

Gascapades

By Shila Moore and Pam Brown

Continued from last week.

A Hermes article on December 17, 1926 reports the progress on Crawford No. 1 gas well. “The Phillip-Skinner-Independent Oil and Gas Company, Crawford No. 1, located in the center of SW ¼ of Section 31-33-37, have run the big pipe, and are now drilling ahead at about 250 feet. The drillers had encountered quicksand before

the pipe could be had and the well necessarily had to be shut down for a few days, however, everything is going ahead at this time. We are advised that the Gypsy Oil Company, which is owned by Melon interest, has entered Stevens County and has purchased several leases. Also the Blackwell Oil and Gas Company, The Gypsy Oil Co. is one of the largest companies in the Mid-Continent Field and we are glad to see that they have faith in the possibil-

ities of our county. The present outlook for development in Stevens County for 1927 is very good and we anticipate more activity in the first quarter of the year.”

As I wrote last week, the Crawford No. 1 gas well was located on land owned by Robert M. Crawford who was a prominent citizen of Stevens County. He was born in Saline County, Kansas, in 1870, moving to Stevens County with his parents and siblings

in 1887. During his early years here, he did freighting from Hartland, broke prairie sod with a walking plow, owned and operated a barber shop in Hugoton and in Liberal. He eventually acquired large land holdings and operated a large cattle ranch south of Hugoton. He became the largest land owner in the county.

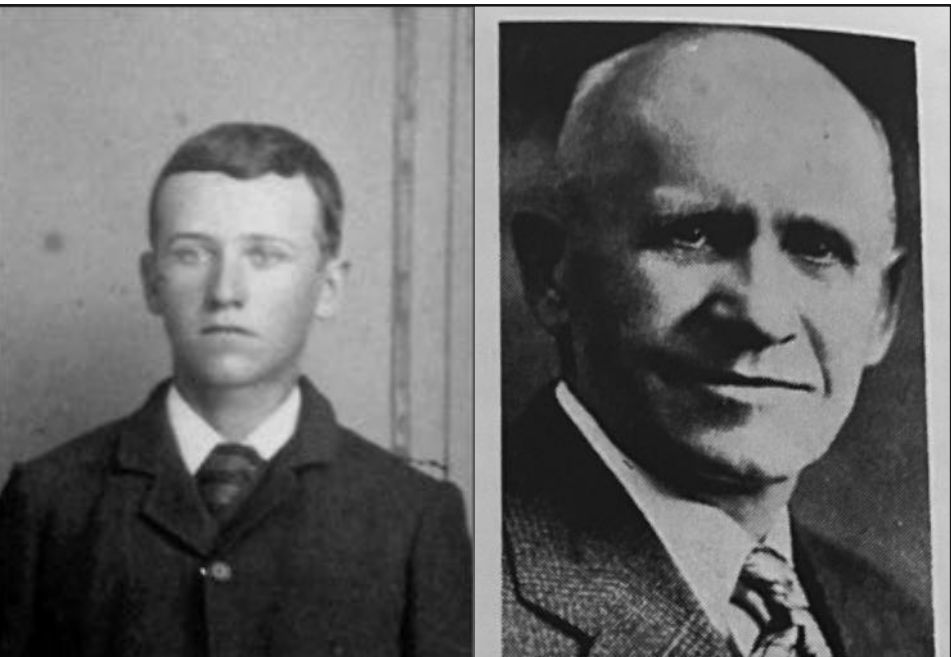
Robert was once appointed and three times elected county treasurer

of Stevens County. He was six times elected to represent the county in the state legislature, serving on banking and finance committees. Robert was vice-president and one of the active managers of The Citizens Bank. He carried on a large loan, abstract and insurance business of his own. He was also a director in the Farmers and Bankers Life Insurance Co. of Wichita and associated in many other

enterprises. *(Taken from Hugoton Hermes, April 20, 1934)*

You may be asking, “Is Robert M. Crawford related to the Crawford family who live in Hugoton?” Find out next week. To be continued ... Please email me your personal stories and photos of the gas and oil field. Thank you!

shilamoore007@gmail.com



Two photos of Robert M. Crawford. The younger one (left) is from around 1887. It is from *familysearch.org*. Photo on the (right) was taken around 1930 taken from the book *Stevens County and Its People*.

History from the Hermes

Thursday, July 28, 2011
Average retail gasoline prices in Kansas have risen 2.8 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$3.62/g. The national average is \$3.69/g.

Thursday, August 3, 2006
Amid trappings of the “Wizard of Oz” movie, Kaiti Hemann was crowned the 2006 Sorghum Queen. First Princess was Taylor Con-cannon, Second Princess was Sheena Shuck and Miss Congeniality was Tawnie Burrows.

