

# I/R Just the Facts

## Courthouse Notes, Etc.

### Ellsworth Police

**March 15-21 Response Log** — The department responded to, or initiated, a total of 48 incidents, resulting in five cases and two citations.

**INJURY ACCIDENTS** — At 11:45 a.m. March 17, officers responded to a possible injury accident at K-156 Highway and K-140 Highway. Aaron Uhrmacher, 52, Nelson, Neb., was driving a 2006 Freightliner semi-truck when he rear-ended a 2026 Chevrolet Traverse, which was slowing down to turn right. The Traverse was driven by Eli Leech, 14, Great Bend. No information was available regarding their status.

**NONINJURY ACCIDENTS** — At 4:35 p.m. March 19, officers responded to a noninjury accident at Dees Avenue and Kunkle Drive. Lauren Schumacher, 25, Lorraine, was driving a 2013 Ford Edge and pulling into a parking lot when, at the same time, Timothy Stefek, 77, Wilson was backing a 2016 Dodge pickup out of the parking lot, striking each other.

### Deeds

Valerie Kae Hoskin and Ronald

Hoskin convey and warrant to Samuel W. Paull and Karen K. Paull, the W/2 of the SW/4 of Section 16, Township 17, Range 8, less a tract of land, AND the E/2 of the SW/4 of Section 16, Township 17, Range 8, all in Ellsworth County, Kansas.

Karen K. Paull and Samuel W. Paull convey and warrant to Andrew E. Paull and Lacy K. Paull, the W/2 of the SW/4 of Section 16, Township 17, Range 8, less a tract of land, AND the E/2 of the SW/4 of Section 16, Township 17, Range 8, all in Ellsworth County, Kansas.

Lesta L. May, Trustee of the Lesta L. May Living Trust, grants and conveys to James A. Svaty and Ashley D. Svaty, Lot 22, Block 1 Kunkle Acres Addition to the City of Ellsworth, Ellsworth County, Kansas.

Lesta L. May, Trustee of the Mason D. May Living Trust, grants and conveys to James A. Svaty and Ashley D. Svaty, Lot 22, Block 1 Kunkle Acres Addition to the City of Ellsworth. Ellsworth County, Kansas.

### PHONES

Continued from Page A5

program or medical need that requires a device, they will be exempt from the ban.

Districts will have to outline how they plan to enforce the new policy and discipline a student who doesn't comply.

Enrique Ponce, a sophomore at Blue Valley North High School in Overland Park, doesn't think students will comply with the ban. Blue Valley already has a rule that cell phones must be silent and stored away. He told Kansas Reflector in an interview in January that in spite of the strict ban, students will want to break the rule.

Sens. Chase Blasi, an Andale Republican, and Dinah Sykes, a Lenexa Democrat, who championed the ban, said that while the law states the devices must be stored in an inaccessible location like a car or locker, having the device shut off and in a backpack works, too.

After other states passed a similar ban, some districts had to purchase lockboxes to store the devices. The Kansas law doesn't allocate any money to districts to enforce the ban.

Blasi said he thinks most districts can ask students to put their devices in lockers, and have the option to use lockboxes if they don't have lockers. Sykes didn't respond directly when asked how the districts might purchase the lockboxes, but said, "I think most students have backpacks, so if they don't have a car or a locker, they can have it turned off and put in a backpack."

Sen. Cindy Holscher, a Democrat from Overland Park running for governor, was one of four senators to vote against the bill.

"Over 90 percent of Kansas students are already in districts with policies in place, yet this new law overrides local control, imposes an unfunded mandate and puts a burden on teachers without providing the necessary resources," Holscher said in a statement. "Unfortunately, school leaders were ignored during the legislative process."

Blasi acknowledged concerns about students wanting to call their parents during an emergency.

"When an event happens, students tend to reach out to their parents naturally, in the moment of panic," Blasi said. "Unfortunately, parents flock to the school, which causes gridlock and blocks emergency personnel from getting to the school to address the situation."

Bell-to-bell bans are gaining popularity. Florida was the first to implement the

ban, and after a period of increased suspensions for using phones at school when the ban first took effect, test scores increased and there were fewer unexcused absences.

Kelly said she looks forward to the Kansas ban becoming a success story, especially in addressing the growing mental health crisis.

In her only non-bill-related comment of the signing, Kelly asked the House to allocate money to mental health programs in schools after the Senate cut \$16 million from the services in

their budget.

The Senate's budget hasn't been heard by the House yet.

"This cell phone ban is a major step toward addressing the mental health crisis amongst our young Kansans," Kelly said. "Let me be clear, it is only one step. We must do more."

*Kansas Reflector is a non-profit news operation providing in-depth reporting, diverse opinions and daily coverage of state government and politics. More information at <https://kansasreflector.com/>.*

### PennyMac v. Ranker

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

Millsap & Singer, LLC  
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Overland Park, KS 66210  
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(913) 339-9045 (fax)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF Ellsworth County, KANSAS  
CIVIL DEPARTMENT

PennyMac Loan Services, LLC

Plaintiff,

vs.

Terry M. Ranker, et al.

Defendants,

Case No. EW-2025-CV-000010

Court No.

Title to Real Estate Involved

Pursuant to K.S.A. §60

### NOTICE OF SALE

Under and by virtue of an Order of Sale issued to me by the Clerk of the District Court of Ellsworth County, Kansas, the undersigned Sheriff of Ellsworth County, Kansas, will offer for sale at public auction and sell to the highest bidder for cash in hand on April 21, 2026 at the time of 10:00 AM at the Ellsworth County Courthouse, Kansas, the following real estate: LOT 17 AND 18, BLOCK 34, CITY OF HOLYROOD, ELLSWORTH COUNTY, KANSAS., Parcel ID No. 027-162-10-0-40-16-003.00-0. Commonly known as 107 W Concord Ave., Holyrood, KS 67450 ("the Property") MS214364 to satisfy the judgment in the above-entitled case. The sale is to be made without appraisal and subject to the redemption period as provided by law, and further subject to the approval of the Court.

Ellsworth County Sheriff

MILLSAP & SINGER, LLC

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

MILLSAP & SINGER, LLC AS ATTORNEYS FOR PennyMac Loan Services, LLC IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

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