COACH

FROM 2B

administration and our players and all the effort that has been put in in the last six months as we build this thing and move it forward."

The return of electric-if-inconsistent quarterback Avery Johnson and a schedule that ranks as one of the easiest in the country — Nicholls, Washington State and Tulane out of conference, and no Texas Tech or BYU in league play — should allow the Wildcats to be in the mix for the league championship game.

STRONG OFFENSE

Johnson has been maddening in his Kansas State tenure, showing flashes of brilliance but also moments that left fans scratching their heads. The return of Klein, who like Johnson was a dual-threat quarterback, may bring out the best in him.

Joe Jackson is back after thriving at running back last season, but much of the offensive line has turned over along with the wide receiver corps. Missouri transfer Josh Manning and Texas A&M transfer Izaiah Williams are among the new pass-catchers who should make an immediate impact, while returnees Jaron Tibbs and Adonis Moise will also be in the mix.

DEFENSIVE CHANGE

The Wildcats gave up nearly 400 yards and more than 26 points per game last season, so the fervent hope is new coordinator Jordan Peterson — who was co-defensive coordinator at Texas A&M the past two seasons — can turn a weakness into a strength.

It doesn't help his cause that edge rushers Tobi Osunsanmi and Chiddi Obiazor transferred to Indiana.

But the Wildcats also landed one of the best edge prospects in the portal when Oklahoma State's Wendell Gregory decided to stay in the Big 12. He'll be joined by Kennesaw State transfer Elijah Hill in a defensive front that is crucial to Kansas State's success.

In the defensive backfield, Zashon Rich is coming off a breakthrough season. Ja'Son Prevard (Virginia) and Kaleb Patterson (Illinois) are two high-profile transfers while freshman Josiah Vilmael may force his way onto the field on his sheer ability.

NEW FACES

WR Josh Manning (transfer from Missouri), WR Izaiah Williams (transfer from Texas A&M), OL Tanner Morley (transfer from Colorado State), DT Kamari Burns (transfer from Cincinnati), CB Kaleb Patterson (transfer from Illinois).

KEY LOSSES

DE Tobi Osunsanmi (transfer to Indiana), DE Chiddi Obiazor (transfer to Indiana), WR Jayce Brown (transfer to LSU), RB Dylan Edwards (transfer to Kansas), LB Austin Romaine (transfer to Texas Tech).

BIG GAMES

Vs Kansas (Oct. 17), vs Arizona (Nov. 21), at Iowa State (Nov. 28).

PANTHERS

CONTINUED FROM 1B

The Panthers lost state qualifiers Allie Karleskint and Michael Vacek to graduation, but they do have seniors Kayla Hutchison and Gillian Wilbert and juniors Mary Boschee and Adriana Lopez back from last season in addition to senior Smithhisler and sophomore Gilmore.

Returners on the boys side are senior Xander Reading and sophomores Samuel Landsteiner and Braden Smithhisler. Meanwhile, sophomore Alexis Simone and freshman Olivia Brown (girls) and juniors Quincy Biehl and Reid Mishmash and freshman Brett Broxterman are in the varsity mix.

"Adriana Lopez and Reid Mishmash have both had excellent summers and are poised to make tremendous growth in performance from last season," Cichon said. "Quincy Biehl is joining us for his first season after a great spring on the track and will be a significant contributor.

"Colton Smithhisler has developed a strong voice in addition to setting a standard for the discipline and commitment it takes to succeed in cross country and has done an outstanding job in connecting our boys team and drawing a stronger effort out of the entire group."

The Panthers open their season Sept. 3 at Labette County and their schedule continues with Girard (Sept. 10), Olathe Twilight (Sept. 12), Missouri Southern (Sept. 19), Rim Rock (Sept. 26) and Jayhawk-Linn (Oct. 8) before league, regional and state competition.

"I believe our boys' strength is a strong commitment to doing the work it takes and their hunger to be good," Cichon said. "I believe our girls' strength is our strong depth and the team-first attitude that they have towards the sport.

"As always, health is a key to a successful season. We can't cross finish lines if we don't make start lines, so we are going to do our best to maximize our fitness while not risking our ability to compete."

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GORILLAS

CONTINUED FROM 1B

and Johnson made 18 and 12 tackles, respectively.

