

FOCUS ON KANSAS 1ST QUARTER 2015

- 1-4 (ONE HOUR PROGRAM) A DISCUSSION ON A PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE AND EXPAND THE HUTCHINSON SPORTS ARENA WAS PRESENTED. MEMBERS OF A STEERING COMMITTEE APPOINTED IN MID 2014 BY THE HUTCHINSON CITY COUNCIL AND REPRESENTATIVES OF TWO CONSULTING FIRMS HIRED BY THE CITY GAVE A PRESENTATION ON SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS AND A PROPOSED .35% SALES TAX INCREASE TO FUND THOSE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE DECEMBER 15TH HUTCHINSON CITY COUNCIL MEETING. THE CITY COUNCIL WILL CONSIDER PLACING THE SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE BALLOT JANUARY 20TH.
- 1-11.1 THE PROGRAM FEATURED STATE REPRESENTATIVE BASIL DANNENBOHM (R-ELLINWOOD) AND STATE SENATOR RICK WILBORN (R-MCPHERSON) IN A DISCUSSION WITH THE LYONS CITY COUNCIL JANUARY 5TH ON ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED DURING THE 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION. TOPICS COVERED INCLUDED FUNDING FOR HOUSING PROGRAMS, TRANSPORTATION, EDUCATION, HOW SALES TAXES ON MOTOR VEHICLES ARE COLLECTED, AND THE STATE'S OVERALL FINANCIAL SITUATION AND HOW THIS WILL IMPACT LOCAL GOVERNMENT.
- 1-18 BUHLER USD 313 BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESIDENT LAURA MEYER DICK AND SUPERINTENDENT MIKE BERBLINGER DISCUSSED A BOND ISSUE FOR ATHLETIC FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS IN THE DISTRICT BEING VOTED ON JANUARY 27TH. THE PROJECTS INCLUDE MAJOR ADDITIONS AND RENOVATIONS TO THE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL STADIUM, NEW TENNIS COURTS THERE AND AT PRAIRIE HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND CONSTRUCTION OF A WELLNESS CENTER AND BASEBALL/SOFTBALL COMPLEX AT BUHLER'S WHEATLAND PARK IN A COOPERATIVE EFFORT WITH THE CITY OF BUHLER. ALSO ON THE PROGRAM WAS DR. HENCE PARSON, COORDINATOR OF COMMUNITY EVENTS AT HUTCHINSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE, WHO DISCUSSED THE ACTIVITIES CONNECTED WITH THE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY CELEBRATION IN HUTCHINSON.
- 1-25.1 TODAY'S TOPIC FOCUSED ON KINDERGARTEN READINESS. GUESTS INCLUDED UNITED WAY OF RENO COUNTY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY IMPACT AND ENGAGEMENT LISA GLEASON, PROGRAM DIRECTOR KARI MALLOUX AND GRANT COORDINATOR MARILYN GRAHAM FROM THE HUTCHINSON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, AND HUTCHINSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE COORDINATOR OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION JENNIFER FORKER. THESE ORGANIZATIONS, THE SIX SCHOOL DISTRICTS BASED IN RENO COUNTY, AND OTHER GROUPS HAVE BEEN COLLABORATING ON PROJECTS TO MAKE SURE CHILDREN ARE READY TO ENTER KINDERGARTEN. AS PART OF THIS A "K-READY TEAM" HAS PREPARED A LIST OF SKILLS CHILDREN NEED TO HAVE TO SUCCEED WHEN THEY START SCHOOL WHICH WAS REVIEWED.
- 2-1 THE PROGRAM FOCUSED ON WHAT PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW IF THEY ARE PURCHASING HEALTH INSURANCE THROUGH THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MARKETPLACES. KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST ELIZABETH KISS AND KANSAS HEALTH FOUNDATION PROFESSOR OF COMMUNITY HEALTH ROBERTA REPORTELLA DISCUSSED A PUBLICATION THEY PUT TOGETHER TO ASSIST KANSANS IN SINGING UP FOR COVERAGE THROUGH THE MARKETPLACE.
- 2-8 CHARLENE AKERS, DIRECTOR OF THE CORONADO QUIVIRA MUSEUM AND RICE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, DISCUSSED AN EXHIBIT THEY ARE HAVING DEALING WITH HOMETOWN SPORTS IN RICE COUNTY. THE EXHIBIT, WHICH IS CONNECTED TO A SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION EXHIBIT ON THE TOPIC THAT IS CURRENTLY IN ELLINWOOD, DISPLAYS A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF HISTORY INCLUDING PHOTOS, OLD UNIFORMS INCLUDING ONE DATING FROM THE 1920, AND MASCOTS OF SCHOOLS IN RICE COUNTY PAST AND PRESENT. SHE ALSO REVIEWED TWO OTHER EVENTS THEY ARE HAVING IN CONNECTION WITH THIS EXHIBIT, AND COMMUNITY SPECIFIC EXHIBITS BEING HELD IN STERLING, LITTLE RIVER AND GENESEO.
- 2-15 KARI MALLOUX FROM THE HUTCHINSON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION REVIEWED THE ENVISION HUTCH UNCONFERENCE TO BE HELD MARCH 7TH. THIS EVENT IS ONE OF THE FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES FROM A COMMUNITY MEETING AND VISIONING SESSION HELD IN SEPTEMBER 2014 TO LOOK AT WHERE THE COMMUNITY HAS BEEN AND WHERE IT CAN GO IN THE FUTURE. FROM THE MARCH 7TH EVENT A NUMBER OF PROJECTS WILL BE DEVELOPED TO BE IMPLEMENTED OVER A 12 WEEK PERIOD WITH FUNDING TO BE PROVIDED BY THE FOUNDATION. ALSO ON THE PROGRAM WERE COLLIN WILLIAMS AND GARRETT GEESLING FROM THE FAIRFIELD HIGH SCHOOL FFA CHAPTER AND CHAPTER ADVISOR MARY BETH FULK, WHO TALKED ABOUT THE NEWEST FFA CHAPTER IN RENO COUNTY AND EVENTS THEY ARE PUTTING ON AS PART OF NATIONAL FFA WEEK.