

Community News



News Hound

Taylor Bailey

www.fstribune.com

Guardian of Fort Scott

By Moses Demalek
Edited by Taylor Bailey
At Fort Scott Community College, one key figure works quietly behind the scenes to maintain safety. Joshua Elliot, the campus security guard. Standing 6 feet 1 inch tall, wearing a hat and glasses, Elliot is the sole person responsible for ensuring the security of both students and staff.

Elliot knows every corner of the campus and is always ready to step in when needed. While he may not say much, his presence brings a sense of calm and reassurance to everyone around him. He’s a silent guardian with access to every door on campus. That access, both literal and symbolic, says a lot about who he is: someone students might not think about until they need him, but whose role is always

vital. In a world full of distractions and unpredictability, his calm consistency helps him stand out.

Usually dressed in a black jacket worn from years of use, dark cargo pants and sturdy boots, Elliot blends in with the backdrop of the college. His stance is relaxed yet alert, the kind developed through years of watching over others. Inside the security office, Elliot sits in front of four glowing monitors, each showing a different part of campus. On one screen, a baseball game plays quietly. “It helps the time pass,” he said with a chuckle. “But I still hear everything.”

He is required to submit a report every two hours, even if nothing happens. When asked if the task ever feels repetitive, he shrugged. “It’s just part of the job,” he said.

“Even if nothing’s going on, I have to document it. It’s important to keep a record.”

Elliot’s path to campus security wasn’t a straight one. Originally from a small town in Kansas, he previously worked private security in Wichita, guarding warehouses and corporate buildings. Eventually, he chose a more community-focused role. He believes being visible can stop trouble before it starts. Whether it’s someone sneaking into the dorms or loud music late at night, he’s the one who gets called.

He lives a quiet life. The campus is his routine, his rhythm. Over time, he’s developed a sharp instinct and is able to sense when something is off long before it becomes a problem. “It’s not always about catching someone in the act,”

he said. “Sometimes it’s about knowing who doesn’t belong, or who’s acting just a little different today.” That attention to detail has become his strongest tool.

Elliot’s work often goes unnoticed by students rushing to class or heading home for the weekend. But his contribution is constant. He sacrifices time, holidays and even parts of his personal life to be a steady presence on campus. Whether responding to emergencies or making rounds in the dorms, he takes pride in knowing his presence makes a difference.

In a time when security is often overlooked until it’s needed, Elliot remains a quiet but unwavering force at Fort Scott Community College. His job may seem simple to outsiders, but within these halls, he’s part of the foundation that keeps everything running smoothly.

He is, in every sense, the campus’s silent protector, he’s more than just a guard. He’s a guardian.

What redistricting means for voters

SUBMITTED TO THE TRIBUNE

In November 2024, the voters of Bourbon County approved moving from three commission districts to five commission districts. To accommodate this vote, the commission had to adopt a new voting district map which was completed in December 2024.

As part of this redistricting process, district lines, precincts and polling places changed. Sometime in late July, every citizen registered to vote in Bourbon County will be sent a post card with their newly-assigned district and voting location.

The term limits for the new districts (four and five) will be voted upon by the commission in the coming weeks.

There will no longer be voting locations set up at Redfield and Bronson. Your voting location will depend on where the new precinct lines are drawn and will be noted on your post card. In the coming months, the clerk’s office will provide

a publication in the paper that clearly defines the lines of the new precinct boundaries.

The addition of two more commissioners and several new precincts increases the preparation for elections and ballot styles which also increases cost.

I am very thankful for the staff in the clerk’s office. They have juggled regular workload, serving the public, and many hours devoted to changing boundary lines street by street over the past four months in our election software. The addition of the new districts and precincts will increase work for our poll workers and staff in future elections. We are doing our best to streamline the voting process and appreciate your patience as we continue to make this process efficient.

County Clerk Susan Walker can be reached at 620-223-3800, extension 191, 620-644-7927, or by email at countyclerk@bourboncountys.org.

– Submitted by County Clerk Susan Walker

Kansas 4-H scholarship winners announced

SUBMITTED TO THE TRIBUNE

MANHATTAN – Kansas 4-H youth have been recognized as recipients of the State 4-H Scholarship and the Vanier Family Scholarship for the 2025–26 academic year. In total, 68 State 4-H Scholarships and five Vanier Family Scholarships were awarded, with combined funds totaling nearly \$381,000.

The State 4-H Scholarships are awarded to Kansas 4-H members who demon-

strate strong involvement, leadership, and citizenship. Eligible applicants must have participated in the Kansas 4-H program for at least three years and be enrolled in a post-secondary academic institution.

The Vanier Family Scholarship Program focuses on financial need, leadership, and perseverance.

