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The Monitor Journal

Windom City Council Santa Fe Trail Association celebrates 40 years

The Windom City Council met Wednesday, September 9, 2026. Mayor Janis Bernd called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm. Council members present were John Ratzlaff, Lisa Johnson, Alice Taylor, and Debbie Gadberry.

The minutes of the August 12 meeting, General vouchers and water vouchers were all approved as presented.

Public Attendance: Two homeowners were in attendance to seek city approval for installation of a fence on their property. It was approved.

Reports of City Employees:

Janis gave the report for City Maintenance, The water level is down at the sewer lagoon due to a lack of rain.

City Consultant: Gail Lauderdale reported she has been looking into the sewer fund to see if some can be put into the water fund.

City Clerk in Training: Chelsea DePeel reported the city burn site was inspected and passed; new meter reading software system price will increase every year; a build permit was purchased for the home getting a new

fence; McPherson County Community Foundation sent a memorandum of understanding for the city to join. A motion passed to not participate.

Reports of Council

Mayor Janis Bernd: the budget is being worked on; discussion was held on changing the date for turning off water meters. A motion passed for a resolution next month to state no exceptions to paying your water bill unless by approval of the city council at their next meeting; the clerk will call for dates available for citywide cleanup; 2 fire hydrants are left from the replacements from 2 years ago. A motion passed to offer them for sale at \$75 each, they will advertise on Facebook Marketplace.

John Ratzlaff has been running the police car regularly and also handles upkeep.

Lisa Johnson will send a letter to the McPherson County Board of Public Works to let them know the Windom Council is behind a project to have three city crosswalks painted.

Alice Taylor discussed tall weeds at a house in Windom. The city will

send a letter to the owner and also contact the county Health Department.

Debbie Gadberry made a motion to approve the 2027 budget. A budget hearing has been set for Monday, September 21 at 5 p.m.

Other Business included a water meter on 1st Street has problems and giving a false water reading.

The city will donate \$90 to Trunk or Treat if a citizen will volunteer to head it up.

The school Halloween parade is coming up in October. The City and the Tree Board will go together to buy candy to hand out to the children. The two groups will spend a total of \$90 for candy.

The meeting adjourned. A special meeting for a Budget Hearing will be Monday, September 21 at 5 pm. The next regular meeting will be October 14 at 5:45 pm with a work session to begin at 5 pm before the regular meeting.

Linda Colle, President, Quivira Chapter Coordinator sent this article about an event happening this week on the Santa Fe National Historic Trail.

SFTA Ambassador Les Vilda is sponsoring a Model T road trip along the Santa Fe National Historic Trail September 15-29, 2026. The Quivira Chapter will have the opportunity to see the cars on September 17th. Les has made several trips over the Santa Fe Trail. The most notable was in 1984 when he made a backpacking/ walking trip along with 3 friends and a pack donkey.

Forty years later, in 2024 he made the trip by car - a 1923 Ford Model T Roadster. According to Les, "That 2024 trip caught the attention of several other Model T owners/drivers. I was asked if I would lead a tour for Model Ts (and other early 20th century vehicles) along the Santa Fe Trail. How could I refuse?" So this year in 2026, Les will again make the trip along the Santa Fe Trail. The plans started with ten cars but now they are down to three Model Ts due to scheduling issues with other drivers.

Les hopes to post something every day at his website, <http://www.havedonkeywilltravel.com/>. "I may not get to posting every day, but as often as I can. I will also be posting pictures of places we're visiting."

The trip is set to begin on September 15, 2026 and end September 29, 2026. The tour is taking place in conjunction with the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Santa Fe Trail Association.

The Model Ts will be in the Quivira Chapter September 16-17, 2026. On September 17, we will meet the tour at Swanson's Swales south of Windom, Kansas at approximately 9:45am. The tour will move west from there, stopping at the Chavez site and then on to Ralph's Ruts in the afternoon after a lunch stop in Lyons, KS. Chapter members, friends and anyone interested can come out and see these historic cars on the historic Trail!. If you can't make it, remember to check Les's website <http://www.havedonkeywilltravel.com/> for updates and pictures!

The trip will be approximately 1773 miles long.



Windom Sr. Center is open, all ages welcome, come in and enjoy coffee and fellowship with your neighbors. A variety of soft-drinks and snacks is also available.

Be sure to drop by the Windom Sr. Center and see the new additions made possible by the "Dream Grant" from MCCF. Several new options are available for purchase at the Center such as snacks, sodas and special coffees.

