

# COMMUNITY

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The Times

Thursday, July 24, 2025



Courtesy Photo



Beth Day | The Times

Before and after photos of one of the six old stone church windows.

## Church

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The church became the German Evangelical Church.

However, by 1914, the second and third generations were speaking English and worshiping elsewhere because they didn't understand German.

"That's when the property was transferred to the Church of Christ," Moore said. "They used it until 1976 when attendance was down to a few members so they deeded the property over to the newly formed Rock Creek Valley Historical Society."

The church became the main museum building for many years, until the completion of the new buildings. Exhibits remained there until 2017, when the church was listed on the state and national historical registries.

One of the main reasons, Moore said, was the window styles. Those appear in only two other buildings remaining in Westmoreland – the old courthouse and the old GAR building. "All three were built within about a five year period between about 1882 and 1887," she said.

The listing did, however, impart some stringent rules when doing renovations, which the old church ur-

gently needed.

Moore said the windows frames were rotting at the panes beginning to fall out. The building also required new roofing and guttering and repairs to the stonework. Finally, new electrical and HVAC work was done, along with restoring the interior lathe and plaster, tin ceiling and wood flooring.

The project was expensive, totaling \$113,000. Most of that went to the windows, masonry and interior work.

The historical society obtained a \$50,000 State of Kansas Heritage Fund Grant and tax credits of \$11,300. The remaining \$51,700 was raised from interested businesses and individuals. Moore recognized those individuals by asking any in attendance to stand.

Restoration contractors included: The Specialist – Roy and Lori Hanni; Hartman Masonry – Chris Hartman; Fleming Brothers Construction – Brandon Fleming; Valburg Electric – David Valburg; and Precision Plumbing, Heating and Cooling – Travis Figge.

The church is part of the Rock Creek Valley Historical Society Museum Complex. The complex is open May-October 1-4 p.m., Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and by appointment.

## Wamego

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be subjected to regular testing, limit distractions, and may not be under the influence of any drug. Any driving incident must be reported to the city within 24 hours.

The update to the personnel policy shows the definition of a full time employee is 40 hours a week, any key given may not be copied, and the police department is transferring to a different scheduling system. This means employees would work 12 hour shifts with 2 days on, 2 off, 3 on, then the pattern flips.

The Columbian's lease with the city is also shifting. It will now match the maintenance agreement with the library, with the city taking on replacements within the building. This raises the rent to \$300 a month.

## WAMEGO HEALTH CENTER

Brian Howells, administrator at the Wamego Health Center, updated the commission as June 30 concluded the fiscal year.

The hospital has financially been in the black for 11 out of the past 12 months. This is "fantastic for a rural hospital," according to Howells, citing how 18 rural hospitals across the states closed their doors already in the past year.

The new MRI machine has surpassed its return on investment of 50 scans a month by five. The retention rate of staff this year is 89%. Satisfaction rates have also risen to 67% in emergency and 77% overall.

Low dose cancer screens will soon be offered alongside pelvic floor therapy, urology, water therapy at the pool, and a PET/CT mobile vehicle.

The hospital also participated in community events including Classrooms to Careers with the local 4th graders, scholarships for the high school, and even won in a Boomtown decorating contest.

Expansions are soon to be expected with additional in and outpatient treatment, specialists, and space in operating rooms to accommodate more complex procedures.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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## Weather delays Flush Road widening project

Lily Hansen  
The Times

Due to weather issues, the widening project on Flush Road has been delayed, Public Works Administrator Tim Eisenbath on Monday informed the county commission.

Eisenbath also updated commissioners on other projects, including a bridge. Evergy will be installing a on Emmett Road near Jeffrey Energy Center.

Evergy will cover the installation cost, with the county taking responsibility for maintenance and repair. If Evergy were to no longer operate within Jeffrey Energy Center and decommission the rail spur, the company would reimburse the county for its removal and reconstruction of the road.

