

Industry envisions first U.S. transcontinental railroad

The week before Christmas, Jim Vena, CEO of Union Pacific (UP) Railroad, filed a nearly 7,000-page proposal to purchase Norfolk Southern (NS) Railway with the Surface Transportation Board (STB). Once done, it would mark the first transcontinental railroad in U.S. history. The nations sharing our continent have had such rails for decades.

At once, a raft of opposition to UP’s action erupted.

Internationally known for being a solid investment and for pioneering routes across the American West, UP has built a reputation for achieving financial and historical ends. It has made a host of admirers.

However, a group of vocal critics have difficulty with how UP has achieved these ends. Previous actions taken by UP have led to opposition regarding the merger and prompted numerous requests for additional information.

Bill Stephens, my favorite railroad

expert, recently promoted to editor of the monthly journal Trains, has noted that the unions who run the trains have given support to the merger. And Vena has promised that no union worker on UP’s roster will lose her or his job once the merger is completed.

This past week, the Midwest Association of Rail Shippers (MARS) gathered in Chicago for their winter meeting, the first and most important of the year. From podiums, in hallways, at restaurants, and wherever challenged, UP’s VP of marketing and sales, Kenny Rocker, led the chance to “set the record straight.” He made a lot of telling points.

Rocker noted that the two companies have minimal overlaps in joining east and west rails. He indicated that this will not reduce shipper choices and is an easy claim to refute.



Walt Mack

“All you need to do is look at a map,” he said. Where facilities are duplicated, UP plans to close one of them, but all employees will be retained.

He went on to say that UP has made jobs-for-life agreements with operating unions and expects to hire 900 new union jobs within three years.

One argument critics made was that merger would make service less reliable as it had in many previous merger events. Rocker said that the evidence critics of the merger used was 30 years old. Since then, he noted, modern transportation management systems have transformed the rail industry.


The MARS meeting seemed to validate many of the points Rocker made. More than 500 customers signed letters of support for the merger. These letters make a powerful argument for merger action, he asserted.

As part of her America at Work tour, U.S. Labor Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer last week visited UP headquarters in Omaha. She toured both UP’s Training Center and the vast Harriman Dispatching Center, which serves as UP’s central nervous system. The Harriman facility dispatches trains and crews 24/7 across UP’s entire multi-state system.

Impressed with tour, the secretary said that she appreciated the efforts of UP “to strengthen our skilled workforce and keep America competitive for decades to come.”

This year as part of the nation’s 250th birthday, UP will dispatch the Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Locomotive across the nation. It will honor our nation’s 16th president’s signing of the Pacific Railway Act in 1862. It and UP’s Big Boy steam engine will tour the country as part of the nation’s celebration.

Walt Mack is a lifelong historian and lives in Leavenworth.



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Public Notices

(First Published in the Leavenworth Times on January 10 2026).

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF LEAVENWORTH COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of

Thurman V. Moore , Deceased.

Case No. LV-2025-PR-000221

Proceeding Under K.S.A. Chapter 59

Title to Real Estate Involved

Public Notices

NOTICE OF HEARING

The State of Kansas to all persons concerned:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in said court by Lyle V. Moore, heir at law of Thurman V. Moore, deceased, requesting descent be determined of the following described real estate situated in Leavenworth County, Kansas:

The West Half of the Southeast Quarter (W/2 SE/4) of Section 26, Township 9, Range 21 Leavenworth County, Kansas.

Public Notices

and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by decedent at the time of death. And that such property and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by the decedent at the time of death be assigned pursuant to the laws of intestate succession.

You are required to file your written defenses to the petition on or before February 13, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. in said court in the City of Leavenworth, in Leavenworth County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

Lyle V. Moore
Petitioner

Erin K. Lynch – 28991
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Attorneys for Petitioner
Published in the Leavenworth Times, Jan 10, 17, 24, 2026
418603C

Public Notices

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF LEAVENWORTH COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of Michael D. Mathews, Deceased
Case No. LV-2026-PR-000005

NOTICE OF HEARING
THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:
You are hereby notified that on the 7th day of January, 2026, a Petition was filed in this Court by Stephanie A. Mathews praying that she be appointed as Administrator and granted Letters of Administration. You are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 13th day of February, 2026, at 8:30 o'clock a.m. of said day, in this Court at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said Petition.
Stephanie A. Mathews, Petitioner

Qualified buyers don't investigate every ad, just the ones that offer a good deal.

