


WINTER SPORTS



Submitted photo

During National Volunteer Week, Erie High School science teacher Stephanie Stark was recognized - a true champion for Special Olympics Kansas. With more than 12 years of dedicated service in Southeast Kansas, Stark has become an irreplaceable part of our community. From organizing and recruiting to hands on support at events, Stark does it all. She's a cornerstone of the Erie Track Meet, playing a key role in launching and sustaining it during the years. Through the years, she has made lasting relationships with athletes, and always brings the energy, compassion and leadership needed at every event. "She is extremely selfless and a go-getter," shared one SOKS staff member. "She helps out at almost every single event and goes above and beyond in everything she does. Southeast Kansas is lucky to have her." The threat of potential severe weather in Southeast Kansas Wednesday caused the postponement of the event in Erie. Stark is pictured above with USD #101 student Ely Rinehart.



ACROSS THE TRACKS

Beekeepers Association Meets Thursday, May 8, at Independence

Montgomery County Beekeepers Association will meet on Thursday, May 8, at 6:30 p.m. at Independence Community College West, 2615 W. Main Street in Independence. Honey production, which includes the "when and how" to add honey supers to honeybee colonies, will be the main focus of the program. Adding supers is the best way to maximize honey production from our bee colonies and harvesting as much honey as possible is the goal of most beekeepers.

We will have time for discussions as many beekeepers come with questions for which they are seeking answers. Our meetings are always open to the public. A door prize relating to beekeeping will be given during the meeting. For more information call, 620-332-4673, 620-332-4486, 620-331-9394, or 918-977-1502.

RSVP for Erie All-School Reunion Scheduled for July 19

The Erie All-School Reunion is scheduled for Saturday, July 19, at the Neosho Valley Event Center at the fairgrounds with a start time of 5:30 p.m.

All former students, teachers, staff and friends are welcome. Please RSVP by July 1. For additional information or to make a reservation, please email: erieallschoolreunion@gmail.com

Big Creek UMC Whole Hog Day Celebrating 58 Years

The annual Big Creek UMC Whole Hog Day will be celebrating 58 years of "hoggin' around, Saturday, May 3, from 8 a.m. until noon. The Big Creek Chapel is located at 22965 Lions Rd., Chanute. Whole hog sausage, sausage gravy, homemade cinnamon rolls and biscuits will be available. Suggested fees are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and under. Live music from local musicians will be featured during the event.

Dine in, drive thru, and carry out available.

Place your event in The Record

To place your event in "Across the Tracks," email the information to erierecord@hotmail.com. Information may also be sent via mail to P.O. Box 159, Erie KS 66733.

The Peck Perspective

That's a wrap for state senator

By VIRGIL E. PECK, JR.
State Senator

With the 2025 Legislative Session adjourned, the only things remaining on the legislative calendar are joint committee meetings, task force meetings and yet to be appointed interim committees and meeting dates. I currently serve on two joint committees, the Joint Committee on Kansas Security (like the Intelligence Committee at the federal level) and the Robert G. (Bob) Bethel Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight (deals with social service issues and Medicaid). Only time will tell if I'm given more responsibilities that require additional trips to Topeka.

Last week I wrote about SB 24, a bill expanding eligibility for the Kansas Promise Scholarship Program, and that I expected it would receive the Governor's signature. I was wrong. Gov. Laura Kelly vetoed SB 24, making it her 19th veto of the 2025 legislative session. Since the Legislature has adjourned, there will be no opportunity to override the veto.

Most bills passed during a session take effect on publication in the statute book – July 1st. Below are a couple of those bills. I'm writing about these bills because the topics have generated a lot of interest from Kansans.

Real-Time Vehicle Insurance Verification (SB 42): The bill will enact the Kansas Real Time Motor Vehicle Insurance Verification Act (Act) and require the Kansas Commissioner of Insurance (Commissioner) to establish an online system for verification of motor vehicle insurance. The newly developed system will be web-based, supersede any other verification system requirements, and be the only system in Kansas for this purpose. Insurance companies insuring vehicles registered in Kansas will be required to cooperate with the Commissioner to establish and maintain the system as specified in the Act.

Following a testing period of not less than nine months, the system must be fully operational by July 1, 2026. Passage of SB

42 aligns Kansas with 18 other states that have real-time confirmation of auto insurance coverage.

