weather in Kansas often is

(there's a 161-degree swing

between the hottest and

coldest record temps in the

state). It also works across a

range of conditions from

hot and cold to flash floods

and severe thunderstorms.

It's an adjective that con-

veys the stakes of the

weather, especially in sum-

mer for individuals most at

risk of high temperatures

like older adults, young

children and those without

access to cooling resources.

It's easy to poke fun at la-

beling typical summer

weather as excessive or ex-

treme. Call it dangerous and

people are likely to actually

month, August is still the

heart of summer where

triple-digit readings on the

thermometer are common-

place. Our electricity bills

may be extreme, but that's

shorter and soon harvest

will put an end to sweating

corn. For now, it's still sum-

mer. Do your best to stay

cool and maybe pack an

extra shirt or two if you're

doing anything outside. Af-

terall, it's just another Au-

gust in Kansas.

The days are getting

While July is the hottest

pay attention.

just summer.

Insight

Greg Doering, Kansas Farm Bureau

Corn, sweat and August

According to recent reports the summer heat is causing corn to sweat in the field. Is it the corn's profuse perspiration causing the issue or maybe the county fair is the party responsible?

More likely it's just summer in early August. There are two options, hot and humid or hot and dry. Either way, the corn is still sweating, with each acre pumping up to 4,000 gallons of water into the air every day. Kansas' 6.4 million acres of corn pumps out enough sweat each day to cover a football field in more than 15 miles of water.

Corn sweat doesn't actually make the temperature rise, rather it makes hot summer days feel hotter by adding to the humidity in the air. In addition to evaporation, all plants release water through tiny pores in their leaves during a process called transpiration, or plant

August is the peak growing season for corn and other fall crops, and correspondingly the peak for humidity, especially with the rains portions of the state have received this summer. The extra moisture can turn a normal August afternoon into a "three-shirt day"

Rental

Schaefer made a motion to approve the July 21, 2025 minutes as amended, Johnston second. Motion car-

Schaefer made a motion to approve checks & vouchers in the amount of \$50,028.89, Johnston second. Motion carried.

Commissioners cussed appraiser contract, NCKLEPG Report, KCCA legislation newsletter, and fencing dispute update.

Schaefer made a motion to approve appraiser contract for Anna Porter retroactive to July 1, 2025, Johnston second. Motion

Schaefer made a motion 006 appointing appraiser, ond. Motion carried, Johnston second. Motion

where even light work outdoors requires changing shirts more than once.

I do have a small quibble with the National Weather Service over its recent change in the adjectives used to describe our hot, humid summers. In March, the agency substituted "extreme" for "excessive" for heat-related watches and warnings.

Unsurprisingly, I wasn't consulted on the change, and I have no problem alerting folks about the dangers posed by intense summer weather. But I'm not convinced that classifying normal, expected bouts of summer heat as excessive or extreme are of any help. Everyone should be mindful of the toll working outdoors can take. Plenty of breaks in the shade and cold water are crucial to staying safe in the heat.

As the change from excessive to extreme indiadjectives arbitrary, and neither one is as effective as the description used in explaining the meaning of an extreme heat watch or warning: dangerous heat is possible or hap-

Dangerous means the situation is serious, as the

Continued from Page 1

Schaefer made a motion to approve payroll in the amount of \$180,229.89, Johnston second. Motion carried.

Schaefer made a motion to approve the following transfer vouchers 2025-037 for \$454.65; 2025-038 for \$34,033.77; 2025-039 for \$1,533.17; 2025-040 for \$58.70 and 2025-041 for \$541.00, Johnston second. Motion carried.

Discussion was held by commissioners on county roads vs. township roads and the Innovation Center

Pottberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at to approve resolution 2025- 12:07 p.m., Schaefer sec-

Voting open for Flint Hills State Park Nomination

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) is proud to announce the Flint Hills Trail State Park's nomination to the Rails to Trails Conservancy's (RTC) Hall of Fame.

Since 2007, RTC's Hall of Fame has honored America's outstanding trails, recognized for their scenic value, use, amenities, historical significance, and community benefit.

"This nomination speaks volumes about the communities, volunteers, and staff who have made the Flint Hills Trail State Park a place where nature, recreation, and heritage come together," said KDWP Christopher Secretary Kennedy. "We hope every Kansan and trail lovers beyond will cast a vote to celebrate this achievement."