Grandparents, gather up the grandkids and come to the annual celebration of Grandparent's Day at the Windom Sr. Center, Monday Sept. 28, 6:30 P.M. No need to make a covered dish, Pizza, dessert and drinks will be furnished. Please call the Windom Sr. Center and let us know how many plan to attend so we have enough pizza. Call or Text leave name/ no. attending 620-242-6210 or 620-664-3801 before Tues. Sept. 21 and register number who plan to attend. Thanks, hope to see you there.

In the near future Tara Willard, St. Croix Hos-

pice will be providing an informational program at the October 26th Covered dish. This is an opportunity to learn about available services before one suddenly needs them.

October 15 is the beginning of Open Enrollment for 2027 Medicare plans including supplement and medication plans. Make an appointment with your county SHICK volunteer to review your 2027 coverage. In McPherson County contact Jill Berckefeldt, Senior Advisor, MCCA office, 620-241-4383 for an appointment. This service is free and very helpful when choosing plans. Plans and prices frequently change yearly so this service may save you a lot of money.

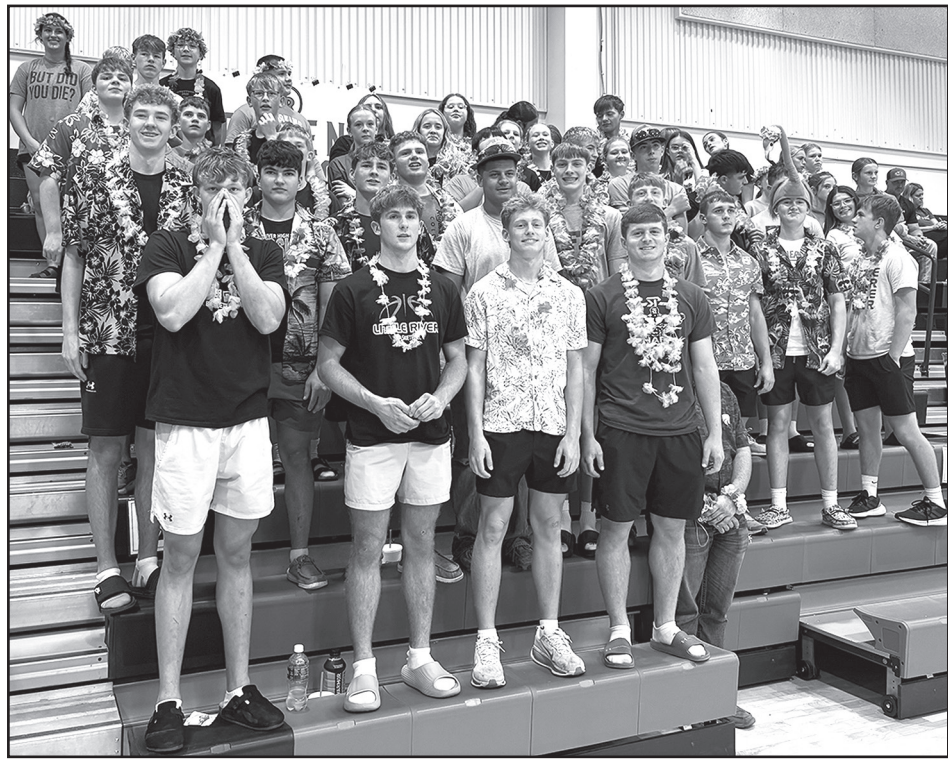
Bert Long, Windom, and Bobbie Rawson, Marquette spent Labor Day weekend visiting Ryan and Kristen (Rawson) Leatherwood, Wister, OK.

While there they attended a school ball game and were able to watch grandson, Clay play. A good time was had by all.

The Great Plains North Central District UW-Faith Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, Oct. 3 at the First United Methodist Church, Manhattan, KS beginning at 9:00 A.M. "Dream It, Believe It, Do It" is the 2026 theme, Scripture is Mark 9:23 "If you can?", said Jesus, "Everything is possible for those who believe." Registration with coffee and conversation begins at 9:00 a.m. CST with the meeting beginning at 10:00 a.m.

For Registration information contact Jenny Sue Hayward, 8831 butterfly Lane, Manhattan, KS 66502-1411, phone: 785-320-5755 or email: treasurer.north.central.kansas@gmail.com

- CALENDAR**
- Sats. Breakfast, (Sats. only) Windom Sr. Center, 7:30-10:30 A.M.
 - Tues.-Fri. Coffee, Windom Sr. Center, 7:30 A.M.-10:00 A.M.
 - September National Senior Citizens Month
 - Mon. Sept. 28 Grandparents Day Pizza Party, Windom Sr. Center, 6:30 P.M.



Football and Volleyball Season are upon us. The student sections have been rocking it. Shout out to our Junior High for being loud for our Football Team at El-Saline... and Shout out to our student body and a load of elementary kids showing up for the High School Girls home opener.

Let's keep the fire going.