



Aging = Living Conference to Connect Older Adults, Caregivers, and Families with Valuable Resources

CHANUTE, — The Southeast Kansas Area Agency on Aging (SEKAAA) will host its annual “Aging = Living” Conference on Wednesday, Oct. 14, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the SEK Impact Center, located at 1500 W. 7th St. in Chanute.

The conference is designed to provide older adults, caregivers, families, and community members with information, resources, and connections to help individuals live healthy, active, and independent lives as they age.

“We are excited to continue our partnership with Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center Home Health & Horizon

Hospice as well as Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center Foundation.” Said Kathy Brennon, Executive Director of SEKAAA. “We all are very committed to provide information to older adults and their families to help them navigate the challenges and opportunities that come with aging.”

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about services, programs, and resources available to older adults and caregivers throughout Southeast Kansas. The event will also provide an opportunity to connect with organizations that support health, wellness, inde-

pendence, and quality of life.

As part of the conference, attendees will be able to meet a new doctor to NMRMC, Dr. Andrew Gaut, an ear, nose and throat ENT physician who recently joined Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center. Dr. Gaut will discuss the importance of hearing health as we age and how maintaining good hearing can contribute to overall wellbeing and quality of life.

The conference will feature informational presentations, community resources, and opportunities to visit with vendors who provide services and support for older adults and their families.

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Green Environmental driver earns rare national award

By EDDIE HIBBS III
Record Publisher & Owner

During special ceremonies at Horizon’s Wednesday during lunch, a local employee received a rare honor.

Michael Dozier, a 22-year driver and employee with Green Environmental Services, was recognized on being named a 2026 Netradyne Top Driver Award winner. He was the lone sanitation driver in the United States and Canada to receive the honor.

And his boss certainly agreed Dozier was worthy of such an award.

“Mike has showed up for work every day for 20-some years, in rain, snow, ice, freezing cold temps, 100-degree plus weather and got in and out of the truck 400 plus times, five days a week to pick people’s trash up!” said Jason “JT” Thompson, manager of Green Environmental Services. “He takes pride in his work! He cleans his truck so well, it actually looks new even after a couple years of use.

“And if you ever run his route and forget to bring dog treats, you have a lot of upset dogs. Dogs come a running when they hear Dozier pull up in his trash truck as they expect their treat that has been given to them for many years.

“But lest we forget why we



EDDIE HIBBS III/The Erie Record
Jason “JT” Thompson, left, local manager of Green Environmental Services, presents Mike Dozier the 2026 Netradyne Top Driver Award during ceremonies at Horizon’s Wednesday. Dozier has spent more than 22 years as a driver at Green Environmental Services.

are here. He’s been a very safe driver for his entire career. In the waste industry, our business is one of the top five most dangerous jobs there is. And don’t think the insurance companies don’t like to remind and charge us accordingly for!

“But, Michael has been a very safe and productive employee for us through the many years and I’m very happy he’s getting the attention he deserves! This is quite an honor to be chosen and proud to have one of our guys get this prestigious award.”

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City adopts 2027 budget proposal, considers grant

By EDDIE HIBBS III
Record Publisher & Owner

During a special meeting of the Erie City Council Monday night, city leaders formally approved the 2027 budget.

No residents showed to share their opinions on the budget and the matter was approved rather quickly.

The budget authority for expenditures in 2027 is listed at \$5,918,538. The estimate for the current year is \$4,065,346. The expenditures for 2025 was \$4,812,304.

Related to the actual numbers is the proposed estimated tax rate (expressed in mills). In 2025, the mill levy was 76.40; in 2026, the mill levy was 77.728; and for 2027, the mill levy is 75.58.

Cindy Friedrich made the motion to adopt the budget as proposed with a second by Steve Maher. The motion passed unanimously. This section of the meeting lasted only a couple of minutes.

The budget hearing appeared in the Sept. 11 edition of The Erie Record has required by state law.

The budget notice and hearing date is supposed to be published 10 days ahead of Sept. 20, but with that date being a Sunday, the city was allowed to conduct the meeting Monday, Sept. 21.

The budget was one of two items for the special meeting. The council also discussed a possible grant for repairs to Main Street south of 4th Street.

City Attorney Melissa Miller prepared a possible resolution, allowing the city to submit an application for the Kansas Department of Transportation

Cost Share Program for the resurfacing of South Main from 4th Street to the south city limits.

“Nothing ventured, nothing gained,” said council member Jason “JT” Thompson.

Acting City Superintendent Kent Ford highlighted how he felt would be the city’s best approach to the project, including addressing the sewer lines in the area if the project is approved.

“We are going to have some sewer lines to repair,” he said.

“It is definitely going to be a problem (old sewer lines), if not already,”

council member and former city superintendent, Jerry Moses, added.

“We have to get it first,” reminded council member Kyle Buntin.

Ford then added that the city has to start looking at the sewer lines pretty quick.

Buntin then inquired if all other (street) projects would be placed on hold until the city learns if they were approved or not for the grant.

Most likely the city would not start the project, if approved, until the winter of 2027-28.

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Submitted photo
The Erie High School cross country team, from left: coach Trent Toth, Lydea Hendrickson, Liam Smith, Zein Higin, Anthony Pasquarelli, Parker Hawkinson, Isaac Myers, Easton Corbett, Trystin Agee, Easton Harris-Sinclair, Colt Corbett, coach Kyle Carpenter, and Anna Myers.

Erie High runners capture 1st place

By KYLE CARPENTER
EHS Cross Country Coach

On Thursday, Sept. 17, Erie High School Cross Country traveled to Oswego to compete in the Oswego Cross Country Invitational. This race is held on the golf course in Oswego, which doesn’t have any steep hills, but it does have some very long hills.

The race time was moved to 8:30 in the morning in order to cope with the extreme temperatures we are still facing.

Despite the temperatures and the time change, our kids were able to stay focused and perform at their best. I was pleased with the results.

Our varsity boys team won first place at the meet, scoring

the fewest points out of any school. In cross country, the scorekeeper adds together the finishing places of your top five runners. At the end of the meet, whoever finishes their five kids faster, and therefore scores the least points, wins. I like this scoring method because it means that no matter what place you are in the race, you matter to the team’s score. Our boys fought hard in their individual battles, and I was very glad to see them come away with the win.

Trystin Agee, sophomore, finished the varsity race in a time of 23:02 and placed 10th, earning a medal. Trystin continues to work hard, and we’re glad to see his effort pay off.

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