

BEAN POT VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED SERVING NEOSHO COUNTY SINCE 1876 HE ERIE RECORD \mathbf{T}

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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 vear with \$1,233,413.54.

Some of the highlights in the audit:

• The City agrees to fix, es- By EDDIE HIBBS III tablish, maintain and collect Record Publisher & Owner such rates, fees, or charges for Electric Utility service which 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



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

Monday's meeting of the USD #101 Board of will be sufficient to enable the 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

Tax collections better than expected in 2025

By ANNA KAMINSKI KansasReflector.com

TOPEKA --- Kansas brought in more than \$10 billion in tax revenue in the most recent fiscal year, which is about the same as the previous year's totals but better than state analysts predicted.

Tax revenues in fiscal year 2025 were about \$249 million, or 2.5%, above what state analysts predicted when they revised their forecast in April. In weighing all of the state general fund's revenues, expenditures and transfers from the past year, total receipts to the state general fund were about \$10.02 billion, exceeding estimates by about \$132 million, or 1.3%, but dwarfing the previous year's total by about 1.2%.

Around \$124 million was transferred out of the general fund into the state's rainy day fund, a move that is required under law but was an unexpected transfer to state analysts.

The receipts were a glimpse at the end of the first full year of tax cuts passed during a special session last year, which promised \$1.2 billion in tax relief over three years. The 2025 Legislature similarly passed tax relief measures that promised to lower individual and corporate income taxes, but only if the state exceeds revenue estimates and maintains its rainy day fund. The Legislature also passed leg-

islation that will modestly reduce property taxes by eliminating statewide tax levies. Those recent cuts have yet to go into effect.

Gov. Laura Kelly attempted to veto the income tax cut legislation in April, but both chambers overrode the veto almost along party lines.

Kelly warned of a serious "financial predicament ahead," referring to "bizarre and irresponsible budget gimmicks" from the Republican-led Legislature. When combining the Legislature's 2025 spending plan with income tax cuts and 2024 relief efforts, the state is expected to be hundreds of millions of dollars in the red by 2029.

"Even with current revenues exceeding the forecast, the budget created by the state Legislature still has us spending \$300 to \$700 million more than we receive each year for the foreseeable future, jeopardizing the long-term fiscal health of the state, which I have prioritized as governor," Kelly said.

House Speaker Dan Hawkins, a Wichita Republican running for state insurance commissioner, said the governor previously complained about the Legislature mandating 1.5% across-the-board spending cuts but now questioned whether the Legislature was spending too much money.

See TAXES, Page Three



School graduate and local resi- Center in Kansas City and will lished at Commercial Bank in and love.

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.

rice, bean and dessert for \$12.

Dinner starts at 5 p.m.

Grab a plate of enchiladas,

signup.

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

dent, 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

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.

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

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.

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.



FIND YOUR FUTURE, TODAY! Fall semester classes begin August 18th

Email advising@neosho.edu for information.