Stretching 118 miles from Osawatomie to Herington through the heart of the Flint Hills, Flint Hills Trail State Park is the longest rail-trail in Kansas. Popular among walkers, runners, cyclists, and equestrians, the trail was designated a state park in 2018 and recognized as a



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Wage Survey.

National Recreation Trail in 2020. It also connects directly to Prairie Spirit Trail State Park—a 53-mile corridor and prior RTC Hall of

Fame inductee. Public voting is open July 31 through August 6. Cast your vote here to support Flint Hills Trail State Park.

Miranda Robinson

City Clerk

Grant

Clerk Miranda Robinson to apply for a grant to replace the banners with the City paying up to half the costs with memorial funds. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

City Clerk asked about moving \$150,000 from general checking to the Money Market account then reassess in 6 months and possibly move to a CD. Collin moved, Heather seconded, to move \$150,000 from General checking to the money market account with two signatures. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

Heather reported that the pool slide should be delivered July 31. Discussion was held on whether to install it yet this summer or wait until next season.

Joyce moved, John C. seconded, to approve con-

Joyce moved, Heather tion carried with 5 ayes.

Downs Community Connection members Kelly Meyer and Linda Miller were present to discuss a veteran's memorial. They are working together with Parks and Recreation on improving the playground area at Roadside Park (play equipment). Applying for grants. Downs Community Connection is asking for support from council and community members on

Barton Community College announces spring graduates

Three area students were part of the Barton Community College spring 2025 graduating class.

Tonna Hampton, Downs, has with a Medical Coding Certificate.

Stasha Conway, Osborne, earned an Associate of Arts degree.

Elizabeth Ducote, Por-

tis, received an Associate of Science degree.

Barton located in Great Bend, offers traditional general education courses, fine and performing arts opportunities, many career and technical training offerings, GED courses, transfer options, and online classes.

SEPT. 6-15 HUTCHINSON, DVANCE TICKET PRICES THROUGH SEPT. 4 **\$7** (\$10 Value) Adults (13-59) Children (6-12) **\$4** (\$6 Value) **\$4** (\$6 Value) Seniors (60+) Midway Wristband \$30 (\$35 starting Sept. 1) *Additional processing fee applies for online and phone orders Tickets are available online or at the KSF Ticket Office. Gate Tickets are also available at any Dillons store.

KansasStateFair.com

Published in the Downs News and Times

August 7, 2025

NOTICE OF HEARING TO EXCEED REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE AND BUDGET HEARING

City of Downs, Kansas
will meet on August 21, 2025 at 6:00 PM at 715 Railroad Street, Downs, KS for the purpose of hearing and
ections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds, the amount of ad valorem tax, and the Revenue
Detailed budget information is available at City Hall, Downs, KS and will be available at this hearing. BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2026 Expenditures and Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2026 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

	Prior Year Actua	al for 2024	Current Year Estin	mate for 2025	Proposed Budget for 2026					
					•		Proposed			
		Actual Tax		Actual Tax	Budget Authority for	Amount of 2025 Ad				
FUND	Expenditures	Rate*	Expenditures	Rate*	Expenditures	Valorem Tax	Rate*			
General	603,890	50,720	644,016	50.676	1,376,052	506,887				
Debt Service	186,902	22.256	141,200	22.237	176,042	4,792	0.683			
Library	29,004	4.485	29,500	4.481	37,083	31,449	4.481			
Industrial Promotion	5,826	0.992	6,311	0.991	16,840	6,957	0.991			
			· ·							
Special Highway	8,283		10,383		162,159					
Cemetery Care			2,500		10,960					
Special Parks and Recreation			3,967		12,676					
ARPA Grant	71,123									
Water and Sewer Utility	2/2.0/4		10.5 50.4							
Capital Improvement	363,062		425,791 30,000		750,054 30,000					
Housing Initiative			10,000		10,000					
Housing initiative			10,000	'	10,000					
Non-Budgeted Funds-A	3,200									
Non-Budgeted Funds-B	3,200									
Totals	1,271,290	78.453	1,303,668	78.385	2,581,866	550,085	78.385			
Totalo	1,271,274	70.133	1,505,000	70.505		nue Neutral Rate**	70.566			
Less: Transfers	113,572		144,000		144,000					
Net Expenditure	1,157,718		1,159,668		2,437,866					
Total Tax Levied	457,615		495,092		xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx					
Assessed										
Valuation	5,832,952		6,316,170)	7,017,639)				
Outstanding Indebtedness,						•				
January 1,	2023		<u>2024</u>		2025					
G.O. Bonds	0		0		0					
Revenue Bonds	0		0		0					
Other	2,055,504		1,879,952		1,389,795					
Lease Purchase Principal	147,855		106,948		64,688					
Total	2,203,359		1,986,900		1,454,483					
*Tax rates are expressed in m										
** Revenue Neutral Rate as de	fined by KSA 79-2988	ſ								

