

FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL RETURNS TO THE ORCHARD



BY JESSIE WAGONER
The Emporia Gazette

The Orchard will celebrate the arrival of fall with its seventh annual Fall Harvest Festival from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26.

The free, family-friendly event will feature 15 vendors offering homemade, handmade and locally crafted products. Visitors can also enjoy food vendors, live music, yard games, family activities, seasonal photo opportunities and The Orchard's cider slushies.

Organizers said the festival will offer something for all ages, whether guests are searching for unique gifts, sampling fall treats or spending time with family and friends.

The Orchard is located at 1128 N. Highway 99 in Emporia. Admission is free.

LEGALS

(First Published in the Emporia Gazette on September 11, 2026.)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF LYON COUNTY, KANSAS
In the Matter of the Estate of KATHLEEN S. PAYNE
Case No. LY-2026-PR-000002
NOTICE OF HEARING
THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:
You are notified that on August 27, 2026, a Petition was filed in this Court by Kelly E. Ackerson, an heir, devisee, and legatee, and Executor named in the "Last Will and Testament of Kathleen S. Anderson," deceased, dated August 27, 2019, requesting that the instrument offered as Decedent's "Last Will and Testament" be admitted to probate and record; Letters Testamentary under the Kansas Simplified Estates Act be granted to Kelly E. Ackerson to serve as Executor without bond.
You are further advised under the provisions of the Kansas Simplified Estates Act the Court need not supervise administration of the Estate, and no notice of any action of the Executor or other proceedings in the administration will be given, except for notice of final settlement of decedent's estate.
You are further advised if written objections to simplified administration are filed with the Court, the Court may order that supervised administration ensue.
You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before October 14, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. in the District Court, in Emporia, Lyon County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.
KELLY E. ACKERSON
Petitioner
SYMMONDS & SYMMONDS, LLC
STUART N. SYMMONDS, #25553
427 Commercial
Emporia, Kansas 66801
(620) 343-2764
Fax (620) 343-2765
info@symmondsllaw.com
Attorneys for Petitioner

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF LYON COUNTY, KANSAS
In the Matter of the Estate of Linda K. Mock, Deceased
Case No. LY-2026-PR-000089
NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:
You are hereby notified that on September 22, 2026, a petition was filed in this Court by John Wade Crawford, an heir, devisee and legatee, and petitioner be appointed as Executor, without bond; petitioner be granted Letters of Testamentary. You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before November 9, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. in the District Court, Emporia, Lyon County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.
All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate within the latter of four months from the date of first publication of notice under K.S.A. 59-2236 and amendments thereto, or if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, 30 days after actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.
John Wade Crawford
Petitioner
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
By:
/s/ R. Clark Allemang, II
R. CLARK ALLEMANG, II, No. 19825
519 Commercial Street
1. O. Box 921
Emporia, KS 66801-0921
Telephone: 620-343-6500
Fax: 620-343-1734
E-mail: calllemang@helbert-allemang.com

(First Published in the Emporia Gazette on September 25, 2026.)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF LYON COUNTY, KANSAS
ANDREW WALECKI, Individually and ANDREW WALECKI as natural father and next friend of E.P., minor child, Petitioner, V.
CHELSEA POTTER, Respondent.
Case No. LY-2026-DM-000208
NOTICE OF SUIT
(Filed Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 23)
CHELSEA POTTER AND ALL OTHER PERSONS WHO ARE OR MAY BE CONCERNED:
You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in the District Court of Lyon County, Kansas by Andrew Walecki, and Andrew Walecki as natural father and next of friend of E.P., minor child, praying for custody of and such other and further relief as the Court deems proper in the premises; and you are hereby required to plead to the petition on or before December 2, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., in the District Court at Emporia, Lyon County, Kansas. If you fail to plead, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.
Petitioner
SUBMITTED AND APPROVED:
LAW OFFICES OF R. CLARK ALLEMANG, II
BY:
/s/ R. Clark Allemang, II
R. CLARK ALLEMANG, II No. 19825
519 Commercial
P.O. Box 921
Emporia, KS 66801
P: (620) 343-6500 F: (620) 343-1734
calllemang@helbert-allemang.com
Attorney for Petitioner

HELP WANTED

Seeking Part Time Church Treasurer

First United Methodist Church is seeking a part-time Treasurer (approx. 10-15hrs per week) at \$20/hour, based on experience.

