

# Recognizing the history of Juneteenth

by **Tammy Johnson**  
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Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865, with a message that changed lives. Word of the Civil War’s end and the news that the enslaved were now free finally reached the people. This moment came more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Many slave owners in Texas had deliberately kept that truth hidden to maintain their power and profit. That day became known as Juneteenth, a blend of “June” and “nineteenth.” It marked the true arrival of freedom for many Black Americans and sparked a celebration of liberation that has endured for generations.

In those early years, Juneteenth was marked with music, prayer,



barbecues, and public readings of the Emancipation Proclamation. These gatherings became spaces of joy and remembrance. They acknowledged both the triumph of freedom and the wounds of slavery. Though the day remained largely rooted in Black communities, especially in Texas, churches and families kept its

meaning alive with oral storytelling, traditional foods, and bright red drinks symbolizing both pain and strength.

Over time, recognition grew. Texas officially made Juneteenth a state holiday in 1980. In 2021, it became a federal holiday, the first since Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 1983. Today, it is both a

remembrance and a reckoning. It is a moment to honor those who suffered and those who fought to be free, and to ask ourselves what freedom truly looks like in America today.

Juneteenth is more than just a page in a history book. It is living memory, culture, and activism. Whether you mark the day with

music, family, food, or art, you are joining a tradition that goes back 160 years. It continues to move forward with purpose.

No events were found to be planned in McPherson, but there are a few scheduled in Hutchinson. Juneteenth will be honored through a celebration from June 19 to 21. The observance includes a Youth Talent Show, “Grilling with Dads,” the Miss Juneteenth Pageant, and a community barbecue. The main event will be held Wednesday, June 19, from 6:15 to 8:15 p.m. at 15 E. First Ave., featuring music, food vendors, dancing, games, bounce houses, and a community health fair. Meanwhile, the Hutchinson Art Center is hosting a Youth Art Contest on the theme “The Road to and from Emancipation.” Free art kits will be available, and the winning pieces will be displayed in July.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT  
McPherson COUNTY, KANSAS**

**Jason L Koehn  
Plaintiff  
and  
Kansas Department of Revenue,  
and Michael Martin III Mann  
Defendants**

**Case No. MP 2025 CV 19  
Pursuant to Chapter 60 of  
Kansas Statutes Annotated**

**NOTICE OF SUIT**  
To Kansas Department of Revenue  
and Michael martin !!! Mann and all  
other concerned persons:

You are notified that a Petitioner has  
been filed in the District Court of  
McPherson County by Jason L.Koehn  
Plaintiff praying that title to prop-  
erty stated in the Petition be awarded  
to the Plaintiff and you are hereby  
required to plead to the Petition on  
or before July 29 2025. If you fail to  
plead, judgment will be entered upon  
the Petition.

Jason Koehn  
Box 366 McPherson. KS 67460

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18, 25, July 2, 2025.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF  
McPherson County, KANSAS  
CIVIL DEPARTMENT**

**U.S. Bank National Association  
Plaintiff,  
vs.  
Jarod A Allison, Jane Doe, and John  
Doe, et al.,  
Defendants**

**Case No. MP-2025-CV-000059  
Title to Real Estate Involved  
Pursuant to K.S.A. §60**

**NOTICE OF SUIT**  
STATE OF KANSAS to the above  
named Defendants and The Unknown  
Heirs, executors, devisees, trustees,  
creditors, and assigns of any deceased  
defendants; the unknown spouses of  
any defendants; the unknown offi-  
cers, successors, trustees, creditors  
and assigns of any defendants that  
are existing, dissolved or dormant  
corporations; the unknown execu-  
tors, administrators, devisees, trust-  
ees, 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 dis-  
ability 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  
McPherson County, Kansas by U.S.  
Bank National Association, praying to  
foreclose a mortgage on the following  
described real estate:

LOTS SEVEN (7), LOT EIGHT (8), AND  
LOT NINE (9), EXCEPT THE NORTH 6  
FEET OF SAID LOT NINE (9), BLOCK  
FOUR (4), INVESTMENT, AN ADDITION  
TO THE CITY OF CANTON, MCPHER-  
SON COUNTY, KANSAS. Parcel ID No.  
0591152202004006000. Commonly  
known as 501 N Main St., Canton, KS  
67428 ("the Property") MS 187333

and all those defendants who have not  
otherwise been served are required  
to plead to the Petition on or before  
July 29, 2025 in the District Court of  
McPherson 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 187333.456468 KJFC