Thursday, July 25, 1996
Leaders of the Hugoton FFA Chapter attended the 38th Annual State FFA Conference for Chapter Leaders, July 11-13 1996 at Barton County Community College and Camp Aldrich in Great Bend. Over 500 FFA

members and advisors from 77 chapters registered for the three-day activity. The conference is open to Kansas FFA chapter officers and provides the opportunity to develop leadership qualities which will effectively help them lead their local chapters.

Thursday, August, 1991
MM3 Micheal W. Billings, son of Susie Billings of Colorado Springs Co., and Lynn Billings of Lakin, nephew of Bob and Rachel Sterwart and a 1987 graduate of Rolla High School, is stationed with the U.S. Navy in Orlando Fl.

Micheal graduated from Nuclear Field “A” School June 13 and began Naval Nuclear Power School July 26.

Thursday, July 31, 1986
The Southwest Kansas Little League All-Stars, led by the pitching and batting of Chay Gillespie, defeated the Hoisington Little Leaguers 12-4 in the Championship of Western Kansas. Defensively, the Southwest Kansas team shut out Hoisington for the first 2 innings to take an 8-0 lead into the third inning.

Thursday, August 5, 1976
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Lamont, 515 French, never have to buy sun-flower seeds - they just grow their own. Mrs. Lamont took special care during the drought and managed to grow nine and ten foot tall sunflowers.

Thursday, August 5, 1971
The Prairie Dusters Motorcycle Club will present motorcycle races Sunday, August 8. Races will begin at 1 p.m. A concession stand and bleachers will be provided. Cycle riders from Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and Colorado will be present to participate in the event. Admission to the motorcycle races will be \$1.00

If any readers have pictures or memories for the history page of the Hermes, please bring them in to the staff at The Hugoton Hermes newspaper.

GASCAPADES

100 YEARS

OF THE HUGOTON GAS FIELD
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JULY 24 – 31, 2027

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TO SEE DURING
THE 2027
GASCAPADES?

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Gas Capital Historical Society, Inc.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(First published in The Hugoton Hermes, Thursday, July 30, 2026)

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State of Kansas
Budget Form USD-A

USD #209
2026-2027

Notice of Hearing 2026-2027 Budget

The governing body of Unified School District 209 will meet on the 10th day of August 2026 at 6:45 PM at Moscow Public Schools Community Room, Moscow, KS 67952 for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to be levied. Detailed budget information, including budget profile, building needs assessment and Board state assessments review is available at USD 209 District Office on the district website and will be available at this hearing.
The Amount of 2026 Tax to be Levied and Expenditures (published below) establish the maximum limits of the 2026-2027 Budget. The 'Est. Tax Rate' (column 7), shown for comparative purposes, is subject to slight change depending on final assessed valuation.

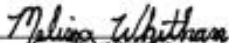
		2024-2025 Actual		2025-2026 Actual		2026-2027 Proposed Budget		
	Code 99 Line	Actual Expenditures (1)	Actual Tax Rate* (2)	Actual Expenditures (3)	Actual Tax Rate* (4)	Budgeted Expenditures (5)	Amount of 2026 Tax to be Levied (6)	Est. Tax Rate* (7)
OPERATING								
General	06	1,878,889	20.000	1,969,742	20.000	2,226,841	558,141	20.000
Supplemental General (LOB)	08	575,056	23.820	701,894	24.976	744,127	661,940	22.283
SPECIAL REVENUE								
Federal Funds	07	191,014		161,578		139,873		
Adult Education	10	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Preschool-Aged At-Risk	11	40,123		40,385		53,587		
Adult Supplemental Education	12	0		0		0		
At-Risk Education Fund	13	374,794		231,250		467,284		
Bilingual Education	14	60,771		44,322		101,954		
Virtual Education	15	0		0		0		
Capital Outlay	16	454,969	7.988	479,857	8.000	617,250	237,849	8.000
Driver Training	18	4,338		4,358		10,679		
Declining Enrollment	19	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Extraordinary School Program	22	0		0		0		
Food Service	24	229,556		233,298		274,292		
Professional Development	26	4,383		5,103		5,756		
Parent Education Program	28	0		0		0		
Summer School	29	0		0		0		
Special Education	30	170,879		169,379		343,823		
Cost of Living	33	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Career and Postsecondary Education	34	54,478		15,586		74,421		
Gifts and Grants	35	111,659		116,520		128,608		
Special Liability Expense Fund	42	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Extraordinary Growth Facilities	45	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Special Reserve Fund	47	0		0		223,391		
KPERS Special Retirement Contribution	51	201,306		211,594				
Contingency Reserve	53	0		0				
Textbooks & Student Material Revolving	54	759		4,314				
Activity Fund	56	36,267		43,505				
DEBT SERVICE								
Bond and Interest #1	62	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Bond and Interest #2	63	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
No-Fund Warrant	66	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Special Assessment	67	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Temporary Note	68	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
COOPERATIVES*								
Special Education	78	0		0		0		
TOTAL USD EXPENDITURES	100	4,389,251	51.808	4,432,483	52.976	5,411,886	1,457,730	50.283
Less: Transfers	105	919,684		787,578		754,116		
NET USD EXPENDITURES	110	3,469,567		3,644,905		4,657,770		
TOTAL USD TAXES LEVIED	115	1,437,948		1,339,134		1,457,730		

