.

Pemberton said Bourbon County is one of less than five counties that make up the “southeast triangle” in Kansas that do not currently have zoning, creating an issue where those counties can become a “dumping ground.”

“That can actually hinder

businesses from wanting to come into the county, while others who may have a greater environment impact or physical presence, to come rushing in,” she said.

Since the committee began meeting, it has discussed zoning versus codes, the effects zoning or “not zoning” would have on the county and what could be achieved by each, the benefits and risks, and the safeguards put in place by state laws.

Pemberton said if zoning is enacted by the commission, it would “only relate to the unincorporated areas of the county.” Incorporated cities – Fort Scott, Bronson, Uniontown, Redfield, Mapleton and Fulton – would continue to be under the guidance of their city zoning and/or codes regulations.

There are a few zoning laws at the state level which Pemberton said the county cannot change, one of which “probably most greatly impacts our area” is called the Ag Exemption. The exemption extends to personal residences located on agricultural land.

“Kansas statute mandates that land used for agricultural purposes is exempt from all zoning restrictions,” according to the document. “This means that you cannot

be made to pay a permit fee to construct a barn on your farm.”

According to the document, if zoning is enacted, all existing businesses are “grandfathered,” which means those businesses are allowed to remain in business at their current location “for as long as they want to,” Pemberton said.

The committee has proposed a “no-phaseout,” which would exempt businesses that are grandfathered “for their lifetime, whether new owners take over or the business grows and expands,” according to the document.

Prior to zoning being implemented or changed, Kansas statute requires “at least three levels of input/approval; submission to the zoning board; required public hearings that allow citizen comments; and county commission approval.”

This process allows more citizen “input and oversight” than currently exists in which two commissioners can pass action with no public notice or input, the document states.

Pemberton said the commission would review the zoning committee’s findings, vote to approve or deny the zoning change, or send the matter back to the committee “for further

study and negotiations.”

For the commission to override the zoning committee, it would take a 2/3 majority vote, which will be four of five commissioners after January when the commission expands.

“Four out of five would have to agree to do the opposite of what the zoning board has recommended in order for it to pass,” Pemberton said.

Pemberton said the committee has not proposed a “very restrictive” zoning plan that requires several rules to follow.

“And from our discussions with commissioners, that is not what any of them desire,” she said.

The committee has discussed and plans to propose a maximum of four zones; agricultural, residential transition, industrial and commercial.

“We’re not expecting any prohibitions on businesses or land use, and we’re not recommending code requirements for anything other than a few large commercial or industrial businesses that would require a conditional or special use permit,” Pemberton said.

“The intention of zoning is not to harass or hamstring anyone with regulations, rather it is to create a method for transparency

by which the public can become aware large scale business developments and give our local government officials the necessary tools to set terms or negotiate with those businesses for terms that benefit the company and the county taxpayers,” the document states.

Yount said the committee will make a recommendation to the commission “that has no legal binding.” He said the committee is a group of volunteers that is researching and discussing the topic, but the decision whether to implement zoning is up to commissioners.

“We’re basically taking information,” he said. “If the majority is we don’t recommend zoning, we’re going to say that. We volunteered to have a voice to say this is what we’ve heard from everyone in the county. If we decide to zone, this is what we think you should do if that decision is made.”

Pemberton said the committee will consider “all questions and concerns” and will address questions in a future forum.

The next forum will take place at 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 20, at the Fulton Community Center. The third and final meeting will be at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 21, at Memorial Hall in Fort Scott.

THE FORT SCOTT

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