

## WAVERLY CITY COUNCIL

### \$13,000+ in pump, mixer repairs OK'd

Ida Wilson  
Reporter

WAVERLY — The Waverly City Council met on Wednesday, March 11, and approved expenses related to the increased damage caused to the city-owned lift station by wipes and other non-flushable items being flushed into the sewer. The council approved spending \$12,899 plus freight to Douglas Pump Service and C & B Equipment of Overland Park to make pump repairs. The motion also included spending an additional \$349.50 on mixer repairs at the lift station.

Mayor Jake Marsh presided over the council, which included Jerry Collins, Taylor Everhart, Kevin McMillen, Nicole Rasmussen and Tammy White. Employees present were Clerk Anna Kenna, Maintenance Supervisor Travis Vogts, Maintenance Tech Gary Giffin and City Attorney Denise McNabb.

The council had two 10-minute executive sessions with the mayor, council and Mary Collins present. The council returned to open session and passed a motion to retain Mary Collins as city treasurer at \$250 a month plus \$12 per hour when she covers in the office. The motion was effective starting Feb. 1.

The council had another 15-minute executive session

for nonelected personnel with the council and mayor present. Upon returning to open session, they approved hiring David Cochran to clean the community building at \$75 a month. The council did not hire a utility clerk. Clerk Kenna will be the utility billing clerk.

The council approved bills for Feb. 13 to March 11. This included \$24,449.83 for bills and \$14,626.61 for payroll for a total of \$39,076.44.

The council approved Spring Cleanup Week April 13-18. Steve Dinkle will pick up items left curbside such as old paint cans, oil and gas cans and other items considered hazardous. Public Trash will pick up the regular trash on Tuesday, April 15, and one large item left at curbside. They will not take any appliances or tires. Items need to be at the curb by 6 a.m.

The council was informed the recent water project obligation bond will be \$440,000.

The police officers informed the council issues regarding the swimming pools at two homes in Waverly had been corrected. The officers voiced concern about the wording in the city code on animal control and regulations. The document will be reviewed by Attorney McNabb.

MT Networks informed the cities in the area they are terminating TV services.

## Lebo Amer. Legion meets

LEBO — The Harold "Skinny" Spatz Lebo American Legion Auxiliary met March 3 with 10 members present. They were informed there would not be an American Legion breakfast. They noted the Lions Club would have a breakfast at the school March 7.

The auxiliary is sending letters to seniors eligible for a scholarship. Junior girls will be asked if they have anyone interested in attending Girls State in June. The next meeting of the auxiliary is scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 7, at the Legion Hall.

## Kansas coronavirus resource center

TOPEKA — House Republican leadership unveiled the Kansas Coronavirus Resource Center, named Kansas Together, to provide Kansans with a central location to obtain up to date information on the COVID-19 global pandemic. The site can be found online at KansasTogether.com and at Facebook.com/KansasTogether.

"The goal of Kansas Together is to centralize information from state agencies, the federal government, and crucial industries and place it in one easy to find location," Ron Ryckman, Speaker of the House said. "To that end, House leadership is in constant communication with the executive branch at both the state and federal level, the Kansas federal delegation, local units of government, and industry leaders across our state."

"As I've talked with constituents and legislators I continue to hear frustration that there is no one stop shop for infor-

mation," said House Majority Leader Dan Hawkins. "This resource will help Kansans find the truly important information they need without having to scour numerous websites."

"As elected leaders we have a responsibility to provide certainty in uncertain times," said Speaker Pro Tem Blaine Finch. "One way we can accomplish this is by ensuring that Kansans have the information they need when they need it. This launch is just the first step as we continue to find new ways to get people the information they need."

Kansas Together contains information on a wide range of issues including unemployment benefits, small business resources, education, and healthcare. It will be continually updated as new information becomes available. The goal of this resource center is to complement the work of the Governor and state agencies and inform the public.

## U.S. Supreme Court upholds capital murder conviction of Kahler



File photo  
James Kahler

TOPEKA — The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the capital murder conviction of James Kraig Kahler, who murdered four members of his family in Osage County in November 2009, Attorney General Derek Schmidt announced Monday.

The Kansas Supreme Court in February 2018 upheld the Kansas approach. The U.S. Supreme Court in a 6-3 opinion Monday affirmed the Kansas Supreme Court's ruling.

Kahler was convicted of capital murder by an Osage County jury in August 2011 in connection with the 2009 murders in Burlingame of his wife, Karen Kahler, their two teenage daughters, Emily and Lauren, and Karen Kahler's grandmother, Dorothy Wight. Kahler was sentenced to death by Chief District Court Judge Phillip Fromme in October 2011.

The high court ruled that

the Kansas statute for handling evidence of a criminal defendant's mental disease or defect does not violate the due process

of law guaranteed by the 14th Amendment. Put another way, the Kansas law governing the "insanity" defense is constitutional.

