

# Lyons News

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Katie Miller Thursday presents Jared Jones with the KMU 2025 Wastewater Award of Excellence (Courtesy photo)

## Jones honored by KMU

Jared Jones, Public Works Director for Lyons, Kansas, was presented with the 2025 Wastewater Operator Award of Excellence by Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU). KMU is the statewide association of community-owned and operated electric, gas, water, and wastewater utilities in Kansas. Jones was presented the award at the 2025 KMU Conference in Wichita on April 24, 2025, by Katie Miller, KMU Director of Water Services.

Jared has served as the Public Works Director for the City of Lyons since

January 2022. He has gained experience through working with other area utilities. He has earned several certifications in welding, a Class A CDL, a Class 2 certification in water, and a Class 1 certification for wastewater. In December 2024, Jared was named the City of Lyons employee of the month.

In a few short years, Jared has faced numerous difficult issues head-on and worked to address the challenges within the utilities department. Jared was a graduate of the inaugural KMU Utilities Supervisor

Management Academy. He has remained dedicated to professional growth, both for himself and his team, even in times of adversity.

Jared has been instrumental in providing exceptional service not only to his community but also to the utility industry of Kansas.

Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU), based in McPherson, is the statewide association of community-owned and operated electric, natural gas, water, wastewater,

[SEE JONES PAGE 5](#)

## RCSO April Reports

On April 24, staff at the Rice County Detention Center observed smoke in B Pod and promptly contacted emergency services. Lyons Fire Department responded quickly and confirmed there was no fire present. The cause was determined to be a malfunctioning air conditioning blower motor, which was scheduled for repair the next morning.

The quick action by staff and the professional response from Lyons Fire, both helped ensure the safety and stability of the facility throughout the incident.

On April 19, a Deputy with the Rice County Sheriff's Office attempted to stop a red and white dirt bike traveling southbound near South Bell Avenue and East Lyon Street in Lyons. The dirt bike was observed operating without a registration plate or

required safety equipment such as a taillight or turn indicators, and appeared to be non-street legal.

When the deputy attempted to initiate a traffic stop, the rider fled, disregarding multiple stop signs and traveling at speeds of approximately 45 mph in posted 30 mph zones. The pursuit continued through several streets in Lyons before the rider exited city limits and entered a field, where the vehicle came to a stop.

The individual was taken into custody without further incident. During a subsequent search, deputies located a loaded firearm in the subject's backpack. The dirt bike was impounded due to multiple safety violations, including lack of headlight, taillight, brake light, and turn signals. The operator did not possess a motorcycle endorsement and was

unable to provide registration or insurance documentation for the vehicle.

No further information will be released as this is an active investigation.

On April 17 deputies responded to the area of 1960 State Road 14 to a vehicle crash involving a passenger car and four head of cattle on the roadway. The vehicle sustained significant damage and airbags were deployed. Fortunately, only minor injuries were reported.

The quick response and assistance from the Sterling Fire Department and Rice County EMS helped ensure everyone on scene was cared for quickly and safely.

RCSO reminds drivers to always stay alert—especially in rural areas where livestock or wildlife may unexpectedly be on the roadway.

[SEE RCSO PAGE 5](#)



Former USD 405 Administrators Gary Sechrist and Bob Wedel were officially inducted into the USD 405 Education Endowment Association Lyons Schools Hall of Fame during Tuesday's track meet at Lyons High School's Wheaton Track. Wedel served as Lyons High School principal from 1971 to 1996 and Sechrist served as LHS Principal from 1996 to 2009. (Photo by Manuel Gomez)

## Lyons places third at Hillsboro

By Manuel Gomez

The Lyons Lions scored 35 points and finished tied for third place with Wichita Independent at the Trojan Invitational. Wichita Trinity placed first with 68 points; Hesston was second with 48 points.

Fred Chuen won two of his three matches to place third in No. 1 Singles and Kolby Peter (2-1) placed third in No. 2 Singles.

