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## WHS forensics takes on Nationals

Lily Hansen  
The Times

The Wamego High School Forensics Team traveled May 22 to Chicago to compete in the National Catholic Forensic League tournament.

The team, headed by Coaches Jennifer Topliff and Jennifer Nider, consisted of Maddox Topliff, Kalli Miles, Cloe Learned, Liberty Sharpe, Shelby Coleman, Breckin Musyoki, Hollie Schliffke, and Lily Hansen.

Prior to competition, the team explored Chicago, taking in the cultural and educational opportunities the city has to offer. This included a crime tour of Chicago's many historical sights, a trip to the nationally acclaimed Field Museum, an afternoon of fun at Navy Pier, an architecture tour taken by boat to see the city's incredible buildings, and of course a trip to Millennium Park to see The Bean.

Once preliminary competition began on May 24, students performed four times throughout the day, being scored each time. That night, it was released that Hollie Schliffke broke into octo-finals, meaning another day of competition for her. She ended up scoring 41st in the Nation, an incredible feat.



Courtesy Photo

The WHS Forensics National Team poses along Lake Michigan in Chicago. They are: (front) Liberty Sharp, Kalli Miles; (back) Breckin Musyoki, Maddox Topliff, Shelby Coleman, Hollie Schliffke and Lily Hansen.

"Forensics is an amazing opportunity and I get to talk about topics I am very passionate about," Schliffke said.

The team overall competed well with Topliff saying of this year's Nationals Team, "I'm proud of our whole team from how they performed and how they represented Wamego in Chicago."

As Wamego Forensics wraps up the 2025 season, sights are already set on next year's competition. "Preparation for next season began before we even left for nationals and that speaks to the caliber of students we have," Topliff said.

This trip to Chicago was an amazing experience for all who were involved.



Wamego junior Hollie Schliffke made it to the "octo-final" round of the National Forensics Tournament, the highest placing Raider.

## St. Marys considers nuisance of uncut grass

At the June 3 regular meeting, Kevin Cowan, with the law firm Gilmore Bell, spoke to the St. Marys City Commission about the plan to sell sewer bonds for the Lakeview lift station. "The authorization of the project and the bonds is pretty straightforward," Cowan said. He explained that it would require authorizing the bonds, a sale resolution, and an ordinance to "approve the details of the bonds." Cowan discussed the pros and cons of general obligation issue bonds or utility revenue bonds: while general obligation bonds would be simpler, they have a lower interest rate.

"My concern was we wouldn't be able to use funds from the sewer fund," said City Commissioner Matt Childs. "But apparently we don't have to pay it from the general fund." Childs asked Cowan about getting a financial advisor. "If this were a \$10 million issue, I'd say get a financial advisor as soon as possible," said Cowan. As the project will only be around \$2 million, Cowan simply recommended a financial advisor. Cowan also pointed out that, since the statutes regarding the project are rather old, there might be limitations on the number of bonds that could be issued.

The Commission continued the discussion of the revision of the nuisance ordinance from the previous

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## The Columbian Presents "Into the Woods"



Photo courtesy of the Columbian Theatre

The cast of Into the Woods rehearses for opening night.

Loryn Clausen  
The Times

Last weekend audience members at The Columbian Theatre were able to enter the world of the Grimm brothers while watching the new production of Into the

Woods. This Tony winning musical with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim opened last Friday, June 6 and is full of new and returning faces. Brent Sigman, the director of the

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The Columbian Page A2

## Chandler to serve two lifetime terms after Westmoreland sentencing

Rose Gruenbacher  
The Mercury

WESTMORELAND — Dana Chandler received two life sentences on Tuesday with no parole eligibility for 25 years, in yet another drawn-out court proceeding.

Shawnee County judge Cheryl Rios ordered Chandler's terms be served consecutively, meaning parole eligibility actually won't come until Chandler serves 50 years. Her prior incarceration of about 10 years, resulting from her initial conviction of the crimes, will be credited to the new sentence.

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Chandler Page A2



Staff photo by Rose Gruenbacher

Dana Chandler confers with advisory counsel David McDonald, after receiving sentencing in Westmoreland Tuesday.

