



A number of Russell Junior-Senior High School's high school boys wrestlers qualified for participation in recent state-wide competition. Those state qualifiers were recognized at the Russell County Unified School District 407 Board of Education's Monday evening, March 9, meeting at the district administration office (former Ruppenthal Middle School), in Russell. The athletes, shortly after being recognized by the local school board, gathered together in the Ruppenthal building's gymnasium. Pictured there, are, from left to right: Blayze Standley, Xzander Donner, Peyton Gibson, Xzephren Donner, and Keyan Miller. Also members of the state-qualifying team, but not pictured, were Kolten Jones and Alex Windholz.

•407

will discuss many topics related to USD 407's operations.

In other business, Luke Keller, head coach of Russell Junior-Senior High School's high school girls wrestling team, recognized his athletes who were part of the Bronco group which won the Class 3-2-1A wrestling team championship, held during Friday and Saturday, Feb. 27 and Feb. 28, in Hays. A number of the athletes appeared during the March 9 USD 407 board meeting. Athletes making an appearance were Chaysie Bachman, Averie Counts, Karsyn Hamlin, Camry Ney, Aaliyah Trevino, Mya Trevino, and Arianna Weigel. Kinsey Zorn was also an athlete on the Broncos' state team, but she was not at the recent school board meeting.

Blayze Standley, head coach of Russell Junior-Senior High School's high school boys wrestling team, recognized his athletes who were qualifiers for recent state competition. Athletes who were in attendance at the school board meeting included Xzander Donner, Peyton Gibson, and Xzephren Donner. Another state qualifier, Kolten Jones, was not in attendance at the school board meeting.

On a different topic, the USD 407 board recognized Tori Ansley, the secretary at Bickerdyke Elementary School, as the district's Classified Staff Member of the Month for February 2026, and Karly Standley, a Bickerdyke Elementary School teacher, as the school district's Licensed Staff Mem-

ber of the Month for February 2026.

On a different topic, USD 407 Superintendent Perez gave an update on the school district's efforts to have a scoreboard selected and installed at Shaffer Field to replace the unit there which was damaged by the hailstorm in Russell in May of 2024. During recent USD 407 board meetings, discussion had been held on the possibility of bringing in a video scoreboard. However, Perez said that effort has faced a number of delays. As a result, the USD 407 board, upon his recommendation, formally authorized purchasing a scoreboard which is very similar to the existing one and which can be installed during this summer, in time to be used for the 2026 school football season during this upcoming fall.

In other business, RJSHS Principal Andrew Dempewolf, who is also the USD 407 curriculum director, discussed options for a new curriculum for teaching physical education and health science in middle school and high school. After Dempewolf's discussion, the USD 407 board formally authorized purchasing the *Essential Health Skills* curriculum which is published by Goodheart-Willcox.

Dempewolf, speaking on a different topic, said RJSHS is piloting the use of a diesel mechanics curriculum which is one of a select few that is endorsed by Kubota, the farm machinery manufacturer. Upon Dempewolf's recommendation, the

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USD 407 board approved supporting the full, formal implementation of that curriculum when Russell Junior-Senior High School's introductory Kubota maintenance training course begins operating in the future.

In other business, Superintendent Perez spoke about the updated administrative requirements which USD 407 must fulfill, starting during the next academic year, in order to achieve increases in the amount of state funding which the district may receive which supports the education of at-risk students.

On a different topic, the USD 407 board formally approved renewing the school district's membership in the Kansas Association of School Boards. This renewal includes participation in KASB's Season Pass, which provides access to various training sessions for school staff and administrators and to services which help to ensure school district compliance with state educational policies. Also included in the renewal is USD 407's participation in the KASB Legal Fund, which provides legal services when requested. The total cost of renewing USD 407's membership in the KASB is \$15,802.21.

In other business, the school board formally approved allowing excess books, which are owned by USD 407 and which are currently stored at the district administration office (former Ruppenthal Middle School), to be offered for donation to the Russell Public Library or to be put up for sale to other entities.

Katrina Woelk, the USD 407 finance director, indicated that state grant funding could be applied for which may assist the local school district in paying for the scheduled replacement of one or more route buses.

Jay Sanders, Russell Junior-Senior High School's activities director, said the amount of student turnout for the try-outs of the school's various spring sports is fairly high.

The Lawrence, Kan.-based Dole Institute of Politics expressed thanks to USD 407 for the recent opportunity by which Travis Lamb, a program development officer employed by the institute, visited the city of Russell to present educational programs in the local schools.



