The Cowley
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Sweepstakes Winner Kansas Press Association

College Roundups



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Monarchs In Motion



Courtesy photo

The Chaplin Nature Center is bringing out fifth grade classes to help catch and tag monarchs during their fall migration. C-4 Elementary students took their turn Wednesday, helping tag 14 monarchs in less than an hour.

Feeding tent new this year at nature center

By DAVID A. SEATON
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The fall monarch butterfly migration is fluttering through the area, and folks at the Chaplin Nature Center are busy tagging — and this year feeding — the beloved and fascinating creatures.

Naturalist Eden Johnson, who operates the center, held three "pop-up" butterfly tagging events this past week, inviting community members to help reach the goal of 300 tagged monarchs.

Fifth grade classes at area schools are also coming out to help tag, with more scheduled next week.

And this year Johnson added a feeding tent to the butterfly fun. For $5, people for $5 hold sticks with sponges soaked in nectar for the butterflies to eat.

The butterflies are nudged onto the stick, or they find it themselves. They taste with their feet and will extend their long, tubular tongue onto the sponge if they decide to eat.

A family who moved her recently from Guam really enjoyed the feeding, Johnson said. And the family that owns Las Monarcas food truck fed and caught their namesake Friday morning.

"This is a really fun thing to do as a family and the kids love the butterfly feeding experience, and that is a great fundraiser. It all goes back to the Chaplin Nature Center," Johnson said.

Evelyn Herrera, 10, attracted about six butterflies on her inside the feeding tent at one time, some on her head. Her mother, Doris, said the family had a good time with the butterflies. They had gotten new Las Monarchs T-shirts and wore them

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Courtesy photo

Evelyn Herrera, 10, attracted plenty of monarchs Friday morning in the butterfly feeding tent at the Chaplin Nature Center.

USD 465, SC hashing out stadium lease

By JOHN SHELMAN
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The Winfield board of education recently extended the school district's contract with Southwestern College for the use of Richard L. Jantz Stadium. The nine-month period beginning Oct.1 running through June 30 is meant to give the district more time negotiate a longer agreement.

Board member Ed Trimmer said Friday there is concern that Southwestern wants the district to use the field less but charge the same amount.

"We pay quite a bit," he said.

Trimmer said negotiations are ongoing and that he expects the school board to reach a new agreement when the nine-month extension has expired.

Scheduling all the teams on one field is part of the challenge.

Trimmer said the district had previously contributed $1 million to help renovate the stadium. It currently pays more than $100,000 each year to use it, for both high school and middle school sports.

District Superintendent Tricia Reiser said the total cost each year is $105,000 which included the lease along with $5,000 for maintenance.

"Under the recently approved nine-month extension, the district's commitment is $78,750." she said.

During the stadium contract discussion last week, the board broached the idea of USD 465 building its own stadium. Trimmer, though, told the CT it would be less expensive to continue with a lease agreement than to build a facility. He said the upkeep and maintenance on their own field would also be expensive.

Paying the college $100,000 a year for 10 years amounts to $1 million, he noted, and the district could not even begin to build a stadium for that amount.

Winfield schools have used Jantz Stadium for decades. Trimmer said he doesn't think the district has ever had a field of its own, other than a practice field that would be inadequate for competitions.

"I started teaching in 1974 and we were

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SCK Health records August loss

Finances still improved over last year

By JOHN SHELMAN
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SCK Health reported an overall loss of $288,061 for August, compared to a gain of $228,318 in August last year. But the financial picture has greatly improved with a year-to-date loss of $35,150 compared to $2,629,495 the previous year.

CFO Shannon Gray said gross revenue for both the hospital and clinic had increased from the prior month and year. She said salaries, wages and benefits were up slightly from the prior year but down from the prior month.

Gray said most of the the new accounting system bugs that made accurate monthly financial statements difficult had been resolved.

"There's still a few little kinks, but we're working through those and looking forward to sharing it all and having our managers able to use it and pull data from it," she said.

CEO Margaret Grismer



Grismer

said the hospital had recently received $500,000 in second quarter provider assessment funds.

Quarterly provider assessment funds are mandatory fees, taxes, or assessments collected by state governments from health care providers on a quarterly basis to help

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Capper Foundation set to use former Schwan's building

Plans call for adult day services center

By REBECCA McCUTCHEON
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A zoning change for a building at the Winfield Business Park was approved Monday toward creating an adult day services facility run by the Capper Foundation.

The former Schwan's distribution center at 3900 E. 12th Ave. was purchased by Capper Foundation earlier this year. McCurdy Real Estate and Auction listed the building on its website May 22 as an online-only auction that closed June 24. The listing said the building is 11,908 square feet, on 5.9 acres of land.

The Winfield Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on Sept. 8 to consider a potential zoning change for the property from light industrial, to general commercial. The planning commission recommended the city commission approve the zoning change, as requested by Capper Foundation.

The Capper Foundation currently operates a Winfield location for adult services at 1500 E. Eighth Ave. in Baden Square that it leases from the city under an agreement though 2027, according to a previous CT article.

A phone message left with an employee at Capper Foundation's main office in Topeka seeking additional information about the proper-

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Men accused of kidnapping pled to lesser charge

Defendants released to immigration officials

Staff Report

Two men identified as undocumented immigrants and charged last year with kidnapping pled to a lesser charged and have been released to immigration officials.

Court records show Luis Miguel Dominguez, 35, and Jose Fernando-Lux Morales, 24, both pled no contest to a misdemeanor charge of criminal restraint back in December after being charged with kidnapping in August of 2025.

They were both granted credit for time served and released to a federal immigration hold, according sentencing documents.

The men were arrested after police, responding to a kidnapping report, located an SUV in the 400 block of South Eighth Street.

According to police, a female also in the vehicle told authorities she had been taken against her will from the First Council Casino near Newkirk and sexually assaulted by both male suspects, and that the assault continued as they drove through Ark City.

Police arrested Dominguez on suspected charges of aggravated kidnapping, rape and criminal sodomy, according to a press release at the time. But prosecutors decided to charge each man with one count kidnapping.

Dominguez was initially held on $1 million bond and Morales on a $500,00 bond in the Cowley County Jail.

At the time of their arrest, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security said ICE had lodged arrest detainers "to ensure these criminals are not released back into American communities."

It identified Luis Miguel

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I am subscribing to support We the People and because the CT lets people put articles in the paper.
Lynn Calder