Barbara Trujillo and Felicia Moreland recently returned from a two week vacation to Alaska. With this trip, Barbara has visited all 50 States. Congratulations Barbara.

Factors to consider when you have a teen driver

The day a teenager receives a driver's license can be a bittersweet moment for parents. While parents may be proud and happy to have another driver in the house, the notion that kids can now drive without Mom or Dad riding shotgun can be scary. That's because driver inexperience remains a big accident risk. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says teen drivers continue to be overrepresented in crash data, despite 2025 seeing a record low in traffic fatalities. The NHTSA notes drivers between the ages of 16 and 19 are nearly three times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash per mile driven compared to drivers 20 and older. Research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also indicates that the first few months of independent teen driving are the most dangerous. The primary culprit for accidents is a "lack of scanning" to detect hazards, and driving too fast for road conditions.

Parents of newly minted licensed drivers can implement various measures to safeguard such youngsters.

• Look into graduated driver licensing. Some areas have a GDL program that includes nighttime driving restrictions, curfews and passenger limits. Parents and their teens should educate themselves about the rules of driving at various ages, as perks increase as drivers get older.

• Note effects on insurance premiums. Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company says adding a teen driver to an auto insurance policy typically increases premiums by hundreds of dollars per month due to higher accident risks. Generally, the most cost-effective option is to add a teen to a parent's policy instead of purchasing a separate one. Teens with a learner's permit usually are covered under a parent's policy without a rate increase until they are fully licensed. But parents are urged to clarify the effects of adding teen drivers in relation to their insurance premiums.

• Emphasize the need to minimize distractions. Modern teen drivers have many more distractions to contend with than drivers of older generations. Cell phones are a constant draw that put teen drivers at risk. Roughly 10 percent of teen drivers involved in fatal crashes were reported as distracted at the time of their accident, according to the NHTSA.

• Insist on seat belt use. Partners for Safe Teen Driving says, despite years of advocacy, teens have the lowest seat belt use of any age group. Parents may have to remind teen drivers that seat belt use is non-negotiable.

Parents of teen drivers may soon be facing new challenges as they must trust their sons and daughters to be responsible on the road.

Submitted by Metro Editorial Service.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(First published in The Hugoton Hermes, Thursday, August 13, 2026) 3t

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF STEVENS COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DEBRA RENEE REYNOLDS, deceased

CASE NO. SV-2026-PR-000017

NOTICE OF HEARING and NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The State of Kansas to All Persons Concerned:

You are hereby notified that on the 29th day of July, 2026, a Petition was filed in this Court by Cheryl L. Reynolds-Bowles heir, devisee and legatee of Debra Renee Reynolds, deceased, praying that the foreign will of Debra Renee Reynolds, deceased, dated September 20, 2002, be admitted to probate and record in this court, that no administration in the estate is necessary, the Will be construed, and the following Kansas Real Estate owned by the Decedent, situated in Stevens County, Kansas, be assigned in accordance with the terms of the Will:

Real Estate and Mineral Interests of approximately $10,000

You are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 3rd day of September, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., in the District Court in Hugoton, Stevens 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.

/s/ Cheryl L. Reynolds-Bowles, Petitioner

James C. Dodge, No. 18730
Sharp, McQueen, Yoxall, Dodge & Frymire, P.A.
419 N. Kansas, P.O. Box 2619
Liberal, KS 67905-2619
Phone: (620) 624-2548
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Email: jdodge@sharpmcqueen.com
Attorney for Petitioners

KFB's Foundation for Agriculture expands leadership opportunities

The Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) Foundation for Agriculture has received a $15,000 Bill House Agricultural Grant from the Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas (CFSEK) to expand scholarship opportunities that help rural and agricultural leaders participate in leadership development programs across the state.

The grant will support the Foundation's existing leadership scholarship program, which offsets travel, registration, lodging and other costs of participation.

