

Winter vehicle maintenance starts now

Changing seasons expose vehicles to various conditions throughout the year. Although severe weather can occur at any time, the winter is known to be particularly harsh and can make it hard for a vehicle to function properly.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says winter weather can cause extremely dangerous road conditions. An estimated 320 fatal traffic crashes occurred in the United States in 2023, and 22,293 injuries happened when there was snow or sleet conditions at the time of the crash. It is essential that drivers prepare their vehicles for winter weather. Properly winterizing a car can help prevent breakdowns and accidents, and also potentially save drivers from being stranded in the cold.

Here are some winter car maintenance tips to consider before the first storm of the season, courtesy of AAA and State Farm®.

- Test the battery. A driver needs a battery to be fully charged and in good condition to start the engine on cold winter mornings. Colder temperatures cause chemical reactions within the battery, which can make electricity slow down and hinder the vehicle's ability to reach maximum power. Check the battery prior to winter, and replace it, if necessary.
- Check fluids. Part of

winter preparation is ensuring that all of the car's fluids are at the right levels and appropriate for low temperatures. This includes engine oil, windshield washer fluid, and antifreeze.

- Schedule a maintenance checkup. A mechanic can look at hoses and belts to check that they are in good working order. Cold temperatures can make belts and hoses more brittle and prone to breaking.
- Apply a windshield repellent. Scraping ice and snow off of windshields on winter mornings can be a frustrating and arduous task. Adding hydrophobic repellent like Rain-X to the windshield can make it easier to remove ice later on.
- Maintain tire pressure. As outside temperatures drop, so does tire pressure. Routinely check and inflate tires to the recommended pressure listed on a label located on the driver's side door frame.
- Inspect the wiper blades. Seeing clearly out of the windshield is important for safe winter driving. In addition to a properly working defroster, drivers will need wiper blades that can remove rain and snow. If any streaks or skips occur while using the wipers, it might be time for a new set.
- Conduct a brake check. A combination of snow, moisture, and salt on roads can contribute to rust on brakes and ro-

tors. Symptoms of brake issues include noises, sticking brake pads, and slower stop times. Before the thick of winter, drivers are urged to have their brakes checked by a

professional.

Winter is on the horizon, and vehicle owners should prepare their cars and trucks now for the rough weather to come.



Holly, Joshua, Clayton and Alivia Grubbs attend the U Scholarship meeting at the Hugoton High School September 16. There were 84 seniors offered a total of 4,642 scholarships on that day. Photo courtesy of Beth Settlemeyer.



Students gather to learn how much college is actually going to cost them. Through a partnership with VU Scholarships, students were matched with colleges where they alray qualify for merit-based aid. Pictured above is Ethan Bowers with his information. Photo courtesy of Beth Settlemeyer.



Valeria Peinado and Madai Ortiz are among the 84 seniors tht attended the meeting with VU Scholarship September 16. Rather than applying and hoping for financial support, students can now explore their options knowing what's available to them. Photo courtesy of Beth Settlemeyer.



Brandon Gomez Morelos proudly displays his information beside his mother. Students walked away with \$209,824,436 in potential scholarship funding. Photo courtesy of Beth Settlemeyer.

PUBLIC NOTICE

First Published in the Hugoton Hermes on Thursday, October 1, 2026. 3t

IN THE TWENTY-SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT OF STEVENS COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF)
)
CONNEE JOY ROME) Case No. SV-2026-CV-000020
)
To Change Petitioner's Birth Name to:)
)
CONNEE JOY CHAMBERLAIN)
Petition Pursuant to KSA Chapter 60)

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL WHO ARE OR MAY BE CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that Connee Joy Rome, filed a Petition in the above court on the 18th day of September 2026, requesting a judgment and order changing her birth name on her birth record from Connie Joy Chamberlain to Connee Joy Chamberlain and retaining her current married name of Connee Joy Rome.

The Petition will be heard in the Stevens County, Kansas District Court, 200 East 6th Street, Hugoton, Kansas 67951, on the 17th day of November, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

If you have any objection to the requested name change, you are required to file a responsive pleading on or before November 17, 2026, in this court or appear at the hearing and object to the requested name change. If you fail to act, judgment and order will be entered upon the Petition as requested by Petitioner.

/s/ Jeremiah Johnson
Jeremiah Johnson, #21968
Graber & Johnson Law Group, LLC
701 Vilymaca, PO Box 450
Elkhart, KS 67950
(620) 697-2163
Attorneys for Petitioner

GCCC SGA to host Halloween Fest Trunk or Treat October 30

Garden City Community College's Student Government Association (SGA) is excited to host the 5th Annual Halloween Fest Trunk or Treat Friday, October 30, 2026, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM in the GCCC Transportation Building.

This community event is open to the public with free admission. Atten-

dees can enjoy hot chocolate, candy, games, and activities for all ages!

For more information or questions, please contact Kellee Munoz, SGA Sponsor, at kellee.munoz@gcccks.edu.

We Don't Clown Around

When it comes to bringing you accurate and timely news we take our business SERIOUSLY.

Check us Out!

