



REMEMBER WHEN the fire alarm sounded early one morning in May 1975? A fire had broken out in a stairwell between two businesses on the southwest corner of the square. They were both destroyed. A third business was saved by our volunteer fire department, although it lost all of its inventory. Baker’s Rexall Drug Store and Brown’s Western Auto were completely burned out, and Everybody’s Grocery had major smoke damage. The fire department, which had been joined by Wilson and Allen County Fire Departments, stayed on site for the next two days to watch for flare ups. Again, being from a small town is made special by the people that live here. The fireman stayed on site for days, as did volunteers who showed up to clean up from the disaster. Workers from KG&E and Gauling’s Wrecker Service pulled down the structures. Ron Gordon brought in big equipment from Black

Jack, local farmers used their farm trucks to haul off the debris, and the local National Guardsman’s also helped volunteers during the cleanup. Jay Atkin, owner of Baker’s Rexall Drug, reopened at a different location on Monday after he received a new shipment of medicine and started refilling prescriptions that day. Everybody’s Grocery, owned by Sue and Langley Martin, was cleaned up and soon restocked with groceries within a few days. Thelma Brown and her son, Greg, eventually moved Western Auto to the west side of the square. It is interesting to note that the very first fire on the square back in 1884, started in the same location on the southwest corner of the square where the 1975 fire occurred. The stone firewall on the east side of the Western Auto building was evidently erected after the 1884 fire, and it saved the rest of the connected buildings from this fire almost 111 years later.



ANW Special Education Interlocal

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of ANW Special Education Interlocal #603 was called to order Wednesday, April 9, by president Dawn Wilson at 6 p.m. at the ANW Boardroom. Present were Dawn Wilson #101, Taeler Carr #256, Robin Griffin-Lohman #257, Joyce Allen #258, Chuck Bishop #366, Nicole Goodwin #387, Cassie Cleaver #413, and Jamie Henderson #479.

Administration present were director Korenne Wolken, Camille Kerr, and Emily Williams. Others present were Kim Heslop, Jacey Heady, Amber Wheeler and board clerk Kristi Houston.

Motion was made by Bishop, seconded by Cleaver to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Allen noted that the Monday, March 12 minutes needed corrected on the last motion to change “Taeler Care” to “Taeler Carr”. Motion was made by Cleaver, seconded by Bishop to approve the consent agenda with the correction on the Monday, March 12 minutes.

Association report: Heslop reported on executive board elections, KNEA assembly, IBB dates and recruiting a school psychologist to join the negotiations team.

Public open forum: Jacey Heady and three of her students presented each board member with a book that the class wrote and illustrated.

Correspondence to the board, none.

Board members report, none.

Board training topic: director Wolken spoke about Indicator

13 and KSDE’s compliance review.

Director Wolken reported on the following:

Legislative bill passed that adds \$10 million to special education funding. Professional development and mentor state aid has been removed for next year.

Collecting data for next year’s budget including health insurance and work comp premiums.

Retirement reception will be held before the Wednesday, May 14 board meeting at 4 p.m.

Indicator 13 compliance review will be conducted soon. The state has delayed the release of names to be reviewed.

Our first payroll with Skyward has been completed. Staff are activating their employee access portal with Skyward.

IBB dates were discussed. Our first meeting will be Thursday, April 17 at 5 p.m.

Transportation reimbursement is done through Form 308 with KSDE. Eighty percent of Sped transportation expenses are reimbursed by the state. This form is due Friday, May 9.

KASB sent the first draft today of our board policy. The board will have its first read at next month’s meeting.

There was no unfinished business.

Approval of Rodney Burns FY24 Audit. Motion was made by Cleaver, seconded by Bishop to approve the FY24 audit by Rodney Burns. Motion carried.

Approval of 2025/2026 KASB Membership Invoices. Motion was made by Cleaver, seconded by Carr to approve Option 1 KASB membership renewal for \$3,200 invoice #27457 and to approve the Legal Assistance Fund contract for \$2,750 invoice #26834. Motion carried.

Greenbush Low Incidence Contract Approval. Motion was made by Cleaver, seconded by Bishop to approve the 2025-26 Greenbush Low Incidence contract for \$156,723 and audiology contract for \$59,180. Motion carried.

