

POLICE
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department and going strictly with a county law enforcement model such as the Ellsworth County Sheriff’s Department.

Dinkel noted, however, if the council does decide to go with the county-only option, that comes with a lot of issues that need to be explored in-depth first.

Mayor Dan Finnegan, who attended the meeting via Zoom, said he supports the police department and would not be in favor of discussing dissolving the department

“I’ll go on record. I called Allen (Dinkel) about it,” council member Don Panzer said. “My father was sheriff in Lincoln for 23 years, and they converted the chief of police and the police department to the sheriff’s office. It made the expenses of the vehicles less, it made the expenses of the cars less and you had an elected official overseeing the whole city and county — and it worked good.”

Panzer added he was not saying that model was perfect for Ellsworth, but it might be worth considering.

“Maybe it’s something we want, maybe it’s something we don’t want,” Panzer said. “Now is the time to look at all the options.”

Council member Darcy Hansen noted its hard to recruit police officers to work in Ellsworth.

“It (looking at a county-only option) was just a thought,” she said. “I didn’t say dissolve the police department, I said it’s a time to look at something like that. It’s just something to think about.”

“I didn’t say that either,” Panzer said. “If we can’t have open discussions, then we’re not

doing our job. And I think the City of Kanopolis right now is looking at doing the same thing,”

Penny told the council he was totally against dissolving the police department and turning law enforcement for the city over to the sheriff’s office.

He then voiced concerns about being interfered with when it comes how the department is being run.

“You have got to let the police department be the police department,” he said. “Let the chief run the department. Get out of it. Follow the policies that are here.”

Penny said because of things like that, the city council will have a hard time finding a replacement for him and his 32 years of experience in law enforcement.

“I think it’s a huge mistake if you take this police department away and turn it over to the county,” he said.

Council President Jessica Kootz said having an open and honest discussion is not going to hurt anything as long as the council looks at both the pros and cons.

Dinkel suggested the matter be tabled until the next council meeting July 14.

In other business:
• By a 4-1 vote, (council member Aaron Johnson was absent) the council approved Charter Ordinance No. 28 relating to the elections and appointment and removal of city officers. Finnegan voted against the charter ordinance.

Charter Ordinance No. 28 repeals Charter Ordinances No. 22 and No. 27.

Section 3, regarding the appointment and removal of officers, was amended in Charter Ordinance No. 28 to say

the governing body (council and mayor) may hire and employ a city administrator, police chief and city clerk and enter into an agreement for the services of a city attorney when a vacancy exists. A vote of a majority of all the members of the council may remove these officers. The mayor shall not have the power to suspend any officer. All other employees will be hired and removed by the city administrator.

Dinkel said there has been a fear voiced in the community that this change would give the council full control in issues covered by this charter ordinance.

“Yes, the council would vote on these issues, but remember, even though there is one council, it would take at least three of the five members to take any action,” he said.

Dinkel also noted that by state statute, the mayor retains the power to vote on charter ordinances.

Before the vote, Finnegan said the ordinance kind of does away with the checks and balances implemented by the state.

“What I’m worried about is you’re not only getting rid of appointments process, you’re not even talking about the suspension process,” he said. “That has never come up. Those are essential tools that mayors can use in the future, and you’re just kind of wiping them away tonight.”

In a response to Finnegan’s comments, Panzer asked why the council needs more drama.

“Lets move on and be done with it,” he said.

• Louise Blanding was approved by the council as the new city clerk after being appointed by Finnegan.

• Approval was given to a request by Dr. Lindsey Voeltz of Oak Creek Chiropractic to host the annual Kids Ninja Warrior event from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, July 19, in Preisker Park.

Dinkel said the city crew will work with Voeltz to make sure everything is in order at the park for the event.

• A proclamation highlighting June as Elder Abuse Awareness Month in the City of Ellsworth was approved as requested by the Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas.