"All of those guys had some very solid snaps last year," coach Riley Wagner said. "We're going to lean heavy on those older guys. Those guys know the defense so well. They feel it. They understand it, so it's great to coach those guys because they have such a good understanding of the defense and of the game."

Providing depth are redshirt freshman Kason Presley and sophomore Max Adams, a transfer from Minnesota State-Mankato.

Veterans are also at inside linebacker with sophomore Blake Carr and senior Zach Coenen.

Carr's 79 tackles ranked third on the team last year with eight tackles for loss, two pass breakups, four quarterback hurries and two forced fumbles. Coenen had 30 tackles in the 2024 season but missed all of last season after a preseason knee injury.

"In my time here, we've been pretty blessed with a pretty good group of linebackers," Anthony said. "Last year was kind of a learning experience, but it's going to make us even better this year.

"Being able to play Blake Carr as a redshirt freshman probably when we weren't anticipating having to play him was so huge for us. Being a captain as a redshirt sophomore is a testament to him and his ability as a football player and leadership.

"It's awful what happened to Zach last year, but it got us Zach back this year. Having him with his leadership and experience is huge.

"And some of those guys who've we recruited in the last few years who are really good players, it's their time now – Billy Wolfe, Jackson Young, Paxton Wehner, Cam Wolfe. We're a pretty deep group, very athletic. They run well and very knowledgeable, having been in the program a couple of years."

SECONDARY

Probable starters are senior Aabiya Wakes and sophomore Quincy Miner at cornerbacks, senior Jasper Ogburn and junior Mario Menghini at safeties and sophomore Quintin Kirby at nickel back.

All have seen action in reserve roles. Ogburn, in fact, has played more than 1,000 snaps during the last three seasons and made 40 tackles last season.

Jorian Guinn and Daijon Gaines, two freshmen who enrolled at PSU in January, will see action at safety.

More cornerbacks are freshmen Lyzale Edmon, Dontre Garfield and Gaston Ferrell and junior Eliajah Randle, a transfer from Winona State.

"They have some good personalities, and they are willing to work," coach Brandon Perkins said. "That's been a blessing for me, transitioning into this role. They is really good leadership in the room, so it helps me and makes my life easier. The room camaraderie is very good."

Perkins was named defensive coordinator after Lynn Nutt resigned earlier this month.

"I'm a players' coach," Perkins said. "I want to keep it as simple as possible while looking complex. I want to give our players the ability to play as fast as they possibly can. I don't want them out there overthinking. I want them to know what they have to do and go out and play as fast and physical as they can."

JAYHAWKS

CONTINUED FROM 2B

both huge question marks heading into the Jayhawks' opener against Long Island.

On offense, Oklahoma State transfer Kasen Carpenter and Texas guard Connor Stroh figure to step into leading roles, but who will join them remains up in the air. Cal transfer Nick Morrow and holdovers Calvin Clements and Amir Herring appear to be first in line.

On the other side of the ball, Kansas brought in a slew of transfers to fortify a front that must be vastly improved. Tre'Von McAlpine arrived from Tulane, Kevin Oatis from Arkansas, Jibriel Conde from Grand Valley State and David Santiago from Michigan State, and all will have a role. Boston College transfer Daveon Crouch could help them all out from his spot at linebacker.

NEW FACES

RB Dylan Edwards (transfer from Kansas State), QB Chase Jenkins (transfer from Rice), OL Connor Stroh (transfer from Texas), WR Nahzae Cox (transfer from Middle Tennessee), LB Daveon Crouch (transfer from Boston College).

KEY LOSSES

QB Jalon Daniels (graduated), WR Emmanuel Henderson Jr. (sixth-round pick of Seattle), RB Daniel Hishaw Jr. (graduated), RB LeShon Williams (graduated), FS Lyrik Rawls (transfer to Arizona State).

BIG GAMES

Vs Missouri (Sept. 11), at Kansas State (Oct. 17), vs BYU (Nov. 21).

LEGALS

(Published in The Morning Sun on August 22nd, 2026)

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of

Wildcat Extension District #14

Montgomery

will meet on September 9, 2026 at 6:30 PM at SE Research Ext. Center 25092 Ness Road, Parsons, KS 67357 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 is available at https://www.wildcatdistrict.k-state.edu/ and will be available at this hearing.

SUPPORTING COUNTIES

Montgomery (home county) Crawford, Labette, Wilson

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2027 Expenditures and Amount of Current Year Estimate for 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.

