

NEWS/SPORTS

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Stephanie Jump at (620) 532-3151 or email sjump@kconline.com

Webinars Focus on Workforce Related Topics

PRESS RELEASE

MANHATTAN — The Kansas Department of Agriculture and the Kansas Department of Commerce, in conjunction with the Nurture Kansas Agriculture Collaborative Coalition, announce the “Growing Strong Together” webinar series focused on workforce related topics specific to Kansas agricultural employers. The webinars will be offered at 7 a.m. Central time each Wednesday in March. There is no cost to participants.

The Nurture Kansas Agriculture Collaborative Coalition was established in 2021 to enhance the well-being of farmworkers and agricultural employers across Kansas by promoting access

to essential services, fostering collaborative partnerships, and implementing effective outreach and educational initiatives. The NKA Collaborative Coalition, a collective effort of state and federal agencies, along with private industry, was created to address the unique challenges faced by farmworkers and to strengthen agricultural communities statewide.

The four webinars offered are as follows:

March 4 — KANSASWORKS Employer Services, Abigail Crandall, Kansas Department of Commerce

March 11 — The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Worker Protection Standard:

Promoting Compliance and Workplace Safety, Jordan Galliher, Environmental Protection Agency Region 7

March 18 — Bridging the Gap: Retaining the Next Generation of Rural Workforce, Thomas Eisenbarth, Grounded Ag

March 25 — Wage and Hour Compliance under the H-2A Program, Cassie Stoner, U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division

“The sole focus of the webinar series is to help Kansas ag employers,” said Dana Ladner, KDA compliance education and workforce development coordinator.

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STEPHANIE JUMP / Leader-Courier

Cunningham's Kyra Morgan goes for a layup during the Sub State first-round game against South Barber. The Lady Wildcats lost 68-26 to Bucklin in the Sub State semifinals.

Lady Wildcats' Sub State Run Ends Against Bucklin

STAFF REPORT

The Cunningham girl's basketball team's season ended in the Sub State semifinals Monday night at Bucklin with a 68-26 loss.

Bucklin (19-2) is ranked second in Class 1A-II. The Lady Red Aces' losses have come against Class 3A Larned, who reached the Sub State semifinals, and Class 1A-I South Central, who advanced to the finals of its Sub State bracket.

The Lady Wildcats finished the season with an 8-15 overall record. They will graduate three seniors: Grace Hageman, Kyra Morgan and Emily Ogg, and will return several juniors and sophomores who saw varsity time this past season.



BOB MORRIS / Leader-Courier

Norwich's Lane Hilger looks to pass the ball to a teammate as a Crest player defends during the Eagles' Sub State semifinal game last Saturday at Norwich.

NORWICH

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“(Walter) is not only a great scorer and a great offensive player, but a great facilitator. When the ball's in his hands, they're doing good things. It's not just a one-man show. And so we did a great job containing him.”

Kyle added that Crest junior Lane Yocham is a good shooter, so the Eagles needed to have somebody on him at all times, to limit his opportunities.

As for the second quarter, Kyle said that goes back to game management when teams adjust. He said that Bengé, the Eagles' senior point guard, does a good job

of getting the offense going when teams switch defenses.

“He's an extension of me on the floor,” Kyle said. “And so when the ball's in his hands, I know good things are going to happen.”

“And so things slowed down, partially because they went to a little bit of a zone there. And so we didn't want to force the issue, knowing that they were going to have to be clawing themselves back into the game and they're not going to be able to sit in the 2-3. And so I thought Jayden did a great job of managing that situation for us.”

In the second half, Crest got its offense going, but as the Lancers trailed 31-8 at halftime, they never overcame the deficit.

Along with Adams, Drew Kelly scored 10 points, Lane Hilger had 8, Easton Schroeder had 7, Bengé had 6 and Kyedon Schroeder had 3.

Kyle said that he thought the boys did a good job of coming out strong and not letting the first-round bye affect them too much.

“You know, rarely throughout the season are you off for a week at a time,” he said. “And so when you break that rhythm, I obviously have my concerns there, but I was really proud of how they showed up in practice every day.”

“Staying in shape was a big part of this week's practice and this week's game plan and how being able to come out and stick with them being as limited as we are with our bench. And so I was really proud of how they came out this week and committed to staying in shape and committed to not taking a step back in such a pivotal point in our year.”

As for this week's Sub State title game, Kyle said he wants to see the boys continue to play quality defense.

“You know, we tend to be a little handsy on the defensive end of the floor,” he said. “And so we've done a great job being disciplined there so far. And so we need to continue to harp on that this week and make sure we're not taking steps back.”

LEAGUE

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features Conway Springs against Belle Plaine and Field Five features Kingman against Chaparral. After that, the first-place team from each pool will meet on Field One, the second-place teams on Field Five, the third-place teams on Field 2 and the fourth-place teams on Field Three.

The softball tournament includes the same teams with four fields to be utilized. The first pool includes Belle Plaine, Medicine Lodge, Conway Springs and Wichita Trinity while the second pool includes Kingman, Chaparral, Cheney and Douglass.

On March 30, Field Six features Conway Springs against Belle Plaine, followed by Conway Springs against

Medicine Lodge. Field Seven features Medicine Lodge against Wichita Trinity, followed by Wichita Trinity against Belle Plaine. Field Nine features Cheney against Chaparral, followed by Chaparral against Kingman. Field 10 features Kingman against Douglass, followed by Cheney against Douglass.

On April 2, Wichita Trinity and Conway Springs play

on Field Six, Belle Plaine and Medicine Lodge play on Field Seven, Chaparral and Douglass play on Field Nine and Kingman and Cheney play on Field 10. From there, the first-place teams from each pool play on Field Six, the second-place teams play on Field 10, the third-place teams play on Field Seven and the fourth-place teams play on Field Nine.