Provisions of SB 42 require the state to notify drivers in real time that their insurance coverage has lapsed and that they have 30 days to obtain proper coverage, or their vehicle registration will be revoked. Additionally, the Commissioner will establish a response time for insurance agents and insurance companies to respond to inquiries from the Insurance Department and adds failure to respond to such inquiries to the list of actions that could lead to action being taken against an agent's license.

In 2024, state troopers handed out 8,030 tickets for not showing proof of insurance, and in 2023 they issued 7,811 tickets.

Current Kansas law requires drivers to have minimum coverage of \$25,000 for bodily injury per individual, \$50,000 bodily injury per accident and \$25,000 for property damage per accident. Failing to carry proper insurance coverage is a misdemeanor subject to a fine of \$300 to \$1,000 or up to six months in jail. With the price of replacing some vehicles, many (including me) feel the current limits are too low.

Protecting Kansas from Foreign Adversaries (SB 9): A 10-page bill, SB 9, creates The Kansas Land and Military Installation Act (Act) to help protect Kansas from foreign adversaries like China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, etc. by prohibiting foreign adversaries from acquiring land near our military bases and ensuring government agencies only purchase American- or allied-made drones and drone technology.

The Act disallows foreign adversaries from acquiring land within 100 miles of a military installation in Kansas or an adjacent state – designed to cover most of Kansas.

It also prohibits government agencies from purchasing or acquiring drones whose critical components were produced in a country of concern, or whose critical components were produced or owned by a foreign principal.



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SHERIFF'S REPORT

Weekly Deputy Activity Report

04/21 Traffic stop; U169 Hwy. and Work, Thayer. Cited the driver, Bianca Buescher, 29, Lawrence, for speeding and no proof of insurance.

04/21 Traffic stop; Udall Rd. and 110th, St. Paul. Arrested the driver, Jessica Latshaw, 27, Welch OK, for possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, and a Barton County warrant.

04/21 Traffic stop; K47 Hwy. and 2nd, St. Paul. Cited the driver, Joel Schibi, 24, Parsons, for failure to stop at stop sign.

04/21 Incident report; U169 Hwy. 4 mile south from 200th, Chanute.

04/21 Agency assist; 322 Greenwood Rd., Thayer.

04/22 Warrant arrest; 100 S. Main, Erie. Arrested Michael McCartney, 29, Madison, on two Neosho County warrants and a Montgomery County warrant.

04/22 Incident report; 7872 Dorn Rd., Thayer.

04/22 Grass fire report; 23530 Harper Rd., Chanute.

04/23 Protection from abuse violation report; 425 Neosho, Thayer. Arrested Cory Bayer, 34, Chanute, for violation of protection order.

04/23 Incident report; 10720 Xavier Rd., St. Paul.

04/24 Protection from abuse violation report; 425 Neosho, Thayer.

04/25 Two vehicle non-injury accident report; 210th Rd. .1 mile east from Marshall, Erie. Cited the driver, Jason King, 49, Erie, for driving while suspended.

04/25 Two vehicle non-injury accident report; K47 Hwy. 77 ft. west from U169 Hwy., Thayer. Cited the driver, Fredrick Waggoner III, 37, Neodesha, for expired vehicle registration and failure to secure load.

04/25 Flee and Elude report; 135th Rd. and U59 Hwy., Erie.

04/25 Incident report; 402 E. State, Erie

04/26 Incident report; 19450 Ford Rd., Chanute.

04/27 Incident report; 30th and Jackson, Parsons.

04/27 Found property report; 130th Rd. 150 ft. east from Wallace, St. Paul.

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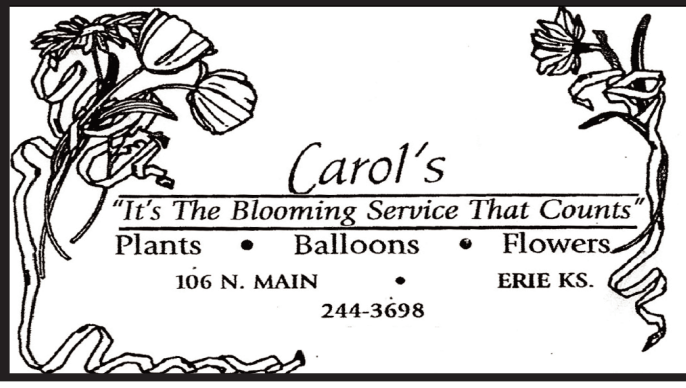
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