



CUNNINGHAM SIGNS Lakeside High School Senior, Jace Cunningham, signed his letter of intent to play men's golf at Kansas Wesleyan University on March 11th. Jace is the two time defending KSHSAA Sand Greens Golf State Champion. Shown L to R: Lakeside golf coach Cory Beougher, Kansas Wesleyan assistant golf coach Ethan Vikander, Terry Cunningham, Jace Cunningham and Crystal Cunningham.

From the Dome to Home

Troy L. Waymaster, State Representative,
109 Kansas House



House Passes legislation to control property tax increases

Even though it was passed out of the House chamber last week, by a final action vote of 115 to 6 and I voted yes, I would be remiss to not dedicate considerable space to House Bill (HB) 2396 to you, the constituents of House District 109. In response to growing concerns of rising property tax costs from across Kansas the House Committee on Taxation developed HB 2396, after considerable work and thought.

HB 2396 answers those concerns through several means. First is that it establishes a protest petition for voters in the event that property tax revenues, within the governing jurisdiction and current year, exceed past property tax revenues adjusted by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), for the Midwest Region as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The protest petition would require signatures from 10 percent of the qualified voters in the governing jurisdiction and need to be filed within 30 days of the certification of the property tax revenue increase taking effect.

"Every strike brings me closer to the next home run."- Babe Ruth

If those requirements were met the property tax in the jurisdiction would be reduced by the corresponding difference between the previous year and the current year, adusted by the forementioned CPI. Second is that the legislation creates the Acknowledging Stewardship of Tax Revenue and Appropriations (ASTRA) Fund. The fund would receive an initial transfer of \$60 million from the State

General Fund in Fiscal Year 2026 and then an ongoing transfer of the same amount compounded by two percent for future fiscal years.

The fund would be administered by the State Treasurer and its monies distributable to any county or city whose property tax revenues did not exceed the prior mentioned annual CPI adjusted increase. Apportionment of the distributable fund would be calculated by the State Treasurer, with 65 percent based on population and 35 percent on assessed property valuations; said apportionment would also be certified by the Director of Property Tax Valuation within the Department of Revenue. Funds would be administered to recipients by January 15th of each new calendar year.

School districts and the State of Kansas would be the only governing districts exempt under the bill. Lastly the bill would eliminate property tax neutral rate requirements and the Taxpayer Notification Costs Fund.

Committee HAPPENINGS House Appropriations (HAPP) was busy again this week, as the session nears first adjournment. The committee held two informational hearings on important topics in the state and acted on several bills in committee.

On Tuesday, the committee first held a hearing on House Bill (HB) 2398, which would appropriate state general funds to create a master plan for renovating the Quindaro ruins into an archaeological park. Testimony, ranging from proponent to neutral, was provided by several individuals regarding the site's history and the best means to renovate it. After that the

committee received an informational briefing from the Department of Commerce regarding the STAR Bonds program and then an informational briefing from Kansas State University, Wichita State University, and the University of Kansas on projects in need of bonding, within the respective university campuses.

Wednesday saw HAPP hold both an informational hearing on HB 2402 and work Senate Bill (SB) 125. The informational hearing for HB 2402, creating a blue-ribbon commission on higher education and requiring new reports, had proponent and neutral testimony received testimony from both the Kansas Association of Community Colleges and the Kansas Board of Regents. SB 125, Claims against the State, was amended into a trailer appropriations bill, in order to address recent agency concerns, and was passed out of committee after lengthy discussion.

The committee on Thursday worked HB 2237 and HB 2402. HB 2237, which increases the maximum limit on recruitment and retention bonuses for state agencies and requires new annual reporting, was passed out of committee with no changes. HB 2402 was likewise passed out of committee.

It is a distinct honor to serve as your representative for the 109th Kansas House District and the state of Kansas. Please contact me with your thoughts, concerns, and questions. I always appreciate hearing from the residents of the 109th House District and others from the state of Kansas, as well.

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Cancer

90% five-year survival rate.

- CRC affects all races, genders and ethnicities
- About 75% of people diagnosed with CRC have no family history of colorectal cancer
- CRC is most common for ages 50 and older, yet it is on the rise in adults under 50

Learn About Your Screening Options

Screening is the best way to prevent colorectal cancer, as it helps find precancerous polyps before they turn into cancer.

- Age 45 to 75 adults should talk with their healthcare providers about family history and risks and make a plan for screening
- Discuss your 1-step or 2-step screening options with your provider
- 1-Step screening-Colonoscopy is a one step screening process that looks for growths called polyps in your colon; this is a same day procedure under sedation with return to normal activity in 24 hours (recommended every 10 years depending on results)
- 2-Step screening- FIT

stool based home screening detects hidden blood in the stool and if positive requires a follow-up screening of a colonoscopy (recommended yearly and further screening required if positive)

While everyone should consider preventative screening, if you have noticed colorectal symptoms

or changes, if you are over 45, have a family history of colorectal cancer or polyps, or have genetic and/or lifestyle risk factors for colorectal cancer, contact our Mitchell County Hospital surgery team at 785-738-9323 to schedule a screening today with Dr. Banker or Dr. Owens.