GOVERT

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lodge for out-of-state deer hunters. In 2020, Sheila signed up with Kansas Agritourism and opened it as an Airbnb, naming it Petyt Creek Ranch Barn.

David passed away in 2011 after a bout with cancer. David's father and a long-time hired hand helped Sheila and the chil-

dren — three were in their early college years and the others two in middle school — to keep the family farm going.

The farm continues to transition with sons Joseph and Jack becoming more involved in operations.

The Kansas Family Farm program is in its 99th year and is sponsored by K-State Extension and Kansas Farmer Magazine.

CITY

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City Commissioner Jon Wollen said one consideration would need to be made for City Commissioner Merlin McFarland, who wasn't present at Thursday's meeting. He said that moving the time up might conflict with McFarland's work schedule.

City Attorney Greg Graffman said that, if the meeting time was changed, the city would need to amend its ordinances about city meeting dates and utility hearings, but that would be a simple change.

The city commission took no action but will have draft ordinances presented at the next meeting for further discussion.

NORWICH CITY COUNCIL MINUTES February Meeting

Mayor, Mitch Hewitt, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Council members present were Nathan Adams, June Hardaway, Eldon Headrick, Lanny Hower, and Ty Turner. Employees present were Chrissy Bartel, Chris Bartel, Muriel Boyce, Carol Poe, and Monte Vavra.

Citizens present: Deb Martin.

Eldon Headrick moved to approve the consent agenda which includes: regular meeting minutes January 5, 2026; treasurers report through December 31, 2025; and warrants through January 31, 2026. June Hardaway 2nd. Motion carried 5-0.

Ty Turner moved to approve the special warrants for Ye Olde General Store. Nathan Adams 2nd. Motion carried 4-0. June Hardaway abstained.

Ty Turner discussed fire hydrants. Monte Vavra explained he has a contact at KRWA to examine the hydrants. Mr. Vavra will work on the matter.

Deb Martin gave an update on the property at 418

E. Burns. The camper will be moved this month. No update is needed next month if the camper is removed.

June Hardaway will begin pool manager preparation.

Nathan Adams stated he will find out the status on the fire/4-H room.

Lanny Hower inquired about the broken sidewalk at 2nd & Main Street. It was stated the party responsible needs to pay for repairs. It was also addressed that South Central Sealing will put in a bid for crack-sealing certain streets.

Monte Vavra provided his public works report. Mr. Vavra also discussed the 3-mile notification area the Planning and Zoning Committee have been working on. Nathan Adams moved for the Planning and Zoning Commission to move forward with the document as drafted. Lanny Hower 2nd. Motion carried 5-0.

Ty Turner gave an oral fire report. Mr. Turner discussed getting bids on heaters in the fire house. He explained the structure fire went well and appreciated the mutual aid

from Cheney and Harper.

Chrissy Bartel provided her EMS report. After discussion, Lanny Hower moved to purchase an Apple iPad for \$849.99 and the \$38 monthly service fee to service the iPad with MIH grant funds. June Hardaway 2nd. Motion carried 5-0.

Carol Poe provided her admin/clerk report and explained the 2025 audit would be February 16.

Muriel Boyce provided her treasurer's report and stated she completed the 2025 year-end report and published it in the paper.

Chris Bartel provided his compliance report. Discussion was had regarding updating some of the city ordinances to reflect a compliance officer has the authority to enforce.

Mitch Hewitt brought up the water tower needs to be

checked out.

Spring cleanup was set for the weekend of April 11-12.

Mitch Hewitt discussed a sewer issue at 210 S. Somerset. After discussion, Lanny Hower moved to pay the homeowner a one-time amount of \$676.82 for the sewer cleanup and personal cleanup expense and the homeowner shall install a backflow preventor. Nathan Adams 2nd. Motion carried

5-0.

The house fire at 214 E. 3rd Street was discussed and whether the city has an ordinance for disposal and cleanup. Carol Poe to check on ordinances.

The next meeting will be March 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Ty Turner moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Eldon Headrick 2nd. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in the Kingman Leader-Courier on Thursday, March 5, 2026) 1t

ORDINANCE 444

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2, SECTION 102 OF THE NORWICH, KANSAS MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO THE DESIGNATION OF AN ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER WITHIN THE CITY OF NORWICH

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS:

SECTION 1: That Section 102 of Chapter 2 of the Norwich Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows: 2-102. ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER; DUTY TO IMPOUND; CITATION ALTERNATIVE. (a) The city council shall designate a person or persons as an “animal control officer.” Said person shall be charged with the administration and enforcement of Chapter 2 of the Norwich Municipal Code. Any person employed by the city as an animal control officer shall have such powers and authority as allowed by law in the enforcement of Chapter 2. All animal control officers shall be subject to the supervision and direction of the mayor.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (c), it shall be the duty of the animal control officer to take up and impound

all animals found in the city in violation of the provisions of this chapter.

(c) As an alternative to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, any law enforcement officer or an animal control officer may issue a citation to the owner, harbinger or keeper of an animal in violation of this chapter, and the person receiving the citation shall, within 10 days, appear in the municipal court of the city to answer the charged violation of this chapter.

SECTION 2: That Section 102 of Chapter 2 of the Norwich Municipal Code, and all other ordinances, or portions thereof, in conflict herewith, are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3: This ordinance shall be published once in the official city newspaper and shall take effect on March 12, 2026.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS, THIS 2ND DAY OF MARCH, 2026.

SEAL

Mayor, Mitchell J. Hewitt
ATTEST:

City Clerk,
Carol Poe

LEGAL NOTICES CAN BE FOUND AT KCONLINE.COM