

Chamber committee to host legislative update at library

Staff report

The Leavenworth-Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee will host an end of session legislative update on May 10 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Leavenworth Public Library. All state legislators have been invited to discuss the 2025 session.

County attorney cautions public about scam calls

Staff report

The county attorney is cautioning people about a scam in which people are asked to make payments for missing jury duty. According to a news release, scammers pose as members of the sheriff’s office while calling their intended victims. “These scams can look very convincing,” County Attorney Todd Thompson said in the news release. “The caller uses a number that appears to be from Tonganoxie and pretends to be from the sheriff’s office, claiming there’s a warrant for your arrest over missed jury duty.” In a recent case, a scammer left a voicemail and then answered when the intended victim returned the call. The scammer demanded immediate payment of a bond through the use of gift cards and money orders. “When a scammer answers a return call, it can make the scheme seem legitimate – but it’s not,” Thompson said in the news release. “Stay alert.” Thompson said law enforcement officers will not ask for payments over the phone, and they will not request that payments be made through gift cards or money orders. He also recommends that people independently verify the legitimacy of such calls before responding.

ON THE AGENDA

- The Leavenworth Board of Education will have a special meeting at 4 p.m. Monday at the district’s administrative office, 200 N. Fourth St. Agenda items include a spring and summer needs assessment and an executive session to consult with an attorney.
- The Leavenworth County Commission will meet at 9 a.m. Wednesday at the Leavenworth County Courthouse, 300 Walnut St. Agenda items include adoption of a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan, a resolution to alter the boundaries of Leavenworth County Fire District No. 1, a public hearing concerning the attachment of property to Rural Water District No. 7 and an agreement to terminate a lease.

NEWS BRIEFS Wire reports

Kansas Beef Council celebrating May as Beef Month

The Kansas Beef Council recognizes May as Beef Month, celebrating the state’s more than 26,000 beef producers whose work supports the economic, environmental and nutritional well-being of Kansas communities. Gov. Laura Kelly has also acknowledged May as Beef Month, continuing a long-standing tradition of recognizing the vital role of beef in Kansas. “Kansas ranks third nationally for cattle and calves, with more than 6.5 million head,” Kansas Beef Council (KBC) Executive Director Scott Stebner said. “Beef Month is an opportunity to recognize the men and women who produce high-quality, nutritious beef that feeds families across our great state of Kansas.” To celebrate, KBC is rolling out a statewide digital campaign designed to connect with consumers and share beef’s story. Campaign assets include Instagram Reels highlighting various steak cuts to grill, a multi-part series covering different ways to create marinades and rubs, producer-facing content and stories highlighting beef producers. These efforts aim to increase demand for beef as summer approaches, when grilling becomes a staple at family gatherings and celebrations. For more information and to follow along with the campaign, visit kansasbeef.org or follow @KSBEEF on Instagram.

KSU lab only one to get nod from feds to continue work

The Trump administration defunded 16 of 17 Feed the Future labs across the country when it began wiping out U.S. Agency for International Development projects. After months in limbo, Kansas State University found out its lab is the lone survivor. Two K-State labs that are part of the Feed the Future network received stop work orders in January. In early April, K-State officials received notice that the Climate Resilient Cereals Innovation Lab could resume work, said Timothy J. Dalton, professor of agricultural economics and interim director of the lab. The second lab, the Feed the Future Collaborative Research on Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab, which had a \$50 million cooperative agreement for its operations, was terminated. Dalton is unsure what the future funding will be for the Cereals lab. The original cooperative agreement allocated \$22 million for five years.

Touch-A-Truck is Wednesday at Landing Park

John Richmeier
Leavenworth Times

The Leavenworth Parks and Recreation Department will once again host Touch-A-Truck. The event provides young children the opportunity to explore trucks and other vehicles used by the city and local organizations.

The event, which is free, will take place from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at Landing Park, 301 South Esplanade St. Deputy Parks and Recreation Director Brian Bailey said children will be able to climb onto and in and out of vehicles and see how they work. And children will have the opportunity to honk the horns

of many of the vehicles. In addition to the vehicles that will be on display, toys and other activities will be set up for children inside the gymnasium of the Riverfront Community Center. Bailey said children will also be able to ride a carousel at the C.W. Parker Carousel Museum for free during the event.

Birthday

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greatest joy is when a farmer tells me they made a lot of money because of Shop Kansas Farms. **Easy access** We have learned that farmers are great at growing food, and we’re here to help them market and advertise. We help make it easy for consumers to find them.

Currently, we have nearly 170,000 members in the Facebook group and that number grows each week. That would be like filling Arrowhead Stadium twice with consumers wanting to purchase from farmers. Not only do we have the SKF Facebook group, but we also have a website that is like an online shopping mall so people can find farmers near them. We don’t sell the farmer’s products, but we give them a space, for free, where people can easily find them. **Falling in love** I began to fall in love with Kansas farmers and ranchers when I began writing about them in 2015. I often had conversations with Meagan about ways in which I could help people fall in

love with them like I have. Their values of family, faith, community, hard work, hope and producing the food we eat are the threads that ties the fabric of our state together. Agriculture is the No. 1 business in Kansas by contributing \$57 billion to our economy and the best thing, they feed us.

