



City Council gathers in September for monthly meeting

The city council met in regular session Tuesday, September 8 with Mayor Matt Rome; Councilmen Dean Banker, Dustin Johnson, Tony Martin and Brad Niehues present. Councilman Chris Harper was absent.

Others present were City Clerk Carrie Baeza, Outside Utili-



Landri Miller of Hugoton places third at the State Pedal Tractor Pull!!! She is the daughter of Cuylor and Brittany Miller. Congratulations Landri!!! Photo courtesy of Grandma Sue Lipp.

ties Supervisor Robert Smith, City Inspector Josh Grubbs, City Attorney Nathan Foreman, Golf Course Superintendent Braden Harbour, Marcus Amerin, Pat Hall and Dylissa Hill and her son.

Mayor Matt Rome presided.

The Council approved the minutes of the meeting of August 3, 2026 as amended.

Each member of the governing body was provided with a copy of Municipal Judge Damon Simmons' report for the month of August, showing 14

new cases brought before the court and \$1,736. remitted to the city. The Council voted to accept the report.

City Inspector Josh Grubbs presented his monthly activities report.

Kendra Lewis had contacted the clerk about Pink Friday event in November. Issue was tabled to October.

Angela Heger contacted the City Clerk to request the use of all four blocks of Raydene Park for the Community Christmas Lights. The Councilmen voted to allow the use of all

four blocks of Raydene Park and that the city will be providing the utilities.

Angela Heger also wanted to put on the council radar that they are wanting to have an event in December with food trucks, booths and hayrides. This was tabled to the October 5 meeting to allow a representative to be present for questions.

Dylissa Hill came to request the ability to house an exotic pet in the city limits. The current ordinance does not allow for any such animal. City

Attorney Foreman will work on an ordinance to be passed in October to address issues for pets.

At 5:45 p.m. the Mayor called the Budget 2027 Public Hearing to order. City Clerk Baeza reviewed the budget with the council and the financial needs of the city. The proposed budget would lower the city revenue by \$27,707, lowering the mill levy to 30.533. This would be a decrease of approximately \$14 on a \$100,000 house. The Council approved the 2027 Budget setting the mill levy to 30.533.

Golf Course Board President Marcus Amerin presented the council with two bids for traveling sprinklers.

After discussion, because these purchases were budgeted for in 2027, no action will be taken until then.

Amerin also informed the council they have a test GPS unit on one of the golf carts. The board also has an updated Golf Course Superintendent job description.

The Council approved Ordinance 864 AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE OPERATION OF ELECTRIC MOBILITY DEVICES WITHIN THE CITY OF HUGOTON, KANSAS; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS; AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CON-

See CITY COUNCIL page 6

Annual Health Fair is Saturday

Stevens County Healthcare is offering their annual Health Fair for 2026, September 19 from 7:00 a.m. to noon. The event will be at Hugoton High/Middle School Cafeteria.

The Masonic Cancer Alliance with their "Hope on Wheels" mobile cancer screening bus will be at the health fair. The bus will be there from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Doctors from KU Medical Center and The

University of Kansas Health System will offer free skin cancer screenings, prostate cancer screenings and take-home colorectal cancer screening kits. No insurance is required.

Questions or for more information contact Camee at 620-544-8563. You can pre-register at the Stevens County Hospital, Medical Clinic or Retail Pharmacy before September 18 at 4:00 p.m.



Congratulations to the Hugoton High School band on receiving a 1+ Rating in Hutchinson at the Kansas State Fair Marching Competition!!! Photo courtesy of Greg O'Loughlin.



Great American Kites & Events filled the air with beautiful kites for the annual start to the High Plains Music Fest and Fall Fling Saturday. Large crowds of visitors fill the fields oohing and ahhhhing, watching the amazing displays.

Snake Bite Task Force: Stevens County Hospital, Seaboard Energy and Flora Food Group team up

Did you know there are about 4000 rattlesnake bites a year? Have you ever seen a rattlesnake firsthand, or heard of someone that has? Unfortunately, we live in rattlesnake country, and this time of year increases your chances of seeing a snake due to changing weather and outdoor activities (hunting, harvest, etc.).

Rest assured, Stevens County Hospital is equipped with antivenom to get treatment started as

soon as possible after a rattlesnake bite. Per Poison Control's website, you should seek treatment as soon as possible and DO NOT panic.

We are excited to partner with Seaboard Energy and Flora Food Group to house 2 full doses of antivenom in Stevens County. This is a huge investment in our community to allow our providers and nurses to begin treatment as quickly as possible to slow or stop the swelling and tissue damage.

Stevens County Hospital wants to thank these community businesses for their financial support! This would not have been possible without them!

The CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) recommends a few things to prevent venomous snake bites including: Do not touch or handle snakes, stay away from tall grass, be alert around dusk and dawn, and wear protective clothing like long pants and boots

when working outdoors.

Stay safe, and thanks again to Seaboard Energy and Flora Food Group for their partnership!

References: https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2838187#google\_vignette https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/outdoor-workers/about/venomous-snakes.html https://www.poisn.org/articles/rattlesnakes



Pictured from the left are Maddie Rome, Kristin Harbour and Ty Hudgins from Seaboard Energy and Dawn Maas. Photo courtesy of Stevens County Hospital.



Pictured from the left are Laci Kinser, Zach Long from Flora Foods and Jennifer Featherston. Photo courtesy of Stevens County Hospital.



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