Drive-in theater continued from page 4

drive-in show, and I am now teaching the next generation how we do a proper drive-in show."

That family line of succession is something many drive-in theaters lack, Neal said. As a member of the United Drive-In Theater Owners Association, he said the organization knows that's a problem.

"So as each year goes by, those owners get older and older, and they just can't do the work," Neal said. "A lot of them don't have sons, or grandsons, that are interested in taking over the business. So they have a hard time finding someone who wants to buy the drive-in and take it over."

Neal said expanding his business with things like weekend swap meets and private events have helped keep the theater afloat in down years. This expansion, plus the social experience of drive-ins, has him feeling optimistic about the future.

"There's still a lot of people who love to come watch movies outside," Neal said. "It's not just a movie theater. It's an experience. You come with your friends. They hang out, they eat, they talk. They have fun."

Preserving that social experience in small towns led the Kansas Department of Commerce to assist a rural drive-in earlier this year.

The Kanopolis Drive-In's 4K projector broke this spring. The owners faced a tough choice, either pay $100,000 to replace it or shut down.

Sara Bloom is director of the department's Quality Places Division, which focuses on strengthening community assets and revitalization efforts. She also grew up in the Kanopolis area and remembers attending movies at the drive-in.

She said the department heard about the theater's problem from both the public and state representatives. They stepped in with a $65,000 grant to supplement community fundraising for the new projector. It was just in time to start showing movies for the summer season.

Beyond being a piece of history, drive-ins play an important role in improving an area's quality of life, Bloom said. And that translates to drawing businesses to the area.

"It's really hard to attract businesses without having a strong workforce," Bloom said. "We can't have a strong workforce unless we have quality communities for people to live in."

Bloom said she thinks drive-ins are more relevant today as indoor theaters continue to close. According to the National Association of Theater Owners, more than 4,800 theaters have closed since 2020. That's about 12% fewer screens than the pre-pandemic movie era. Recently, theaters in Pittsburg and Salina closed, leaving the residents with no place to see a movie.

These closings are attributed to a mix of things. There's the increasing popularity of streaming. Plus, people are not returning to theaters after the pandemic.

Regional drive-ins can fill these theater gaps with a different experience, Bloom said.

"As the whole industry continues to change, people are going to continue to look for ways to see these films in unique ways," Bloom said. "I actually think the drive-ins could be even more supported in the years that are coming."

One Kansas town is finding support for the outdoor movie experience. The Trego Skyview Foundation is a community group dedicated to building a drive-in theater just outside WaKeeney in northwest Kansas.

Foundation president Lanelle Schubert said they've raised more than $150,000 to install an outdoor screen and license movies. A local DJ provides a projector and sound system for the rural theater.

Getting to the theater requires taking a dirt road and driving to a field.

"We do tell people to drive slow because it's a little bumpy," Schubert said.

About 100 people attended the first double feature of "Hocus Pocus" and "Little Shop of Horrors." Now, they're raising money for restrooms, landscaping and a better digital projector.

Schubert knows there's a long way to go. She said she's run into some skepticism locally, but is getting a good response from younger movie goers.

"And there are some people that think this is a dumb idea," Schubert said. "Well, not everybody likes every idea, but our teenagers are really embracing it. Really we hear it all the time, 'there's nothing to do.' And so the teenagers are enjoying it."

Schubert said the plan is to operate the theaters as a non-profit, loaning money or giving grants to community projects. She sees the drive-in as a way to provide affordable, family entertainment in a small town without many options.

"We know that there's a trend that people want to experience something unusual," Schubert said. "They want to step back in time and have a nostalgic experience."

Schubert is more optimistic than some drive-in owners in the state. She's looking forward to a time when the Trego Skyview sustains the community's future.

"I would like to think that I am actually ahead of the curve this time," Schubert said. "I think there's a resurgence for drive-ins. We are bringing some entertainment to a region of Kansas that doesn't have a whole lot to offer."

How to Protect Your Small Business and Your Family's Income

(StatePoint) For many small business owners, contractors, and freelancers, owning a business is a rewarding step toward independence that offers flexibility, control, and opportunity to build towards their dreams. However, their business finances and personal finances can sometimes become closely connected.

New research from Simply Business shows that among microbusinesses with five or fewer employees, 87% of owners continue to rely on personal funds to sustain operations. This underscores a simple reality: When you work for yourself, protecting your business often means protecting your personal finances, savings, and family's day-to-day stability.

"The smartest business decisions are not just about risk management. They are about peace of mind," says Jeff Wright, vice president of Insurance Product at Simply Business. "By keeping your business funds safe, you protect the personal livelihood you and your family rely on.

Here are practical ways small business owners can transform uncertainty into a foundation for confident growth:

Believe in your worth. True pricing confidence is about fully owning the value of your work. Choose a structure that reflects your value: use hourly rates for smaller tasks, project-based fees or retainers for steady work, and value-based pricing for the real-world impact you deliver. Protect your revenue by using clear pricing, building in a buffer for unexpected costs, and setting expectations upfront about what is—and isn't—included in the project.

