

West Elementary shows appreciation for paraeducators

Amy Flinn  
Principal, West Elementary School

West Elementary is incredibly grateful for the amazing Paraeducators that work with the students and staff at the schooll (and in all of USD 320).  
The school wants to honor each and every paraeducator. Thank you for the love, compassion, patience, and understanding shown toward students.  
Thank you for supporting those who need that extra push to reach their potential.  
The district could not do this work without you.  
West Elementary Para-educators are as follows: Coralynn Ballenger, Rebecca Blanton, Katy Bustamante, Kennady Bustamante, Toree Hoobler, Taylin Petersen, Maddie Short, Nichole Thomas, Ryan Willbanks, Reade Wohler, Lacie Young.



Third graders meet Matt

Matt Miller, Chief Meteorologist at KSNT, recently visited the third grade classes as a guest speaker for their culminating activity of the weather unit.  
During his visit, Miller shared his expertise on weather phenomena, focusing on the top five natural hazards and their impact on communities.  
Miller engaged the students by explaining how various natural hazards, such as tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, wildfires, and severe thunderstorms, can affect people's lives and property. Through interactive discussion, he highlighted the importance of being prepared and understanding weather warnings.  
Additionally, Miller provided valuable weather safety tips, equipping students with practical knowledge on how to stay safe during extreme weather events. His presentation emphasized the significance of having a plan in place and knowing where to seek shelter during dangerous conditions.

Fourth grade 'tastes' books

The fourth grade book tasting activity let kids sample different genres in a café-style setting. Each table had a selection of books and kids read a few pages before moving on. They enjoyed snacks while jotting down quick feedback on "menu" cards, noting what they liked and whether they'd keep reading. The event made exploring new books fun and interactive. The classes studied electrical energy and built simple homemade flashlights using batteries, LED lights, and basic materials. They learned how circuits



work by connecting the LEDs to power sources, experimenting with different designs to complete the circuit. The project gave them a hands-on understanding of how electricity works.



Fifth graders explore alchemy

The fifth grade recently explored the fascinating world of alchemy through hands-on scientific experiments.  
Students used common household substances to test for acids, carefully observing and recording their reactions. As part of their investigations, they discovered how to make dull pennies shine, learning that the tarnish does not simply disappear but instead consists of tiny particles too small to see.  
Additionally, students observed the formation of gas—an invisible yet powerful presence. When enough carbon dioxide accumulated, it caused sealed plastic bags to expand and eventually burst, providing a dramatic demonstration of chemical reactions in action.  
Fifth graders recently completed their English Language Arts unit on the Renaissance.  
Throughout this study, students explored the works of renowned artists such as Filippo Brunelleschi, Michelangelo, and Leonardo da Vinci.  
To deepen their understanding, students engaged in hands-on activities that brought history to life. They created portraits of one another, and to experience Michelangelo's challenge of painting the Sistine Chapel, they drew pictures on paper taped beneath their desks.  
Additionally, students attempted to design a dome, much like Brunelleschi, using marshmallows and toothpicks—an exercise that proved to be more challenging than it appeared.

SCHOOL NOTES

Benson to play at commencements

Josephine Benson, Wamego, is one of the Kansas State University students who will serve as musicians for the Spring 2025 Commencement Ceremonies.  
Benson, a junior in English, will be the organist at commencements for the Graduate School, 1 p.m., May 16; College of Veterinary Medicine, 3:30 p.m., May 16; College of Education, 11 a.m., May 17; and the College of Business Administration, 12: 30 p.m., May 17.  
All of these ceremonies are set for Bramlage Coliseum.

Local students to be KSU Ambassadors

The College of Health and Human Sciences at Kansas State University welcomes its 2025-2026 student ambassadors.  
Student ambassadors work on and off campus to promote the college to alumni, friends, prospective students, families and current K-State students.  
Local ambassadors are Bridget Coughlin, freshman, integrative human sciences, Carter Wilkens, sophomore, kinesiology, and Sydney Gehl, freshman, nutritional sciences, all from Saint George; and Tara Stallbaumer, sophomore, kinesiology, St. Marys.

Price graduates Concordia University

On May 10, Concordia University, Nebraska awarded undergraduate and graduate degrees to more than 430 graduates. The class of 2025 was honored during an undergraduate and graduate commencement ceremony.  
Jamie Price of Wamego earned a Bachelor of Science.  
Dr. Gene Edward Veith, writer and retired professor of literature, delivered this year's commencement address. Veith previously served as the Provost of Patrick Henry College and a Professor of English at Concordia University Wisconsin. He has written over 20 books and 100 scholarly works, including The Spirituality of the Cross and God at Work.

Hoeltzel earns KFB Foundation Scholarship

Each year Kansas Farm Bureau's (KFB) Foundation for Agriculture awards scholarships to college students studying in fields that benefit agriculture and rural Kansas. Forty-five recipients were awarded \$26,500 in scholarships for the 2025-26 school year.  
This year, Bryce Hoeltzel, a student at Kansas State University from Pottawatomie County, received a \$500 scholarship. Students must be a Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter member to qualify.

Bond on University of St. Mary Dean's List

University of Saint Mary Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Michelle Metzinger has announced the Spring 2025 Dean's List.  
Grace Bond, Wamego, ended the semester with a 3.5 GPA or better.

Albright wins Kansas Corn scholarship

Kansas Corn awarded 12 undergraduate and graduate students with 2025 Kansas Corn Next Generation Scholarships.  
Karlie Albright, an agricultural education student at Kansas State University from Delia, was one of the undergraduate winners.  
To be considered, students or their parents must be members of the Kansas Corn Growers Association, be from Kansas or attend college in Kansas and complete the application process. Applications were reviewed by a committee of Kansas Corn leadership and industry representatives.

CLUB NEWS

Sharpe named new Pott. Co. Agent

Amber Sharpe will begin serving as the Pottawatomie County 4-H Youth Development Extension Agent, effective May 12. Pottawatomie County's office is in Westmoreland.  
Sharpe earned her bachelor's degree in agricultural education from Oklahoma State University. She has most recently been employed as a 4-H program assistant for K-State Research and Extension's Pottawatomie County office.  
4-H youth development agents develop and deliver educational programs for school-aged youth. This includes supporting community clubs, out-of-school programs, school enrichment, volunteer management, and outreach to create new program opportunities with new and existing community partners.  
More information about K-State Research and Extension Pottawatomie County is available online at pottawatomie.k-state.edu. Contact Amber Sharpe via email at: asharpe@ksu.edu.

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