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Attorney for Petitioner
Published in the Leavenworth Times, Jan 17, 24, 31, 2026
420056C

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LEAVENWORTH COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
To all qualified electors residing within the boundaries of the Leavenworth County Conservation District, notice is hereby given that pursuant to K.S.A. 2-1907, as amended, on the 6th day of February 2026, at 5:00 p.m., an annual meeting of the Leavenworth County Conservation District will be held at Kane Family Farm 17791 Chieftain Road Tonganoxie, Ks 66086 Please RSVP to 785-863-2221 ext 1031.
The meeting agenda shall include the following business items:
ONE:
The supervisors of the Leavenworth County Conservation District shall make full and due report of their activities and financial affairs since the last annual meeting.
TWO:
The supervisors shall conduct an election by secret ballot of qualified electors there present of two supervisors to serve for a term of three years from date of said meeting.

The term of Rodney Parsons and Jeff Heim is expiring.
All in the county of Leavenworth in the State of Kansas.

By
Jeff Heim, Chairman
Leavenworth County Conservation District
Attest
Megan Hollander, District Manager
Published in the Leavenworth Times, Jan 17, 24, 2026
420280C

Public Notices

dered by the Governing Body to be repaired or demolished NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS: Section 1. Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the City Commission on March 10 2026, at Leavenworth City Hall 100 N. 5th Street, Leavenworth Kansas, 66048, such date being at least thirty (30) days after the last date scheduled for publication of this Resolution. The public hearing will commence at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the City Commission can hear the matter. If, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic or other reason, such public hearing may not be held in person but rather via remote meeting, such remote meeting shall be held at the same date and time, and access instructions for remote participation shall be available at the City's website, www.leavenworthks.gov, and included with the published agenda for such meeting. At the public hearing the owners, their agents, heirs any lien holders of record and other persons affected by certain structures herein described may appear and show cause why such structures should or should not be condemned as dangerous or hazardous structures and ordered repaired or demolished pursuant to K.S.A. 12-1751 et seq.: The structure is described as: A single-family structure located at 130 Logar Street. The property is legally described as: Lot 20, Block 32 of Southside Park Subdivision Leavenworth, Kansas. CAM# 1010104014005000 Section 2. The City Clerk and/or Chief Building Inspector are hereby authorized and directed to provide for the notice of the public hearing by taking the following action: a. A copy of this Resolution shall be mailed by certified mail within three (3) days after its first publication to each such owner, agent, lienholder, and occupant at the last known address and shall be marked "deliver to addressee only." b. This Resolution shall be published for two (2) consecutive weeks on the same day of each week Section 3. This Resolution shall be effective upon its adoption by the City Commission of the City of Leavenworth, Kansas PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Leavenworth, Kansas, this 13th day of January, 2026. Nancy D. Bauder, Mayor (SEAL, ATTEST: Sarah Bodensteiner CMC, City Clerk.
Published in the Leavenworth Times, Jan 17, 24, 2026
420570C

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Psychedelic drug
4 Red planet
8 Molt
12 Expert
13 Norse god
14 Body of laws
15 Water barrier
16 Be in a funk
17 Gigantic
18 "Of — and Men"
20 Extreme
22 Get brown in the sun
23 Wheel part
24 New business venture
28 Nuisance
31 Fastener
32 Fish eggs
34 Extremely popular
36 Curved letter
37 The present

38 Toy blocks brand
39 Sharp
42 Usual
44 Central point
46 Tiny colonist
47 Pancake mixture
50 Coral ridge
52 Rajah's wife
53 Apparel
55 Liquor
57 — the Red
58 List-ending abbr.
59 Big bird
60 Remove, in printing
61 Domesticated
62 Rep.'s opponent

DOWN

1 Boy
2 Con game
3 Small coffee cup
4 Instant

5 "Much — About Nothing"
6 Rends
7 Snide look
8 Devious plan
9 Time of day
10 Brink
11 Poor grade
19 Complain
21 Big cheese
24 That girl
25 Thing to be done
26 Samovar
27 "— Things"
29 Protected from bad weather

30 Ancient garment
33 Sheep
35 Rocky hill
38 "Clair de —"
40 Lure
41 Fanatical one
43 Mix up
45 Father
47 Unclothed
48 Dye plant
49 Pro —
51 Be in a rage
52 Crimson
54 Farm denizen
56 Not talking

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