

Ayres Insurance named Farmers Alliance Advantage Agent

The Farmers Alliance Companies in McPherson, Kansas, have announced that Ayres Insurance Agency LLC in Miltonvale has been named a Farmers Alliance Advantage Agent for 2026.

To qualify as an Advantage Agent, an agency must exhibit superior professionalism and profitability over five consecutive years. Advantage Agents are recognized by Farmers Alliance as the "best of the best".

Reaching this level of distinction reflects this agency's commitment to their customers and their community. Congratulations to Ayres Ins Agency LLC for this achievement.

The Farmers Alliance Companies are represented by independent agents, and serve eight states. Farmers Alliance was established in 1888 and writes a full range of property and liability insurance for homes, farms, and commercial businesses. For more information visit www.fami.com

BITS AND PIECES

BY MEGAN MYER

The Origins of Valentine's Day: Are You Sure You Want to Know?

Valentine's Day— a day full of beautiful red and pink hearts, bundles of favored flowers, cute cards, and courageous moves to finally connect with the one you're in love with. It is a day that is supposed to celebrate romance and relationships. But, it is also the day of beheading martyrs or running through the streets being whipped to increase your fertility. We don't really do that stuff anymore, though. Go figure.

In fact, Valentine's Day has very interesting— and even dark origins— much like anything else we celebrate now. It's hard, if not downright impossible, to pinpoint when Valentine's Day became a "thing," but I think history provides enough myths, stories, and religious/pagan ties to keep us entertained and curious for years to come.

There are multiple legends that speak of a Catholic priest, aptly named Valentine, who went against Roman laws to secretly wed Roman soldiers to their sweethearts. Emperor Claudius II Gothicus had deemed it necessary that soldiers were not to marry during their military tenure, as it distracted them from their duties. However, Valentine fought this decree for the sake of love and secretly married couples, knowing (I would assume) full well the outcome if he were to be caught. And, as you can guess, he was caught. Emperor Claudius discovered these secret marriages and had Valentine's head inconveniently snatched from his body. A *romantic* sacrifice if ever there was one.

Another legend was very similar, but Valentine was a bishop in Interamna (a place we now call Terny, Italy). Again, the same result— Emperor Claudius had him beheaded for secretly marrying couples but also for not renouncing his beliefs.

Another myth of St. Valentine is that he attempted to help Christians escape Roman prisons and the inhumane treatment they had to endure. Unfortunately, he was caught and imprisoned himself. However, a romantic twist that lines up beautifully to our Valentine's Day: Valentine fell in love with the jailor's daughter and, before his death, he wrote her a message that he ended with "from your Valentine." Hence the potential origin of our "Valentines" today!

This is all rather bleak, isn't it? Well, I'm not done yet!


We also have the Roman-pagan roots to consider. In ancient Rome, February was a month to celebrate fertility with a festival they called Lupercalia. Lupercalia was an interesting celebration (to say the least). Men and women would crowd the streets of Rome, drinking, being loud, sacrificing things and whipping women into becoming more fertile. Yes, you read that correctly— women were whipped into becoming fertile. And, they actually *wanted* to be whipped. Thankfully, because the Lupercalia festival is so *different* from the modern-day celebration, there has been some serious doubts if we can include it into the origins of the Valentine's Day we know and love today. (I'm wiping the sweat off my brow in relief as I type this.)

Eventually though, religious roots intertwined into the base of Roman celebrations, myths and legends, and the month of February became a month for Catholics to celebrate certain martyrs.

Now, as I am sure you can guess, history has more to tell us about Valentine's Day, but I only have so much room I can offer to this subject and to my column. Therefore, I will leave you to discover those mysteries on your own.

Until then, I will do my best to just enjoy this sweet holiday we celebrate now and pray no one gets the bright idea to chop heads off or run through the streets drinking raucously and whipping people into fertile submission.

Have a wonderful Valentine's Day, and don't forget the cards and candy for your loved ones!



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FEBRUARY 2026 - NICOL HOME MEALS ON WHEELS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9 RESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY LUNCH	10 Beef Goulash, Mixed Veggies, Breadstick, Fruit Cobbler	11 Beef Stew, Mixed Green Salad, Biscuit, Ice Cream	12 Onion Sage Chicken, Au Gratin Potatoes, Carrots, Garlic Bread, Upside Down Pear Cake	13 Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Buttered Gravy, Roll, Banana Pudding
16 Chicken Tenders, Baked Potato Casserole, Green Peas, Fruit Crumble	17 BBQ Riblette on a Bun, Onion Rings, Baked Beans, Brownie	18 Rosemary Chicken, Roasted Red Potatoes, Cauliflower Au Gratin, Garlic Bread, Ice Cream	19 Braised Pork Roast, Whipped Potatoes, Garlic Green Beans, Roll, Pumpkin Cake	20 Fish Nuggets, Tartar Sauce, Cheesy Rice, Creamy Sweet Corn, Fruited Gelatin

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• Hiram: My father owned the first horseless carriage in the United States. Hector: How did he manage that? Hiram: Somebody stole his horse...
• Heredity is something every man believes in until his son begins to act like a fool...
• Love is one game which is never called on account of darkness...

