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KU Relays
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THE TIMES

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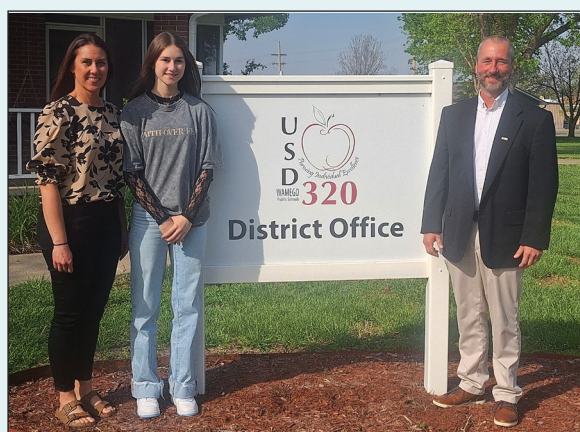
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Hoppy Easter!

Wamego held its annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday delighting a park full of area children.

Photos Beth Day | The Times



Beth Day | The Times

Josh Meyer, right, will be the new superintendent for USD 320 beginning July 1. He is joined by his wife Kristel Meyer and daughter Mia Meyer.

Josh Meyer selected to lead USD 320

Beth Day
The Times

The USD 320 Board of Education in a special meeting Monday night unanimously selected Josh Meyer to be the new Superintendent of Schools.

In a 6-0 vote, with member Deb Long absent, the board voted to hire Meyer at a salary of \$158,000 a year, with a start date of July 1, 2025.

He is currently the Superintendent for USD 350, St. John-Hudson.

Meyer is a seasoned educational leader with over 25 years of experience in public education, according to information released by USD 320 during the superintendent search.

A graduate of Kansas State University with a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education, he also holds a master's degree in Educational Administration and a district-level leadership endorsement from Emporia State University.

Meyer has led significant academic and operational initiatives, including the implementation of innovative, real-world learning programs, strategic planning, and major facilities improvements. His leadership has contributed to consistently high post-secondary success rates and earned his district the Kansas Commissioner's Award with Highest Distinction in both 2023 and 2024. Deeply committed to community engagement and student achievement, he continues to foster collaborative partnerships and educational excellence throughout his career.

He was one of four candidates for the position. The others were Scott Meitler, current assistant superintendent for USD 320; Trenton Horn, superintendent, USD 452, Stanton County; and Laura Batson, director of teaching and learning, USD 453, Leavenworth.

Meyer will replace Rob McKim, who announced his resignation March 11. McKim will take the superintendent position at USD 113. McKim was the superintendent of USD 320 for three years.

St. Marys looks at gazebo, park use

Ellie Baker
The Times

The St. Marys City Commission last Monday took a look at park usage, specifically gazebo usage.

City Manager Maurice Cordell spoke to the commission about St. Marys High School using the park and gazebo on the afternoon of May 3, around 3.30 p.m. For prom activities.

"Usually people that have formal events in the park get permission," he said. "You don't need permission to use the gazebo, but you don't have the right to use it if someone else is using it."

He explained that the high school was planning to use the park and gazebo for prom night without reservation. "It's in someone's best interest

that you folks approve or not the use of the park for that time," he said.

A conflict could arise because St. Mary's Arts and Sounds is hosting the inaugural First Saturday event, which will involve live country music and activities from different town businesses at the park, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on the same day. A representative informed the commission that the park events would only start at 4, to give the students "plenty of time to take their pictures."

"We're working with the Moats' right now, but hopefully get a farmers' market set up in their square, so if we do have that set up there, and there's people walking down to the park, we were going to inquire if we could close 5th street down to the park ... just for this," she said. "I know their prom is in the Armory, so I don't want to conflict with that."

Sarah Seiter, CEO of Zelig's in downtown St. Marys, explained the mission of St. Mary's Arts and Sounds to the commission.

"There are a lot of different people who would ... like to see the Chamber doing more to bring people in to foot traffic and get some of our shops more business," she said. Seiter explained that St. Mary's Arts and Sounds is a new non-profit meant to bring the arts to St. Marys.

The commission was in favor of waiving the fee for the group to rent the gazebo.

PROPERTY INSURANCE

The Commission continued discussing property insurance options.

"Chuck [Riccomini] had brought

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Wamego declared 'Tree City' again

Lily Hansen
The Times

Wamego has once again been declared a Tree City USA.

The announcement was made at the April 15 city commission meeting.

This program is sponsored by the National Arbor Day foundation and awards U.S. towns that are dedicated to the upkeep and preservation of the trees in the area.

This would not have been possible without the Parks Department and all of the hard work they put into the greenery around town.

Similarly, the Arbor Day Proclamation festivities will be taking place at 4 p.m., April 24, when a tree will be planted in Pennyland Park help from the Parks Department and the Public Library. The library will be hosting a story-time, bird feeder craft, and neighborhood tree pick up as well.

ELECTRIC CARS

Flint Hills MPO planning manager Jared Tremblay gave a presentation regarding the rising uptick in electric vehicles.



Courtesy photo Darin Miller

The Iron Clad has two of the city's 14 electric car charging stations. EV stations are metered for customer payment.

The Flint Hills MPO is the regional metropolitan planning organization whose mission is dedicated to creating safe and efficient travel for the people of north-east Kansas, including Manhattan, Junction City, and Wamego.

Tremblay shared in his presentation the growing need for electric vehicle charging stations as electric

car sales increase. Wamego already has 14 charging stations in the area, with 20 plugs available in total, but he suggests it may be time to start thinking about adding more.

Some fear the electric vehicles will take too much energy out of the grid, however Tremblay reassures that increasing energy production far out-

weighs the pull vehicles might have. Even though the rise of electric cars is increasing rather slowly, with only 0.05 percent of Americans driving electric in 2023 and a 4-6 percent expected increase by 2035, Tremblay says the city should be ready when it comes.

WAMEGO HOUSING AUTHORITY

Joanne Sutton, property manager of the Wamego Housing Authority, announced new applicants are encouraged to apply before noon on the fourth Monday of each month.

Currently, there are two vacancies available at the Chrysler Drive complex.

Several projects are expected to take place over the coming years within the Housing Authority. Short term projects include replacing door handles, deadlocks, smoke detectors, electric receptacles, and foundation repair. Long term projects include updating the inside of units, while also working on some remodeling.

On a related issue, the commission welcomed Beverly Howard as a new Housing Board member.



Ceremony set for Wednesday, April 30

The Welcome Home ceremony for the Wamego High School's Spring Honor Flight is set for 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, in the lower gym of the high school.

The public is encouraged to attend and help the veterans get the welcome home many never received.

Honored veterans and their guardians will fly from April 28-30.

The Flight is a project of the Wamego High School Chapter of National Honor Society. Its mission is to take veterans to Washington D.C. to see their respective memorials at no cost to them.



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Saturday, May 3, 2025