• Grow Ellsworth County Board President Justin Lindsley introduced New Grow Executive Director Kevin Colle.

• Approval was given to the proposal from UES to conduct site exploration services for the wastewater treatment facility improvements in the amount of \$14,385, with the provision that the work will not commence until after the 2025 wheat harvest on that parcel of land.

• Approval was given to Resolution 2025-21, adopting the Kansas Homeland Security Region F Hazard Mitigation Plan.

• The council gave approval by consensus to David Pyle to proceed with the process aimed at building duplexes along K-14 Highway in the Canren Addition north of the Good Samaritan Society. Since the lots are so small, Dinkel suggested Pyle do a Planned Unit Development, which is a predetermined layout and design to use the land efficiently and to preserve the property values within established neighborhoods.

• Approval was given to the city facility two-

year use agreement and fees with USD 327 for the use of city hall, the health and recreation center, sports complex and golf course and the expectations of both the city and USD 327.

• Approval was given to increase facility rental at the health and recreation center from \$100 per month to \$125 per month for Ellsworth Tumble, Dance and Cheer from September through May.

• No action was taken regarding a discussion of zoning regulations

regarding accessory buildings in an R-1 single-family dwelling district.

Dinkel noted there have been some recent requests made to allow construction of an accessory building in an R-1 zoned district when there is not a residential use on the lot.

It was recommended the city planning commission look at zoning codes and work on them.

The next meeting of the Ellsworth City Council is at 5:30 p.m. July 14 at city hall.

Additional legal is on: A7

Rocket Mortgage v. Stacher

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent Reporter, June 26, 2025)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF ELLSWORTH COUNTY, KANSAS
CIVIL DEPARTMENT

Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC Plaintiff,
vs.
Cynthia Lee Stacher; Unknown Spouse, if any, of Cynthia Lee Stacher; Foundation Finance Company, LLC; John Doe (Tenant/Occupant); Mary Doe (Tenant/Occupant) Defendants.

Case No. EW-2024-CV-000001
Court Number:
Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 60

NOTICE OF SALE

Under and by virtue of an Order of Sale issued to me by the Clerk of the District Court of Ellsworth County, Kansas, the undersigned Sheriff of Ellsworth County, Kansas, will offer for sale at public auction and sell to the highest bidder for cash in hand, at the Front Door of the Courthouse at Ellsworth Ellsworth County, Kansas, on July 17, 2025, at 10:00 AM, the following real estate:

The East 35' of Lot 22, and All of Lot 23, in Block 45, in the City of Ellsworth, Ellsworth County, Kansas, commonly known as 310 W 3rd St, Ellsworth, KS 67439 (the “Property”) to satisfy the judgment in the above-entitled case. The sale is to be made without appraisal and subject to the redemption period as provided by law, and further subject to the approval of the Court. For more information, visit www.Southlaw.com
Kenny Bernard, Sheriff
Ellsworth County, Kansas
Prepared By:
SouthLaw, P.C.
Blair T. Gisi (KS #24096)
13160 Foster, Suite 100
Overland Park , KS 66213-2660
(913) 663-7600
(913) 663-7899 (Fax)
Attorneys for Plaintiff
(243185)

3t 7/10

PennyMac Loan Civil Suit

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent Reporter, June 12, 2025)

Millsap & Singer, LLC
8900 Indian Creek Parkway, Suite 180
Overland Park, KS 66210
(913) 339-9132
(913) 339-9045 (fax)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF Ellsworth County, KANSAS
CIVIL DEPARTMENT

PennyMac Loan Services, LLC

Plaintiff,

vs.

Sarah Ranker, Terry M. Ranker, Jane Doe, John Doe, Mary Frances Hutton (Deceased), and Unknown Heirs of Mary Frances Hutton (Deceased), et al.,

Defendants

Case No. EW-2025-CV-000010

Court No.