Responsibilities include maintaining financial records and reports, accounts payable, banking transactions, budgeting, monitoring church funds, tax compliance, and assisting with the annual audit.

Previous accounting experience is required. Applicants should be computer literate, accurate, reliable, and able to maintain confidentiality. Experience with financial accounting software preferred.

To apply: Email resume to rossb@fumchurch.org

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

		8		2				
			6		4			
9			4			6	3	
		5		3		9	8	
	1			9		2		
6	2			7		5		
8	9			2				5
		3		8				
			9		5			

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

KANSAS REFLECTOR EDITORS TO DISCUSS JOURNALISM AT RED ROCKS

Special to The Gazette

Kansas Reflector Editor-in-Chief Sherman Smith and Opinion Editor Clay Wirestone will discuss Kansas journalism during a presentation Sunday at the Red Rocks State Historic Site.

"Kansas Reflector and Kansas Journalism" will begin at 2 p.m. Sept. 27 at the Red Rocks Visitor Center, 927 Exchange St. Admission is free.

Smith founded the Kansas Reflector in 2020 and has close ties to Emporia. He is a three-time Kansas Press Association journalist of the year and a recipient of an A-Mark Prize for Investigative Reporting.

The Kansas Reflector is part of States Newsroom, a nonprofit news organization focused on state government and public policy reporting.

Wirestone recently released "Opinionated: Kansas Journalists Who Proved Why Commentary Matters, Then and Now." The book, which includes significant discussion of legendary Emporia Gazette editor William Allen White, will be available for purchase at the event. Wirestone's work has appeared in more than 200 news outlets across 30 states.

"Our 2026 season has featured outstanding programs centered around this year's theme of 'Journalism and Kansas,'" and this last one with the Kansas Reflector is the perfect cap to a blockbuster season," said Kathie Buck-

man, president of the William Allen White Community Partnership board.

The program concludes the partnership's 2026 speaker series. Free tours of White's home will continue through Sunday, Oct. 4.

The William Allen White Community Partnership works with the Kansas Historical Society to support operations and programming at Red Rocks.

The historic site is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. It is closed on state holidays.

For more information, call 620-342-2800 or visit kansashistory.gov/red_rocks.

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THE KANSAS REFLECTOR & KANSAS JOURNALISM

RED ROCKS STATE HISTORIC SITE

927 EXCHANGE ST.

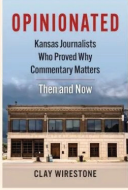
9/27 - 2 PM



SHERMAN SMITH
THE KANSAS REFLECTOR EDITOR



CLAY WIRESTONE
AUTHOR OF "OPINIONATED"



"OPINIONATED"
BOOKS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE AT THE EVENT



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RULES

From PAGE 1

and scooter riders, requiring helmets for riders younger than 18 and restricting motorized devices from sidewalks.

Cocking said a minimum age of 12 would generally keep the devices away from elementary school students. Commissioners, however, discussed whether some lower-speed scooters should still be permitted on sidewalks so students are not forced onto busy streets.

No consensus was reached on specific age, speed or sidewalk rules.

Commissioners also discussed allowing officers to impound devices in repeated or serious cases and possibly creating a safety class for juvenile offenders.

Police described a recent encounter involving seven young riders, only one of whom was wearing a helmet. One rider continued to the Emporia Middle School track before stopping for an officer.

Police said many parents do not realize that some devices sold as e-bikes or minibikes cannot legally be operated on public streets.

