



Mowing bids awarded; DeMeritt promoted to Fulltime City Court Clerk

By EDDIE HIBBS III
Record Publisher & Owner

After receiving very few complaints, if any, according to city council members, lawn care maintenance of the East Hill Cemetery will remain with the two individuals who provided the service a year ago.

After accepting bids for mowing at the two cemeteries (old and new), Andrea Bohrer was the lone bid on just the old section of the cemetery at \$22,000 (\$2,000 higher than a year ago). Jenna Buffington won the bid on the new portion of the cemetery at the same price as she did it last year at \$10,000. Overall, the city received six total bids.

ERIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Erie Police Department Secretary Morgan DeMeritt is now the city's fulltime court clerk following action at Monday's meeting.

After a five-minute executive session at the request of Chief of Police Brett Ross, the council voted unanimously to his request on Demeritt and removing Kelly Daniels as the active city court clerk. Daniels, the previous Erie PD secretary, was assisting in the training and transitioning of DeMeritt.

As part of his normal two-page handout, Ross shared the calls the police department received from Feb. 23-March 9. The report noted the department: had one traffic stop, one animal control, one medical, one misuse of 911, and one possible stolen vehicle while also providing five dog tags and 26 VINs. Of the six calls reported to the police department, Ross handled all but one of the calls:

Feb. 24 - Ross responded to a medical call in the 100 block of South Lincoln;

March 2 - Ross responded to a juvenile issue in the 400 block of North Grant;

March 5 - Ross handled an animal control call in the 200 block of W. 4th;

March 5 - The police department provided a welfare check in the 500 block of North Main, which was the one call Ross didn't handle himself;

March 5 - Ross responded to a harassment complaint in the 500 block of Webster Court; and

March 5 - Ross responded to a complaint of fraud involving a Chanute resident.

CODE ENFORCEMENT/ ZONING

Code Enforcer Andrew Buffington shared he has paperwork on two vehicles and asked the council if they wanted to proceed.

"Are we concentrating just on vehicles?" asked the newest member of the Erie City Council, Jerry Moses, who started his term with the first meeting in January.

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Library seeks permission to consider remodelling project

By EDDIE HIBBS III
Record Publisher & Owner

Steve Mattox was one of four individuals listed on "Public Comments" for Monday's meeting of the Erie City Council. Jessica Yarnell, representing the Erie Library, and Erie Area Chamber of Commerce President Linda Weidert, were listed as well.

This reporter was added to the agenda at the start of the meeting.

Mattox had a request of putting up a street light on property he is developing south of Highland Dairy. He has submitted a building permit for his project, but needs to make an adjustment to his plans.

"I have to move everything," he shared, then asked "how much trouble would it be to put up a couple of poles and lights?"

City Superintendent Jake Tromsness responded that the placement of one pole and light system would not be a problem and he would coordinate with Mattox.

Yarnell's request was a little more complicated. She was basically seeking what was the Library Board's responsibility as to "maintenance" of the building, which is owned by the City of Erie, and what is the city's responsibility?

She shared the library board had an interest in possible remodeling the library and adding some shelves, including an upgrade to the kitchen area.

"Before we do all this, we do want to have an inspection," she added. "Is the city responsible for this, or just the outside? We know the city owns the building, so we just want to understand the responsibilities."

City Superintendent Jake Tromsness first responded.

"The way I understand it," he began, "the city superintendent is responsible for the maintenance."

Yarnell was asked if she planned on hiring a contractor for the possible project.

"We were going to talk to Kyle," she answered, referencing Kyle Buntin of Buntin Construction, one of the five council members.

City Attorney Melissa Miller shared the library does have a budget, but suggested the library board obtain approval from the city before doing any remodeling.

While Weidert was not present for the meeting, Mayor Lester "Butch" Klingenberg shared details on what she was seeking - loud speakers for a three-block area on Main Street.

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Erie High School wins big at State Leadership Conference

Erie High School took home top honors at the Kansas HOSA State Leadership Conference held this past weekend in Wichita. Competing against future health professionals from across the state, Kylie Hodgden, senior, secured first place in Dental Terminology and top 10 in Dental Science; Jaylee Kramer, senior, first place in Medical Assisting, Team E.C.H.O. comprised of sophomores, Devaj Bhakta, Jaycee Cunningham, Ava Favela, Camryn Tromsness, and Terynie Turner, secured third place in Community Awareness; Hadleigh Chism, freshman, Top 10 in Respiratory Therapy, and Taeleigh Shultz Top 10 in Clinical Laboratory Science during HOSA-Future Health Professionals' milestone 50th Anniversary year.

The State Leadership Conference brought together more than 1200 students to compete in skill-based and leadership events ranging from CPR/First Aid to Medical Innovation. This year's event was particularly significant as it celebrated five decades of HOSA's im-

pact on the healthcare industry. Members demonstrated not only technical competence but also the teamwork and communication skills required for the modern healthcare workforce.

"I am so proud with how well our students competed with confidence. This goes to show that hard work and dedication pay off. Our students were competing against all school sizes, 1A-6A. My students now realize it doesn't matter the size of the school it matters how hard you work and that they can be successful coming from a smaller school!" said Stephanie Stark, HOSA Advisor at Erie High School.

By placing in the top tier of their events they have qualified to advance to the HOSA International Leadership Conference (ILC) in Indianapolis this June. They will join thousands of delegates from around the world to compete for international recognition. Representing Erie at the ILC is a significant achievement that highlights the quality of Career and Technical Education programs at Erie High

School.

