

NCK Raptors Compete at Wilson Lake race

Wilson Lake Switch-grass Mountain Bike Trails were the location for the first race of season five of Kansas NICA's mountain bike race series. Eleven teams were stoked to visit Wilson Lake, home to one of the state's most well known systems of single track, for the 'Wicked at Wilson' NICA race held April 6th. The pre-ride day brought cold winds, but Sunday race day, was the perfect riding formula. The teams joining the Raptors came from Topeka, Emporia, Hutchinson, Lawrence, Manhattan, Wichita, Louisburg, Olathe, Lindsborg and Great Bend with 159 student athletes racing bikes at the lake.

The junior high boys started the day at 9:30 a.m. and completing two laps for 8th grade was Clayton Underwood coming in at 9th place and Kylian Alvis placing 11th. Racing in the 7th grade boys category completing 2 laps was Austin Rothenberger in 18th. Samuel Jordan raced in the 6th grade also finishing 2 laps with 11th place. The race laps were approximately a 4 mile loop of single track, traveling over rocky obstacles, winding through trees and even along the water's edge at one point.

The lady Raptors were the next wave with Olivia Dail placing 3rd in the JV category with four laps. Sophomore Abby Rigney followed with 3rd place completing three laps. The Freshmen lady Raptors were up next with Ten-



Austin Rothenberger, 7th grade, placed 18th for his first race with the NCK Raptors at Wilson Lake.

nyson Donley in 1st, Izabell Dail in 3rd, Addisen Schreiber in 5th and Chloe Helus in 8th, all with three laps.

The 8th grade girls followed with Climena Jordan in 7th place finishing two laps. Emmalee Dail came in 6th place in the 7th grade category to complete the lady Raptors.

Harlan Pancost competed in the Varsity boys division, resulting in a 5th place podium finish with five laps. The Raptor's JV boys competing were, Colton Jeardoe placing 7th with five laps and Luke Hollerich in 9th, finishing 4 laps. Connor Sumpter raced in the Sophomore category coming in 9th with three laps. The Freshmen boys were led by Parker

Williams placing 6th with four laps, Brodey Schreiber 15th, Zane Betzold in 18th, Luke Hartsock in 22nd and Caden May in 24th, all with three laps.

"The NCK Raptor athletes and coaches were excited to race at Wilson Lake for the season opener of the Kansas NICA race season. All of our returning athletes and first year riders have shown great improvement and we're all looking forward to 'Crankin' the Creek' for the second race at Fancy Creek State Park, Randolph, KS, April 13th," commented Coach John McClure.

For more information about joining the team or to join as a coach, visit www.facebook.com/NCK-Raptors.

MCHHS Begins Renovation Project with Temporary Surgical Clinic Relocation

MCHHS has announced the temporary relocation of its Outpatient Surgical Clinic in an effort to better serve patients and prepare for future growth. The move, effective Wed., April 16, 2025, will allow the clinic to continue providing care without interruption while the facility undergoes major upgrades in the north wing of the hospital.

The Surgical Clinic will remain open and continue to care for patients throughout the renovation period. All Surgical Clinic patients are asked to use the hospital's south wing entrance, formally known as the Special Care Unit. The entrance is located on the southwest side of the hospital and will be identifiable through additional signage, staff assistance, and communication materials to ensure a smooth transition for our patients.

For your convenience, MCHHS asks that patients enter off of 8th street between the hospital and the 2-story brick building that was the former location of



Due to a renovation project the MCHHS Surgical Clinic has been temporarily relocated and patients are asked to use the hospital's south wing entrance.

the Historical Society Museum. There are several parking spaces directly in front of this entrance with a handicap accessible path leading to the glass door.

The temporary relocation of the Surgical Clinic is expected to be in place throughout the summer as part of the hospital's commitment to growth and expanding services. During the relocation, patients will continue to receive the same high-quality care from the same team of professionals they trust.

"The upgrades are part of a broader initiative to im-

prove patient experience, modernize patient service areas, and support future service line expansion," said Janelle Kircher, Chief Executive Officer of MCHHS. "It's exciting to see this renovation begin. We are investing in a more efficient, patient-centered environment that supports both the comfort of our patients and the needs of our healthcare team."

The Surgical Clinic telephone and fax numbers will remain unchanged. Please call 785-738-9407 with any questions or to assist you in finding your way.

KCC approves modified route for AC Collector transmission line

The Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) has approved a modified route for one of two 345 kV transmission lines, known as the AC Collector System, designed to connect wind and solar farms to the Grain Belt Express. The Meade-Dodge City Line was originally planned to run 46 miles through parts of Ford, Meade, and Gray Counties. The new route reduces the length of the line by 12 miles and avoids 24 parcels of land resulting in fewer landowners being impacted. The 16-mile Bucklin-Dodge City Line remains unchanged.