Adopt Assurances for VI-B grant for FY 2026. Motion was made by Cleaver, seconded by Henderson to adopt the FY 26 assurances for VI-B as present-

ed. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Cleaver, seconded by Henderson to enter executive session from 7:05 to 7:10 p.m. for the purpose of discussing non-elected personnel exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA) of an individuals’ employee performance in order to protect the privacy interests of the individual(s) to be discussed with the board of education and director Wolken present. Motion carried. Executive session ended at 7:10 p.m.

Motion was made by Cleaver, seconded by Henderson to extend executive session from 7:10 to 7:13 p.m. with the board of education and director Wolken present. Motion carried. Executive session ended at 7:13 p.m.

Motion was made by Cleaver, seconded by Carr to approve the licensed and classified personnel reports as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Carr to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Sports

JH track team brings home medals

By Kathe Hamman

The Yates Center Junior High track season was full of trial, victories, and personal best. They ended their season at the league meet and came away with several league champions including a team championship by the eighth grade girls.

For the boys, Karter Westerman is the league champion in the three field events including the discus, shot put and javelin. Guage Murray was second in both the 800m and the 1600m and Derek Jones came in third in the javelin.

For the girls, Whitley Shaffer is a league champion winning the discus. Morgan Crumrine came in second in the 200m and Loryn Kress was third in the 100m hurdles. Ella Cummings is also a Three Rivers League three peat champion, winning the 100m, 200m and the javelin. The girls 3x100m relay team placed second as well.

Coach Panko remarked, “Overall, the junior high track season was a success. The kids improved each week, which is the goal, and I think they all had fun. The eighth grade girls team enjoyed a lot of success, getting in the top two in all but one track meet this season, finishing the season off with the eighth grade girls league championship. The seventh grade boys really came into their own as the season rolled on, earning a second place finish at the league meet.”



Courtesy Photo

YATES CENTER JUNIOR HIGH Track Team member Karter Westerman is the Three River League Champion in the shot put.



Courtesy Photo

YATES CENTER JUNIOR HIGH Track team member Gauge Murray kept pace in the distance races this season.

Public Notice

(First published in The Yates Center NEWS on Thursday, May 1, 2025.) 19-3tc

In the District Court of Woodson County, Kansas Probate Division

In the Matter of the Estate of Brian Ray Simmers, Deceased

Case No. WO-2025-000039 Notice of Hearing

The State of Kansas to all persons concerned. You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in this court by Lorie A. Eyler praying that the court will approve a Determination of Descent for the following described real property:

The North Half (N1/2) of Lot Eight and Lot Nine (9), Block Six (6), Yates Forth Addition to the City of Yates Center, Kansas owned by the descendant at the time of death. You are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 28th day of May 2025 at 10:00 a.m. of said day in said court in the City of Yates Center in Woodson County, Kansas at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgement and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition.

Lorie A. Eyler, Petitioner Pro Se
Address:
1214 NE Sunny Creek Lane
Blue Springs, MO. 64014
Phone: (816) 577-1159

Public Notice

(First published in The Yates Center NEWS on Thursday, May 22, 2025.) 21-1tc

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Southeast Kansas Community Action Program (SEK-CAP) will hold a Public Hearing to accept public comments regarding proposed SEK-CAP Public Housing Authority (PHA) Housing 5-Year Plan on Tuesday, July 1st, 2025, at 2:00pm.

The Public Hearing will be held at the SEK-CAP Central Office, 401 N. Sinnet, Girard, KS. The PHA 5-Year Plan outlines administrative goals and objectives for the administration of the HUD Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program. SEK-CAP will accept written comments prior to the Public Hearing. Any comments received in writing will be read aloud during the hearing and submitted with the PHA 5-Year Plan.

The proposed SEK-CAP PHA 5-Year Plan, HUD Form 50077-SL, and HUD Form 50077-CR can be reviewed at the SEK-CAP Central Office, during the hours of 8:00am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, or by visiting the SEK-CAP website, www.sek-cap.com. For additional information, contact SEK-CAP Housing Services at 620-724-8204, ext.1004.

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