## KAWnsas Fest moves to June 14

St. George's annual KAWnsas Fest has moved to Saturday, June 14.

The event had traditionally been held in August.

KAWnsas Fest features all the best of St. George and events are centered in Shaneyfeldt Memorial Park, with additional activities at Lighthouse Baptist Church, St. George Elementary School, and First Street.



### SCHEDULE

- 8 a.m. – Car Show begins on Lincoln Ave.
- 10 a.m. – Activities begin.
  - 3-on-3 basketball tourney, Lighthouse.
  - Kickball tourney, elementary school.
  - Bounce House, Craft Vendors, Food Vendors, Cornhole Tournament, city park.
- 11:30 a.m. – Bed Race down First Street; parade to follow.
- 1 p.m. – Live Music Begins
  - 1-2:30 p.m. -- Allie Jensen
  - 3-5 p.m. -- M31
  - 5:30-7:30 p.m. – Stewart Ray
  - 8-10 p.m. – The Kyle Killgore Band

## Candidates for City Council, School Board

The filing deadline for city and school board elections was noon, June 1. The following candidates appear on the roster. The general election will be Tuesday, Nov. 4. If needed, a primary is set for Aug. 5.

### CITY OFFICES

- Belvue City Council (vote for three or fewer) – Bradford Caudill, Jenice K. Howard, Kevin Fifer.
- Emmett Mayor (vote for one) – Paige Carrier; City Council (vote for five or fewer) – Travis Egbert, Emily Garland, Spencer Trumbly, Rachel Trumbly.
- Havensville Mayor (vote for one) – no filing; City Council (vote for two or fewer) -- Monna McNally.
- Louisville Mayor (vote for one) – no filing; City Council (vote for five or fewer) -- John L. Allen, David C. Prockish, Darren C. Prockish.
- Olsburg Mayor (vote for one) – Aric Cassel; City Council (vote for two or fewer) -- no filings.
- Onaga Mayor (vote for one) – Alex Miller; City Council (vote for two or fewer) – Kelsey Blow, Elly Reece.
- St. George City Council (vote for three or fewer) – Judd McCormack, Hans K. Tessman, Robert J. Flores, Jeremy Holliday, Tim Pralle.
- St. Marys City Commission (vote for two or

fewer) – Rafel Ramos, Gerard Keiser, Gerard Kleinsmith, Bill Basler.

- Wamego City Commission (vote for two or fewer) – Clifford D. Baughman, Zac Kreider, Caleb Ubel.
- Wheaton Mayor (vote for one) – Kay Zeit; City Council (vote for five or fewer) – Roger D. Magnett.
- Westmoreland Mayor (vote for one) – Waide Purvis; City Council (vote for two or fewer) -- Ashley Rice.

### SCHOOL BOARDS

- USD 320, Wamego – Position 3 (unexpired, vote for one) – Brian D. Nelson, Jesse Rhoads; Position 4 (vote for one) – Jolene Meyer; Position 5 (vote for one) – John Paul Dorr Washburn; Position 6 (vote for one) Trisha Schliffke.
- USD 321, Kaw Valley – Position 4 (vote for one) – Bill Mulligan; Position 5 (vote for one) -- Jody Mitchell; Position 6 (vote for one) – Michael A. Lett.
- USD 322, Onaga/Havensville – Position 4 (vote for one) – Jessica Venneberg; Position 5 (vote for one) – Tracy Meyerkorth; Position 6 (vote for one) – Michelle Rager.
- USD 323, Rock Creek – Position 4 – no filings; Position 5 (vote for one) – Dawn R. Henry; Position 6 (vote for one) – Adassa Roe.

## Columbian to improve lighting

On Tuesday, June 3 the Wamego City Commissioners considered a request from the Columbian Theatre Executive Director Clint Stueve to allow the theatre to upgrade their lighting system. Stueve explained that the lights currently used to illuminate the stage are 30 years old and outdated. In fact, they recently went out during a performance forcing the actors to make do in the dark. The Columbian is having to rely on second hand replacement parts to fix the system and is hoping to completely replace it with a newer LED lighting rig. Stueve was before the Commissioners requesting permission to pursue the new lights and the installation process. The lighting system itself would

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