



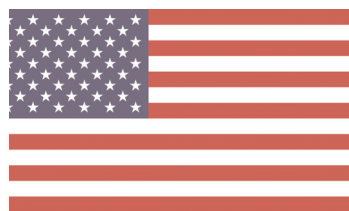
Coming To You From The Hay Capital Of The World

NEWS

The YATES CENTER

\$1 (Includes tax)

Serving Woodson County Since 1877
Thursday, June 12, 2025, Volume 148, Issue 24



Land of the Free.
Home of the Brave.

NEWS BRIEFS

Breakfast And fundraiser June 22

Sunday, June 22, St. Joseph Catholic Church parish, in Yates Center, will be serving breakfast from 8 to 11 a.m. Please come enjoy biscuits and sausage gravy, hash browns, pancakes, homemade cinnamon rolls, fruit, and drinks. There will be a free will donation can for Wendell Leis and his family as he battles through his injuries from a farm accident.

Sleep Safe Class

The SEK Multi-County Health Department will be hosting a Safe Sleep Baby Shower Tuesday, June 17 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Woodson County Community Building, 711 S. Fry St., Yates Center. All pregnant mothers or mothers with a six-month-old or under child are encouraged to attend. Pre-registration, with an incentive, is available. Contact the Yates Center office, 204 S. Main St., Yates Center or call 620-625-2746 for more information.

Church In The Park

The Yates Center United Methodist Church will be holding Church in the Park the third Sunday of June, July and August at the city park pavilion. Services will begin at 9:30 a.m. Please bring a lawn chair. If inclement weather arises services will be held at the church.

Yates Center Blood Drive June 16

The American Red Cross will be holding a blood drive Monday, June 16 from 12 to 6 p.m. at the 4-H Community Building, 713 S. Fry St., Yates Center.

Senior Center Dinner June 19

The Yates Center Senior Center will be hosting a dinner Thursday, June 19 at 5:30 p.m., at 403 W. Rutledge St., in Yates Center. Bring a side dish and table service and come join us.

Library To Hold Summer Programs

The Yates Center Public Library will be holding their Summer Reading Program at the City Park. Dates for the four June events are Wednesday, June 18 at 10 a.m., Decorate Cookies and Crafts 10 a.m., and Wednesday, June 25 Jammin Randy at 2 p.m. For more information contact the library at 620-620-3341.

Free Summer Meals

USD #366 will be hosting a free summer meals program available to all children under the age of 18 starting Monday, June 2 through Thursday, July 24. Pick up times begin at 11 a.m. in Yates Center at the high school Monday thru Thursday and at 11:30 a.m. in Toronto at the senior center Monday thru Thursday. Free home delivery is also available with times varying depending on location. For more information on home delivery or other questions contact Shelly at 620-625-8820 or email sdavis@usd366.net.

Purchases, repairs top commissioners agenda

By Jeff McCullough

Woodson County Commissioners met Tuesday, June 10 at 9 a.m. Commissioners present were chairman Justin Clark, vice-chair Kevin Stuber and Jerry Sedlacek. Also present was county clerk Amanda DeWitt. County counselor Bret Heim was absent.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sedlacek made motion to approve the agenda, with Stuber seconding. Motion passed.

Sedlacek made motion to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, June 3 meeting, with Stuber seconding. Motion passed.

Doug Wright and Joe Springer from Southeast Kansas Mental Health Center came to the commission to discuss their budget request for next year. They discussed and explained with the commission about the services they provide. Last year their budget was \$41,180 and this year they did not give a definite amount for their request and left it up to the commissioners. They did explain that they had provided over 6,800 services this past year.

David Lamb with KCAMP insurance came to the commission and talked about the services that KCAMP provides and discussed some of the percentages if any would result in increases. Of the 105 counties in Kansas, KCAMP provides coverage to 81 counties. Risk management and risk advantage grants were discussed with the commissioners and what is available.

At 9:58 a.m. Sedlacek

motioned with Stuber seconding for a five minute recess. Motion passed.

Back in session at 10:03 a.m. Stephanie Beddell and several members of the zoning board met with the commissioners to discuss the rules for zoning and asked for the commissioners support when enforcement was needed to take place. The commissioners assured the zoning board that they would back them up on their decisions to enforce the zoning codes on property owners that are out of compliance.

Jacob Morrison, sheriff came to the commission the explain that a couple of the patrol cars are down and in for repairs. New patrol vehicles were discussed and will be looking at options before the budget is finalized.

Michelle Zimmerman, treasurer came to the commissioners with concerns about the restrooms in the Yates Center Senior Center and the loose tiles on the floor. The decision was made to contact Duane Evans and have him make contact with someone who can get it fixed and get it completed, so it is not a trip hazard for the elderly.