A repair project was also approved for a storm sewer on Eagle's Landing

Drive in Manhattan.

This allows for a survey of the area, a design plan, and eventually bidding on the project. "Quite a bit of drainage goes into this inlet," according to Eisenbath. The quantity of the drainage has eaten away at the embankment of the river it lets out in. "The scope of the work isn't huge but it's something we need to get done," said Eisenbath.

### FINANCE UPDATE

Heather Gladbach updated the commission on finances for the second quarter of the year.

She said 98% of Ad Valorem taxes have been collected, matching 2024's precinct. Fifty-nine percent of Retailer's Sales and Compensating tax has also been collected, increasing \$77,225 from last year. Interest Income has also increased \$211,469.

Forty-two % of the oper-

ating cost budget has been used including personal services, contractual services and commodities. Thirty % of the non-operating cost budget has also been spent. This includes capital outlay, allocations, grant expenditures, and transfers.

This adds up to 39.21% of the 2025 General Fund budget being spent.

Commission Chair Terri Force thanked her, "we really appreciate what you come down and do for us."

### MEETING CANCELED

As there is no business needing to be conducted, at this time there is no meeting scheduled for Monday, July 28.

### COMMISSIONER UPDATES

• Dee McKee has a reported a "busy week of meetings." She continued to work with ATA buses,

working to get access for those who need rides at an effective cost. She also attended planning commission, workforce board, and flint hills regional council meetings.

• Merl Page had "nothing to report" on his end.

• Bill Drew attended a Kaw Valley Chamber of Commerce meeting as well as a planning commission meeting. He dove deeper into the quarter-quarter rule and made clear that there is "no easy solution."

• Gary Yenzer attended an Eco-Devo as well as a Planning and Zoning meeting.

• Force touched base with the Eco-Devo, Planning and Zoning Commission, and Emergency Planning meeting. He stated that seeing all the departments partner "brings more credence that we all need to work together."

"I also like to golf," he said, adding he was recently on the Wamego course and "it humbled me."

As a new superintendent, Meyer said he'd like Wamego to know, "I'm here to learn what this community wants out of their school district and to make this district as good as it can be."

"I've got good, solid experience coming from St. John," he continued, "and I hope that I can use that experience to move this district forward."

## LEGAL NOTICE

### Pottawatomie County Expenditures

In accordance with K.S.A. 19-228, the Board of Pottawatomie County Commissioners authorize publication of expenditures, beginning and ending cash balances for the quarter ending June 30, 2025. A detailed statement of expenditures is available for public inspection at the County Clerk's office. Copies of such statement may be requested.