Build a short-term buffer. With nearly half of surveyed owners reporting to have gone without income for at least a month, many business owners strain their personal finances early on to stay afloat. Aim to keep one to three months of both essential business and household expenses in reserve; even a modest cushion allows you to confidently manage late payments, canceled projects, or seasonal slowdown.

Match coverage to your work. Insurance helps protect your business from unexpected expenses. General liability insurance can help cover costs tied to third-party bodily injury or property damage, while a business owner's policy typically combines general liability with commercial property coverage and sometimes also business interruption coverage to help replace lost income after a covered event. Evaluate your specific trade risks and buy policies that address them to close the gaps in your safety net without paying for unnecessary extras.

Shop for coverage before you need it. Proactive shopping allows you to compare the value of different policies rather than making a rushed decision under pressure. Not sure where to start? "I leaned on peers and mentors who were already where I wanted to be," says Gianni Spradley, founder of Fifteen East Media Group. "They helped me see the blind spots I hadn't considered and even educated me on specific types of policies to help safeguard my company and its trajectory." You can also use a digital insurance platform like Simply Business to look for the right coverage, compare tailored quotes from top providers, choose the best fit, and even buy your policy in a few minutes.

Leverage external capital. While investing in your own ideas is essential, true safety means looking toward smart capitalization to fuel your venture. "There's value in investing in yourself," says Karen McDougald, founder of Tangaza Bath & Body Studio, "but I wish I'd known more about small business loans and grants." In fact, the Simply Business survey found that small business owners rank access to external capital as the most valuable factor for securing long-term growth.

By taking practical, proactive steps to secure your working cash, savings, and family finances, you can safeguard your business and ensure it continues to thrive.

Need a copy of The Neodesha Derrick News?

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BALLET • TAP • JAZZ
R&S studios
117 E. Main | Independence, KS

Enrolling for the 2026-2027 dance year
Saturday, August 15th | 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Classes offered are:
- 3-4 year old - combination classes with creative movement & basic ballet, tap, & jazz.
- 5-7 year old - combination classes in classical ballet, tap & jazz
- 7 - High School -classical ballet, pointe (at appropriate age & level), tap, jazz/hip-hop
- Adult classes • Homeschool Classes

•• Classes start Tuesday, September 8th ••

For more information, or to enroll...
Call Miss Rene' at 620-779-1694

Legal Notice

(First published in the Neodesha Derrick News Aughust 6, 2026)

Treasurer's Report
2nd Quarter 2026

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	EXPENSES	REVENUES	CHANGE IN LIABILITY	ENDING BALANCE
GENERAL	207,191.86	737,218.16	667,537.66	0.00	137,511.36
SPECIAL HIGHWAY	284,643.22	0.00	14,572.22		299,215.44
SPECIAL PARKS & RECREATION	28,959.45	0.00	1,641.19		30,600.64
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	21,327.80	9,765.56	13,891.00		25,453.24
SWIMMING POOL BOND PMT	46,362.71	42,850.00	-500.00		3,012.71
WMC BOND PAYMENT	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
TORT LIABILITY	43,815.75	0.00	0.00		43,815.75
POLICE SUBSTATION	2,592.94	2,244.59	0.00		348.35
NORMAN NO 1 MUSEUM	12,329.50	171.95	300.00		12,457.55
LIBRARY	87,452.42	108,656.99	39,362.92		18,158.35
DRUG SEIZURE FUNDS	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS	69,002.81	196,422.36	147,841.08		20,421.53
TAX SEIZURE FUNDS	4,334.16	0.00	-2,553.43		1,780.73
SPEC SALES TAX-INFRASTRUCTURE	1,205,081.59	4,950.00	77,980.02		1,278,111.61
NEODESHA LAND BANK	58,982.00	21.00	1,000.00		59,961.00
EMS SALES TAX	36,920.21	0.00	0.00		36,920.21
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT	3,131.38	0.00	2,000.00		5,131.38
NPD CHRISTMAS FUND	207.87	0.00	0.00		207.87
CHILD SAFETY COUNCIL	116.15	0.00	0.00		116.15
UNION PACIFIC GAS LINE	8,777.50	0.00	0.00		8,777.50
KWIKOM PROJECT	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
MUNICIPAL COURT BOND FUND	500.00		0.00		500.00
WATER BOND & INTEREST	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
FIRE INSURANCE PROCEEDS	4,541.45	0.00	5.66		4,547.11
CDBG ECONOMIC DEV GRANT	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
RAW WATER PROJECT BOND	1,706.46	0.00	2.13		1,708.59
UNAPPLIED CREDITS	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
W GRANBY BUSINESS PARK	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
CDBG GAS PROJECT	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
POLICE STATION BLDG PROJ	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
ARPA FUNDS	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
OPIOD CRISIS	16,824.64	0.00	0.00		16,824.64
PATHWAYS GRANT	1,123.29	0.00	0.00		1,123.29
RIVERWALK PARK	1,255.00	0.00	0.00		1,255.00
WELCOME SIGN	3,777.00	0.00	0.00		3,777.00
HOME HEARTLAND GRANT	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
HEAL GRANT	0.00	24,375.00	24,375.00		0.00
CDBG BROWN HOTEL GRANT	0.00	12,262.10	12,262.10		0.00
MIH GRANT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
GAS	679,338.06	438,294.29	624,819.74	0.00	865,863.51
WATER	654,051.54	160,775.97	215,877.48	0.00	709,153.05
ELECTRIC	1,163,882.61	1,215,203.51	1,125,481.42	0.00	1,074,160.52
SEWER	339,640.62	88,579.40	128,796.82	0.00	379,858.04
SOLID WASTE	122,547.08	48,439.45	64,984.83	0.00	139,092.46
STORM WATER	161,549.81	127.18	14,376.09		175,798.72
GAS UTILITY RESERVE	400,000.00	0.00	0.00		400,000.00
WATER UTILITY RESERVE	45,924.00	0.00	0.00		45,924.00
ELECTRIC UTILITY RESERVE	354,708.95	0.00	0.00		354,708.95
SEWER UTILITY RESERVE	69,796.20	0.00	0.00		69,796.20
SOLID WASTE UTILITY RESERVE	118,259.00	0.00	0.00		118,259.00
STORM WATER UTILITY RESERVE	89,891.00	0.00	0.00		89,891.00
EMERGENCY EQUIP RESERVE	102,140.17	0.00	127.38		102,267.55
EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND	19,380.81	0.00	0.00		19,380.81
SALES TAX	-30,596.91	63,488.97	64,314.22		-29,771.66
PETTY CASH	969.65	0.00	0.00		969.65
REPORT TOTAL	6,442,439.75	3,153,846.48	3,238,495.53	0.00	6,527,088.80

