



BITS AND PIECES

BY MEGAN MYER

Touching Tootlefest Traditions

I hope no one ever hears me say that traditions are useless habits we repeat “just because”. In fact, I believe most traditions are an important aspect of making us better humans– we learn values, morals and a true sense of togetherness and belonging. This sentiment would absolutely extend to Miltonvale’s celebration of Tootlefest– the festival that celebrates the town’s founding.

We here in the cozy little town of Miltonvale take seriously the tradition of Tootlefest, where we come together for a full weekend of raucous, fun-filled togetherness that normally wouldn’t happen any other day of the year. But we party it up with this festival, if you will pardon my youthful lingo, and enjoy all the activities, food, and togetherness that we can handle.

This year, my family tried to attend every event possible. We watched the parade– my kids especially loved getting the candy during the paradeb – watched the turtle races, enjoyed the bouncy house and some of the vendors, visited the car show (my first ever visit to a car show), and ate at almost every hosted lunch and supper we could get our gluttonous little paws on.

We swam – a pivotal part of my children’s summer– and tried to find quarter-sized turtles hidden all over Miltonvale, which were very cleverly

tucked away if I may say so. My daughters were so invested in finding those stupid turtles it was a constant topic of conversation no matter where we went. What mother gets fed up with her kid’s eagerness to find something, anything really, that she tells them to do so quietly and on their own time? Me, that’s who! This was irony at its finest.

We also attended the street dance where Monkey Business played an array of rock music and where the children of the town boogied down. My daughters, who are the offspring of a very fanatical concert goer, were front and center and almost close enough to touch the feet of the band members. Shaking their tail feathers with the best of them, Ali and Bert did everything from break-dancing to a rather interesting rendition of what looked like the Irish River Dance. I took pictures but I won’t embarrass them like that; I think my telling stories of them is enough, don’t you?

It was a weekend I’m glad we didn’t miss. We saw friends, enjoyed gorgeous fall-like weather, ate great food - if you haven’t been to Little Miss B’s Ice Cream shop in Concordia, go - enjoyed games, car shows, tractor pulls, and watched our children be children in the best possible ways. I hope we will make it a priority next year and every year after for many years to come in our little home of Miltonvale.



2025 Miltonvale Tootlefest – Kids Games/Races Results

Pruitt Family Helpers – Mike & Michele Pruitt, Dakota & Anne Beals, Jared & Ashley Smith, Ricardo & Jessica Moniz

Foot Races – Age 2 1st Calum Smith 2nd Theodore Beals

Foot Races – Age 4 1st Kael Colton 2nd Kyndall Colton

Foot Races – Age 7 1st Charleigh Colton 2nd Bayler Adams 3rd Olivia Hoover

Foot Races – Age 8-10 1st Hadleigh Ringer 2nd Hudson Adams 3rd Josie Ringer

Foot Races – Age 10–12 1st Corban LaBarge 2nd Hadleigh Ringer 3rd Emmett Ringer

Foot Races – Age 4 1st Kyndall Colton 2nd Breck Begnoche 3rd Logan Cote

Foot Races – Age 7 1st Charleigh Colton 2nd unknown 3rd Brooklyn Cote

Foot Races – Age 4–6 1st Maddison Smith 2nd Marco Moniz

Foot Races – Age 16 - Adults 1st Dakota Beals 2nd Jacob LaBarge 3rd Gatlin Adams

Sack Races – Age 4 & under 1st Marco Moniz 2nd Breck Begnoche 3rd Kyndall Colton

Sack Races – Age 5 & 6 1st Maddison Smith 2nd Brynn Begnoche 3rd Bowen Hamel

Sack Races – Age 7 & 8 1st Blakely Begnoche 2nd Josie Ringer 3rd Charleigh Colton

Sack Races – Age 9 & 10 1st Zeke Newell 2nd Hadleigh Ringer 3rd Cyrus LaBarge

Sack Races – Age 11 & 12 1st Adley Bates 2nd Emmett Ringer 3rd Harper Adams

3-Legged Race – Age 6 & under 1st Maddison Smith & Joanna Reagan 2nd Bowen Hamel & Brynn Begnoche 3rd Kyndall Colton and Kael Colton

3-Legged Race – Age 6–7 1st Bayler Adams & Camara LaBarge 2nd Brooklyn Cote & Emma Reagan 3rd Maddison Smith & Charleigh Colton

3-Legged Race – Age 8-10 1st Hudson Adams & Cyrus LaBarge 2nd Gracie Hamel & Blakely Begnoche 3rd Addison Cote & Evelyn Reagan

