



## Council reviews audit, finances

By **EDDIE HIBBS III**  
*Record Publisher & Owner*

The Erie City Council conducted a special meeting at City Hall Wednesday night. The primary purpose of the meeting was to review the annual city audit, but also included discussion on the Erie Market.

The city received good news overall on the audit provided by Jarred, Gilmore & Phillips PA, Certified Public Accountants based in Chanute. The financials were for the year ending Dec. 31, 2024.

The audit itself was 45 pages in length and included three additional supplemental documents.

The city's unencumbered cash balance to begin 2024 was listed at \$1,309,153.78 and ended the year with \$1,233,413.54.

Some of the highlights in the audit:

- The City agrees to fix, establish, maintain and collect such rates, fees, or charges for Electric Utility service which will be sufficient to enable the City to have, in each fiscal year, a net income in the amount that will be not less than 110% amount required to be paid by the City during that fiscal year on account of both principal and interest of all Electric Utility System Bonds of the City at the time outstanding...For the year ended Dec. 31, 2024 the City had net income available for debt service of \$1,095,668.36. The revenue bond ordinance requires net income available for debt service of \$781,748.55, which is 110.00% of the principal and interest requirements for 2024. The City was in compliance with the electric utility rate requirements, as net operating income of the Electric Utility II Fund and Electric Utility Fund was 154.17% of year 2024 principal and interest requirements.

- The City was in apparent violation of K.S.A. 12-1608 which requires the treasurer of third class cities to publish an annual statement showing the total amount received into each fund and the total amount expended from each fund and the cash balances of each fund at the beginning and close of the year. Such statements shall show the amount of outstanding registered warrants, temporary notes, bonds and all other obligations and liabilities of the City. The City did not correctly publish a treasurer's report for the year ended Dec. 31, 2024.

- During 2024, the City sold 36.31% of its water available for sale to Rural Water District #1.

- VIN inspections for the City via the Erie Police Department was listed at \$9,780 for 2024.

Jarred, Gilmore & Phillips also provided an analysis for the rest of 2025 and a budget for 2026. The CPA firm "pro-rated" the 2025 financials, using the first five months of city revenue and expenses.

See **AUDIT**, Page Three



Submitted photo

**USD 101 Nurse Jody Brown, left, and Stephanie Stark, HOSA sponsors for Erie High School display the AED Brown recently won. She donated the AED to the district.**

## Board starts new year

By **EDDIE HIBBS III**  
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Monday's meeting of the USD #101 Board of Education marked the beginning of Superintendent Scott Palser's third year in his current position. Most of the news shared during the meeting was rather informative and positive.

Galesburg Middle School teachers Emily Coover and Chris Bachman provided an in-depth overview and explanation of the State Assessments. District Nurse Jody Brown provided a three-

page Cardiac Emergency Response Plan. Erie Elementary teacher Angie Magner provide a District Assessment Review and Needs Assessment.

The board also received reports from Heather Newton, elementary principal; Jared Han, middle school principal; and a transportation update from Transportation Director John King.

Erie High School Principal Robert Schneeberger was not at Monday's meeting as he was on vacation, but Palser provided an update on his behalf.

See **SCHOOL**, Page TWO

## Fundraisers planned for EHS graduate

Aaron Yarnell, an Erie High School graduate and local resident, has recently been diagnosed with a large malignant tumor on his sacrum and hip. Besides being in considerable pain, Yarnell is facing chemo and radiation with surgery as a possibility if the tumor reduces in size.

He will be making frequent

trips and stays to KU Medical Center in Kansas City and will be unable to work during his treatment. Kersia, his wife, will be missing a lot of work, too. While the Yarnells have a huge family who are committed to seeing him through this, many of his friends and extended family have asked how they can help.

An account has been established at Commercial Bank in Erie for donations that will be used to offset their medical, travel and life expenses during this time. Treatment options and plans are still being finalized and you can keep up to date by following Aaron's Caring Bridge online page. The Yarnells thank you for all

prayers, good vibes, donations and love.

Donations may be dropped by mail to: Commercial Bank Erie, 222 S. Main St., PO Box 197, Erie, KS 66733.

Another fundraiser, an "Enchilada Dinner and Cornhole Tournament," is scheduled at the Erie American Legion Hall July 27.

The cornhole tournament is \$30 per team with half of all entry fees going towards Yarnell's cancer treatment. The other half of the entry fees goes to the winner. The tournament starts at 2 p.m. with a 1 p.m. sign-up.

Grab a plate of enchiladas, rice, bean and dessert for \$12. Dinner starts at 5 p.m.

### Letter to the editor

## In memory of my daughter - help support local children

### Greetings,

My name is Carla Rush. My daughter was Audra Rush.

Audra graduated from Erie High School in 2006. She then went on to graduate from Labette Community College in 2008 and Pittsburg State University in 2010 with a BA in Science in Education, Early Childhood/Late Childhood K-6.

She secured a job with ANW Co-op and taught a year at Lincoln School in Chanute as a pre-K teacher.

She found her passion in loving children and helping grow their minds.

Audra was then transferred to Erie and taught pre-kindergarten for several years. She acquired her Master's in Education in 2019, before her passing in March of 2020.

Audra loved teaching and loved her students. She was exceptionally gifted in working with children with special needs and dedicated her life to her students.

Five years ago, the Orange Swan Free Store in Galesburg wanted to find a way to honor Audra for all she had given to the children of the com-

munity. The Audra Rush School Supply giveaway takes place in August and is funded solely by donations from the community. Students from the area are giving backpacks and the necessary school supplies for the upcoming school year.

This year marks the fifth anniversary of the giveaway in Audra's name, and it has continued to grow each year. Last year, more than 150 students were helped with supplies.

Consider helping support the children in this area with vital supplies and honor the memory of a woman who consistently gave more than what was expected of her.

Thank you for considering this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Carla Rush

**Editor's note:** Checks need to be made out to The Orange Swan. They can be mailed to Carla Rush 435 N. Grant St. Erie KS or Rhonda Kane 219 W. 7th St. Erie KS. Donated school supplies can be dropped off at 435 N. Grant, Erie. Registration for school supplies will start next week. Rhonda Kane will post the information on the Orange Swan Facebook page.

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