CHECKING-BOC	6,260,468.48
CD'S - EQUITY BANK	102,575.60
CD'S - CNB	200,000.00
CD'S - BOC	200,000.00
CASH ON HAND	500.00
TRANSIT ITEMS	-236,455.28
	6,527,088.80

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED Tanna Denney
TANNA DENNEY
CITY TREASURER

Legal Notice

(First published in the Neodesha Derrick News Aughust 6, 2026)

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

2027

The governing body of
Neodesha
will meet on August 26, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1407 N 8th Street, Neodesha KS 66757 for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax.
Detailed budget information is available at City Hall, 1407 N 8th Street, Neodesha KS 66757 and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2027 Expenditures and Amount of 2026 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2027 budget.
Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

	Prior Year Actual for 2025		Current Year Estimate for 2026		Proposed Budget Year for 2027		
FUND	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate *	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate *	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2026 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate *
General	3,548,359	50.696	3,196,070	52.007	3,213,860	546,570	46.807
Debt Service							
Library	93,824	8.790	133,180	10.189	153,000	119,215	10.209
Economic Development	64,689	4.124	64,500	3.444	86,500	79,669	6.823
200 Special Highway	5,741		100,000		100,000		
201 Special Parks			20,000		20,000		
204 Swim Pool Bond			42,850				
206 WMC Bond Pmt							
207 Tort Liability							
700 Gas Fund	2,562,680		3,531,760		3,342,940		
701 Water Fund	675,699		1,105,180		1,141,930		
702 Electric Fund	4,406,670		5,279,020		5,137,020		
703 Sewer Fund	347,200		477,960		600,260		
704 Solid Waste Fund	191,743		259,860		273,500		
706 Storm Water Fund	1,308		56,000		99,500		
214 Infrastructure Fund	97,527		700,000		850,000		
216 EMS Sales Tax			650,000		650,000		
Non-Budgeted Funds-A	1,014,844						
Non-Budgeted Funds-B	2,008,082						
Non-Budgeted Funds-C	50,763						
Non-Budgeted Funds-D	982,648						
Totals	16,051,777	63.610	15,616,380	65.640	15,668,510	745,454	63.839
						Revenue Neutral Rate**	63.881
Less: Transfers	854,000		1,510,000		1,120,000		
Net Expenditure	15,197,777		14,106,380		14,548,510		
Total Tax Levied	618,900		745,559		xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx		
Assessed Valuation	10,933,401		11,364,012		11,677,050		
Outstanding Indebtedness, January 1,	2024		2025		2026		
G.O. Bonds	9,889,593		9,680,516		10,230,249		
Revenue Bonds	0		0		0		
Other	1,772,000		1,772,000		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	733,990		659,685		519,097		
Total	12,395,583		12,112,201		10,749,346		

*Tax rates are expressed in mills
**Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

Devin Johnson
City Official Title:

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