



The Chanute Tribune

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USD 413 Board hears summer meals report

AJ Kohler
Staff Reporter

During the USD 413 Board of Education meeting on Aug 5. The board heard the school's Summer Meals program Director, Terri Markham. The district finished the Summer Meals program on Thursday, July, 30. This summer, the district served 34,200 meals this year to students, which included both breakfast and lunch. Over the summer, the school had delivery stops at the former Save-a-Lot building, the American Legion, the 15th & Central Bus Stop, Otterbein 10th St, Cherry St. West, and Murray Hill Apartments. Along with the students being able to go to the schools and pick up food as well.

"The last couple of years, the USDA has been putting some stress on the fact of kids getting double meals," said Markham. "So we had to do a Google form for parents to sign up, and they had to sign up for which stops they were going to come to, who their kids are, and so we had to make sure nobody was going to multiple sites."

The year was a little bit of a down year compared to previous years, with last year serving over 36,000 kids.

"There still is a high need," said Markham.

See REPORT, continued on page 2

DEATHS

Obituaries for the following can be found on page 2 of today's Tribune.

■ Kathryn Finley

LOCAL SMILES



Soren Houston

THIS ISSUE

■ Volume 135
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■ Pages 12



When you see news happening or if you have a story idea, call 431-4100.



Kansas Secured Title hosts 'Stuff-a-Bus' event to benefit students

AJ Kohler
Staff Reporter

With school on the way, that means it is school supply shopping season, and unfortunately, many people can't afford the cost of supplies on top of the necessities needed for daily life. To help combat this reality, the Chanute location of Kansas Secured Title, located at 1402 S. Santa Fe Avenue, partnered with USD 413 for a Stuff-a-Bus event on Aug. 5. The goal of Stuff-a-Bus is to fill up a bus with as many school supplies as possible.

"We just thought it was a good cause," said Closing Director Rhonda Pemberton. "We were trying to think of something to do in August for the community, and some of our other branches did this in the past. We just wanted to see how successful it would be in Chanute. We have so far raised over 400 items."

Kansas Secured Title has also done similar events before, such as doing food drives during the winter.

"We try to do community events; we try to do food drives around Christmas," said Pemberton. "We hosted Chamber Coffees, just anything to get more involved in the community."

According to Pemberton, the community has been receptive to the event.

"We have gotten a lot of positive feedback," Pemberton said. "Our realtors have been involved in donating things; the Chamber helped advertise for it."

Pemberton also stated that the supplies will be given to the District Office for teachers to choose what they need for their classrooms and for students.

"When I reached out to the Superintendent of Schools, he was really excited that we wanted to do this," Pemberton said.

USD 413 Superintendent Matt Koester looks for opportunities to involve the local community in school events.

"The company reached out and just asked because they wanted to do something for the community and the students in the community," Koester said. "So obviously we wanted

See STUDENTS, continued on page 2



AJ Kohler | Tribune Photos

ABOVE: Rhonda Pemberton, the closing officer for the Chanute location of Kansas Secured Title, stands with two backpacks in a bus as a part of a Stuff-a-Bus event to raise school supplies for Chanute students on Aug. 5.

BELOW: The USD 413 bus sits in the parking lot of Kansas Secured Title at 1402 S. Santa Fe Avenue in Chanute. The bus was being filled with school supplies as part of Kansas Secured Title's Stuff-a-Bus event.



Tax increases and public hearings announced in Neosho County

By Tim Erickson

For the Tribune

Neosho County residents began receiving proposed tax notice increase statements in the mail on July 30. The short story is that taxing entities throughout the county will be seeking an impressive 13.19% overall increase over 2026 tax receipts.

If approved, these increases would translate from the current \$19,471,677.90 in revenue collected through property taxes to \$22,040,261.70 for fiscal year 2027.

Leading the way for this increase request is Neosho County, who is looking for an overall increase of tax receipts by 22.7%. USD 413 is likewise seeking an overall 9% increase in receipts, and Neosho County Community College (NCCC) is looking for an additional 8.3%.