Title to Real Estate Involved

Pursuant to K.S.A. §60

administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors, successors and assigns of any defendants that are or were partners or in partnership; and the unknown guardians, conservators and trustees of any defendants that are minors or are under any legal disability and all other person who are or may be concerned:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in the District Court of Ellsworth County, Kansas by PennyMac Loan Services, LLC, praying to foreclose a mortgage on the following described real estate:

LOT 17 AND 18, BLOCK 34, CITY OF HOLYROOD, ELLSWORTH COUNTY, KANSAS. Parcel ID No. 027-162-10-0-40-16-003.00-0. Commonly known as 107 W Concord Ave., Holyrood, KS 67450 (“the Property”) MS 214364

and *all those defendants who have not otherwise been served* are required to plead to the Petition on or before July 23, 2025 in the District Court of Ellsworth County, Kansas. If you fail to plead, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the request of plaintiff.

MILLSAP & SINGER, LLC

By:
Dwayne A. Duncan, #27533
dduncan@msfirm.com
612 Spirit Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63005
(636) 537-0110
(636) 537-0067 (fax)

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

MS 214364.453381 KJFC

MILLSAP & SINGER, LLC IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

3t 6/26

Name change request: Piper Crombie

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent/ Reporter, June 12, 2025)

(First Published in Ellsworth County Independent Reporter June, 12, 2025)

IN THE 20th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT ELLSWORTH COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF

Piper Willow Wren Crombie
Present Name
Case No. EW-2025-CV-000006
Div. No. _____

To Change Her Name to:

Piper Willow Wren Anderson
New Name

PURSUANT TO K.S.A. CHAPTER 60

NOTICE OF HEARING - PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL WHO ARE OR MAY BE CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that Piper Willow Wren Crombie, filed a Petition in the above court on the 25th day of March, 2025, requesting a judgment and order changing her name from Piper Willow Wren Crombie to Piper Willow Wren Anderson.

The Petition will be heard in Ellsworth County District Court, 210 N Kansas, Ellsworth, Kansas, on the 3rd day of July, 2025, at 9:00a.m.

If you have any objection to the requested name change, you are required to file a responsive pleading on or before July 3, 2025 in this court or appear at the hearing and object to the requested name change. If you fail to act, judgment and order will be entered upon the Petition as requested by Petitioner.


Petitioner, Pro Se

Name: Piper Crombie
Address: 336 Main St.
City, State, Zip: Lorraine, KS, 67459
Telephone Number: 785-531-1700

3t 6/26

Submission deadline
for legals:
Noon on Fridays

Schneider Estate Hearing

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent Reporter, June 12, 2025)

SHERMAN LAW OFFICE, LC
P.O. Box 83
Ellsworth, Kansas 67439-0083
(785) 472-3186

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
ELLSWORTH COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of

Case No. EW-2025-PR-000011
Paula Schneider, Deceased

NOTICE OF HEARING
THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:
You are hereby notified that a Petition for Determination of Descent and Approval of Valid Family Settlement Agreement has been filed in this Court by Edward A. Schneider, heir of Paula Schneider, deceased, requesting:
Descent be determined for certain real estate owned by the deceased in Ellsworth County, Kansas, and that the Valid Family Settlement Agreement of the heirs regarding the division of the descent property and trust real estate and personal property be approved and that such property and all other Kansas personal property and real estate owned by the decedent at the time of her death be assigned pursuant to the Kansas law and the Valid Family Settlement Agreement as requested in the Petition. The real estate includes a tract of land 16 feet by 20 feet, in the Southeast corner of the South-

west Quarter of Section Thirty (30), Township Fifteen (15) South, Range Seven (7) West in Ellsworth County, Kansas. You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition, in this Court, on or before July 3, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. in the City of Ellsworth, Ellsworth County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.
Edward A. Schneider, Petitioner

Sherman Law Office, LC
PO Box 83
Ellsworth, KS 67439
785-472-3186
Attorney for Petitioner

3t 6/26