



KANSAS BRIEFLY



Go Fund Me set up for KSU student who survived 70-foot fall

TOPEKA (WIBW) - Sara Celeen is a close friend of Kyra Kinnison. The two met at K-State University over two years ago.

“[Kyra is] just a really amazing person, very sweet and helpful. She’s always there if you need something,” Celeen told 13 NEWS.

It was a friendship that was almost lost. On the night of Sept. 25, Kyra and her boyfriend were traveling separately to Salina when they encountered a hazard on highway K-18 near Manhattan.

“[Her boyfriend] swerved around it and stopped. And [Kyra] pulled over to the side of the road, and then a vehicle crashed into his vehicle,” Celeen said, describing the traumatic event.

But it didn’t stop there--as more oncoming cars piled up behind, causing a multi-vehicle crash. Kyra, who was walking along the shoulder, was in the path of danger with a truck coming at full speed in her direction.

“She jumped back to get out of the way, and the railing is not very good; you can easily lean over it and fall,” Celeen said.

Kyra fell 70 feet. “She had fractures on her back, some of her vertebrae, her pelvis, and her tailbone,” Celeen said.

But despite all odds, the 21-year-old can still walk. Kyra’s family from North Carolina paid her a visit to the hospital, alongside Sara.

“Being able to see her really was a weight lifted from my shoulders,” Celeen said.

But what still lies ahead in Kyra’s journey is healing, and the financial cost of it—that’s why Sara is raising money, and the community is already rallying behind her.

“It’s just amazing the community that we have here,” Celeen said. “And everyone that’s been supporting her is just amazing. There really was a guardian angel out there, looking out for her.”

A GoFundMe has been created to support Kyra’s journey in healing; you can find it at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/kyra-kinnisons-recovery-after-a-70foot-fall>.

Wants 16-year-old to be tried as adult

WICHITA (KAKE) - The family of a Valley Center man shot and killed last month wants the 16-year-old suspect tried as an adult in the case.

The family of the 18-year-old victim, Hunter Johnson, remembers him and is also calling for change to the law.

The 16-year-old suspect accused of shooting and killing Hunter Johnson made a first appearance in juvenile court Monday morning.

“We went in there, sat down, and had to watch him come in, which, as a parent, is tough,” Hunter’s father, Daniel Johnson, said.

Investigators say the shooting happened during an argument in a home in the town of Sedgwick on August 31, where several teenagers were hanging out.

Johnson’s family says they want the suspect tried as an adult.

“We believe there must be meaningful consequences for taking another person’s life,” Hunter’s sister, Madison Johnson, said. “Our family also wants to try to prevent another family from experiencing what we are going through.”

The suspect pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder and weapons charges.

The victim’s mother, Danica Johnson, says her son had a life ahead of him.

“He just turned 18 this year and graduated high school,” Johnson said. “He’s working two jobs. You know, he had big plans for his future, and now all of that is gone, and we’re just kind of left here in the aftermath.”

Johnson’s family plans to reach out to state legislatures to lobby for a new law named after their son.

“Our goal is to make a certain se-

rious violent crime committed by juveniles beginning at age 14 subject to mandatory adult prosecution,” Madison Johnson said.

That includes increased sentences for juvenile gun offenses and stronger accountability when adults illegally provide them with firearms.

The 16-year-old suspect’s attorney requested a psychological evaluation on Monday and is due back in court in late November.

18-year-old man jailed for aggravated robbery

TOPEKA (WIBW) - An 18-year-old man was booked into the Shawnee County Jail Sunday in connection with aggravated robbery.

According to the Topeka Police Department, on Sept. 27, officers responded to the 1100 block of Northeast Monroe for a reported robbery.

When officers arrived, two individuals reported being robbed at gunpoint.

As a result of an investigation, Ryder Allen Lee Shoemaker was arrested and booked into the Shawnee County Jail in connection with: aggravated robbery, criminal damage to property and theft.

Shoemaker remains in jail at the time of this report.

RE firm selected to assist with ownership transition of Rock Springs

JUNCTION CITY (KSNT) – Officials with the Kansas 4-H Foundation have selected a real estate firm to assist their organization with the pursuit for new ownership options at Rock Springs Ranch.

Callie Lehman with the Kansas 4-H Foundation said in a press release that her organization has selected NAI Martens to serve as the broker for Rock Springs Ranch. This comes as officials with the Kansas 4-H Foundation continue to search for new viable ownership options of the large summer camp.