The City of Chanute and Southwind Extension have kept their proposed tax receipts in line with 2026 numbers and will not require public hearings.

If approved as proposed, the higher taxes would be distributed as follows:

- Neosho County: 37%
- NCCC: 30%
- USD 413: 29%
- City (Library Fund): 2%
- Southwind Ext: 1%

Neosho County residents will have an opportunity to voice their concerns during required public hearings as follows:

- USD 413: Aug. 26, 5:30 p.m. at 400 S Highland Ave (Rec Center)
- Sept. 2, 6 p.m. at 500 Osa Martin Blvd
- NCCC: Sept. 9, 9 a.m. at NCCC Student Union
- County: Sept. 15, 9 a.m. at Neosho County Courthouse (Erie)

UNDERSTANDING COMPLEX LANGUAGE

Each year, taxing entities are required to put together the following year's budget. This budget

process involves input from various departments and results in what amounts to a wish list/first cut within each taxing entity.

Although the public is invited to provide input during this initial process, few typically show up for the budget workshops. An output of this process is an initial (proposed) budget submitted to the state and compiled through the County Clerk's office.

If a taxing entity is not going to spend more money than the previous year, they meet a technical Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) threshold and are not required to hold public hearings. But the RNR is itself an opaque vehicle.

Sedgwick County has released an instructional video that explains the basics of the RNR structure at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JgiPeRB-fqss>.

For example, if a county took in \$5,000,000 in tax receipts during the previous year and requested the same amount, they would have a revenue neutral rate and not require a hearing.

To complicate this formula, the aggregate value of personal property in Neosho County typically increases every year. In this rising valuation environment, a taxing entity can lower the tax rate (mill levy) and still collect the same amount of revenue. How is this possible?

THE FORMULA FOR HOUSING

Appraised Value X Assessed Value X Mill Levy = Tax Bill

Using the example of a \$100,000 house where the assessed value is calculated by law at 11.5%:

- \$100,000 X .115 = \$11,500 (assessed value)
- \$11,500 X .200 (Mill Levy) = \$2,300 Tax Bill

If the house increased in value and the county wanted to maintain the same tax revenue, the math would look like this:

- \$120,000 X .115 = \$13,800 (new assessed value)
- \$13,800 X .167 (adjusted Mill Levy) = \$2,304 Tax Bill

In this example, a taxing entity would lower their

levy from 200 mills to 167 mills and remain revenue neutral. This RNR would negate the need for a public hearing.

But for a variety of reasons, taxing entities seldom hold the line with previous budget limits. Instead, they often keep the same mill levy amount but bring in additional tax revenues due to increased property values.

The following simplified data has been extracted from the Notice of Proposed Property Tax Increase and Public Hearing document.

Taxing Entity: Neosho County
Current Tax Collections: \$6,710,978.29
Proposed Tax Collections: \$8,236,941.88
Percentage Increase: 22.74%

Taxing Entity: NCCC
Current Tax Collections: \$6,193,807.51
Proposed Tax Collections: \$6,706,823.48
Percentage Increase: 8.28%

Taxing Entity: USD 413 General*
Current Tax Collections: \$1,485,562.23
Proposed Tax Collections: \$1,685,039.92
Percentage Increase: 13.43%

Taxing Entity: USD 413 Capital Outlay
Current Tax Collections: \$863,065.98
Proposed Tax Collections: \$948,654.06
Percentage Increase: 9.92%

Taxing Entity: USD 413
Current Tax Collections: \$3,453,947.77
Proposed Tax Collections: \$3,691,400.77
Percentage Increase: 6.88%

Taxing Entity: Southwind Extension
Current Tax Collections: \$244,537.84
Proposed Tax Collections: \$251,535.62
Percentage Increase: 2.86%

See TAX, continued on page 2

NEOSHO MEMORIAL
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
NMRMC Family Medicine

Student Athletes'
Sports Physicals

**Monday,
August 10, 2026
6pm- 8pm**

NMRMC Family Medicine - Chanute
505 S. Plummer Ave.
For Middle & High School Students
Bring completed KSHSAA Pre-Participation Form