

Sorghum Connection Field Days scheduled for August 26–28

by Lacey Noterman, District Director
K-State Extension Walnut Creek District

The Sorghum Connection series, launched and enhanced by the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission (KGSC) in 2024 in collaboration with K-State Extension and the K-State Department of Plant Pathology, announces a third year of comprehensive field days.

The field days focus on data-driven management decisions aimed at improving producer profitability. At each on-farm location across central and western Kansas, participants will have the opportunity to visit nearly 1,000 research plots that showcase the latest agronomic innovations, management practices, and research findings.

Featured topics will include hybrid selection and performance, cropping systems, fertility management, and more. In addition, participants will hear from Kansas State University specialists and industry experts while gaining hands-on experience with precision agriculture technologies, including drone-based mapping and spraying applications.

This year's field days are scheduled to be held:

Wednesday, Aug. 26 - 10 a.m., located 1 1/2 miles west of Bavaria, then 3/4 mile north on South Powers Road.

Thursday, Aug. 27 - 10 a.m., located 1/2 mile south of Dorrance on Road 200.

Friday, Aug. 28 - 2 p.m., located 2 miles east and 3 miles south of Dighton at the intersection of Road 120 and Mustang Road.

“The best conversations happen in the field, where producers can see research results firsthand and ask questions that matter to their operations,” said Dr. Rodrigo Onofre, who leads the program. “In our third year, Sorghum Connection continues to bring together specialists from across disciplines to deliver practical, data-driven insights that producers can put to work.”

There is no cost to attend, but registration is requested at www.ksgrainsorghum.org/sorghum-connection.

Notice To Subscribers

If you have a change of address please notify The Rush County News at 785-222-2555 as soon as possible to ensure prompt delivery of your newspaper.

-City of Liebenal Council Minutes-

The Governing Body of the City of Liebenal met in public hearing in the City Building Monday July 13, 2026, at 6 p.m. Presiding was Mayor Darrell Warner, council members present were Barb Matal, Renee Legleiter, William Stark, Stephanie Schmidt-Koerner, Kathy Herrman, Clerk Beverly Stark, Water/Wastewater/Maintenance Operator Kelly Koerner. No residents were in attendance.

Minutes from the meeting held June 8, 2026, were read. Bill Stark moved to approve the minutes as read, Renee Legleiter seconded, the vote was unanimous, motion passed.

Citizen's Comments: Renee Legleiter complained to the council that the resident at 103 Court has not mown so the weeds and grass were very high, and requested the council send the resident a letter requesting he mow the lawn.

Clerk's Announcements: The Cereal Malt Beverage paperwork was given to Renee Legleiter to convey to the City Fall Fest committee. The clerk completed paperwork for an application for credit to Midland Marketing and asked if permission was given to proceed with the application. The Council agreed to submit the paperwork. Bev presented the proposed 2027 budget from accountant David Herl for the council to review. After consideration, Bill Stark moved to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate for the budget year 2027, Stephanie Schmidt-Koerner seconded, the vote was unanimous, the motion passed. The Budget hearing for the public is scheduled for September 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. Both the Notice of Hearing to Exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate and Budget Hearing, and the Notice of Revenue Neutral Rate Intent will be forwarded to the Rush County Clerk's Office upon signing. Sheriff Mark Knowles is working toward acquiring funding for a storm shelter for each town in Rush County. Each storm shelter will be paid for with grants and donations and will cost \$18,000, will be made entirely of cement, and will hold 50+ people. Any resident interested in donating, or reviewing the proposed storm shelters can google “Neighbors Protecting Neighbors Rush County KS” to connect to a site outlining the sheriff's plans and available information.

Old Business: There is no update for the RO unit and meter replacement project. The Fiber Optic project by GBT has been delayed by backordered equipment, but will commence this week.

New Business: Update on Viking annual maintenance: Mayor Warner contacted Viking and scheduled an inspection for July 23, Kelly Koerner will monitor this inspection.

Mayor Warner had several discussions with Galen Boese regarding the purchase of the city lot adjoining the G&B Fireworks building. Mr. Boese offered to buy the lot, but was not interested in a trade for the lot adjoining the water well property on the north end of town. The council discussed this at length. It was determined the city needs one empty lot to place the roll-off dumpsters for the City-Wide cleanup, and so the council was not in favor of selling the city lot. Further discussion is tabled. Mayor Warner suggested we consider making an ordinance for city property and use by residents. Bev will do research into this proposed ordinance.

City Utilities and Maintenance Updates: Kelly Koerner has replaced mower blades and a pulley on the mower, sprayed for weeds around the city building, mowed frequently due to recent rains, and attached the “City Hall” sign to the city building. He reports the bridge by the sewer lift station is in very bad shape with support rocks having been washed out in the highwater events, and dirt on north side of bridge washed out. The council would like the bridge completely blocked for anything but foot traffic. Also, Kelly has ordered shale and sand from the Rush County Highway Department to be delivered this week.

Calendar / City Events: The city-wide cleanup is scheduled for Sept. 4 through Sept. 14, 2026. The City Fall Fest is scheduled for Sept. 19, 2026 to celebrate St. Joseph's Church Jubilee and the city's founding.