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

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3577450

**Jail reviews policies after KMBC report**

**by Tammy Johnson**  
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McPherson County Jail recently re-  
viewed its restraint policies and training  
procedures following an investigation by  
KMBC 9 News, a television station in  
Kansas City, that examined how jails use  
restraint chairs. Jail Administrator Arlo  
Blevins discussed the facility's practices,  
emphasizing transparency and safety.  
KMBC's report, called "Chronicle:  
Restrained," investigated injuries and  
deaths related to restraint chairs and full-  
body restraints in jails across the country.  
Their findings showed that some law  
enforcement agencies kept people re-  
strained for too long or used pepper spray  
and tasers while individuals were unable  
to move.  
The report included stories from fami-  
lies affected by these incidents as well as  
statements from officers, manufacturers,  
and state officials. It revealed that some  
departments failed to follow safety guide-  
lines, which led to serious harm. This in-  
vestigation prompted many jails to exam-  
ine their policies, including McPherson  
County Jail.  
At McPherson County Jail, new em-  
ployees learn about restraints when they  
first get hired and take a test to ensure  
they understand safety rules. Officers  
must complete training every year on  
how to properly use restraint chairs.  
After KMBC's open records request,  
the jail reviewed its written policy and  
found that it did not clearly ban the use  
of tasers or pepper spray on restrained

inmates. Although officers never used  
these methods, the department formal-  
ly clarified the policy to reinforce safe  
practices.  
"It should have already been in writing,  
even though we never did it," Blevins said.  
"Once someone is restrained, there is no  
reason to use force."  
Restraint chairs are only used when  
inmates try to harm themselves, such as  
slamming their heads against windows.  
To improve safety, the jail recently got a  
new restraint chair. Officials have looked  
at alternative methods like wraps, but they  
aren't confident those are better options.  
"I wish we did not need restraints at  
all, but they are helpful when nothing else  
works," Blevins shared.  
To avoid hurting inmates during re-  
straint, officers follow a specific process.  
At least four or five officers help with  
placing an individual in the chair, and  
each officer controls a different limb to  
keep movement calm and controlled.  
When someone is placed in a restraint  
chair, officers must complete a report and  
check on them every 15 to 20 minutes.  
"We make sure inmates get water,  
food, and movement breaks," Blevins  
said. "Being still for too long can cause  
blood clots, so it is important to follow  
safety guidelines."  
Manufacturers recommend a max-  
imum of two hours, but McPherson  
County Jail never keeps anyone restrained  
for more than 40 minutes.  
Before officers use restraints, they  
try de-escalation techniques to calm  
the situation. Officers train annually on

methods to defuse tension before it esca-  
lates. Blevins estimates that 90 percent of  
issues can be resolved through communi-  
cation alone.  
Mental health also plays a role in de-  
ciding whether restraint is necessary. If  
an inmate is in crisis but not physically  
harming themselves, officers work to  
avoid using restraints and focus on other  
solutions.  
Every time someone is restrained, a su-  
pervisor reviews the report, and inmates  
are placed in front of one of the jail's three  
booking cameras so officers can monitor  
their condition.  
McPherson County Jail has never  
faced legal challenges regarding its re-  
straint practices. However, officials ac-  
knowledge there have been restraint-re-  
lated deaths at other jails in the United  
States, often linked to excessive restraint  
time, tasers, or pepper spray use.  
While inmates have not provided di-  
rect feedback about the restraint chair,  
Blevins noted many acknowledge the re-  
straint helped calm them down.  
"They usually come out of it saying  
they do not want to go through it again,  
which means it served its purpose,"  
Blevins said. "But we should ask inmates  
for their opinions to see if there is any-  
thing we could do better."  
Officials say restraints should always  
be a last resort, and de-escalation should  
come first.  
"It is slow progress, but jails across the  
country are getting better," Blevins said.  
"The more days we can go without re-  
straints, the better."