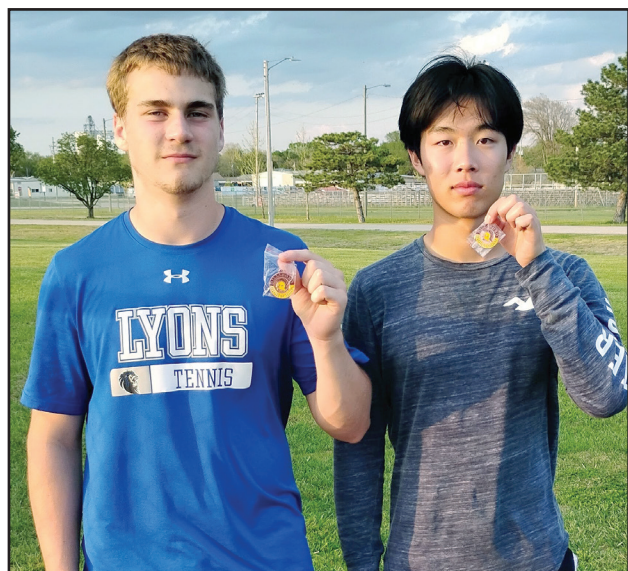
In doubles play, the No. 1 team of Kale Dalke and Isaías Burrola placed sixth and Legend Miranda and Kingston Medrud placed sixth.

The Lions will travel to Pratt today to compete in an 11-team varsity tournament. Matches begin at 10 a.m.

### Results

**No. 1 Singles:** Fred Chuen (LY) defeated Harrison Baughman of Hesston, 8-6, in the third-place match to place third and score 15-team points.

Chuen defeated Casen Steinert of Hillsboro, 8-3, in the quarterfinal match



Placing third at the Trojan Invitational were Kolby Peter, No. 2 Singles and Fred Chuen, No. 1 Singles (Photo courtesy Jack Wilson)

and lost to Alex Hobson of Wichita Trinity, 1-8, in his semifinal match before defeating Baughman.

**No. 2 Singles:** Kolby Peter (LY) defeated Jonah Kaumans of Salina-Sacred Heart, 5-0 (default), in the third-place match to place third and scored 10-team points.

Peter defeated Tayte Leck of Neodesha, 8-3, in his quarterfinal match and lost to Cooper Cheng of

Wichita Independent, 2-8, in the semifinals before defeating Kaumans.

**No. 1 Doubles:** Kale Dalke and Isaías Burrola (LY) lost to Howell/Turner of Neodesha, 0-8, in the fifth-place match to place sixth and score four-team points.

Dalke/Burrola lost to Isaac/Rempel of Hillsboro, 5-8, in the quarterfinal round and defeated

[SEE SPORTS PAGE 7](#)

## RCED director expresses unease with loan program

County Commissioners heard a quarterly report from Rice County Economic Development Director Taryn Daniels Monday.

She shared some concerns about the Revolving Loan Fund that currently has three recipients that are behind or not making payments.

She has requested financial reports from two of the three, but has not received anything in return. She has been unable to locate contact information on the third.

Daniels said she has had four or five prospec-

tive recipients ask about the loan program, and she feels a more defined process needs to be in place for those that are delinquent.

"It's a good program and does great things to help local businesses, but it doesn't seem like it's functioning properly," Daniels said.

She noted that no UCC (Uniform Commercial Code) filings had been done for any of the loans, which she is currently working on correcting.

In other business commissioners:

•Approved the Kansas

Department of Corrections Funding for fiscal year 2026 as presented by Central Kansas Community Corrections Director Brooke Haulmark;

•Approved airport lease agreements for ariel ag sprayers including Alpha Ag Air and Maxwell Aviation;

•Approved a public hearing for the five year solid waste management plan for the landfill as presented to be held on May 19 at 9:30 a.m. during the county commission meeting;

[SEE COUNTY PAGE 7](#)

## New Rice County Clerk sworn in

Alden resident Raechel Manley officially began her duties as Rice County Clerk on April 14. Manley brings experience in community service and a commitment to transparency to the role.

"I'm honored to serve as Rice County Clerk," Manley said. "I appreciate the support

from our county staff and commissioners who have kept the office running in the interim.

"My first priority is to fully staff the office, and I look forward to working together to meet the needs of our county and its community members."

The County Clerk

plays a vital role in Kansas counties. Responsibilities include keeping official records, managing county budgets, preparing tax documents, and overseeing elections. The Clerk also assists with voter registration and ensures that public information is accessible to residents.



(L to R) Jane Hrabik, the Clerk of the District Court at Rice County officially swore in Raechel Manley as the new Rice County Clerk during Manley's first week in office.

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