

COWBOY

Continued from Page A1

bought a size medium. "I think the takeaway from that particular story is the way technology has changed, we now have the opportunity to live in a great place like Ellsworth and connect to family, consumers, customers worldwide. We can choose to be rural, we can connect electronically, digitally.

"If we use our tools and technology wisely (they are) are tremendous."

Wilson also discussed B&W Trailer Hitches in Humboldt.

When the recession hit after 2008, Wilson said orders stopped.

"It was clear they were going to experience a lay-off," Wilson said. "The family got together. Joe comes into the office (and says), 'We're not going to lay anyone off. If there's no work to do on the shop floor, we'll send them into the community to do work.'

"On Joe's payroll, they sent them to the community to do community service projects. They did all these community service projects on Joe's payroll."

ELLSWORTH — WICKEDEST COWTOWN IN THE WEST

By Ron Wilson, Poet Lariat

Out in the heart of Kansas, where Texas longhorns used to graze, There's the town of Ellsworth which celebrates its rowdy wild west days. For Ellsworth was a cowtown in the wild and woolly west, Which drew the Texas drovers in their cattle market quest. Ellsworth boomed during the cattle drives but cowboys soon got frisky, As they spent their hard-earned money on gambling, girls and whiskey. When those crazy Texas cowboys got to town to celebrate, Soon shots would fly and more than one good lawman met his fate. As stated in the newspaper accounts in our possession, Ellsworth was said to be a place where hell became in session. In the end, the ways of law and order would survive. The railroad shipping pens closed down in 1875. Ellsworth County became a place where farmers and ranchers dwell, And built an agricultural economy in which they can do well. Now we give thanks for this place where cowboy legends had their birth, And for the modern-day people in the county of Ellsworth.

Wilson said the small business took a risk.

"It could all have gone wrong," he said. "Instead, the economy rebounded, orders come in. When they had to put guys back to work, the workers were already in town — their trained workers were already there.

"When they needed to attract more workers, did the community look better? What do you think the loyalty is like to Joe on the shop floor?"

Through the roof."

He concluded by sharing a story of one of his early days on the job. A wrong number was routed to his office.

"A lady was calling to get information about horseback riding in Kansas," Wilson said.

As the call continued, he realized she was making a transatlantic call from Paris.

"It wasn't Hollywood she wanted to see. It wasn't Times Square she

wanted to see. It wasn't Disneyland she wanted to see," Wilson said. "She wanted to come to Kansas, to the wide open spaces, where she could go horseback riding, where cowboys live in wide open space.

"We need to see Kansas with new eyes. We need to appreciate what we have with the high quality of life in communities like Ellsworth, because you, too, are amazing Kansans."

Kansas joins states that ban students from using cell phones in school

BY GRACE HILLS
Kansas Reflector

TOPEKA — Starting next school year, students across Kansas won't be able to use their cell phones at school after Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly signed the ban into law March 19.

The bipartisan goal to get rid of cell phones in K-12 schools was announced in January at the beginning of the legislative session.

But the extent of that ban — including whether it should apply to public and private schools or even serve as a suggestion rather than a mandate — was debated throughout the session.

The version that advanced to the governor, House Bill 2299, applies to both public and private schools.

Some education advocates urged the Legislature to leave the decision to local school boards. Kelly said March 19 she's a fan of local control, but added, "When our students' mental health and academic performance

are on the line, I felt strongly that a statewide solution was best."

Kelly said the law will strengthen Kansas children and the education system. She's worried about declining mental health for young people, and said much of it can be linked to cell phones and social media.

The law requires school officials to prohibit students from using all personal electronic communication devices, including phones, tablets, computers, smart watches or wireless headphones, during the school day. They will still be able to use school-issued devices.

Students will have to power off and store their devices in a secure location, like their car or locker, according to the law. Whether a student is allowed to use their devices at school-sponsored events that happen outside of regular school hours is still up to each district. If a student has an individualized education

See PHONES Page A8

LEGIONFEST KICKOFF EVENT

LEGIONFEST ANTIQUE TRACTOR PULL

Saturday, April 11, 2026
Starts at 11:00 AM

American Legion Post 174 Grounds
Ellsworth, Kansas

Kick off the Legionfest season with horsepower & hometown pride!

– Featuring Antique Tractors from across the region
– In partnership with the Great Plains Antique Tractor Club

FREE ADMISSION

Food • Drinks • Great Atmosphere

Bring your lawn chairs. Bring your friends.
Let's fire up Legionfest 2026 the right way.