## Inman City Council Meets

provided by City of Inman

**Unofficial Minutes-June 09, 2025** Inman City Council met in regular session Monday, June 09, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall. In attendance were Justin Friesen, Michelle Neufeld, Dennan Schroeder, Dennis Schroeder, Dave Thiessen, and Jim Toews, mayor. A quorum was present. Toews called the meeting to order following the pledge of allegiance. Others in attendance were Stephen Panetta, David Schmidt, Tracy Schmidt, Dale Schmidt, John Hawk, Mary Pywell, Mike Gilzinger, Bob Ratzlaff, Lamont Turcotte, Keith Neufeld & Rod Boerger, Barbara Tuxhorn and Sonya Galden. The meeting was broadcast on Facebook. Public Input - 1) Mike Gilzinger, Chamber officer, requested two 0.5 roll-off trash containers and two portable toilets at Lambert Park & two portable toilets at Country Park, and a \$1,500 donation for fireworks for the 6/28/25 event. Also requested Center St. to Main St. to Gordon St. for the parade be blocked off. Dennis motioned to donate \$1500 for the fireworks and four portable toilets and two roll-offs. Thiessen seconded. Passed 5-0. 2) Stephan Panetta advised about a leaning utility pole in the alley between S. Spruce St. and S. Elm St. Boerger will check it out. 3) Lamont Turcotte presented a slide quote for \$12,832.30 from Playscapes, to replace the metal slide at Lambert Park. John Hawk & Mary Pywell, MASWU, presented about the 5% rate increase for trash service in 2026 and the causes behind it. Dennan motioned to enter into an executive session at 7:35 p.m.

with David Schmidt, Dale Schmidt and Tracy Schmidt and city staff to discuss land acquisition, for fifteen minutes, pursuant to KSA 75-4319(b)(6). Friesen seconded. Passed 5-0. The council returned to regular session at 7:50 p.m. p.m. No action was taken. Dennis motioned to enter an executive session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss an individual employee pursuant to the nonelected personnel exception, KSA 75-4319(b)(1), with the open meeting resuming at 8:05 p.m. Thiessen seconded. Passed 5-0. The regular meeting and Facebook broadcast resumed at 8:05 p.m. Thiessen motioned to appoint Sonya Galden as interim city clerk and transition to city clerk on 07/31/2025. Dennan seconded. Passed 5-0. Thiessen motioned for Galden to hire a new deputy clerk. Friesen seconded. Passed 5-0. Minutes - Dennis motioned to approve the minutes of 5/12/2025 and 5/19/2025. Dennan seconded. Passed 5-0. Payment of Bills - Dennis motioned to approve Appropriation Ordinance 2025-05 for May checks 19468 to 19480 and Appropriation Ordinance 2025-06 for June checks 19481 to 19507. Neufeld seconded. Passed 5-0. The governing body received copies of various May cash and budgetary reports and the reconciled bank statement and reconciliation report. Budgetary Adjustments - Friesen motioned to approve the adjustments presented. Thiessen seconded. Passed 5-0. Police Department- Herron advised of an Officer being roughed up on a weekend call. Dennis questioned whether additional equipment or equipment replaced,

Herron advised no. All training hour requirements are current for all officers. Friesen motioned to allow the discharge of fireworks beginning June 28 from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m until July 5 from 9am to 11pm. Dennan seconded. Passed 5-0. The job description for Code & Zoning Enforcement Coordinator, a new full-time position was discussed, and a work session was scheduled for June 24, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. Utilities/Streets/Parks - Dennan motioned to give Dwayne Ensz a \$0.50 raise for passing his wastewater certification. Dennis seconded. Passed 5-0. Thiessen motioned to approve a contract with South Central Sealing & Paving for \$29,068.00 for street sealing. Dennis seconded. Passed 5-0. 5/12/25, the year-to-date city water usage was twenty-seven percent of the annual 82,860,000 gallons allowed by the state. Mosquito spraying was discussed, Boerger indicated that he would get it scheduled. Zoning - No permits were issued in May, bringing the total of five for year to date. Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction changes were discussed. Dennan motioned to table for further discussion in a work session. Thiessen seconded. Passed 5-0. Sidewalk fund was discussed on how to disperse. Clerk - Motion by Friesen for Floodplain Manager to change from Tuxhorn to Boerger. Dennan seconded. Passed 5-0. Unfinished Business - Friesen advised that Terry Isaac, Isaac Construction is pursuing Performance Bond pre-qualification. Dennan motioned to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. Friesen seconded. Passed 5-0. The next work session meeting will be on June 24 at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall. The next regular meeting will be July 14, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall.

