

PUBLIC RECORD

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Blissful Meadows Boutique grand opening



Pictured is Kerry Jennings, manager of Blissful Meadows Boutique in Fort Scott, during a grand opening for the business Monday. The owners are Damon and Kinede Jennings. The boutique, which features a variety of home items and collectibles, is located at 1 S. Main St. The Fort Scott Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony as part of the opening day celebration.

Marti Wells photo

Fort Scott High School Career Fair



High school students browse booths set up by area businesses and organizations during a Career Fair Wednesday morning in the Fort Scott High School gym.

Jason E. Silvers/Tribune photo

AUDIT

Continued from Page 1

Later, Tran said the “assertions” part of the audit will involve the specific areas commissioners wish to be looked into.

“If there’s none for a particular department, they’re not going to look into it,” Beerbower said.

Allen asked if proposals come in and the process becomes too expensive, whether the process could be stopped.

“This is one step in the

whole scheme of things,” Tran said. “This is what we want. When it gets too expensive, we may have to parse it back or forego the whole thing. I am doing what I’m supposed to as a commissioner. That’s all I’m doing. If this thing dies in committee, it dies in committee.”

Beerbower asked about the minimum cost, and Tran said the estimated cost he received from Baker Tilly was \$20,000. He said the cost could increase, depending on how deep the audit goes.

“They’ll look at things and look for trends. Anything that looks weird,

they’ll look at, otherwise they’ll leave it alone,” Tran said.

Tran said his information comes from talking to representatives of Baker Tilly and a forensic auditor.

There was further discussion on the possible cost, and the years to be audited. Tran mentioned going back to 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I’m not saying anything about this county,” he said. “There was a lot of fraud that happened during COVID and it’s just now coming out. So we take it from 2021, the end of COVID and move on from there.”

Commissioners also discussed a period of performance ranging from three to six months.

Tran also spoke with Emerson about working with Bowers on the RFP process. Tran said he received verbal consent from Bowers, and Emerson, who attended the meeting, agreed to assist.

ARRESTS

• Chelsea Lin Peveto, 36, was arrested at 10:19 a.m. March 31 by the BCSO on a Bourbon County warrant, failure to appear. Peveto was being held on no bond.

• Sandra Jane Mercer-Kent, 49, was arrested at 3:15 p.m. March 31 by the BCSO and charged with possess opiates/opium/narcotic drug and certain stimulants; and use/possess drug paraphernalia/human body. Mercer-Kent was being held on no bond.

• Michael Leroy Ward, 54, was arrested at 9:39 a.m. April 1 by the BCSO on a sentence. Ward was being held on no bond.

• Jessica L. Rollings, 35, was arrested at 11:49 a.m. April 1 by the BCSO on a Bourbon County warrant, failure to appear; and a Bourbon County warrant, probation violation. Rollings was being held on a \$5,000 cash/surety bond.

• Gerald Lee Turney, 45, was arrested at 1:43 p.m. April 1 by the BCSO and charged with possess opiates/opium/narcotic drug and certain stimulants; and use/possess drug paraphernalia/human body. Turney was being held on no bond.

• Brandon Eugene Zornes, 37, was arrested at 3:39 p.m. April 1 by the FSPD and charged with domestic battery, knowing/reckless bodily harm; and interference with law enforcement officer, obstruct/resist misdemeanor. Zornes also had a warrant through the Kansas Department of Corrections, and was being held on no bond.

• Matthew Charles Hudson, 35, was arrested at 3:34 p.m. April 1 by the BCSO and charged with cultivate/distribute with intent opiates/opium/narcotics/stimulants; use or possess paraphernalia with intent to cultivate controlled substance. Hudson also had an out-of-county warrant and was being held on a \$75,000 cash/surety bond.

• Bryan Michael Wilkinson, 18, was arrested at 9:58 p.m. April 1 by the BCSO on a sentence. Wilkinson was being held on no bond.

Released

• Lance Allen, 51, booked March 24, was released at 1:53 p.m. March 31 on his own recognizance.

• Madalyn K. George, 23, booked March 18, was re-

leased at 3:40 p.m. March 31 to probation.

• Andrew Carlton Johnson, 31, booked Jan. 13, was released at 11:22 a.m. March 31 and transferred to Wyandotte County.

• Kenneth Shannon Miller, 36, booked March 30, was released at 11 a.m. March 31 on a surety bond.

• Francisco Patricio, 34, booked Jan. 2, was released at 11:23 a.m. March 31 and transferred to Wyandotte County.

• Scott Cordell, 57, booked March 23, was released at 12:08 p.m. April 1 and transferred to Douglas County.