FIRST PRINTED IN THE MILTONVALE RECORD, FEBRUARY 15, 1951

(Published in the Concordia Blade-Empire on Feb. 12, 2026)

ORDINANCE NO. 711-2026

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GLASCO, KANSAS, ADOPTING THE "NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PLAN FOR CLOUD COUNTY, KANSAS, 2026" AND AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THAT PLAN.

WHEREAS, Cloud County, Kansas, pursuant to K.S.A. 12-17,114 et seq. (the "Kansas Neighborhood Revitalization Act"), has adopted a plan to assist in the rehabilitation, conservation or redevelopment of an area within Cloud County described in the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan for Cloud County, Kansas, 2026 (the "Plan").

WHEREAS, the Governing Body may, pursuant to the Kansas Neighborhood Revitalization Act, also adopt a neighborhood revitalization plan to assist in the rehabilitation, conservation or redevelopment of any area within the City.

WHEREAS, the Governing Body has determined that the Plan complies with the Kansas Neighborhood Revitalization Act, and that rehabilitation, conservation or redevelopment of the neighborhood revitalization area identified in the Plan is necessary to protect the public health, safety or welfare of the residents of the City.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF GLASCO:

Section 1. Finding. The Governing Body has reviewed the "Neighborhood Revitalization Plan for Cloud County, Kansas, 2026" as adopted by the Cloud County Board of County Commissioners (hereafter the "Plan"), and finds and determines that the property within the City which lies within the Neighborhood Revitalization District, as set out in Exhibit A to the Plan, meets the definition of "neighborhood revitalization area" in K.S.A. 12-17,115(c).

Section 2. Plan Adoption. Following a properly noticed public hearing, as required by K.S.A. 12-17,117, and consideration of comments from the public and staff, the Plan is hereby adopted and incorporated by reference as if fully set out herein in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 12-3301:3305.

Section 3. Interlocal Agreement. The Mayor is authorized, on behalf of the Governing Body, to enter into an interlocal agreement with: Cloud County; other cities within Cloud County; Unified School District Nos. 224, 333 and 334; and the Cloud County Community College, as necessary to implement the Plan, as provided for in K.S.A. 12-17,119.

Section 4. Authority. This ordinance is adopted under the authority of K.S.A. 12-17,114 et seq., K.S.A. 12-3301 et seq., K.S.A. 12-2901 et seq., and Article 12, Section 5 of the Kansas Constitution.

Section 5. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its adoption and publication in the official city newspaper.

ADOPTED BY the Governing Body this 3rd day of February, 2026

Signed:
Carl Shrontz, Mayor

Attest:
Heather Bowles, City Clerk

1th

(Published in the Concordia Blade-Empire on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026)

ORDINANCE NO. 603

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MILTONVALE, KANSAS, ADOPTING THE "NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PLAN FOR CLOUD COUNTY, KANSAS, 2025" AND AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THAT PLAN.

WHEREAS, Cloud County, Kansas, pursuant to K.S.A. 12-17,114 et seq. (the "Kansas Neighborhood Revitalization Act"), has adopted a plan to assist in the rehabilitation, conservation or redevelopment of an area within Cloud County described in the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan for Cloud County, Kansas, 2025 (the "Plan").

WHEREAS, the Governing Body may, pursuant to the Kansas Neighborhood Revitalization Act, also adopt a neighborhood revitalization plan to assist in the rehabilitation, conservation or redevelopment of any area within the City.

WHEREAS, the Governing Body has determined that the Plan complies with the Kansas Neighborhood Revitalization Act, and that rehabilitation, conservation or redevelopment of the neighborhood revitalization area identified in the Plan is necessary to protect the public health, safety or welfare of the residents of the City.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF MILTONVALE:

Section 1. Finding. The Governing Body has reviewed the "Neighborhood Revitalization Plan for Cloud County, Kansas, 2025" as adopted by the Cloud County Board of County Commissioners (hereafter the "Plan"), and finds and determines that the property within the City which lies within the Neighborhood Revitalization District, as set out in Exhibit A to the Plan, meets the definition of "neighborhood revitalization area" in K.S.A. 12-17,115(c).

Section 2. Plan Adoption. Following a properly noticed public hearing, as required by K.S.A. 12-17,117, and consideration of comments from the public and staff, the Plan is hereby adopted and incorporated by reference as if fully set out herein in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 12-3301:3305.

Section 3. Interlocal Agreement. The Mayor is authorized, on behalf of the Governing Body, to enter into an interlocal agreement with: Cloud County; other cities within Cloud County; Unified School District Nos. 224, 333 and 334; and the Cloud County Community College, as necessary to implement the Plan, as provided for in K.S.A. 12-17,119.

Section 4. Authority. This ordinance is adopted under the authority of K.S.A. 12-17,114 et seq., K.S.A. 12-3301 et seq., K.S.A. 12-2901 et seq., and Article 12, Section 5 of the Kansas Constitution.

Section 5. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its adoption and publication in the official city newspaper.

ADOPTED BY the Governing Body this 2nd day of February, 2026.