tractor's licenses 2025-42. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

seconded, to approve a special use permit 25-59. Mo-

Continued from Page 6

their projects. Council held a water rate discussion on raising the rates and when it should become effective. City Attorney will draw up an ordinance with a \$1.00 increase being effective Janu-

City Clerk reminded council that the hearing for exceeding the RNR and 2026 budget had to be changed to August 21 at 6 p.m. as a special meeting. Council discussed funds and how they can be used.

ary 1, 2026.

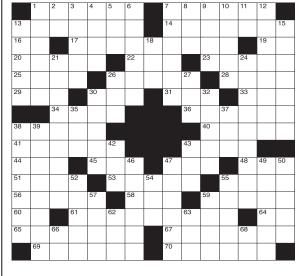
City Clerk will speak with CPA's to find out and report

At 6:45 p.m. council

member John B. left the Collin moved, Heather seconded, to approve vouchers and payroll as pre-

sented. Motion carried with 4 ayes. With no further business,

John C. moved, Joyce seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with 4 ayes. Meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Spiritual leaders 7. Salt
- 13. Fortified wine 14. Edible mollusk
- 16. They precede C 17. A way to compare 19. State lawyer
- 20. "Game of Thrones" actor Ciaran 22. Eighth month (abbr.)
- 23. Very willing 25. __ ex machina 26. Satisfies
- 28. Mountain in New Zealand
- 29. A doctrine
 30. Popular Dodge truck model
- 31. Dekagram 33. Naturally occurring solid
- 34. Company officer 36. Villains
- 38. Cricket frogs

- **CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Animal disease 2. Commercial
- 3. Necklace materials 4. Containers 5. Investment account
- winner
- 7. Dipped down 8. Head injury category (abbr.)
- 9. Lay about 10. Intestinal
- 11. Not yes 12. Caused to be loved
- 13. Muslim spiritual leader 15. Showing sincere conviction
- 18. Not in 21. Number above the line in a fraction
- 24. Lawn pest 26. Pouch
- 27. Ancient language in India (abbr.)
- 30. Start over
- 32. Wild white flower 35. Fourteen 37. Visual way to interact with

40. One of the founders of

modern psychology

44. You can get stuck in one 45. Partner to feather

47. Passive optical network 48. French ballet dynasty

56. Yankee great Judge

61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule64. Gold

58. Dickens character

51. Employee stock ownership plan

59. Late beloved TNT sportscaster

65. Longtime Braves hurler Julio

43. A female domestic

41 Endured

55. Sound

67. Humor

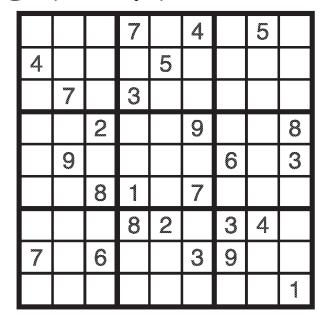
69. Shawl 70. Hospital unit

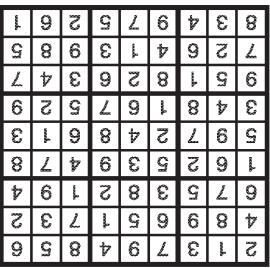
- computer (abbr.) 38. Side by side and facing the same way 39. Religious conflicts
- 42. Touch lightly 43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- 46. Violent seizure of property
- 47. One who supports the pope 49. Malaise
- 50. Body fluid 52. Inauthentic person
- 54. Title of respect
- 55. Chilean city
- 57. Japanese city
- 62. Draw from
- 63. Automobile 66. The man
- 68. Top government lawyer

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