• Tanner McClelland, 39, booked Feb. 18, was released at 12:07 p.m. April 1 and transferred to Douglas County.

Jail population

As of April 1
 Bourbon County Jail: 54
 Osawatomie State Hospital: 2

As of April 2
 Bourbon County Jail: 58
 Osawatomie State Hospital: 2

Total inmates: 60

Governor proclaims April as Safe Digging Month

Submitted to
The Tribune

TOPEKA — Governor Laura Kelly has issued a proclamation declaring April as Kansas Safe Digging Month. The proclamation, in concurrence with National Safe Digging Month, reminds Kansans to call 811 before starting any outdoor digging projects.

The Kansas Corporation Commission, Kansas 811, Kansas utilities and Governor Kelly are encouraging excavators and homeowners to call 811 before they begin digging projects to prevent injuries, property damage, and inconvenient outages. Nationwide, 24 percent of damages reported are

caused by the failure of the professional excavator or homeowner to call 811 before digging. In Kansas, the percentage is below the national average at 11% which is attributed to increased public awareness of 811.

In 2025, Kansas 811 averaged 54,000 locate requests per month. Calls are taken 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Locate requests can also be made online at kansas811.com. Excavators and homeowners are required to make a request at least two working days prior to beginning a digging project. Professional locators are sent to the digging site, at no charge to the property owner, to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags or spray paint.

Once lines have been accurately marked, digging can begin.

Every digging project, no matter how large or small, requires a call to 811. The depth of utility lines varies and there may be multiple lines in a common area. Some utility lines are buried only a few inches below the surface, making them easy to strike during shallow digging projects. Installing a mailbox, landscaping, putting in a fence, and building a deck are all examples of digging projects that necessitate a call to 811.

Learn more about 811 and Safe Digging Month by visiting: 811beforeyoudig.com. More information about Kansas 811 is available at: kansas811.com.

Two-time National Discovery Award winner to visit Lowell Milken Center

Submitted to
The Tribune

The Lowell Milken Center (LMC) for Unsung Heroes in Fort Scott, an international educational non-profit, welcomed two-time National Discovery Award winner Emma Manion of Dousman, Wisc., to the center Friday afternoon.

Manion, along with her parents, Lorelle and John, had the opportunity to experience the museum and connect with the organization that has recognized her outstanding research and project development.

Manion is a student at the High School of Health Sciences in Wisconsin and has earned national recognition through the LMC Discovery Award, a prestigious competition that challenges students in grades 4-12 to research and share the stories of Unsung Heroes through documentary, website, or

performance projects. Her work has stood out among entries from across the United States and around the world. Her projects can be viewed at the center’s website, www.lowellmilkencenter.org.

In 2022, Manion earned Outstanding Middle School Project honors for her performance on Unsung Hero Lutie Stearns. She continued her success in 2025, earning first place for her performance on Unsung Hero Ada Deer, a powerful project highlighting Deer’s advocacy for Native American rights and tribal sovereignty. Manion’s work reflects the depth of research, critical thinking, and storytelling that define Discovery Award projects.

Manion’s success is also a reflection of strong educator mentorship. Her supervising teacher, Terry Kaldhusdal, a 2014 Lowell Milken Center Fellow from Wisconsin, encouraged her to participate in the Discovery Award and supported her in developing her projects.

“Emma’s dedication to uncovering and sharing the stories of Unsung Heroes exemplifies the very best of what students can achieve through project-based learning. We are excited to welcome her to Fort Scott and celebrate her accomplishments in person,” LMC Executive Director Norm Conrad said.

The Discovery Award continues to grow each year, engaging students worldwide in meaningful research that highlights individuals whose actions have made a profound and positive impact on history. Projects like Manion’s not only preserve these important stories but also inspire others to recognize the power of one individual to create change.

While visiting Fort Scott, Manion and her family had the opportunity to explore the Lowell Milken Center’s exhibits, including stories of Unsung Heroes from around the globe, and see firsthand how student projects contribute to the center’s mission.

Dr. Buck

Dr. Larry Buck from Iola can once again treat patients at his office at Ward Kraft. He has been in practice 35 years, 16 at Ward Kraft. He is certified in sports injuries, acupuncture, allergy treatment, cranial and soft tissue manipulation, as well as nutrition, foot pain and orthotics.

Dr. Buck specializes in sciatica and headaches. He is in the Ward Kraft office Tuesdays and Fridays. His Iola office is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

MIDWEST
CHIROPRACTIC



DR LARRY BUCK

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- Medication Disposal Bags
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