

Week in review

THESE SUMMARIES OF FULL STORIES WERE DRAFTED BY AI AND EDITED BY OUR JOURNALISTS

Our best-read local news stories



Parking lot that serves Wichita City Hall.

JAIME GREEN The Wichita Eagle

Beloved Hutchinson educator, broadcaster Rusty Hilst dies at 82

Russell “Rusty” Hilst, a legendary figure in Hutchinson education and sports broadcasting, died peacefully at his home on June 17 after battling ALS for 2½ years. The 82-year-old taught math at Hutchinson High School for 54 years and was the voice of HHS and Hutchinson Community College sports for five decades, until 2019. Hilst set a golf course record at Carey Park in 1974 with a score of 60 that still stands today. He coached golf teams to state titles in 1974 and 1995, demonstrating integrity when he corrected a player’s score that cost the team a championship. His accolades include Kansas Sportscaster of the Year and induction into multiple halls of fame.

Reported by Michael Stavola, published June 21

Wichita officer shoots man during alleged domestic incident

A Wichita police officer shot a man twice Friday morning, June 20, during what authorities say was a domestic violence incident in southwest Wichita. The incident began with a 911 call at 4:21 a.m. from the 4600 block of West 37th Street South, where emergency communications heard a female crying and a male threatening to hurt her. According to scanner traffic, the man attempted to drive away with the woman still inside when officers fired. The man was hospitalized in critical condition with two gunshot wounds, while the woman sustained minor injuries but refused treatment. The Sedgwick County Sheriff’s Office will investigate the shooting per department policy.

Reported by Michael Stavola, published June 20

Wichita considers first mill levy cut in 40 years

The city of Wichita is considering reducing its mill levy by half a mill, which would mark the first reduction in nearly 40 years. The reduction would save homeowners about \$15 annually on a \$260,000 home, though property valuations have increased by an average of 9% this year. The city faces budget deficits of \$2 million in 2026 and

\$5.5 million in 2027, but increased property values have generated more revenue than initially projected. Budget discussions continue through summer, with a public hearing scheduled for August 7.

Reported by Kylie Cameron, published June 24

Body of Kansas boy killed by train is recovered

The body of 12-year-old Kollin Showalter was recovered from the Neosho River on Sunday, four days after he and 16-year-old Arthur Pollries were struck and killed by a train in southeast Kansas. The two friends were walking on a railroad bridge near Erie when they attempted to outrun a southbound Union Pacific train. Authorities found Pollries’ body immediately but launched an extensive search for Showalter involving multiple agencies, drones, boats, helicopters and search dogs.

Reported by Eduardo Castillo, published June 23

Court denies immunity for officers in teen’s death

A federal appeals court denied qualified immunity to five Sedgwick County juvenile detention officers involved in the 2021 death of 17-year-old Cedric “CJ” Lofton. The officers restrained the 135-pound teen in a prone position for nearly 40 minutes until he became unresponsive at the Juvenile Intake Assessment Center. Lofton, who was experiencing a mental health crisis, died two days after the incident. His brother Marquan Teetz is suing the officers for excessive force and failure to intervene. The court noted that dangers of prone restraint had been well-established by 2021, rejecting the officers’ immunity claims.

Reported by Chance Swaim, published June 23

Wichita e-commerce business closes after 22 years

David Sasson has filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy to liquidate Overstock Art, his Wichita-based e-commerce

business that sold hand-painted oil reproductions of famous works. The company, which he started in 2002, weathered multiple challenges, including the 2008 financial crisis and the pandemic. Sasson cited tariff uncertainties as the final factor, noting most paintings

came from China and Vietnam. The filing lists assets of almost \$1.28 million against liabilities of just over \$1.3 million. Despite the closure, Sasson remains optimistic about future ventures.

Reported by Carrie Rengers, published June 24



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Ex-Columbia student freed from ICE detention

Former Columbia University graduate student Mahmoud Khalil was released from federal detention on June 20 in Louisiana after a



Mahmoud Khalil

federal judge ruled prosecutors didn’t provide legitimate justification for 104 days of detention. The Syrian national had organized campus protests supporting Hamas, which authorities say runs counter to U.S. foreign policy. Judge Michael Farbiarz called the continued detention “highly, highly unusual” and suggested there was an effort to use immigration charges to punish Khalil for his speech. While detained, Khalil missed the birth of his first child in April. The Department of Justice plans to appeal the decision.

Reported by UPI, published June 21

Trump urges GOP to skip July 4th recess for budget

President Donald Trump is calling on Republican senators to cancel their Independence Day recess until Congress passes the fiscal year 2026 budget bill. “To my friends in the Senate, lock yourself in a room if you must, [but] don’t go home,” Trump posted on Truth Social. The budget reconciliation bill faces complications after Senate Parliamentarian Elizabeth MacDonough ruled that several provisions violate Senate rules, including offshore oil and gas lease requirements and mandates to sell millions of acres of public land. House Speaker Mike Johnson told GOP members to keep their calendars flexible for immediate passage once the Senate acts.

Reported by UPI, published June 24



TASS/SIPA USA Stringer

A rally takes place in Enqelab Square in Tehran, Iran, on June 25 to mark the end of a 12-day war against Israel.

Trump announces US-Iran talks next week after ceasefire

President Donald Trump announced the US will meet with Iran next week following a 12-day ceasefire that ended recent Middle East hostilities. Trump said he may not pursue a nuclear agreement, claiming US strikes on June 21 “obliterated” Iran’s Natanz, Isfahan and Fordow nuclear facilities. The US used B-2 bombers to drop bunker buster bombs, and submarines fired 30 TLAM cruise missiles to

destroy “Iran’s nuclear enrichment capacity,” Trump said. Iran has signaled readiness to resume diplomacy, with its UN mission stating “the logic of war has failed.” The conflict resulted in 627 Iranian deaths and at least 28 people have been killed in Israel, authorities say.

Reported by Bloomberg, published June 25

Minnesota senator and wife detail shooting attack

Sen. John Hoffman and his wife, Yvette, released their first statement on June 19 detailing the June 14 shooting at their Champlin, Minnesota, home, authorities say. The couple said they were awakened at 2 a.m. by pounding on their door from someone claiming to be police. When they opened the door, John Hoff-

man was shot nine times after lunging at the gunman, while Yvette was shot eight times through the door. Vance Boelter has been charged with attempting to murder the Hoffmans and with killing Rep. Melissa Hortman and her husband later that evening.

Reported by Louis Krauss, published June 20

Aflac reports cyberattack exposing customer data

On June 20, insurance company Aflac disclosed that hackers accessed customer health data and Social Security numbers in a cyber-attack that was stopped within hours. The breach affected files containing claims information, health data, and Social Security numbers of customers, beneficiaries, employees, and agents. Aflac, which serves 50 million people worldwide, said social engineering tactics were used to gain network access. The company is offering affected individuals two years of free credit monitoring and identity theft protection.

Reported by UPI, published June 20

Judge blocks Trump’s ban on Harvard foreign students

A federal judge in Massachusetts granted a preliminary injunction on June 20 blocking the Trump administration’s efforts to bar international students from Harvard University. Judge Allison D. Burroughs directed the government to restore visa holders to their previous status and prepare guidance disregarding the revocation notice. The administration had suspended international visas for new Harvard students, citing concerns about campus safety and alleged failure to report illegal activity. Harvard has nearly 7,000 international students representing 27% of its student body.

Reported by UPI, published June 20



Donald Trump

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