Mayor Nathan Brummet

ATTEST:

Amanda Blackwood, City Clerk

1th

(Published in the Concordia Blade-Empire on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026)

Notice of Budget Hearing for Amending the
2026 Budget
The governing body of
City of Glasco

will meet on the day of February 23, 2025 at 5:30 at 206 E. Main Street, Glasco, KS 67445 for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed amended use of funds.

Detailed budget information is available at Glasco City Hall and will be available at this hearing.

Fund	2026 Adopted Budget			2026 Proposed Amended Expenditures
	Actual	Amount of Tax	Expenditures	
	Tax Rate	that was Levied		
Library	4.267	7.293	8,997	9,600
Employee Benefits	7.284	12,451	15,500	15,237
			0	0
			0	0
			0	0
			0	0

Heather Bowles
Official Title: City Clerk

(Published in the Concordia Blade-Empire on Feb. 12, 2026)

RESOLUTION NO. 246

A RESOLUTION STATING THE CONDITION OF THE STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 502 1ST ST. AND LEGALLY DESCRIBED BELOW, IN THE CITY OF MILTONVALE, CLOUD COUNTY, KANSAS, ARE UNSAFE OR DANGEROUS AND DIRECTING THAT ALL STRUCTURES BE (REPAIRED OR REMOVED) AND SAID PREMISES MADE SAFE AND SECURE.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF MILTONVALE, KANSAS;

The South Half (S1/2) of Lot Four (4), and all of Lots Five (5) and Six (6), in Block Thirty-four (34), North Addition to the City of Miltonvale, Cloud County, Kansas, according to the recorded Plat thereof.

The Public Officer of the City of Miltonvale, Kansas did on the 5th day of November, file with the governing body of said City a statement in writing, that the structures, including, but not limited to the house, garage, shed, and any other outbuildings, hereinafter described, were unsafe and dangerous; and;

The governing body did, by Resolution No. 245 dated the 1st day of December, 2025, fix the time and place of a hearing at which the owner, his or her agent, and lienholders, any occupants and all other parties of interest of such structures could appear and show cause why such structures should not be condemned and ordered repaired or demolished and provided for giving notice thereof as provided by law;

Resolution No. 245 was published in the official city paper on the 11th of December and 18th of December 2025 and a copy of said resolution was served upon all persons entitled thereto as provided by law; and

On this 2nd day of February, 2026, the governing body did conduct the hearing scheduled in Resolution No. 245 and took evidence from the Public Officer on behalf of the City, the owner(s), Owner's agent, lienholders of record, occupants, and other parties in interest. The following parties in interest failed to appear or appeared and did not present evidence: _____

The governing body hereby finds that the structures located on the property described herein, and commonly known and referred to as 502 1st St. Miltonvale, Kansas, is:

1. Condemned because it is abandoned, uninhabitable, unsafe and dangerous;
2. That the Owner(s) must erect a fence or barricade around the property, sufficient to ensure the safety of the public, within 10 days of the first publication of this resolution;
3. That no utility service should be connected to the property, including, but not limited to propane or LP gas service;
4. Directs that such structure is to be repaired or removed and the premises made safe and secure. Any repairs shall meet all applicable building and utility codes, and any demolition shall be done in compliance with KDHE Guidelines as well as any Federal and State Statutes; and
5. That the owner of such structure is hereby directed to commence the repair or removal of the structures located on the property within 10 days from the date of publication of this resolution and to have the repair or removal completed within 50 days of the date of commencement, or not later than March 24, 2026.
6. Upon due application by, the owner(s) and for good cause shown, the governing body, in its sole discretion, may grant the owner(s) additional time to complete the removal of the structures on said property.

If the owner(s) fail(s) to comply with this resolution ordering the repair or demolition of all structures located at 502 1st St., Miltonvale, Kansas, within the time stated herein, or any additional time granted by the governing body, or fails to diligently prosecute the same until the work is completed, the City will cause the structure to be repaired, or razed and removed, keep an accounting of the costs of such work and bill said costs to the owner(s) of said property, less salvage if any, and shall be collected in the manner provided by K.S.A. 12-1,115, and amendments thereto, or shall be assessed as a special assessment against the lot or parcel of land on which the structure was located and the City Clerk, at the time of certifying other City taxes, shall certify the unpaid portion of the costs and the County Clerk shall extend the same on the tax rolls of the county against such lot or parcel of land. The City may pursue collection both by levying a special assessment and in the manner provided by K.S.A. 12-1,115, and amendments thereto, but only until the full cost and any applicable interest has been paid in full, as provided by law, and, in addition thereto, the owner(s) shall be subject to any and all other sanctions provided by the City Code of the City of Miltonvale.

Be it further resolved that the City Clerk shall cause this Resolution to be published once in the official city paper and mail a copy to the owners, agents, lienholders, occupants and other parties in interest.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR, ON FEBRUARY 2, 2026.

Nathan Brummet, Mayor

ATTEST:

Amanda Blackwood, City Clerk
(SEAL)

1th

LAND AUCTION



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2/19/26 AT 10 AM

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STEVE SHAFFER, AGENT: 785.738.0037

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