3-Legged Race – Age 11-12 1st Elizabeth Paillet & Adley Bates 2nd Harper Adams & Corban LaBarge 3rd Mycenae Williams & Esther Paillet

3-Legged Race – Mixed Ages 1st Jacob LaBarge & Gatlin Adams 2nd Matthew Mulanga & Jared Smith

Wheel Barrel Race – Age 8 & under 1st Bayler Adams & Camara LaBarge 2nd Brooklyn Cote & Emma Reagan 3rd Logan Cote & Joanna Reagan

Wheel Barrel Race – Age 12 & under 1st Blakely Begnoche & Gracie Hamel 2nd Adley Bates & Elizabeth Paillet 3rd Jolene & Monte

Bike Race – 1st Bayler Adams 2nd Harper Adams 3rd Hudson Adams

Balloon Toss – All Ages Tie 1st Taelyn Olson & Hadley Huncovsky Tie 1st Easton & Kendall 2nd Jaci Begnoche & Shandi Olson

City

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City Manager Amy Lange and the City’s Parks and Recreation Director Chris Atkins presented commissioners with five possible options for the ballot question. After a lengthy discussion, commissioners voted to place Option 1 on the November 4 ballot:

'Shall the City of Concordia, Kansas be authorized to impose a one percent (1%) citywide special purpose retailers’ sales tax, the proceeds of which shall be used only for the following purposes, including payment of the financing costs related thereto: (1) design and construction of a community activities center at Rasure Field in Concordia, parking and improvements appurtenant thereto; and (2) maintenance and operations of a community activities center at Rasure Field in Concordia; with the collection of the sales tax to commence on April 1, 2026, or as soon thereafter as permitted by law, and shall terminate ten years after its commencement, all pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 12-187 et seq., as amended?'

In their next action item, commissioners approved Ordinance 2025-3238 that increases court costs from \$80 to \$100.

Police Chief Brent Gering informed commissioners that the former \$80 court cost fee had been in place since 2014 and did not reflect the current operating expenses of holding court and training the City’s law enforcement personnel.

Of the past \$80 court cost: \$5 was allocated to police training; \$23.50 was remitted to the state, and the remaining \$51.50 went to the City to help cover court-related expenses.

Commissioners then approved the low bid of \$4,800 from Smith Construction Services for the demolition of the trailer house and removal of blight and uncontrolled growth at 425 West 9th Street.

At the city commission meeting on July 7, 2025, commissioners approved Resolution 2025-2203, which condemned the property at 425 West 9th Street.

In their next item of business, commissioners approved the low bid from Hood Heating and Air, in the amount of \$64,580, for infield lighting on Jensen and Meyer Fields, and the quote from Prairieland Electric, in the amount of \$23,280, for the replacement of lighting poles. The project will be paid for with funds from the City’s Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

The lights at the Peewee fields have been deteriorating for several years, and the City was finding it difficult to get replacement parts for the fixtures. Also, the old halogen bulbs were beginning to fuse the internal connections with the bulb’s porcelain, melting wires. At one point, an entire fixture had fallen off a pole and showered the ground with sparks.

Parks and Recreation Director Atkins stated to commissioners that his plan is to start with the purchasing and installation of the infield lights on both Jensen and Meyer Fields, and the replace-

ment of poles as needed.

Prairieland Electric’s cost for replacing one 55-foot pole is \$3,882. There are currently six infield poles that would need to be replaced at the time of new installation.

After the infield lights are upgraded, Atkins stated that he wants to re-evaluate what’s needed in the outfield and, if possible, minimize the number of poles to the two middle outfield lights.

Commissioners then voted to appoint Lange and Mayor Amy Jackson as voting delegates to the League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM). Commissioners Chuck Lambertz and Marsha Wentz were chosen as alternates.

Each year the City appoints voting delegates to vote on matters of the membership of the LKM.

Commissioners then approved Resolution 2025-2209, which releases the insurance proceeds on the property at 716 West 7th St.

The house on the property was damaged by fire on October 3, 2024. The City received insurance proceeds of \$13,031.52, and is required to set a public hearing date by resolution within 45 days of receiving those proceeds.

Rehbein stated to commissioners that the property has been returned to a safe condition and that the insurance proceeds should now be released.

In their final item of business, four of five commissioners voted to approve a grant agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Kansas State University to replace trees in the downtown area and also plant trees elsewhere in the City. Commissioner Ashley Hutchinson voted against the measure.

In November of 2024, the City received a federal award from the USDA that flows through Kansas State University as the pass-through entity, and is associated with the Kansas Forest Service. The amount of the grant award is \$92,807. Funding will be provided on a reimbursement basis similar to other grants the City has received.