	Prior Year Actual 2025		Current Year Estimate for 2026		Proposed Budget Year for 2027		
FUND	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2026 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	2,473,023	1.554	3,333,500	1.478	2,512,054	1,597,231	1.424
Debt Service							
Totals	2,473,023	1.554	3,333,500	1.478	2,512,054	1,597,231	1.424
						Revenue Neutral Rate**	1.424
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditures	2,473,023		3,333,500		2,512,054		
Total Tax Levied	0		1,595,876		xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx		
Assessed Valuation:	0		1,080,514,887		1,121,381,905		

Outstanding Indebtedness,

Jan 1,	2024	2025	2026
G.O. Bonds	0	0	0
Revenue Bonds	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Lease Pur. Princ.	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

*Tax rates are expressed in mills.

**Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

Wildcat Extension District #14

(Published in The Morning Sun on August 22nd, 2026)

Notice of Hearing 2026-2027 Budget

The governing body of Unified School District 247 will meet on the 14th day of September 2026 at 6:05 PM at 506 S. Smelter, Cherokee, KS 66724 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 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	5,211,617	20.000	5,114,527	20.000	5,021,882	778,785	20.000
Supplemental General (LOB)	08	1,756,951	21.551	1,735,909	21.132	1,732,594	974,010	18.900
SPECIAL REVENUE								
Federal Funds	07	380,375		191,102		187,659		
Adult Education	10	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Preschool-Aged At-Risk	11	48,730		54,710		58,000		
Adult Supplemental Education	12	0		0		0		
At-Risk Education Fund	13	1,208,335		1,161,864		1,091,000		
Bilingual Education	14	1,406		0		0		
Virtual Education	15	0		0		11,200		
Capital Outlay	16	900,896	7.999	368,004	7.999	1,346,598	412,271	8.000
Driver Training	18	4,733		760		23,750		
Declining Enrollment	19	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Extraordinary School Program	22	0		0		0		
Food Service	24	473,300		430,799		483,100		
Professional Development	26	5,851		7,611		15,000		
Parent Education Program	28	0		11,500		0		
Summer School	29	0		0		0		
Special Education	30	777,482		773,801		834,589		
Cost of Living	33	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Career and Postsecondary Education	34	140,537		148,854		170,714		
Gifts and Grants	35	134,326		33,327		52,275		
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	550,077		548,684		646,761		
Contingency Reserve	53	0		0				
Textbook & Student Material Revolving	55	55,772		5,834				
Activity Fund	56	88,365		89,798				
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	11,738,753	49.550	10,675,084	49.131	11,875,122	2,165,066	45.900
Less: Transfers	105	2,118,539		2,159,642		1,988,200		
NET USD EXPENDITURES	110	9,620,214		8,515,442		9,686,922		
TOTAL USD TAXES LEVIED	115	2,151,613		2,210,461		2,165,066		

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	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Rec Comm Emp Benefits & Spec Liab	86	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
TOTAL OTHER	120	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
TOTAL TAXES LEVIED	125	$2,151,613		$2,210,461		$2,165,066		
Assessed Valuation - General Fund	128	$36,230,529		$37,656,809		$38,939,236		
Assessed Valuation - All Other Funds	130	$48,293,062		$50,026,605		$51,533,932		
Assessed Valuation - Capital Outlay	129	$48,212,174		$49,876,574		$51,533,932		
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	450,000		400,000		350,000		
TOTAL USD DEBT	155	450,000		400,000		350,000		

*Tax Rates are expressed in Mills

Board President — Clerk of the Board

Exceeding Revenue Neutral for the 2026-2027 School Year

The governing body of Unified School District 247 will meet on the 14th day of September 2026 at 6:00 PM at 506 S. Smelter, Cherokee, KS 66724 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 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	$753,136	20.000	$753,136	19.341	$778,785	20.000
ALL OTHER FUNDS						
Supplemental General (LOB)	$1,057,162	21.132	$975,003	18.870	$974,010	18.900
Adult Education	$0	0.000			$0	0.000
Capital Outlay	$400,163	7.999	$400,163	7.765	$412,271	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	$2,210,461	49.131	$2,128,302	45.976	$2,165,066	46.900
Total Taxes Levied Excluding General Fund	$1,457,325	29.131	$1,375,166	26.635	$1,386,281	26.900

Board President — Clerk of the Board