"Strong leadership is essential to the future of agriculture, and we're grateful to the Bill House Agricultural Grant Committee for investing in the people who will shape Kansas for years to come," says KFB President Glenn Brunkow. "This support makes it possible for more members to develop the skills, relationships and confidence needed to better serve their communities."

Grant-supported scholarships will help members attend events like KFB's Annual Meeting, Day at the Statehouse, Young Farmers & Ranchers Leaders Conference and Women Grow the Farm.

Bill House (Swain William House) was a prominent Kansas rancher, attorney and national leader in the beef cattle industry whose legacy funds through the CFSEK now support agricultural education and scholarships.

Since its inception in 1998, KFB's Foundation for Agriculture has provided scholarships and grants designed to improve agriculture and the quality of life in rural Kansas. For more information, visit www.kfb.org/Foundation-for-Agriculture.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(First published in The Hugoton Hermes, Thursday, August 13, 2026) 1t

State of Kansas
Budget Form USD-A

USD #209
2026-2027

Notice of Hearing 2026-2027 Budget

The governing body of Unified School District 209 will meet on the 14th day of September 2026 at 6:45 PM at Moscow Public Schools Community Room, Moscow, KS 67952 for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to be levied. Detailed budget information, including budget profile, building needs assessment and Board state assessments review is available at USD 209 District Office on the district website and will be available at this hearing.

The Amount of 2026 Tax to be Levied and Expenditures (published below) establish the maximum limits of the 2026-2027 Budget. The 'Est. Tax Rate' (column 7), shown for comparative purposes, is subject to slight change depending on final assessed valuation.

		2024-2025 Actual		2025-2026 Actual		2026-2027 Proposed Budget		
	Code 99 Line	Actual Expenditures (1)	Actual Tax Rate* (2)	Actual Expenditures (3)	Actual Tax Rate* (4)	Budgeted Expenditures (5)	Amount of 2026 Tax to be Levied (6)	Est. Tax Rate* (7)
OPERATING								
General	06	1,878,889	20.000	1,969,742	20.000	2,226,841	558,141	20.000
Supplemental General (LOB)	08	575,066	23.820	701,694	24.976	744,127	661,940	22.283
SPECIAL REVENUE								
Federal Funds	07	191,014		161,576		139,873		
Adult Education	10	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Preschool-Aged At-Risk	11	40,123		40,385		53,587		
Adult Supplemental Education	12	0		0		0		
At-Risk Education Fund	13	374,794		231,250		467,284		
Bilingual Education	14	60,771		44,322		101,954		
Virtual Education	15	0		0		0		
Capital Outlay	16	454,969	7.988	479,857	8.000	617,250	237,649	8.000
Driver Training	18	4,338		4,358		10,679		
Declining Enrollment	19	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Extraordinary School Program	22	0		0		0		
Food Service	24	229,556		233,298		274,292		
Professional Development	26	4,383		5,103		5,756		
Parent Education Program	28	0		0		0		
Summer School	29	0		0		0		
Special Education	30	170,879		169,379		343,823		
Cost of Living	33	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Career and Postsecondary Education	34	54,478		15,586		74,421		
Gifts and Grants	35	111,659		116,520		128,608		
Special Liability Expense Fund	42	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Extraordinary Growth Facilities	45	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Special Reserve Fund	47	0		0				
KPERS Special Retirement Contribution	51	201,306		211,594		223,391		
Contingency Reserve	53	0		0				
Textbook & Student Material Revolving	55	759		4,314				
Activity Fund	56	36,267		43,505				
DEBT SERVICE								
Bond and Interest #1	62	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Bond and Interest #2	63	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
No-Fund Warrant	66	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Special Assessment	67	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Temporary Note	68	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
COOPERATIVES[1]								
Special Education	78	0		0		0		
TOTAL USD EXPENDITURES	100	4,389,251	51.808	4,432,483	52.976	5,411,886	1,457,730	50.283
Less: Transfers	105	919,664		787,578		754,116		
NET USD EXPENDITURES	110	3,469,587		3,644,905		4,657,770		
TOTAL USD TAXES LEVIED	115	1,437,948		1,339,134		1,457,730		