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Measles

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Rubella (MMR) vaccine. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends children get their first dose at 12 to 15 months of age, and a second dose at age 4 to 6 years. Infants ages 6 through 11 months old should get the MMR vaccination if traveling outside the United States. Adults are protected from measles if they have had at least one dose of the MMR vaccine, were born before 1957, or have evidence of immunity from a blood test.

If an individual has known exposure to someone with measles and they are not immune through vaccination or prior infection, they are recommended to:

Consult with a health care provider to determine if post-exposure prophylaxis is recommended.

Exclude themselves from public settings for 21 days from the last time they were exposed unless symptoms develop.

If symptoms develop, individuals should notify their local health department and stay away from public areas until four days after the rash appeared.

Individuals seeking health care are advised to call ahead to their health care provider and let them know their symptoms and expo-

sure concerns. This will help limit exposure within the healthcare setting.

Per K.A.R. 28-1-2, measles is a four-hour reportable disease. If a health care provider, laboratory or hospital suspects, tests, or diagnoses an individual with measles, KDHE should be notified immediately. KDHE will work with the health care provider on testing recommendations.

Teachers and school administrators are also required by law to report suspected cases to KDHE.

Measles cases rarely occur in Kansas and are usually associated with international travel.

For questions, call the Stevens County Health Department at 620-544-7177 or KDHE Epidemiology Hotline at 877-427-7317 (option 5).

27th Spring Art Auction
March 29th and 30th

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Legal Notice

ORDINANCE NO. 1201

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING NEW RATES AND CHARGES TO THE USERS OF THE ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF CAWKER CITY, KANSAS; AMENDING CHAPTER XV, UTILITIES, ARTICLE 3, ELECTRICITY; PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF SUCH RATES AND CHARGES; AND REVOKING ORDINANCE NO. 1149.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF CAWKER CITY, KANSAS:

Section 1: The following section of Article 3, Chapter XV of the Cawker City Code is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 15-302. RATES. (a) Residence Schedule Availability – Any customer adjacent to the city's electric distribution lines who has complied with the regulations affecting his or her service and who uses standard electrical equipment in any residence or apartment; including the use of electric refrigerators, electric ranges and water heaters and other household appliances including room coolers whose capacity does not exceed three kilowatts.

Character of Service – The character of service that will apply to this class of service will be single phase alternating current 115-230 volt.

Rate – Minimum monthly charge, \$12.00. All kWh used for the billing cycle shall be charged at a rate of 0.0940 cents per kWh.

The foregoing rates will apply to all residential users within the city limits whose services come under this classification. To consumers who are served outside the city limits who are now being served under a special rate, the rate per kilowatt will apply; their minimum monthly charge shall be \$12.00.

(b) Three Phase Four Wire Service, Residential – The character of this service will apply to residential users who have Three Phase four wire alternative current 230-115 volts, all current may be taken through one meter or the reading of two meters may be combined to equal the readings of one meter.

Rate – Minimum monthly charge \$12.00. All kWh used for the billing cycle shall be charged at a rate of 0.1163 cents per kWh.

(c) Commercial Lighting and Refrigerator Schedule – This rate will apply to any customer adjacent to city's electric distribution lines who has complied with the regulations affecting his or her service and who used standard electric equipment in any building other than a residence or apartment, including the use of single phase motors not exceeding three horse power.

Character of Service – The character of service that will apply to commercial users will be single phase alternating current, 115-230 volt.

Rate – Minimum monthly charge \$12.00. All kWh used for the billing cycle shall be charged at a rate of 0.1163 cents per kWh.

(d) Power Schedule Availability – Any customer adjacent to city's electric lines who has complied with the requirements that may affect his or her service and who uses standard electric equipment for the operation of motors one horse power and larger, 115-130 volt single phase or three phase.

Rate – All kWh used for the billing cycle shall be charged at a rate of 0.1163 cents per kWh.

(e) Combined Power and Commercial Schedule: Availability – This rate is available for the secondary or primary service on an annual basis for lighting and heating and/or power, 120-240 or 2400 volts to customers who are adjacent to the city's electric lines and who use standard electric equipment and who has otherwise complied with such regulations that may affect their service, it is optional with the customer whether service will be billed under this schedule or the commercial schedule, and/or power schedule available for this class of service. The customer, having selected one schedule, will continue to be billed under such schedule for not less than 12 consecutive months, unless there should be a material and permanent change in the customer's use of service.

Base Rate – Minimum monthly charge \$12.00.

Rate: Demand Charge -- \$5.75 per month per kilowatt for the maximum demand in the month, but not less than \$25.75 per month.

Plus an energy charge 0.0798 cents per kWh for all kWh used in the billing cycle.

Determination of Demand – The demand will be measured and will be the average kilowatt load used by the customer during the 12-minute period of maximum use during the month. Where more than one meter is necessary, the registration of all meters will be added to determine the billing demand.

Monthly Minimum Bill – The minimum monthly bill will be the demand charge but never less than the maximum demand charge established during the 11 preceding months.

Section 2: Ordinance No. 1149 and all other ordinances and resolutions (if any) conflicting with this amendment are hereby repealed.

Section 3: This Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and one publication in the official city newspaper but no sooner than April 1, 2025.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the Governing Body and signed by the Mayor this 12th day of March 2025.



Denelle Mick
Denelle Mick, City Clerk

Douglas J. Badger
Doug Badger, Mayor