"Preparing our Community Awareness project was very stressful but hearing our names announced made me realize all of our hard work paid off and now we are going to Internationals!" said Devaj Bhakta.

He continued to say, "If you would like to help Erie High School HOSA students go to the International HOSA competition in June or hear about Team E.C.H.O.'s project or any of the events the students are competing in contact Stephanie Stark, EHS HOSA advisor at sstark@usd101.com or call the high school at (620) 244-3287."

HOSA-Future Health Professionals is a global student-led organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services. HOSA's mission is to empower HOSA-Future Health Professionals to become leaders in the global health community, through education, collaboration, and experience.



PHILLIP PITT CAMPBELL

From a rural youth to U.S. Congressman

At a Glance: A story about a Neosho County boy who got a county school education in Neosho County and became a U.S. Congressman.

By WILLIAM COOK
MEM-Erie Historical Society

A Scottish farm boy from Walnut Grove Township in Neosho County, Kan. had a very interesting life and an outstanding group of descendants. He died in 1941 and his wife, Helen, died 20 years later. They are buried in National Memorial Park Cemetery in Falls Church, Va. His grandmother, Jessie Campbell; parents, Daniel and Mary Ann Campbell; and siblings, Alec Campbell and Dolena Campbell are buried in Bethel Cemetery just two miles west of the Campbell farm.

This story of Phillip Pitt Campbell begins in his ancestral homeland of Scotland. His parents and grandparents, the Campbell and McRae families, arrived in Nova Scotia, Canada prior to 1850. He was born on Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia on April 25, 1862 being the first born child of Daniel Campbell and Mary Ann (McRae) Campbell. The families arrived in Neosho County,

Kansas in 1867 when he was five years old.

The Campbell family settled on the southeast quarter of Section 6, Township 28 South, Range 21 East, which would be described today as being to the northwest of the intersection of Victory Road and 180th Road in Walnut Grove Township.

When Daniel and Mary Ann arrived with four children and his mother, Jessie Campbell, it was the very early period of settlement in Neosho County. The nearest towns were Fort Scott, Humboldt, St. Paul and the newly formed Town of Erie. As settlement had been opened following the signing of the Canville Treaty in September 1865, neighbors were few and far apart.

The creation of local one-room school houses was underway once enough settlers had arrived within a small area. Valley School District #58 constructed a school near the southeast corner of the Campbell farm. Life there had its ups and downs, though. The children grew in number for four to six by 1872. Phillip, Alec, little Mary Ann, Hannah, John and Dolena filled the home with their parents and grandmother Campbell.

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3 Rivers All League Basketball Teams announced

The 2026 Three Rivers League All Basketball Teams were announced this week. Both Erie and St. Paul high schools were represented well on both.

Erie's Nick Haviland and Beck Norris and Kingsten McCray, both of St. Paul, were selected to the boys' second team. The Red Devils also had two players - Quincy Brown and Evan Dillinger - earn Honorable Mention honors.

For the girls, Erie's Kaeleigh Daniels earned second team honors. St. Paul's Ava Dent was named to the first team while teammates Kaydra Mathis and Brittany Deegan earned honorable mention honors.

BOYS FIRST TEAM

Mario Davis, Pleasanton
Tyler Warner, Southeast
Blake Robinson, Southeast
Kole Walter, Crest
Lane Yocham, Crest
Colter Powell, Uniontown
Ben Cook, Yates Center
Reed Krull, Jayhawk Linn
BOYS SECOND TEAM
Kamden Staton, Pleasanton
Antonio Bustillos, Pleasanton

Nick Haviland, Erie
Tayven Willard, Northeast
Beck Norris, St. Paul
Kingsten McCray, St. Paul
Demitri Williamson, Oswego

HONORABLE MENTION

Garrett Conley, Pleasanton
Garrett Burger, Southeast
Clay Nichols, Jayhawk Linn
Quincy Brown, Erie
Evan Dillinger, Erie
Colt King, Central Heights
Garrett Morrison, Marmaton Valley
Kage Beck, Altoona Midway

GIRLS FIRST TEAM

Brenlyn Bogan, Jayhawk Linn
Aylee Beckmon, Crest
Brea Dawson, Jayhawk Linn
Brooklyn Jackson, Northeast
Kodi Trimble, Oswego
Ella Shelton, Uniontown
Ava Dent, St. Paul
Brilyn Bogan, Jayhawk Linn

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EHS Students Shine Again



Submitted photo

Erie High School HOSA is going to International HOSA! Senior Kylie Hodgden was top 10 in Dental Hygiene and first place in Dental Terminology. Senior Jaylee Kramer was first in Medical Assisting. Team E.C.H.O. comprised of sophomores Devaj Bhakta, Jaycee Cunningham, and Ava Favela. Camryn Tromsness and Terynie Turner took third place in Community Awareness. Freshmen Hadleigh Chism, Top 10 in Respiratory Therapy. Freshman Taeleigh Shultz Top 10 in Clinical Laboratories. These nine young individuals will be representing Erie High School and the state of Kansas in June in Indianapolis. In the photo the individuals from left: Jaylee Kramer, Kylie Hodgden, Taeleigh Shultz, Devaj Bhakta, Hadleigh Chism, Ava Favela, Jaycee Cunningham, Camryn Tromsness, Terynie Turner.