1. Sponsoring District Only
**Tax Rates are expressed in Mills*

Notice of Hearing 2026-2027 Budget

		2024-2025 Actual		2025-2026 Actual		2026-2027 Proposed Budget		
	Code 99 Line	Actual Expenditures (1)	Actual Tax Rate* (2)	Actual Expenditures (3)	Actual Tax Rate* (4)	Budgeted Expenditures (5)	Amount of 2026 Tax to be Levied (6)	Est. Tax Rate* (7)
OTHER								
Historical Museum	80	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Public Library Board/District	82	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Public Library Board Employee Benefits	83	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Recreation Commission	84	127,465	2.996	87,731	3.000	110,850	89,117	3.000
Rec Comm Emp Benefits & Spec Liab	86	0	0.000	0	0.000	7	0	0.000
TOTAL OTHER	120	127,465	2.996	87,731	3.000	110,857	89,117	3.000
TOTAL TAXES LEVIED	125	$1,527,592		$1,417,232		$1,546,847		
Assessed Valuation - General Fund	128	$22,511,345		$24,046,470		$27,907,045		
Assessed Valuation - All Other Funds	130	$24,101,302		$25,659,314		$29,706,106		
Assessed Valuation - Capital Outlay	129	$24,101,302		$25,659,314		$29,706,106		
Outstanding Indebtedness, July 1		2024		2025		2026		
General Obligation Bonds	135	0		0		0		
Capital Outlay Bonds	140	0		0		0		
Temporary Note	145	0		0		0		
No-Fund Warrant	150	0		0		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	153	0		0		0		
TOTAL USD DEBT	155	0		0		0		

**Tax Rates are expressed in Mills*

Melissa Whitham
Board President

Pam Hittle
Clerk of the Board

Exceeding Revenue Neutral for the 2026-2027 School Year

The governing body of Unified School District 209 will meet on the 14th day of September 2026 at 6:45 PM at Moscow Public Schools, Moscow, KS 67952 for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to be levied. Detailed budget information, including budget profile, is available at USD 209 District Office and will be available at this hearing.

Revenue Neutral

	2025-2026				2026-2027	
	Actual Taxes Levied (1)	Actual Tax Rate (2)	Revenue Neutral Taxes (3)	Revenue Neutral Tax Rate (4)	Proposed Taxes to be Levied (5)	Proposed Tax Rate (6)
General	$480,929	20.000	$439,166	21.896	$558,141	20.000
ALL OTHER FUNDS						
Supplemental General (LOB)	$649,995	24.976	$591,875	27.415	$661,940	22.283
Adult Education	$0	0.000			$0	0.000
Capital Outlay	$208,210	8.000	$188,826	8.695	$237,649	8.000
Cost of Living	$0	0.000			$0	0.000
Special Liability Expense Fund	$0	0.000			$0	0.000
Extraordinary Growth Facilities	$0	0.000			$0	0.000
Bond and Interest #1	$0	0.000			$0	0.000
Bond and Interest #2	$0	0.000			$0	0.000
No-Fund Warrant	$0	0.000			$0	0.000
Special Assessment	$0	0.000			$0	0.000
Temporary Note	$0	0.000			$0	0.000
Historical Museum	$0	0.000			$0	0.000
Public Library Board/District	$0	0.000			$0	0.000
Public Library Board Employee Benefits	$0	0.000			$0	0.000

Revenue Neutral Calculation

Total Taxes Levied Including General Fund	$1,339,134	52.976	$1,219,867	58.006	$1,457,730	50.283
Total Taxes Levied Excluding General Fund	$858,205	32.976	$780,701	36.110	$899,589	30.283

Melissa Whitham
Board President

Pam Hittle
Clerk of the Board

Emma has experienced 900 books in the Stevens County Library's 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten challenge. Outstanding work, Emma!

Market Report

At the Close Tuesday

Brought to you by:

Wheat 6.37
Milo 3.82
Corn 4.42
Soybeans 10.78