An alternate Meade-Dodge City route, referred to as Boyd Alternative 2, was proposed by landowners prior to the Commission's original siting order. On September 26, 2024, the Commission approved the original AC Collector route with conditions. One condition required Grain Belt to complete a routing analysis comparing the original route to the proposed Boyd Alternative 2.

In a filing to the Commission on March 14, 2025, Grain Belt proposed a third siting option resulting in a shorter line impacting fewer landowners. The new route involves shifting the location of the switchyard that serves as the origination point of the line. No addi-

tional landowners were affected by the siting change, which eliminates the need to have additional public hearings. The Commission previously held a public hearing and open house for landowners on July 10, 2024.

In addition, the following conditions contained in the Commission's previous siting order still apply:

- The Commission will allow the company to micro-site the proposed route in order to minimize impact to landowners and to address engineering and environmental constraints. Micro-siting is limited to modifications within 660

feet of the approved-routing centerline.

- Grain Belt will not install transmission facilities on easement property until it has executed an interconnection agreement with one or more generators in the vicinity of the relevant AC Collector Line origination points.

- If Grain Belt does not execute an interconnection agreement with a generator(s) within five years, any involuntary easements obtained by eminent domain will be returned to landowners within 60 days without requirement of reimbursement payment by the landowner.

From the Dome to Home

Troy L. Waymaster, State Representative,
109 Kansas House

Governor veto overrides
This week it was Veto Session for the Legislature, as it was the last week of the 2025 regular session. During this week the House of Representatives and Senate voted to override bills vetoed by the Governor. Overall the House of Representatives overrode vetoes on 13 bills, detailed below is a sample of four bills from that list.
•First is House Bill (HB) 2240. This bill prohibits state agencies from seeking or implementing any public assistance program waiver, or other authorization, from the federal government that expands eligibility for public assistance programs or increases costs to the state. The bill also prohibits potential changes to services for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities without express consent or approval from either the Legislature or the Legislative Coordinating Council.
•Second is HB 2217. This legislation expands the scope of the investigatory powers of the Inspector General within the Office of the Attorney General to all state cash, food, and health assistance programs. The bill also grants the Inspector General the power to subpoena, administer oaths, and execute search warrants. The bill would also add and amend several definitions and make technical, clarifying, and conforming amendments to state law.
•Third is Senate Bill (SB) 125, the state's budget bill for fiscal years (FY) 2025 and 2026. The Governor made 40 line-item vetoes, and the Legislature overrode 15 of these. I will highlight a few of them here. First is the \$3 million State General Fund (SGF) for the Pregnancy Compas-

sion Awareness Program in FY 2026. Second is \$1 million SGF for Purple UAS certification innovation grant in FY 2026, aimed at growing the drone manufacturing industry in Kansas. Third and last is the bonding authority for construction of a new State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, critical to agriculture in our state.
•Fourth is SB 29. This piece of legislation would make several changes to current law. First is that it would require the Secretary of Health and Environment to have probable cause, supported by evidence, before taking action to prevent the spread or introduction of infectious diseases. Second, parties aggrieved by said actions would be permitted to pursue civil action against the Secretary of Health and Environment, or any local health officer. Third, local health officers and joint boards would be limited to issuing recommendations against public gatherings to control the spread of disease. Fourth and last would be eliminating the ability for either the Secretary of Health and Environment, or local health officers, from ordering law enforcement assistance regarding those orders.
I voted in favor of overriding the Governor's veto for each of these bills.
Conference committee reports
Even though it was Veto Session both chambers of the Legislature were still conferencing on bills. When the conference committees on said bills are finished, and significant changes to the bill are made, a conference committee report (CCR) is created, which is the final version of the bill before enrollment to the Governor. The topics of these CCRs ranged from changing tax

policy to streamlining childcare regulations. Ten conference committee reports were voted on this week and detailed below is a sample of four.
First is the CCR for House Bill 2045. This legislation creates the Office of Early Childhood, which will serve as the sole office charged with regulating early childcare in Kansas and consolidates current efforts by several state agencies. Second is the CCR for House Bill 2125. This bill reauthorizes the statewide school property mill levy, changes certification dates for property tax filings at the county level, extends state reimbursements for mailing and printing costs incurred by county clerks on tax notifications, and eliminates filing fees for repeat appeals, over different years, with the State Board of Tax Appeals.
Third is the CCR for House Bill 2335. This legislation creates a cap on several housing tax credits and enables transference of the Kansas Housing Investor Tax Credit, even retroactively back to tax year 2022. Fourth and last is the CCR for House Bill 2007. This is the aforementioned reconciliation bill for the 2025 legislative session, which means that the bill extends authority to the Office of Revisors, the legal team that drafts laws for the legislature, to reconcile potential contradictions created by laws passed during the session.
It is a distinct honor to serve as your representative for the 109th Kansas House District and the state of Kansas. Please contact me with your thoughts, concerns, and questions. I always appreciate hearing from the residents of the 109th House District and others from the state of Kansas, as well.

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*Using U.S. and imported parts.