

FESTIVAL

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WWF Event Schedule

Wednesday, July 3
Gates open at 5:30 p.m.
VIP access opens at 6 p.m.
Nex-Tech Wireless photo booth open 6-7:30 p.m.
Nex-Tech Cash Catch 6:40 p.m.
VIP/merchandise holder card drawing 8:50 p.m.
Guitar auction: 9:00 p.m.
Vyve Broadband and Eagle Radio tee-shirt shoot 9:00 p.m.
Hidden Bid and Raffle ends at 9:00 p.m.
Scheduled performers: Reprise, Paramount and Nate Smith

Thursday, July 4
Fireworks Spectacular south of Hays near the 183 Bypass and Golf Course Rd. at 10 p.m.

Friday, July 5
Gates open at 5:30 p.m.
VIP access opens at 6 p.m.
Nex-Tech Wireless photo booth open 6-7:30 p.m.
Nex-Tech Cash Catch 6:40 p.m.
VIP/merchandise holder card drawing 8:50 p.m.
Guitar auction: 9:00 p.m.
Vyve Broadband and Eagle Radio tee-shirt shoot 9:00 p.m.
Hidden Bid and Raffle ends at 9:00 p.m.
Scheduled performers: Jake Dunworth, Savanna Chestnut and Sawyer Brown

Saturday, July 6
Main Street Parade at 10 a.m.
Theme: 30 Years of Rootin' and Tootin'
Gates open at 5:30 p.m.
VIP access opens at 6 p.m.
Nex-Tech Wireless photo booth open 6-7:30 p.m.
Nex-Tech Cash Catch 6:40 p.m.
VIP/merchandise holder card drawing 8:50 p.m.
Guitar auction: 9:00 p.m.
Vyve Broadband and Eagle Radio tee-shirt shoot 9:00 p.m.
Hidden Bid and Raffle ends at 9:00 p.m.
Scheduled performers: RoxSLYDE, Sunset Sinners and Quiet Riot

“The Wild West Festival committee has worked hard to ensure a fantastic experience for all attendees,” Ridgway said. “We are thrilled to bring this year’s lineup to Western Kansas and hope to see everyone there.”

Heartland Foundation supports DSNWK training

By Steve Keil

DSNWK

Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas is proud to announce a grant award from the Heartland Community Foundation in the amount of \$2,929.94. The grant will go toward the purchase of manikins and training supplies for the benefit and safety of individuals served by DSNWK in the Hays area.

DSNWK employees participate in various training sessions throughout the year to meet the needs of the individuals receiving services. These trainings include First Aid (FA), Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) provided by DSNWK certified trainers through the American Heart Association (AHA), and MANDT Training (a behavioral crisis interaction training) which teaches prevention and de-escalation concepts to help them safely manage behavior so that everyone can be safe in their environment.

“DSNWK serves many individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who may also have complicated health challenges,” states Jerry Michaud, DSNWK President and CEO. “Having the requested supplies and equipment will enhance the quality of the DSNWK training program in Hays and allow our employees to respond to emergency situations as they arise.”

DSNWK is a 501c3 nonprofit serving 18 counties in northwest Kansas with a mission to advocate for persons with disabilities and those who care about them by planning and supporting a life of dignity, interdependence, and personal satisfaction in the community.



We believe the newspaper is an essential resource for developing strong communities



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4 Outside Agencies make 2025 Budget Requests Presentations to City

By Gaille Pike

Special to the Hays Daily News

Representatives from Fort Hays State University (FHSU), Grow Hays, the Downtown Hays Development Corporation (DHDC) and the CARE Council made their organizations 2025 Budget Requests at the June 20, 2024 City of Hays Commission Work Session.

According to the Work Session Agenda attachment, the City anticipates it will receive \$599,722 in Outside Agency requests for 2025 Budget, an increase of only \$31,156 from last year.

The CARE Council increased its 2025 request by \$10,000 (for a total \$180,000.) The CARE Council recommends funding for ten programs provided by nine different agencies including ACCESS Public Transportation through Development Services of Northwest Kansas, Inc (DSNWK), First Call for Help of Ellis County, Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Ellis County, Hays Senior Center, Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center, Options, CASA of the High Plains, Inc., Cancer Council of Ellis County and Western Kansas Association for the Concerns of the Disabled.

CARE Council Chair Cindy Strube explained to Commissioners that while it may seem that duplicate services are offered by these agencies, they serve different needs within the community.

“They all work together for persons in need and unfortunately, the need is getting higher. The services are the cost,” said Chair Strube.

“One nice thing about the CARE Council is the volunteers we have who want to come back year after year, review and get invested in these agencies, They really fight for these agencies. Of course, the requests always exceed the amount of money that’s available,” said United Way Executive Director Erica Berges. When asked about the difference between requests and funding, Executive Director Berges stated that this year the requests total \$215,000, which is why the CARE Council is asking for \$180,000 versus the \$170,000 requested in 2024.

“I say this every year and I’m not sure where we’ll come in on funding, but out of all of our Outside Agencies, I personally think the CARE Council is one of the most important to the

community,” Mayor Shaun Musil said. Commissioner Mason Ruder commented that the hardest part of the budget process was looking at Outside Agencies might be further funded. Commissioner Reese Barrick echoed the Mayor’s remarks on the importance of the CARE Council. He added that in addition to celebrating the strides Hays is making, at some point the Commission should look at the causes leading to the needs being served in an attempt to address things that are not so great. Executive Director Berges stated that both the CARE Council and all the programs are mindful of how much the City contributes and appreciates the support.