All work must be completed by December 2026, with target completion prior to September 30, 2026.

Local match responsibility includes only expenses beyond the scope of work or the amount that was approved as part of this grant, and \$33,000 is budgeted in the City’s CIP for this project.

The scope of work includes:

Downtown Tree Replacement - 24 Callery Pear trees will be removed from brick planters along a 3-block segment of 6th Street in the downtown area and replaced

with a tree suitable for a downtown streetscape in Kansas, species yet to be determined. Brick planters will be replaced with a decorative steel grate and new concrete surround. Existing water hydrants at each planter will be capped. Existing electrical receptacles will be replaced with code-compliant exterior receptacles for use with street vendors or lighted decorations at public events.

The trees already located inside the fencing at Broadway Plaza will not be removed.

Pruning Downtown Trees - three Bradford Pear trees in the City’s 5th Street downtown parking lot and six trees at the Broadway Plaza will be pruned.

Tree Planting at Off-Site Locations - per the grant requirements to plant a minimum of two trees for each tree removed, 24 trees will also be planted at other locations throughout Concordia. They include:

St. Joseph Subdivision - 12 Taylor or Spartan Juniper trees will be planted for screening between the new residential subdivision and the adjacent commercial business, and three Regal Prince Oak trees will be planted in the front yards of new homes constructed before December 31, 2026.

Concordia Sports Complex – three Regal Prince Oak trees will be planted at the Sports Complex.

Cloud County Community College - three Regal Prince Oak trees to be planted on the Concordia Campus.

USD 333 Concordia Public Schools - two Regal Prince Oak trees will be planted at Concordia Middle School, and one Regal Prince Oak tree will be planted at Concordia High School.

The City of Concordia will procure contractors to remove and plant the new trees, to remove the brick planters, and to repair the electrical receptacles at the planters.

Licensed arborists are required for tree planting. The City may self-perform the work to cap the water lines, remove brick near the planters as needed after tree removal, and re-use the existing brick pavers and add decorative grates around the trees.

Some adjustments will need to be made to the details of the grant agreement, and there is latitude to finalize the tree species following acceptance of the grant and prior to purchasing the trees for planting.

The current priority was acceptance of the grant funding by way of approval of the grant agreement. The deadline for acceptance of the grant funding was August 22, 2025.

With no further items on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

The City of Glasco is seeking a part-time Ordinance Officer

Accepting applicaitons through September 1, 2025.
Duties Include, but not limited to:

- Personally enforce all City Ordinances by conducting inspections of property to confirm code violations exist and the abatement of violations;
- Maintains records of all warning, notices, inspection and violations;
- Must attend council meetings on a monthly basis to provide detailed documentation to council; (Council meetings are the first Tuesday after the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m.)
- Perform Code Enforcement duties for 2-3 hours weekly
- Provide weekly updates to city clerk
- Investigate specific complaints related to ordinance violations
- Routinely patrols City streets on foot or in a vehicle for civil code violations including but not limited to garbage and debris, property landscaping, inoperable vehicles, and nuisances affecting public health.
- Issue citations as necessary
- Assist in serving court legal process, pertaining to the enforcement actions
- Provide testimony at Municipal Court as required

Minimum Job Requirements:

- Education: High School Diploma or GED
- Experience: Relatable work experience in code enforcement is preferred
- Possess and maintain a valid Kansas Driver’s License
- Ability to read and interpret all relevant ordinances; able to work with others and understands the position is serving the public and requires a degree of tact, courtesy, alertness, and good judgement in public contacts of routine nature.
- Willingness to sign a confidentiality agreement upon acceptance of employment Please contact City Hall for application by calling 785-568-2705 or emailing glascocityclerk@twinvalley.net or stopping by 206 E. Main Street in Glasco.

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2025 - NICOL HOME MEALS ON WHEELS

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|--|--|--|---|--|----------|
| 24 | 25 Turkey, Sweet Potatoes, Mix Veggies, Carrot Cake | 26 Pork Loin, Baked Potato & Butter, Broccoli, Lemon Bar | 27 Residents Birthday Lunch | 28 BBQ Meatballs, Red Potatoes, Green Beans, Roll, Fudge Oatmeal Bar | 29 Butterfly Shrimp, Baked Potato, California Veggies, Chocolate Cake | 30 |
| | 1 LABOR DAY BBQ | 2 Pot Roast, Fried Potatoes, Red Cabbage, Roll, Bread Pudding | 3 Smothered Pork Chop, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli, Roll, Pineapple Delight | 4 Goulash, Mixed Veggies, Bread Stick, Ice Cream | 5 Tuna Noodle Casserole, Peas, Hush Puppies, Peach Pie | 6 |