These awards are available to students’ attending college or university for the first time and are renewable until the student graduates.

“Kansas 4-H is proud to

support our 4-H members and alumni as they pursue higher education and career goals. Many of these young leaders discovered their passions through hands-on 4-H project work, and these scholarships are a way to honor their dedication and help turn their dreams into reality.” Dr. Sarah Maass, State 4-H Program Leader said.

Both scholarships are made possible through the generosity of donors to the Kansas 4-H Foundation.

This year, more than 210

youth applied for the State 4-H Scholarship, and over 110 applied for the Vanier Family Scholarship.

The following Southwind Extension District 4-H’s received scholarships:

- Allen County, Abigail Meiwes, Evelyn N. Nelson Educational Scholarship.
- Bourbon County, Byron Fry, Thomas M. Potter II 4-H Scholarship; and Gwyneth Fry, Goppert Southeast 4-H Scholarship.
- Woodson County, Aidan Yoho, June Beaver 4-H Scholarship.

Hines awarded degree from UA

SUBMITTED TO THE TRIBUNE

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. – Benjamin Hines of Fort Scott has received a bachelor of science in human environmental sciences from The University of Alabama. The university awarded more than 6,000 degrees during its spring commencement ceremonies.

A recent economic analysis found that a degree from The University of Alabama has proven to provide an abundant return on investment for graduates, setting the stage for legendary careers while also creating priceless experiences and memories.

Williams named to dean’s list at UCM

SUBMITTED TO THE TRIBUNE

WARRENSBURG, Mo. – Elias Williams of Fort Scott is among those students who have earned a spot on the University of Central Missouri (UCM) Dean’s List for the Spring 2025 semester.

The Dean’s List includes undergraduate students who achieved a grade point average (GPA) of 3.50 or above.

Items from the past

Missing mare found in creek bed

25 Years Ago
2000
June 12

Seats for the Very Secret Garden Tour are quickly filling up, but there are still a few seats left. To reserve a seat on this very special tour, interested persons may call Martha Scott at (316) 2223-1844. Participants of the Very Secret Garden Tour will assemble at 6:30 p.m. in the Courtland for appetizers and then board Dolly the Trolley to tour three gardens – the Lyons Mansion Victorian Garden, Ken and Charlotte Lunt’s Very Secret Garden, and the garden of Pat and Cathy Thomas. The Lunt and

Thomas gardens will be open only during this Friday night event.

50 Years Ago
1975
June 12

Thomas H. McNeil, Bourbon County Saving Bonds chairman, reports purchases of \$252,291 in Series E and Series H United States Savings Bonds sales were credited to Bourbon County for the first four months of 1975.

75 Years Ago
1950
June 12

Exhausted from standing for more than a day mired in

the mud along a small creek, a young mare belonging to Bob Galvin, an active Saddle Club member, had to be hoisted by the crane of an Interstate garage wrecker. The mare was found Saturday evening in the creek bed by Lester and Bob Galvin at the Galvin farm east of the city. The animal had been missing since Friday. The mare is reported to be unharmed by the experience.

100 Years Ago
1925
June 12

The monthly meeting of the Bourbon County Odd Fellows Club was held at Fulton last evening with lodges present from Gar-

land, Bronson, and Uniontown, as well as other lodges in this part of the state. About 300 were in attendance. The Third Degree was conferred by brothers from Fort Scott Lodge.

125 Years Ago
1900
June 12

City Clerk Manning has collected about \$125 in dog taxes since June 1st. He expects the receipts to increase when the police commence their regular summer slaughter of the animals. Two men offered to work out the tax and were turned over to Street Commissioner Burton, who worked each man two days in payment for the tax.

We invite you to share

STORIES FROM CLASSES ON ALUMNI, SPECIAL MEMORIES AND/OR PHOTOS

ALL SCHOOL REUNION

**Fort Scott High School**

THE FORT SCOTT TRIBUNE

email to thelm@fstribune.com or jsilvers@fstribune.com

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS JUNE 12TH

THE FORT SCOTT TRIBUNE

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Our letter policy

The Tribune welcomes letters to the editor on topics of community interest. Letters submitted for publication should be typed or clearly written and should bear the signature of the writer, as well as an address and telephone number that the editor may use to reach the writer for verification or clarification. Unsigned letters will be immediately rejected.

The Tribune reserves the right to edit letters to correct spelling or grammar or due to space constraints or policy guidelines. Preference is given to letters of local interest. **Letters for or against political candidates or issues will be not be accepted.**

It also reserves the right to refuse to publish, in part or whole, any letter that the editor determines to be libelous or to violate accepted standards of good taste.

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