The city plans to distribute information about current laws and request public feedback before returning with a proposed ordinance.

Different rules for different devices

Emporia Police Department Support Services Capt. Ray Mattas previously said the department cannot specifically track incidents involving e-bikes because reports do not distinguish between violations committed on e-bikes and those involving other

vehicles.

"I do know officers have been trying to enforce the law as it is currently written when it comes to these things," Mattas said.

Under Kansas law, children may operate Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes, which provide motor assistance up to 20 mph. Riders must be at least 16 to operate a Class 3 e-bike, which can provide pedal assistance up to 28 mph.

An e-bike must have fully operational pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts to fall under the state's definition. Devices exceeding those limits may legally be considered motorcycles or motor-driven cycles, even if they are marketed or commonly described as e-bikes.

Police told commissioners that several gas-powered minibikes being ridden by Emporia youths are not street legal. Depending on their engine size and design, those devices may require a driver's license, registration and other motorcycle equipment.

Mattas said officers often cannot determine an e-bike's classification without stopping the rider and examining the bicycle unless it is traveling faster than a Class 1 or Class 2 model is permitted to travel.

"It is up to the parents to understand the laws on these and to not let their children ride a Class 3 unless they are 16 and older," Mattas said.

Higher speeds bring greater risks

Pediatricians have raised concerns about the growing number and severity of injuries involving young e-bike riders. Although e-bikes resemble conventional bicycles, their additional speed and weight can make crash-

es more dangerous.

"The injuries we're seeing are more like motorcycle injuries," Dr. Phyllis F. Agran, a professor emeritus at the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine, told AAP News, a publication of the American Academy of Pediatrics. "They are motorized vehicles."

A study examining a decade of data from the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System estimated that U.S. emergency departments treated 45,845 e-bike-related injuries between 2013 and 2022. The annual injury rate increased nearly 91% from 2019 to 2022, according to AAP News.

Falls and fractures were the most common injuries. Among middle and high school-age riders, the head was the body part most frequently injured. Nearly 11% of those injured were hospitalized, and 30% of the injuries involved motor vehicles.

Unsafe behaviors observed among young riders include excessive speed, carrying passengers, becoming distracted, disregarding traffic rules and failing to wear helmets.

Dr. Sigrid K. Burruss, a surgeon and associate professor at UC Irvine, told AAP News that only 27% of the patients treated at her hospital for e-bike injuries reported wearing helmets.

"When we don't have those helmets on and we're at higher speeds, we're seeing a substantial amount of head injuries," Burruss said.

Kansas does not currently have a statewide helmet requirement for e-bike or e-scooter riders, although people younger than 18 must wear helmets when operating or riding motorcycles.

The American Academy of Pediatrics says helmets significantly reduce the risk

of fatal and nonfatal head injuries. Because e-bikes can reach higher speeds, child injury prevention experts recommend that families consider helmets designed for motorized scooters or motorcycles rather than relying solely on standard bicycle helmets.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends that children ages 9 to 12 not operate products capable of traveling faster than 10 mph.

Rules of the road

E-bike and e-scooter riders generally must follow the same traffic rules as other cyclists. They must obey traffic-control devices, signal turns, follow speed limits and yield to vehicles and pedestrians when required.

Riders traveling slower than surrounding traffic generally must remain as close to the right side of the roadway as practical, with exceptions for passing, preparing to turn left or avoiding hazards.

Emporia Public Schools encouraged families to check each device's classification, motor wattage and maximum assisted speed before allowing a child to ride it.

Families should also plan and practice safe routes to school that avoid heavily traveled streets and busy intersections whenever possible. Students should watch for vehicles and pedestrians, obey traffic signs and signals and wear properly fitted helmets.

City officials said education will be an important part of any response, particularly because some parents may not understand the speed and legal classification of the devices they are purchasing.

"We are a bike town," one commissioner said. "We should be willing to be safe."