David Waddell, transfer station supervisor came to the commission and discussed the Unifirst uniform company and that he has already changed his employees uniforms and Unifirst told him there was a contract, but Unifirst has yet to provide a signed contract after it was requested by Waddell. The removal of the destroyed trees from the nursing home fire was going to be moved to the transfer station, but a county

resident has requested it be moved to his property and dumped in some washout areas on the property. Waddell further stated that the locker plant has requested the transfer station to possibly pick up their disposals a couple times a week. It was suggested to make a trial run for miles and weight and see if it would be possible to do this. Waddell stated that a business in Woodson County has approached him about bringing 3,000 tires at \$3 per tire to the transfer station for recycle and the sidewalls of the tires must be removed. More discussion will continue with this in the

future.

Gary Ward, road and bridge supervisor came to the commissioners wage sheets for road and bridge employees. Sedlacek motioned with Stuber seconding to sign the wage sheet for new employee Darrell Harris, Jr. Motion passed.

At 11:20 a.m. Stuber motioned with Sedlacek seconding for a ten minute executive session to discuss non-elected personnel with just the commissioners. Motion passed.

Back in session at 11:30 a.m. The commissioners told Ward that they would discuss the other wage sheets next week

and no action was taken on them. A service agreement was presented to the commissioners for the new CAT road grader that was purchased on a trade for the John Deere road grader. Stuber motioned with Sedlacek seconding to allow the chairman to sign the service agreement from CAT Foley Tractor for the newly purchased road-grader for 32 services at \$1,806.47 per service. Motion passed.

At 11:40 a.m. Stuber motioned with Sedlacek seconding to go into executive session for five minutes with the (See COUNTY, Page 3)



Kathe Hamman/NEWS

BOE discusses discipline matrix

By Jeff McCullough

The June USD #366 Board of Education meeting was held Monday, June 9 at 7 p.m. Board members present were Wes Smith, Shannon Culver, Luke Rogers, Amber Morrison, Craig Stockebrand and vice-president Jared Walker. President Chuck Bishop and Eric Busteed were absent. Superintendent/PK-6 principal Stephanie Splechter and board clerk Glenda Howard were also present.

Walker opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Culver motioned with Morrison seconding to approve the amended agenda. Motion passed.

Culver motioned with Stockebrand seconding to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed.

Smith brought up to the board that Greenbush was making some changes and improvements over the summer. The observatory is a big item that is being presented with some large gifts donated to improve the observatory and telescopes that are outdated for viewing for the observatory.

Splechter brought to the board that over 3,000 meals have been served and for the Memorial Day weekend there were tours given with high school students helping to lead the tours of the schools and many former students/residents were appreciative to be able to see some of the changes made over the years. Splechter also brought up there are five candidates for the school board elections coming up.

CEP lunch program was dis-

cussed and applications for the program must be in by Monday, June 30. Stockebrand motioned with Morrison seconding to approve the CEP lunch program. Motion passed.

The second grade standards based grading was discussed. Motion by Morrison with Culver seconding to approve the second grade standards grading. Motion passed.

The KASB policy changes were discussed with Culver motioning and Smith seconding to approve the KSAB policy changes. Motion passed.

Greenbush Health Trust changes were discussed and some changes being made with Blue Cross and Blue Shield along with Greenbush Health Trust with partial funding. It was decided to have a presentation in the near future to help more fully understand the changes.

The discipline matrix was discussed and three representatives of the committee, Gary Morris, Ambria Hendrickson and Kayla Taylor, were present to answer any questions that the board may have and a structured chart for offenses and discipline and what part the teacher will deal with in the classroom and at what point to send a student to the office. Detention was also discussed in these measures.

Morrison motioned with Stockebrand seconding to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Motion passed.

The next USD #366 Board of Education meeting will be Monday, July 14 at 7 p.m. at the school board office.

DURING THE MEMORIAL DAY program a wreath was put on display to honor Abner Yates by Mayor Justin Weston and then just as the celebration of the Yates Center Centennial was officially opened by Mayor Robert Morton on Memorial Day, May 26, 1975 the Sesquicentennial was officially kicked off by mayor Justin Weston 50 years later Monday, May 26, 2025. Mayor Weston proclaimed- “WHEREAS the Yates Center townsite was founded by Abner Yates on August 18th, 1975 and later incorporated in the 4th day of September of March 1894, and became the central

location, was established the county of Woodson County. I proclaim May 26th 2025 as the beginning of the Sesquicentennial year for Yates Center and I urge all individuals, private organizations, and public agencies to join us all in the celebration to honor Yates Center during the Labor Day Weekend 2025.” Mayor Weston (above) is pictured with his wife Kaeli and daughter Zoey. After the rains cleared (below) Sesquicentennial planning committee members Nancy Kelley and Susie Shaffer moved the wreath to the grave stone of founder Abner Yates.

