

Pritchett Trust Grant Reception Announced

PRESS RELEASE
Pritchett Trust Grant Committee

►► PITTSBURG, Kan., August 25, 2026 – The Pritchett Trust will announce the recipients of their 2026 grants at a reception on Thursday, September 3, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. inside the BMO Bank lobby, 417 N. Broadway, Pittsburg, Kansas. \$543,354 in grants will be distributed to 45 projects from non-profit organizations, schools and municipalities in Crawford County. The amount distributed is \$40,000 more than last year’s grants. The event is open to the public. The Trust was funded in 1994 after the deaths of long-time Pittsburg residents, William B. Pritchett, veteran of World War I, and Athlyn C. Pritchett. Soon after their marriage in 1920, they operated the Pritchett Insurance Agency in Pittsburg. During the 1930s and 1940s, they invested in oil and gas leases in Kansas

and Oklahoma, becoming successful in both businesses. Pritchett Trust Grant Committee Chair Frances Mitchelson reflects “What an amazing privilege to distribute over half a million dollars to worthy projects in Crawford County. The local grant committee is proud to honor the legacy of Mr. and Mrs. Pritchett and know they would be overwhelmed to see the impact their charitable contributions are making to improve lives.” Members of the Pritchett grant selection process include Rick Baden, Justin Crain, Ron Marrone, Ron Seglie, Vince VanBecelaere and Chair Frances Mitchelson with trust management by Midwest Institutional Trust Services office in Milwaukee. The first grants were distributed in 1995; the Trust has awarded a total of approximately \$13 million to organizations in Southeast Kansas.

Why Tagging Matters

PRESS RELEASE
K-State Extension

►► No, I’m not talking about tagging someone in a Facebook post. I’m talking about why tagging matters for sheep and goat producers. Tagging is one of the easiest methods of identification for sheep and goats and helps us, as producers, keep accurate records. When I was growing up, I always marveled at how my friend and mentor, who raised dairy goats, could tell all her white goats apart and call them by name, even with a herd of 100. For those like me who do not have the talent to keep track of which animal has the small tan spot to tell it apart from the other white goats in the herd, tagging is an easy way to keep track of who is who, who belongs to whom, and who was treated last week. Earlier this month, a sheep in Oregon was confirmed to have Scrapie. While it is unfortunate to have a case of Scrapie found in the U.S., it serves as a good reminder of why it is important to follow the identification guidelines from the National Scrapie Eradication Program. To be declared scrapie-free, the U.S. has to go seven years without having a case of Scrapie. Before the Organ case, it had been five years

since a case of Scrapie was found in the U.S. Being declared Scrapie-free will open up more export opportunities for sheep and goat producers, strengthening the sheep and goat market. A key part of the National Scrapie Eradication Program is the identification guidelines, requiring official identification for sheep and goats moving through commercial channels. Many fairs also require sheep and goats to have scrapie tags to be shown. Getting a premise ID number is the first step for getting Scrapie tags. To get a premise ID number, call 1-866-USDA-Tag. New producers can also receive their first 100 tags free of charge by calling this number. Tagging lambs and kids with Scrapie tags is a great way for producers to keep more accurate records and meet the requirements of the National Scrapie Eradication Program. Once producers have a premise ID, they can order Scrapie tags in various sizes and colors from many livestock supply companies. And as an added bonus, if a 4-H or FFA member purchases a sheep or goat to show at the county fair, it will already have a scrapie tag to meet the fair rules.

Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission to meet August 27 in Pittsburg

PRESS RELEASE
The Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission

►► TOPEKA - The Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission will hold its next public meeting on Thursday, Aug. 27, 2026, in the Dean Family VIP Room at the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts, 1711 S. Homer St., Pittsburg, KS, 66762. The meeting will begin at noon and continue until all agenda items are addressed. The Commission will hold a public hearing and final vote on proposed changes to state park fees, nonresident waterfowl hunting on public lands, fall turkey hunting seasons, and deer seasons on military units. Proposed state park fee changes include increasing the daily motor vehicle permit from \$3.50 to \$5.50 and the annual motor vehicle permit from \$22.50 to \$37.50. Senior and disabled permit fees would also increase, with daily permits changing from \$1.75 to \$2.75 and annual permits from \$11.25 to \$18.75. The Easy Pass annual

motor vehicle permit would increase from \$15 to \$30. Listed permit amounts do not include applicable transaction and processing fees. Proposed camping fee changes would eliminate the annual camping permit and increase the overnight camping permit from \$9 to \$15 and the 14-night camping permit from \$110 to \$165. Nightly utility fees would increase from \$9 to \$11 for one utility, \$11 to \$13 for two utilities, and \$12 to \$15 for three utilities. Listed camping amounts do not include applicable processing fees. Commissioners will also consider a proposed regulation restricting nonresidents hunting migratory waterfowl, coot, sandhill crane, rail, or snipe on Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) lands and waters to hunting before noon. Under the proposal, nonresident hunters pursuing those species could hunt until 11:59 a.m. and would be required to leave department lands and waters, along with their personal possessions, by 12:59 p.m.

The proposed restrictions would not apply during the September teal season or to light geese during the light goose conservation order. They also would not apply to nonresident hunters on Walk-In Hunting Access areas or those participating in KDWP special hunts and events. The Commission will also vote on a proposal to reestablish the fall turkey hunting season for Kansas residents. If approved, resident hunters would be limited to one fall turkey permit, valid for one bearded turkey. The proposed season would run Oct. 31 through Jan. 31 of the following year, excluding the Wednesday following Thanksgiving and continuing for a total of 12 days, including the Wednesday after Thanksgiving. Commissioners will also consider deer seasons on military units. Commissioners will receive updates on regulations currently moving through the promulgation process, including nonresident waterfowl stamp fees, senior hunting and

fishing licenses, and trail cameras on public lands. Other agenda items include an overview of KDWP's wildlife rehabilitation program. During the workshop session, commissioners will discuss fishing regulations, including creel, size, and possession limits. The public is invited to attend the meeting in person or virtually, with opportunities for public comment. Instructions for joining the meeting virtually, a complete meeting agenda, and the proposed regulation changes can all be viewed at www.ksoutdoors.gov/commission.

An interpreter for the hearing impaired can be requested by calling the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at 1-800-432-0698. Individuals with disabilities can request other accommodations by contacting KDWP at (785) 294-2645. The next commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 19, in Oakley.

Local Coin Club celebrates the Semiquincentennial in Parsons

PRESS RELEASE
In God We Trust LLC

►► PARSONS, KS... As America 250 is in full swing, the Parsons Coin Club is honoring the coinage and medals that celebrate and commemorate milestones and anniversaries of American life. Throughout the month of September, the local coin club will display items related to America 250, the Bicentennial, 9/11, the Constitution, and our local community at the Parsons Public Library, 311 S. 17th Street. “We are grateful to Samantha and the staff at the Parsons Library for this opportunity to show their patrons actual examples of the coins and medals

that commemorate life in America,” said Dave Sorrick, member of the local club and a volunteer district representative with the American Numismatic Association. “We are holding events in and near Parsons this month to stir interest in the hobby of coin collecting. We kick-off those efforts Monday, August 31 at 11:30am at the Parsons Library as we complete our patriotic display,” Sorrick added. The American Numismatic Association, America’s coin club based in Colorado Springs, CO, has donated several copies of the 2025 Redbook Guide to U.S. Coins to the local club. “At our kick-off event at the Parsons Library, our club will donate