"Contrary to Kahler's view, Kansas takes account of mental health at both trial and sentencing," Justice Elena Kagan wrote in the majority opinion. "It has just not adopted the particular insanity defense Kahler would like. That choice is for Kansas to make — and, if it wishes, to remake and remake again as

the future unfolds."

In the 1990s, Kansas adopted a revised form of insanity defense, which is now referred to as the "mental disease or defect" defense. Under Kansas law, a criminal defendant may not be held culpable if he lacks the cognitive capacity to know that his actions violate the law. But, unlike in the majority of states, a criminal defendant in Kansas may be held culpable if he does not understand that his actions, although against the law, are also morally wrong. Kansas is one of five states that does not allow acquittals of defendants who do not recognize that their actions are morally wrong.

With the ruling, Kahler has now exhausted his direct appeals, and his capital murder convictions and death sentence have been affirmed. Further appeals are possible, however, through collateral

attacks on the conviction or sentence in both state and federal court.

This is the fifth death penalty case to exhaust direct appeals since the Kansas Legislature reinstated the death penalty in 1994. The others are State v. Scott Cheever (Greenwood County), State v. Sidney Gleason (Barton County), State v. Gary Kleypas (Crawford County) and State v. John Robinson (Johnson County).

Kahler is one of 10 people under sentence of death in Kansas. The other death penalty cases that remain pending at various stages of direct appeals before the Kansas Supreme Court are State v. Jonathan Carr (Sedgwick County); State v. Reginald Carr (Sedgwick County); State v. Justin Thurber (Cowley County); State v. Frazier Glenn Miller (Johnson County); and State v. Kyle Flack (Franklin County).

## Several egg hunts cancelled

Three area Easter egg hunts scheduled for April 11 have been cancelled due to the coronavirus health risk. The list includes the Burlington event, the Waverly egg hunt (donations made will be used for the 2021 hunt) and the Life Care Center hunt.

Still on the schedule at press time is the Gridley

Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for April 11.

LeRoy and New Strawn organizers indicated they have not ruled out the hunts but are considering alternative options.

Lebo City Hall reported they had not scheduled one yet but were waiting until after the next council meeting, April 6, to evaluate the situation.



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## UPCOMING LAND AUCTION!

Vaughn-Roth Land Brokers is honored to represent the Larry D. Paxson Trust and the Sandra J. Paxson Trust with the offering of these parcels in Coffey and Woodson County, Kansas. The Paxsons were extremely well-respected cattle and agriculture operators in the region and these parcels reflect the quality stewardship they provided for their land.

### TRACT 1: 200TH AND JAY RD., YATES CENTER

This parcel totals 280 acres more or less of mostly high-quality Native grass pasture. We sold this property to the Paxsons and have been witness to the continuous improvements since then via prescribed burns, PastureGard and the implementation of a rotational grazing set-up. The fences range from good to new around the perimeter with a division fence rated from good to adequate. There are three usable ponds on the property and two older ponds that could be cleaned out. The main pond has a gravity flow water tank below the dam and is fenced off to prevent erosion and provide quality water to livestock. Be sure to check out the fence and pond videos on the website. **Online Auction date is April 29, 2020 at 1 p.m.**

### TRACT 2: 2ND AND ANGUS RD., GRIDLEY

This parcel is 160 acres more or less and has also had continuous improvement since purchase with prescribed burns and application of PastureGard. There's a diverse income stream here between CRP, oil production, Native hay meadow and cropland. The 74.9 acre CRP contract expires in 2025 and the buyer can transition into whatever best fits their program or possibly re-enroll. There's approximately 50 acres of high-quality Native meadow and a 16.41 acre field of old-stand alfalfa ready to be transitioned back to tillable. This parcel also has a tremendous quail population if you're a recreational buyer looking for income. Be sure to check out the quail video on the website. **Online Auction date is April 30, 2020 at 1 p.m.**

**Minerals:** The Seller's mineral interests transfers to the Buyer.

**Tenancy:** Both properties sell as "open" with no agricultural or hunting leases in effect.

There has been a quality tenant in place who would have interest in continuing the ag lease if needed.

These properties are being offered via online auction. Potential buyers can also come to our office prior to 12:30 p.m. on Auction day if bidding assistance is needed. Give Cameron Roth a call at (785) 917-0867 for further details or to set up a tour.

Disclosure: These properties are being offered to all terms and conditions of sale.

**Contact Cameron Roth at (785) 917-0867 for more information.**

### "Keeping you informed"

## COVID-19 Coronavirus

Operating hours will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. local time Monday through Saturday until further notice.

To help further protect our customers and associates from the spread of COVID-19, we are temporarily reducing our store hours at the company-owned retail locations effective March 23. We encourage customers to access our website or contact our customer service teams via phone.

Given the coronavirus pandemic and its impact on American society, U.S. Cellular pledges for the next 60 days to:

- Not terminate service to any residential or small business customers because of their inability to pay their bills due to disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic
- Waive any late fees that any residential or small business customers incur because of their economic circumstances related to the coronavirus pandemic

Contact your local U.S. Cellular Authorized agent at (620) 364-1905



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