FHSU, Grow Hays and DHDC requested the same amounts for 2025 as requested in 2024 with FHSU asking for \$100,000, Grow Hays \$180,000 and DHDC \$54,000. Ellis County Historical Society is expected to request \$42,272, an increase from last year of \$21,156. Hays Arts Council and the Wild West Festival are expected to request \$16,500 and \$12,000 respectively which are the same amounts these organizations requested in 2024.

2025 County Commission Budget changes under consideration

By Gaille Pike

Special to the Hays Daily News

During the June 18, 2024 Ellis County Commission meeting, County Administrator Darin Myers presented the 2025 budget for the commission’s department for review with proposed changes to the Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ) and scholarship lines as well an update to place Commissioners on the same pay scale as all employees, based on the closest pay rate for the current salary.

According to 2025 Budget Data provided by County Administrator Myers, the proposed 2025 Commission Department is \$271,964, an increase of \$30,042 compared to last year. County Administrator Myers stated that of proposed increases, the two biggest items are ROZ and county

scholarships, efforts to recruit and retain individuals to the area, which are both entering their second year. A doubling of funding for both is proposed (ROZ increased to \$30,000, scholarships to \$20,000.)

Commissioners took no action. However, Chair Nathan Leiker and Commissioner Michael Berges indicated an interest in making scholarships a priority because this incentive benefits current residents versus attempts to attract individuals to move to the county. Commissioner Neal Younger also commented on the advantages of the scholarship program.

Chair Leiker and Commissioner Berges indicated a willingness to consider placing commissioners on the same pay scale as all employees, based on the closest pay rate to the current commission salary.

According to County Administrator Myers, a new commissioner’s salary would be very similar to the current pay rate set by a county resolution. He explained that each year the new compensation policy places all employees at the next pay step on the grade assigned to the position. Per County Administrator Myers, if approved during the budget process, this change will adjust the Commissioners position and pay just the same as all employees in the county (elected or appointed) one step per year of service.

Ellis County Commission meetings are held at 8:30 AM on the first three Tuesdays of each month. Live video is available via YouTube. Agendas are available prior to meetings. Minutes are available following approval. Visit <https://www.elliscounty.net/120/County-Commission> for more information.

NIGHTINGALE

Continued from A1

Leibhart and Gage Porter. Their fifteen-lap feature started with a front row of Leibhart and Kyle Mortensen. Leibhart took an early lead after battling three wide with Dave Kappel and Porter. Leibhart would continue to lead and would battle side-by-side with Porter for a while. A few laps later, Jake Schwien got to third place after passing Kappel, and Porter continued to try to find a way around Leibhart. Leibhart picked up the race win completing a weekend sweep as he won Friday night in Colby, grabbing race wins three and four on the season. Porter took second, Schwien in third, Kappel in fourth and Kioqa Higdon in fifth. Hard charger in the event was Schwien who grabbed four spots.

“I’ve been waiting on this one for a while. Winning here feels great,” Leibhart said in an interview with track announcer Tanner Schmidt.

Hobby Stocks

The hobby stocks were third on the program, they ran three heat races won by Cody Williams, Tyler Heath and Trent Matson. Their twenty-lap feature event started with a front row of Alec Jeske and Williams. Williams gained the early lead, meanwhile a three and four wide battle would break out behind him as Zach Olmstead and Morgan

Olmstead were making moves to the front of the pack. A few laps in Heath blew a tire to bring out the event’s first caution. Williams restarted the field and jumped back to a nice lead, while they ran three wide for second behind him. Shaun Woods and Danny Schulte brought out a caution a couple of laps later as they both spun. Williams restarted the field again and led until he suffered a tire issue, meanwhile a group of cars tangled down the backstretch ending several drivers’ nights. Zach inherited the race lead and led the remainder of the feature. Zach grabbed race win number three on the season, Matson in second, Jonathan Saliba in third, Heath in fourth and Cody Gumm in fifth. Hard charger in the event was Caleb Davis who gained ten spots, other nice runs included Zach up nine spots, Gumm up seven spots, Hayden Kelly up six spots, and Saliba up five spots.

“I was trying to trick him (Williams). He’s usually pretty tough around here but I got it done,” Zach said in an interview with Schmidt.

Sport Mods

The sport mods ran fourth on the program, they ran two heat races won by Tracy Holloway and Luke Stallbaumer. Their twenty-lap feature event started with a front row of Holloway and Preston Donovan, Holloway got the early race lead and led for a while, meanwhile Carson Lang got to second while Donovan dropped a few spots. Stallbaumer

got to second place by lap two and started pressuring Holloway for the race lead. Caution came out and led to a red flag as two cars hit hard and broke their cars significantly, both Connor Barnes and Dalton Bell were okay, but the red flag allowed track workers to clean up the wreck easier. Holloway would bring the field to a restart with fourteen laps to go, Stallbaumer and Lang would go three wide with Holloway, and Lang grabbed the race lead. After running side-by-side for three laps Stallbaumer grabbed the race lead with nine laps to go. Stallbaumer entered lapped traffic and navigated a good race to pick up the race win. Stallbaumer picked up race win number three on the season, after picking number two up Friday night in Salina. Lang finished second, Blaine Walt third, Holloway fourth and Brianna Maughlin fifth. Hard charger in the event was Walt who gained ten spots, other nice runs included Stallbaumer and Justin Meserve both up six spots each, and Jack Kirchoff up five spots.

“I could feel those guys on my back bumper the whole time, I was just hoping the checkered flag would come out,” Stallbaumer said.

Stock cars

The stock cars ran fifth on the program, they ran one heat race won by Mike Petersilie. Their fifteen-lap feature started with a

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