Our plans

In addition to our Facebook group and website, we’ve added a new tool to make access easier through our Harvest Hub model. We have launched the Border Queen Harvest Hub in Caldwell, thanks to a grant from the Patterson Family Foundation and we’re launching the Sedgwick County Harvest Hub, thanks to a grant from the Kansas Health Foundation. A Harvest Hub is a community-based approach that creates economic opportunities for farms and ranches by establishing both a digital hub (website) and a physical system of production, processing and distribution of local food that can be purchased by local, regional and national consumers. Our goal is to make more people fall in love with Kansas farmers, ranchers and

Clumsy

Continued from A4

direction. The subtle permission for teen drinkers simply might be a necessary cost. Is the sheriff smartly trading tipsy teen drivers for teens who feel liberated to be “drunk as hell”? An anecdote from my high school teaching days provides my personal answer. Each October, I supervised the fall dance with about 700 students celebrating in the school gymnasium. A few hours into the dance, students literally leaned against the doors, eager to start partying in basements with their own bottles of Boone’s Farm. After I released the students and after the chaperones left, I sat in the bleachers of the gymnasium surrounded by drooping streamers and deflated balloons. The DJ packed his speakers into the back of his van. Through the open doors, traffic whirled past. That’s when I would hear the sirens.

I bowed my head. I hoped the police car wasn’t responding to the accident of a drunk student driver. I sometimes prayed in those moments to keep all of those young people safe.

The ones I worried about the most had driven themselves to the dance, packing into sedans with corsages on their wrists and beers in their bellies. “Please keep them safe,” I thought. The ones I worried about less? Students who wobbled onto party buses with drivers to deliver them home. Or students who arranged rides with parents. If they insisted on drinking, at least they would be safe. So, I hear you, Sheriff Kirsch. In the realm of teen drinking, there is no silver bullet (Well, maybe one). There is only ambiguity and a hope for safety. *Eric Thomas teaches visual journalism and photojournalism at the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Kansas in Lawrence.*



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growers, which will in turn, grow their respective businesses.

Rick McNary is the founder of Shop Kansas Farms.

Obituaries

DONNA HOUSWORTH

Donna Marie Housworth (67), Daughter of Dwain Wesley Mayhugh and Mable Ailene Mayhugh, passed away at KU Medical Center on April 8th, 2025 surrounded by family. She is survived by her sons Andrew and Charley Housworth, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren as well as her brothers Jeff and Bruce Mayhugh along with many nieces and nephews. Donna enjoyed spending time with family, and she was known for helping everyone that needed it. She was always ready to spend time with her friends and family to create new memories. Donna loved to garden, and spend time with her animals. She was the rock of her family and she will be deeply missed. The service will be held May 10th, 2025 at 11am at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1020 Limit St Leavenworth Ks 66048. In lue of flowers the family ask that any donations be made to any Leavenworth animals shelters. We love you Woah Woah, love your family.



JAMES BUNCH SR.

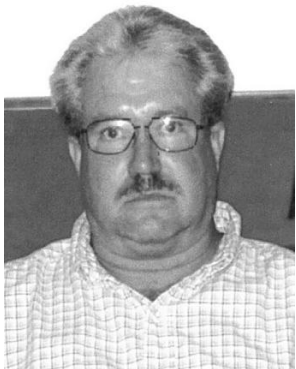
James Ricardo Bunch Sr., 64, of Leavenworth passed away Saturday, April 26, 2025, at KU Medical Center. Visitation will be from 10 to 11 a.m. Thursday, May 8, 2025, at Independent Baptist Church. A funeral service will begin at 11 a.m. Thursday, May 8, 2025, at the church. Burial will be at South Florida National Cemetery at a later date. Arrangements in care of R.L. Leintz Funeral Home.

RONALD COLLINS

Ronald Collins, 43, of Leavenworth, passed away Saturday, April 26, 2025. Celebration of. Life will be held Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at Davis Funeral Chapel, 5 to 7 P.M. Arrangements entrusted to Davis Funeral Chapel.

WILLIAM FRASER

William Charles “Bill” Fraser, 67, of Leavenworth, passed away unexpectedly at his home in Lansing, Kan., Wednesday, April 23, 2025. Born on July 31, 1957, in Leavenworth, Kansas, Bill was the son of Kenneth J. Fraser Sr. and Ruth E. Fraser. He graduated with the Class of 1975 from Milton High School in Milton, Pennsylvania. Shortly after graduation, he enlisted in the United States Air Force, where he served honorably for four years as a jet engine mechanic. He could take any engine apart and put it back together correctly with ease. Following his military service, Bill pursued higher education and earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting from Southwest Missouri State University. He went on to dedicate his professional life to public service with the U.S. Bureau of Prisons. He was employed there for twenty years, until the time of his retirement.



Bill was preceded in death by his father, Kenneth J. Fraser Sr., his brother, Kenneth J. Fraser Jr., and his nephew Jeffrey M. Fraser. He is survived by his mother, Ruth Fraser; his brother, Michael Fraser (wife Cindy), and his sister Lisa Fraser, all of Leavenworth, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Bill was one of the primary caregivers of his elderly mother, Ruth. Bill was nothing but loyal and dedicated to every member of his family, giving all of himself to them whenever they needed it. He was intelligent, generous to a fault, and he had a sense of humor that frequently threw his sister, Lisa, into uncontrollable fits of laughter. She always considered Bill to be a wonderful older brother; he was her anchor and brought her great joy. He was a devoted friend to many, never failing them in any way. He was a loving, son, brother, and uncle who will be deeply missed. Visitation beginning with praying the rosary will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, May 5, 2025, at the R.L. Leintz Funeral Home. Mass of Christian Burial will begin at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at Immaculate Conception Church. Burial will follow at Mt. Calvary Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to the American Diabetes Association or the donor’s choice.