The Hugoton Hermes

Private Auction

312 +/- acres Farmland

Includes Sellers Mineral Interest

Seward County, KS &

Tract 2: Stevens County Producing Minerals

Bidding will be by phone. Bids are now being accepted. Soft Close of bidding is at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, October 13, 2026. Call early to Register and Bid

2 S Kansas Ave Liberal, KS 67901

To Register or Bid, Call Agent:

Evan Winchester (620)629-1185

More Information at: hregliberal.com

Grace in the Autumn Air

Taking time to enjoy the sights of autumn gives us a front row seat to God's quiet handiwork each day. Whether watching newly fallen leaves drift to the ground or feeling the crisp coolness of the morning breeze, these simple sensory moments carry a steady presence of grace. When we slow down enough to notice creation, our everyday routines turn into opportunities for quiet wonder. Pausing to take in autumn beauty grounds our hearts in gratitude for the God who holds every changing season in His hands.

-James Stone

"How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures."

Psalm 104:24 (NIV)

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Main and Second Street 620-544-2773

Tim Singer, Pastor

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.

Life Groups Sunday Nights - 6:00 p.m.

Inside Out Kids Wed. - 6:30 p.m.

Student Ministry @ The Turnaround - Wed. 7:00 p.m.

HugotonAssembly.com

BETHEL FRIENDS CHURCH

11th & Jefferson - 620-544-8517

Pastor Chris Stanfield

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.

Morning Service - 10:30 a.m.

Wed Evening Ministries - 6:30 p.m.

(Children, Youth, & Adult)

CHURCH OF CHRIST

1045 S. Van Buren - 620-544-2825

Tommy Craiker Home: 620-453-0965

Wednesday - 7:00 p.m.

Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship - 11:00 a.m.

Evening Service - 6:00 p.m.

CITIZENS STATE BANK

601 S. Main, Hugoton

620-544-4331

Member FDIC

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

520 E. First - 620-544-2125

Sacrament - 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School - 11:00 a.m.

Priesthood - 11:00 a.m.

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

500 S. Van Buren - 620-544-2493

Pastor Dave Piper

Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.

Evening Services - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

600 S. Van Buren - 620-544-2715

Pastor Bergan Morris

Sunday School - 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Fellowship - 10:15 - 10:30 a.m.

Worship Hour - 10:30 - 12:00

Children's Church, 10:30 a.m.

Jr. High Youth Group, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Sr. High Youth Group, 7:45-9:00 p.m.

Information on small groups call 620-544-2715

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

801 W. City Limits 620-544-2652

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Evening Service - 6:30 p.m.

Facebook Livestream -

First Church of God-Hugoton

HUGOTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Eighth and Main

620-544-2210

Pastor Gary Stafford

Parsonage - 620-544-2295

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

LONE STAR FRIENDS CHURCH

14 Miles East of Hugoton on Highway 51

Church 620-624-3784

Home 620-624-3104

Pastor James Tower

Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.

Blended Worship Celebration - 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evening Kid's Club - 6:30 p.m.

MY FATHER'S HOUSE

A Full Gospel Church

207 East 6th - Hugoton 620-544-2436

Pam Peachey, Pastor

Services Sundays 10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

SOVEREIGN REDEEMER CHURCH

Tenth and Adams 620-544-6386

Pastor - Zachary Johnson

Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.

Coffee/Fellowship - 10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.

www.sovereignredeemerchurch.org

ST. HELEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

1011 South Jefferson Street

620-544-2551

Sunday - 9:00 a.m. English Mass - 11:00 a.m. - Spanish Mass

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Terry Miller, Pastor

516 N.E. Avenue 620-453-2212

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.

YOU ARE WELCOME!

HUGOTON METHODIST CHURCH

828 S. Main Hugoton 620-544-8715

Pastor David Kang

Wednesday Praise! Kids - 3:45 p.m.

Wed. Jr. High Youth Fellowship - 6:00 p.m.

Wed. Sr. High Youth Fellowship - 7:00 p.m.

Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship - 11:00 a.m.

MOSCOW BAPTIST CHURCH

620-598-2455 Church

1 mile S. of Moscow, 1/2 mile E. of Moscow/Hooker Rd.

Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.

Team Kids (Wed.) - 3:30-5:30p.m. Sept.-Apr.

Youth Study Thursday - 7:00 p.m.

MOSCOW CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

620-598-2426

Worship Leader: Patty Lahey 620-544-9365

Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship - 11:00 a.m.

Kid's Club - Wednesday 3:30 p.m.

ROLLA PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS CHURCH

Corner of Third and Adams, Rolla

Marcus Light, Pastor

Church - 620-593-4626

Parsonage - 620-593-4796

Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.

Worship - 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday night meal - 6:00 p.m.

ROLLA METHODIST CHURCH

620-593-4596

Pastor David Kang

Morning Worship - 9:00 a.m.

RICHFIELD COMMUNITY METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Mary Kudakwashe

Morning Worship - 9:00 a.m.

FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES

Jeff C. Ramsey Agent

613 S. Main, Hugoton

620-544-4303

THE HUGOTON HERMES

522 S. Main, Hugoton

620-544-4321

EQUITY BANK

502 S. Jackson, Hugoton

620-544-8908

Member FDIC

ALERT ALARM COMPANY

Moscow, Kansas

620-598-2564

AlertAlarmKansas.com