Employee excellence

At the Russell City Council's Tuesday, March 3, meeting at the local city building, Mayor Jim Cross, at left, announced Ian Dohl, the city's electric distribution department superintendent, at right, as Russell's Employee of the Year for 2025.

Photo by Albert Lin

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•Easter

•8 a.m. — Mass in Gorham.

•10 a.m. — Mass in Russell.

St. John Lutheran Church of Russell will host the following events:

Palm/Passion Sunday

March 29

•10:30 a.m. — Sunday Worship Procession of the Palms and Children's Donkey Parade (All services during this weekend will include Communion.)

Maundy Thursday

April 2

•7 p.m. — Worship Service with Communion.

Good Friday

April 3

•7 p.m. — Worship Service.

Saturday

April 4

•6 p.m. — Easter Vigil Worship Service.

Easter Sunday

April 5

•7 a.m. — Worship Service.

•10:30 p.m. — Worship Service.

Trinity United Methodist Church of Russell will host the following events:

•Sunday, March 29, at 9:30 a.m. — Palm Sunday and Easter Cantata Service followed by town hall fellowship after the service.

•Thursday, April 2, at 6 p.m. — Maundy Thursday Service.

•Sunday, April 5, at 9:30 a.m. — Easter service, and then Easter egg hunt after the service.

Otterbein Methodist Church of Russell will host a sunrise worship service on Easter Sunday, April 5, at 6 a.m., at the city of Russell's Fossil Lake. Later that day, the regular worship service will be held at 10:45 a.m. at the church.

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The First Congregational Church of Russell will host the Good Friday, April 3, Community Worship Service at 12 noon. Furthermore, the First Congregational Church will host a worship service on Resurrection Sunday (Easter), April 5. The service will start at 11 a.m. and will include Communion.

Calvary Chapel Assembly of God in Russell will host an Easter Sunday, April 5, worship service at 10:45 a.m., at the church.

The First Lutheran Church of Dorrance will host the following events:

•Friday, April 3, at 6 p.m. — Combined Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Service with Holy Communion.

•Sunday, April 5, at 8:30 a.m. — Easter Service with Holy Communion.

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1986, RCT has presented more than 100 full-scale theatrical productions. For more information, telephone (785) 483-4057; find us on Facebook; or visit our web site, www.russelltheater.org.

•RCT

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Russell Community Theater is a non-profit theater company in Russell. The sole purpose of RCT is

to produce theater for the community and the surrounding area. Completely volunteer-driven, RCT is supported financially solely through ticket admissions and gifts from those supportive of community theater. Since its inception in

•Blarney

Woelk's House of Diamonds.

The Blarney Stone Hunt is designed to bring the community together, while highlighting Russell's downtown district and the businesses that make it special.

"We love creating fun ways for the community to

interact with downtown," said Jessica Somers, the interim executive director of Russell Main Street, Inc. "The Blarney Stone Hunt is a great way to celebrate the season while encouraging people to visit local businesses and enjoy everything Main Street has to offer."



Time to learn

Pictured, recently, in the Bickerdyke Elementary School classroom of 2nd grade teacher Caidin Meyer of Hays, a group of students practice telling time by using clock simulators. From left to right, are Ronnie Schmidt, Beckett Counts, Dillyn Wiggins, and Alexiah Topchi, who all are of Russell.

Photo by Albert Lin

Card Scores

March 3

Pinochle

Hi: Linday Summerall
2nd Hi: Betty Ehrlich
Traveling: Dean Maier (2)

March 4

Pinochle

Pinochle

High: Donita Pemberton

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REQUEST FOR BID

Lawn Mowing for Nuisance Properties

February 19th, 2026

The City of Russell, Kansas (hereinafter referred to as "City"), seeks to obtain bids for the periodic mowing of residential lawns deemed out of compliance with City codes. It is anticipated that an official agreement will be issued after approval of the recommended bid. Carefully review this request, and a copy of the bid packet can be reviewed at the City Building or the City website, www.russellcty.org. It provides specific information necessary to aid in formulating a thorough response. Sealed bids are to be submitted NO LATER THAN 12:00 p.m. (Noon) on March 13th, 2026 to:

Ashley Mai, City Clerk
133 W. 8th Street
PO Box 112

Russell, Kansas 67665

Please write "LAWN MOWING FOR NUISANCE PROPERTIES" on the outside of your bid submission.

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What's Showing at The Dream Theatre

Reminders of Him PG-13

March 13 7:00 PM
March 14 7:00 PM
March 15 2:00 PM
March 15 6:00 PM

Sponsored by:
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The Theatre Schedule is sponsored by American Family Insurance and Russell County News