

The Haskell County News
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The

HASKELL COUNTY NEWS

Monitor



Chief

Incorporating The Sublette Monitor (1921-1956) and The Satanta Chief (1919-1956)

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Thursday, October 8, 2026

Mountain Lion Reported on East Side of Satanta

By Faith BroKar

A mountain lion was reported on the east side of Satanta Monday morning, prompting local law enforcement to notify state wildlife officials and adding Haskell County to a growing number of recent mountain lion reports in Southwest Kansas.

According to information released by the Haskell County Sheriff's Office, the mountain lion was seen crossing U.S. Highway 56 on the east side of Satanta before traveling south. Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks game wardens were notified and were monitoring the area for additional reports.

The Satanta sighting comes after other recent



Stock photo of mountain lion

reports of mountain lions in Southwest Kansas, including a sighting near Liberal in August.

While seeing a mountain lion near a Southwest Kansas community may seem unusual, the animals are not entirely strangers to the region.

Mountain lions historically lived throughout Kansas and much

of North America. Their numbers declined dramatically during the 1800s as settlement expanded, habitat changed and the animals were subjected to widespread, unregulated hunting. According to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, the last documented mountain lion in Kansas during that era

was killed in Ellis County in 1904.

For roughly a century afterward, mountain lions were considered essentially absent from Kansas.

That began to change as mountain lion populations recovered in western states.

Wildlife officials have documented mountain lions relatively close to Kansas in Colorado, while animals have also been documented in the Oklahoma Panhandle. Another source of dispersing mountain lions has been the Black Hills region of South Dakota. Young mountain lions, particularly males, can travel extremely long distances after leaving the area where they were

born as they search for territory.

Those wandering animals can cover hundreds of miles and cross terrain that people might not normally associate with mountain lions. In Kansas, they may travel along river and creek corridors, wooded areas, grasslands and even across open agricultural fields.

That movement eventually brought the species back into Kansas records. The state's first confirmed mountain lion in modern times was documented in Barber County in 2007. Since then, KDWP has recorded more than 100 confirmed mountain lion observations in Kansas.

That number does not mean more than 100 different mountain lions have entered the state. A

single traveling animal can be photographed or otherwise documented several times as it moves across Kansas.

Southwest Kansas is particularly well positioned to receive occasional wandering mountain lions because established populations exist farther west and mountain lions are capable of traveling extraordinary distances while dispersing. KDWP noted as far back as 2008 that mountain lions occurred in Colorado within about 75 miles of the Southwest Kansas border and were appearing with increasing frequency in the Oklahoma Panhandle.

There is also an important distinction between mountain lions passing through Kan-

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Haskell County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes August 24, 2026

Marcus Rogge, District 1
Nicki McLain, District 2
Jerry Miller, District 3
Lynn Koehn, County Counselor

The Haskell County Commissioners, Jerry Miller, Marcus Rogge, and Nicki McLain met in regular session with the County Counselor and County Clerk. Commis-

sioner Miller called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Commissioner McLain opened the meeting with prayer.

DEBRA BROWN, EMERGENCY SERVICES:

Debra Brown, Emergency Services met with Commissioners to discuss monthly reports.

A motion was made by Commissioner McLain to appoint Bryce Birney as Assistant Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Director at a rate of 85,000.00 per year beginning August 30, 2026. Commissioner Rogge seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Miller to send Debra Brown Emergency Services and Bryce Birney, Assistant Emergency Management Services Director, to the annual KEMA in Manhattan August 31, 2026, through September 3, 2026. Commissioner McLain seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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A motion was made by Commissioner Miller to Designate Sue Stoppel and Martha Flores to witness the shredding of ballots. Commissioner McLain seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

TROY BRIGGS, SHERIFF:

Troy Briggs, Sheriff, met with the Commissioners to discuss weekly reports.

KELLY BROWN, ROAD AND BRIDGE SUPERVISOR:

Kelly Brown, Road and Bridge Supervisor, met with the Commissioners

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UPCOMING
EVENTS



Sublette Fall Fest

October 10 from 4 to 8 PM downtown in Sublette!

Sublette Christian Church Food Pantry

106 W. Carson Ave Thursday 11:00 AM to Noon. Other times by appointment. The pantry includes a box of food and a \$35 voucher for Venture Foods for fresh produce and frozen items.

Editor's Note

Please call or e-mail with any news. Telephone number and e-mail address are listed above. Any non-urgent news can also be dropped off at Sublette City Hall.

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