Lehman said the recent selection of NAI Martens to assist with this process marks continuing progress in the Foundation’s efforts to determine a future for the ranch.

“Selecting a broker was an important step as we move through this process with the care and diligence it requires,” said Lisa Pfannenstiel-Garrison, chair of the Kansas 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees. “NAI Martens is an ideal partner with Kansas ties and a national network. They understand the significance of the Foundation’s mission to advance Kansas 4-H and serve youth across the state and our desire to find an ideal owner for Rock Springs Ranch.”

NAI Martens is a real estate firm based out of Wichita. Its staff will lead the marketing of Rock Springs Ranch and work with the Kansas 4-H Foundation to connect with prospective parties. The camp is located

Rock Springs Ranch opened more than 80 years ago and offers children a chance to explore and have fun together in various different activities like fishing, archery, horseback riding and more. An estimated two million campers, families and others have visited the camp following its opening in 1946.

Staff with the Kansas 4-H Foundation first shared its announcement of its search for new ownership options of Rock Springs Ranch in April this year.

Kansas receives over \$11M in DOJ crime victim funding

TOPEKA (WIBW) - Kansas received more than \$11 million from the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Rep. Sharice Davids announced Monday morning.

OFF TO COLLEGE WORD SEARCH

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these dollars are critical, it’s still not enough to meet the demand.”

Local organizations are waiting to see if they will receive funding.

Prison to train, adopt out wild horses and burros

TOPEKA (WIBW) - The Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced they’ve signed an agreement to continue a wild horse and burro program at the Hutchinson Correctional Facility (HCF).

The program began in 2001 and has been a part of BLM’s adoption efforts, while providing halter and saddle training to make wild horses suitable for ownership.

Hutchinson Correctional Facility

staff and residents train and care for wild horses and burros captured by the BLM on public land.

“This program does more than prepare the horses for adoption,” said Jeff Zmuda, Secretary, KDOC. “This partnership allows our residents to gain significant rehabilitation, educational, and vocational opportunities that will serve them well as they return to our communities. I am thrilled that the BLM recognizes the value of our continuing this important partnership.”

The KDOC and BLM signed a five-year service agreement. The agreement allows KDOC to maintain between 350 and 400 horses at all times while prioritizing placement in private care.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)				
1. Publication Title		2. Publication Number		3. Filing Date
Council Grove Republican		1 3 4 -3 4 0		9-30-2026
4. Issue Frequency		5. Number of Issues Published Annually		6. Annual Subscription Price
Daily, except Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Holidays		203		\$132.00/\$155.00
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®)				Contact Person Christy Jimerson Telephone (Include area code) 620-767-5123
302 W. Main, Council Grove, Morris County, KS 66846				
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer)				
Same				
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)				
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address)				
Jan Sciacca, 126 S. Mission St., Council Grove, KS 66846				
Editor (Name and complete mailing address)				
Jan Sciacca, 126 S. Mission St., Council Grove, KS 66846				
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address)				
Same				
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)				
Full Name		Complete Mailing Address		
Flint Hills Media LLC		126 S. Mission St., Council Grove, KS 66846		
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box ☒ None				
Full Name		Complete Mailing Address		
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)				
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:				
☐ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months				
☒ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)				
13. Publication Title		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below		
Council Grove Republican		September 30, 2026		
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date	
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		950	950	
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)				
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		43	41	
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		336	338	
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®		432	447	
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail®)		11	11	
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		822	837	
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)				
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541		1	1	
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		0	0	
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)		0	0	
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)		9	9	
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		10	10	
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		832	847	
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		118	103	
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		950	950	
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		98.8	98.8	
16. Publication of Statement of Ownership				
☒ If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the September 30, 2026 issue of this publication. ☐ Publication not required.				
17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner				Date
Jan Sciacca				9-30-2026
16. Electronic Copy Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date	
a. Paid Electronic Copies		173	178	
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		995	1015	
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		1005	1025	
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c × 100)		99.0	99.0	
☒ I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.				
17. Publication of Statement of Ownership				
☐ If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 9-30-2026 issue of this publication. ☐ Publication not required.				
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner				Date
Jan Sciacca				9-30-2026
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— Concessions available —

Hosted by Morris County Youth Rodeo Association