Brent Cunningham Estate

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent Reporter, March 26, 2026)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF ELLSWORTH COUNTY, KANSAS
PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BRENT L. CUNNINGHAM,
DECEASED.
CASE NO. EW-2026-PR-000008

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:
You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Jamie B. Cunningham and Alex J. Cunningham, heirs of Brent L. Cunningham, deceased, praying for the determination of the descent of the following described property:

A fraction of the Northwest Quarter (NW/4) of Section Twenty-nine (29), Township Fifteen (15) South, Range Eight (8) West of the 6th P.M. in Ellsworth County, Kansas, described as follows: Starting at a point on the South line of Block One (1), Glendal Addition to the City of Ellsworth according to the recorded plat thereof where said South line intersects the right-of-way of State Highway 14; thence south for a distance of 320 feet along the West line of said highway right-of-way; thence West 160 feet; thence North 320 feet; thence East 160 feet to the point of beginning; EXCEPT FOR THE FOLLOWING: A fraction of the Northwest Quarter (NW/4) of Section 29; Township 15 South, Range 8 West, described as follows: COMMENCING at the Southeast corner of Block 1, Glendale Addition to the City of Ellsworth; thence South along the West line of Highway K-14, a distance of 120 feet; thence west parallel to the South line of Block 1, Glendale Addition a distance of 160 feet; being the East line of the tract deeded to the City of Ellsworth, Kansas, thence North a distance of 120 feet to the South line of Block 1, aforesaid; thence East 160 feet to the point of beginning.

and all other property, real and personal, or interest therein, owned by the decedent at the time of death; and you are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before April 23, 2026 at 2:00 P.M. of said date, in said Court, in the City of Ellsworth, Ellsworth County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said Petition.

Jamie B. Cunningham
Alex J. Cunningham
Petitioners

BAUER PIKE LAW, LLC
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Great Bend, Kansas 67530
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bp@bauerpikelaw.com

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Couch Notice of Suit

(First Published in the Ellsworth County Independent Reporter, April 02, 2026)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF ELLSWORTH COUNTY, KANSAS CIVIL COURT DEPARTMENT

SERVIS ONE, INC. DBA BSI FINANCIAL SERVICES

Plaintiff,
vs.

SHAWN ALLAN COUCH, KERI COUCH, JOHN DOE (UNKNOWN TENANT/OCCUPANT), JANE DOE (UNKNOWN TENANT/OCCUPANT), KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, ET AL.

Defendants.

Case No.: EW-2026-CV-000007
Division No.

Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 60
Title to Real Estate Involved

NOTICE OF SUIT

THE STATE OF KANSAS, to the above-named defendants and the unknown heirs, executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors and assigns of any deceased defendants; the unknown spouses of any defendants; the unknown officers, successor trustees, creditors and assigns of any defendants that are existing, dissolved or dormant corporations; the unknown executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors, successors and assigns of any defendants that are or were partners or in partnership; the unknown guardians, conservators and trustees of any defendants that are minors or are under any legal disability; and the unknown heirs, executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors and assigns of any person alleged to be deceased and all other persons who are or may be concerned.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition has been filed in the District Court of Ellsworth County, Kansas, praying to foreclose a real estate mortgage on the following described real estate:

The Land is described as follows: Parcel 1: A tract of land in the East Half of the Southeast Quarter (E/2 SE/4) of Section 21, Township 15 South, Range 8 West, of the 6th PM, in Ellsworth County, Kansas, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point of the West line of the West line of the Southeast Quarter of said Section, 441.22 feet South of the Northwest corner of the East Half of the Southeast Quarter of said Section; thence on a bearing of N37°42'32"E for a distance of 157.67 feet to a point; thence on a bearing of N89°09'08"E for a distance of 60.00 feet to a point; thence on a bearing of S25°36'53"E for a distance of 48.17 feet to a point; thence on a bearing of S18°32'19"W for a distance of 85.79 feet to a point; thence on a bearing of S89°39'30"W for a distance of 150.00 feet to the point of beginning. Parcel 2:

A tract of land in the East Half of the Southeast Quarter (E/2 SE/4) of Section 21, Township 15 South, Range 8 West, of the 6th PM, in Ellsworth County, Kansas, described as follows: Beginning at the Southwest Corner of the Deerbrook Sub-Division; First Course, thence South 00 degrees 06 minutes 35 seconds East, 50.00 feet along the west line of said Sub-Division extended; Second Course, thence North 89 degrees 39 minutes 30 seconds East, 133.11 feet to the extended Lot line; Third Course, thence North 18 degrees 35 minutes 43 seconds East, 52.86 feet to the south line of said Sub-Division; Fourth Course, thence South 89 degrees 39 minutes 30 seconds West, 150.03 feet along the South line of said Sub-Division to the point of beginning.

COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 1572 Ave JJ, Ellsworth, KS 67439 ("Property")

and all those defendants who have not otherwise been served are required to plead to the Petition on or before May 13, 2026, in the District Court of Ellsworth County, Kansas. If you fail to plead, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

NOTICE

Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(b), no information concerning the collection of this debt may be given without the prior consent of the consumer given directly to the debt collector or the express permission of a court of competent jurisdiction. The debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and any information will be used for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

MARINOSCI LAW GROUP, P.C.

/s/ David V. Noyce
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ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

MARINOSCI LAW GROUP, P.C. AS ATTORNEYS FOR THE PLAINTIFF IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

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Additional legal on A8



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