FUND	3/31/25 CASH	RECEIPTS	EXPENDITURES	6/30/25 CASH
Attorney Check Fee Trust	37,590.74	3,565.81	-	41,156.55
Attorney Forfeiture Trust Fund	6,866.64	-	-	6,866.64
Blue Township Operation & Maintenance	2,611,894.94	370,825.09	(458,003.25)	2,524,716.78
Blue Township Sewer Reserve	570,321.99	58,989.72	(46,547.23)	582,764.48
Brook Ridge Sewer Operations	168,515.93	7,176.53	(871.73)	174,820.73
Brook Ridge Sewer Reserve	83,225.03	950.00	-	84,175.03
Brk Rdg2/Elbo Crk4/Nlsns Rdg3/Whisp3 2016A Bond	292,211.09	60,242.22	-	352,453.31
Brk Rdg3/John Scott/Nlsns Rdg5/Whisp5/Wldct2 2018A Bond	117,291.71	133,620.24	-	250,911.95
Brk Rdg4/Nlsns Rdg6AW/Whisp Mdws 7 2022A Bond	74,409.33	93,459.78	-	167,869.11
Capital Projects Fund	27,597,055.24	22,742.45	(2,263,702.34)	25,356,095.35
Clerks Technology Fund	21,763.60	2,686.33	(6,819.00)	17,630.93
Concealed Carry Fund	18,616.36	520.00	-	19,136.36
Consolidated Fire District #1	1,755,141.31	582,989.95	(137,565.52)	2,200,565.74
Consolidated Fire District #1 Reserve	2,570,579.78	-	(11,837.68)	2,558,742.10
Deeds Technology Fund	87,277.38	10,752.13	(10,009.55)	88,019.96
Donations Fund	3,997.07	1,735.00	(295.86)	5,436.21
Eagles Lndg 8/Falling Leaf 1/Sunset Ridge 1 2007A Bond	41,536.14	27,413.24	-	68,949.38
Eagles Landing Unit 3 & 4 2005A Bond	38,128.43	25,373.50	-	63,501.93
Eagles Landing Unit 5 2005B Bond	11,462.97	8,927.25	-	20,390.22
Eagles Landing Unit 6 & 7 2006A Bond	27,228.42	20,244.71	-	47,473.13
Elbo Creek1/Wildcat Woods1 2006C Bond	95,646.73	59,733.77	-	155,380.50
Elbo Creek Estates Unit 2 TRF 0148	4,616.58	3,344.46	-	7,961.04
ECS/FL2/NR4/SR3/WM4 2017A Bond	111,926.39	85,739.10	-	197,665.49
Employee Benefit Reserve Fund	2,500,010.93	-	-	2,500,010.93
Equipment Reserve Fund	5,326,049.08	22,604.70	(735,746.34)	4,612,907.44
Fight Addiction Fund	75,378.94	5,383.48	(5,138.90)	75,623.52
Fire District Joint #1 - St Marys	-	-	-	-
Fire District #2 - Havensville	-	-	-	-
Fire District Joint #3 - Onaga	68,597.78	13,046.43	(8,486.58)	73,157.63
Fire District Joint #3 - Onaga Reserv	4,196.81	27,658.80	-	31,855.61
Fire District Joint #4 - Wheaton	-	-	-	-
Fire District #5 - Blue Township	139,905.54	163,285.35	(26,951.11)	276,239.78
Fire District #5 - Blue Township Reserve	1,218,579.75	-	(63,872.68)	1,154,707.07
Fire District #6 - Olsburg	-	-	-	-
Fire District #7 - Wamego	-	-	-	-
Fire District #8 - Emmett	-	-	-	-
Fire District #10 - St George	-	-	-	-
Fostoria 1995 Bond	1,314.64	-	-	1,314.64
Fostoria Operations	18,425.45	834.67	(62.92)	19,197.20
Fostoria Reserve	25,111.52	228.83	-	25,340.35
General Fund	21,641,008.26	12,856,092.50	(7,511,916.73)	26,985,184.03
Green Valley/Highway 24 Intersection Construction	220,238.48	-	-	220,238.48
Glen at Heritage Hills Subdivision Construction	170,500.00	-	-	170,500.00
Gwaltney, Heritage Hills 1 & 2, Heritage Heights, Irvine Acres 1, Nelson's	158,611.96	189,771.00	-	348,382.96
Rdg 6 Phase 1, Wsprg Mdws 7, Wldct Wds 3 2021A Bond	143,317.55	23,547.27	(7,500.00)	159,364.82
Irvine Acres 2, Nelson's Ridge 6 Phase 2, Nelson's Ridge 6 Phase 3, Willow Glen 1, Willow Glen 2 2023A Bond	159,270.39	215,047.23	-	374,317.62
Law Enforcement Trust Fund	4,304.82	-	(1,793.67)	2,511.15
Nelson's Ridge Unit 1 2011A Bond	30,822.55	23,953.06	-	54,775.61
Nelson's Ridge Unit 2 2015A Bond	32,106.07	32,562.09	-	64,668.16
Noxious Weed Chemical Fund	109,431.43	127,202.99	(159,406.48)	77