two copies of the famed Redbook for circulation here in Labette County, Kansas. Local collectors will be able to use these reference materials to learn more about their own holdings of old U.S. coins and learn more about our local club,” Sorrick stated. “Folks are invited to join us at 11:30am Monday, August 31 to view the books and to receive a free entry for a Constitution Silver dollar set to be given away at our meeting later in the month.” The Parsons Coin Club will offer free coin appraisals at the Labette Bank, 2121 Main Street, on Friday, September 11 at 3pm. That date marks the 25th anniversary of that tragic date in American history that

has been commemorated in many medals. The local club meets on the Third Thursday of every month at the Parsons Senior Center, 1800 Belmont, at 5:30pm. That date coincides with “Constitution Day” and the club will honor the U.S. Constitution at that meeting with ticket drawings for coins related to it and 9/11. The month ends with The Route 66 Coin, Gold, and Silver Show to be held in Galena, KS on Saturday, September 26 in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Route 66. For more information on that event, call Dave Sorrick at (620) 423-6600 or email ddsorrick@yahoo.com.

New round of SEED grants available for rural quality-of-life initiatives

PRESS RELEASE
KS Dept. of Commerce

►► TOPEKA - Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland today announced a new round of funding totaling \$250,000 available through the Strategic Economic Expansion and Development (SEED) grant program. Now in its fifth round, the SEED initiative continues to support economic development and quality-of-life improvements in Kansas’ smallest communities. “Over the last eight years, we’ve worked strategically to bring economic opportunities to all of our Kansas communities – including the rural and smaller parts of our state,” Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland said. “SEED funding creates transformational change in communities that might not otherwise have the means to complete necessary economic development projects on their own.” Administered by the Kansas Department of Commerce, SEED grants are available to communities in 78 eligible counties, with populations of 5,000 or fewer. Grants of up to \$25,000 will be awarded in the following categories:

- Childcare and Senior Programming- Projects that support or enhance services, such as building improvements, educational materials, supplies and equipment
 - Community Vibrancy- Projects that re-energize and beautify rural communities through public art, signage and placemaking initiatives
 - Food Retail- Projects that increase access to food through new, expanded or renovated retail spaces
 - Libraries- Projects that expand access to information and community resources through reading materials, technology upgrades, furnishings and facility improvements
- Eligible applicants include local government, economic development organizations, chambers of commerce and other community-based organizations in towns that have not received a SEED grant in the past year. A 10% local match is required, and all funded projects must be completed within 12 months of receiving grant funds. Grants will be distributed

in two installments: half at the time of award and the remainder once the project has reached at least 50% completion. Awarded grants are having a real impact on real Kansas communities. In 2025, a \$25,000 SEED grant paired with \$43,450 in local matching funds, is helping the City of Larned build a greenhouse at the Larned Community Garden for students, volunteers and seniors to utilize. A “Senior Saturdays” program will have seniors planting vegetables and flowers during the winter, then returning in the spring to take them home. The city also is creating programming with cooking classes and a county-wide equipment share co-op that will give seniors more opportunities for socialization. “We’re excited about the impact that the equipment share program and the greenhouse will have on our community,” City of Larned City Manager Bradley Eilts said. “Together, they create opportunities that simply wouldn’t be possible in a small rural community. Through programs like Senior Saturdays, we’ll be able to provide meaningful hands-on experiences, social connections and access to resources

that enrich the lives of our older adults.” Funding for the SEED program is made possible through the Technology Enabled Fiduciary Financial Institutions (TEFFI) Development and Expansion Fund, established through bipartisan legislation in 2021 to promote economic development statewide in rural communities. SEED grant applications will open Monday, August 17, and close at 5 p.m. Monday, October 19. Awardees will be announced in December. A webinar to learn more about this opportunity will take place at 2 p.m. Tuesday, August 18. Those interested in participating can register online. The webinar also will be recorded and available on demand following the meeting. For information about program guidelines, the list of eligible counties, or to view previous awardees, visit the SEED Grant webpage, <https://www.kansascommerce.gov/seedgrants/>.



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