Approval and Payment of Bills: William Stark moved to pay the bills as presented, Kathy Herrman seconded, the vote was unanimous, the motion carried. The next meeting is August 10, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the city office. Renee Legleiter moved to adjourn the meeting, Stephanie Schmidt-Koerner seconded, the vote was unanimous, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

City Clerk Beverly Stark Mayor Darrell Warner

NOTICE OF HEARING TO EXCEED REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE AND BUDGET HEARING							
2027							
The governing body of City of Liebenal							
will meet on September 14, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. at 202 Birch, Liebenal, Kansas for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds, the amount of ad valorem tax, and the Revenue Neutral Rate. Detailed budget information is available at 202 Birch, Liebenal, Kansas and will be available at this hearing.							
BUDGET SUMMARY							
Proposed Budget 2027 Expenditures and Amount of 2026 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2027 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.							
FUND	Prior Year Actual for 2025		Current Year Estimate for 2026		Proposed Budget for 2027		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2026 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	51,258	76.411	46,315	76.412	46,315	38,148	88.753
Special Highway	7,385				5,100		
Water Utility	28,082		33,000		44,171		
Sewer Utility	57,876		45,896		58,155		
Solid Waste Utility	9,399		10,000		20,962		
Non-Budgeted Funds-A							
Totals	152,000	76.411	135,211	76.412	174,703	38,148	88.753
					Revenue Neutral Rate**		
					76.057		
Less: Transfers	0		0		5,000		
Net Expenditure	152,000		135,211		169,703		
Total Tax Levied	28,351		32,691		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
Assessed							
Valuation	371,034		427,826		429,823		
Outstanding Indebtedness, January 1,							
2024			2025		2026		
G.O. Bonds	93,109		91,133		89,132		
Revenue Bonds	0		0		0		
Other	29,415		26,782		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	0		0		0		
Total	122,524		117,915		89,132		
*Tax rates are expressed in mills							
** Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2986							
Beverly Stark							
Official Title: City Clerk							
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Notice of Hearing 2026-2027 Budget

The governing body of Unified School District 395 will meet on the 14th day of September 2026 at 7:10 PM at 400 Washington Street, La Crosse, KS 67548 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 the 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.

	Code	2024-2025 Actual		2025-2026 Actual		2026-2027 Proposed Budget		
		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	3,216,044	20.000	3,358,332	20.000	3,510,713	635,873	20.000
Supplemental General (LOB)	08	1,041,485	20.940	1,095,889	22.539	1,150,932	860,748	22.057
SPECIAL REVENUE								
Federal Funds	07	132,655	7.481	107,665	8.000	128,603	312,188	8.000
At-Risk Education Fund	13	343,612		419,830		461,307		
Capital Outlay	16	350,647		1,200,804		1,110,000		
Driver Training	18	45,818		4,927		20,106		
Food Service	24	250,771		259,634		338,887		
Professional Development	26	290		0		6,922		
Parent Education Program	28	0		0		0		
Summer School	29	1,444		2,224		6,982		
Special Education	30	668,500		708,542		890,600		
Career and Postsecondary Education	34	177,714		208,446		72,545		
Gifts and Grants	35	73,312		129,344		300,000		
KPERS Special Retirement Contribution	51	320,529		328,133		403,603		
Contingency Reserve	53	0		0				
Textbook & Student Material Revolving	55	27,769		23,830				
Activity Fund	56	222,374		287,416				
DEBT SERVICE								
Bond and Interest #1	62	516,046	14.982	710,350	14.991	732,475	580,716	14.881
TOTAL USD EXPENDITURES		100	7,389,010	63.403	8,845,366	65.530	9,133,675	2,389,525
Less: Transfers	105	1,400,776		1,373,677		1,340,422		
NET USD EXPENDITURES		110	5,988,234		7,471,689		7,793,253	
TOTAL USD TAXES LEVIED		115	2,102,474		2,218,389		2,389,525	

1. Sponsoring District Only

*Tax Rates are expressed in Mills

Assessed Valuation - General Fund	128	\$28,503,485	\$28,986,982	\$31,793,673
Assessed Valuation - All Other Funds	130	\$34,991,556	\$35,970,893	\$39,023,512
Assessed Valuation - Capital Outlay	129	\$34,814,942	\$35,859,625	\$39,023,512

Outstanding Indebtedness, July 1		2024	2025	2026
General Obligation Bonds	135	0	10,975,000	10,735,000
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	10,975,000	10,735,000

*Tax Rates are expressed in Mills

John H. Swin
Board President

Jessica Seltett
Clerk of the Board

Exceeding Revenue Neutral for the 2026-2027 School Year

The governing body of Unified School District 395 will meet on the 14 day of September 2026 at 7:00 PM at 400 Washington Street, La Crosse, KS 67548 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 the District Office and will be available at this hearing.

Revenue Neutral					
		2025-2026		2026-2027	
		Actual Taxes	Actual Revenue	Revenue	Proposed
General		\$579,740	20.000	\$579,725	18.234
ALL OTHER FUNDS					
Supplemental General (LOB)		\$811,401	22.539	\$809,814	20.776
Capital Outlay		\$288,000	8.000	\$287,426	7.374
Bond and Interest #1		\$539,248	14.991	\$538,603	13.818

Revenue Neutral Calculation					
Total Taxes Levied Including General Fund		\$2,218,389	65.530	\$2,215,568	60.202
Total Taxes Levied Excluding General Fund		\$1,638,649	45.530	\$1,635,843	41.968
				\$2,389,525	\$1,753,652
				64.938	44.938

John H. Swin
Board President

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