1. Sponsoring District Only

*Tax Rates are expressed in Mills

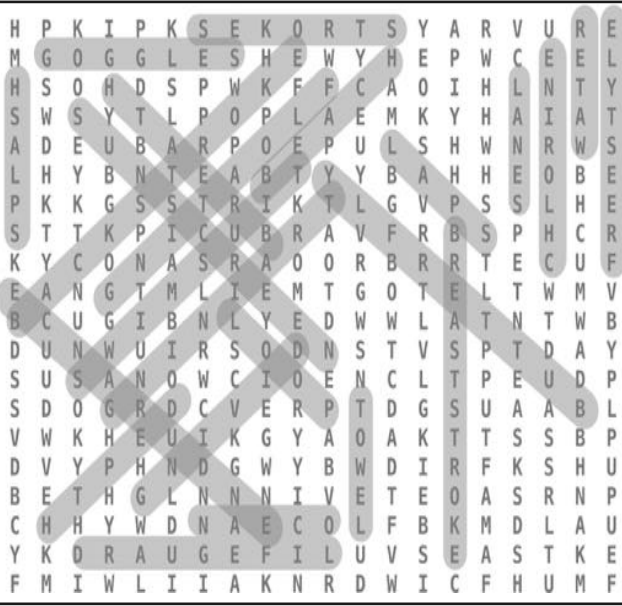
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	Code 99 Line	Actual Expenditures (1)	Actual Tax Rate* (2)	Actual Expenditures (3)	Actual Tax Rate* (4)	Budgeted Expenditures (5)	Amount of 2026 Tax to be Levied (6)	Est. Tax Rate* (7)
OTHER								
Historical Museum	60	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Public Library Board/District	62	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Public Library Board Employee Benefits	63	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Recreation Commission	84	127,465	2.996	87,731	3.000	110,850	89,117	3.000
Rec Comm Emp Benefits & Spec Lab	86	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
TOTAL OTHER	120	127,465	2.996	87,731	3.000	110,850	89,117	3.000
TOTAL TAXES LEVIED	125	\$1,527,592		\$1,417,252		\$1,548,841		
Assessed Valuation - General Fund	126	\$22,511,345		\$24,046,470		\$27,807,945		
Assessed Valuation - All Other Funds	130	\$24,101,302		\$25,899,314		\$26,706,106		
Assessed Valuation - Capital Outlay	129	\$24,101,302		\$25,899,314		\$26,706,106		
Outstanding Indebtedness, July 1		2024		2025		2026		
General Obligation Bonds	135	0		0		0		
Capital Outlay Bonds	140	0		0		0		
Temporary Note	145	0		0		0		
No-Fund Warrant	150	0		0		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	153	0		0		0		
TOTAL USD DEBT	155	0		0		0		
*Tax Rates are expressed in Mills								


Board President


Clerk of the Board

Exceeding Revenue Neutral for the 2026-2027 School Year							
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	Revenue Neutral			Revenue Neutral			
		2025-2026		2026-2027			
	Actual Taxes Levied (1)	Actual Tax Rate (2)	Revenue Neutral Taxes (3)	Revenue Neutral Tax Rate (4)	Proposed Taxes to be Levied (5)	Proposed Tax Rate (6)	
General	\$480,929	20.000	\$436,166	21.896	\$558,141	20.000	
ALL OTHER FUNDS							
Supplemental General (LOB)	\$649,995	24.976	\$591,875	27.415	\$661,940	22.283	
Adult Education	\$0	0.000			\$0	0.000	
Capital Outlay	\$208,210	8.000	\$186,826	8.695	\$237,849	8.000	
Cost of Living	\$0	0.000			\$0	0.000	
Special Liability Expense Fund	\$0	0.000			\$0	0.000	
Extraordinary Growth Facilities	\$0	0.000			\$0	0.000	
Bond and Interest #1	\$0	0.000			\$0	0.000	
Bond and Interest #2	\$0	0.000			\$0	0.000	
No-Fund Warrant	\$0	0.000			\$0	0.000	
Special Assessment	\$0	0.000			\$0	0.000	
Temporary Note	\$0	0.000			\$0	0.000	
Historical Museum	\$0	0.000			\$0	0.000	
Public Library Board/District	\$0	0.000			\$0	0.000	
Public Library Board Employee Benefits	\$0	0.000			\$0	0.000	
Revenue Neutral Calculation							
Total Taxes Levied Including General Fund	\$1,339,134	52.976	\$1,219,667	58.000	\$1,457,730	50.283	
Total Taxes Levied Excluding General Fund	\$858,205	32.976	\$793,701	36.110	\$899,589	30.283	



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