

The Horton Headlight

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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR BROWN COUNTY & THE CITIES OF HORTON, EVEREST, MUSCOTAH & POWHATTAN

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Stephanie, in back, and Sandy are all smiles awaiting their adventure.

How About A Hot Air Balloon Ride for A Birthday present?

By Susan Higley

Most people get ordinary gifts for their birthday, but one lady in Muscotah, Stephanie Noble, got a gift she will never forget.

Stephanie told one of her friends that she would love to go up in a hot air balloon. So for her birthday her friend planned for her to take the ride of her life. She was allowed to take someone with her so she took another friend, Sandy Morey of Robinson, to go with her on this adventure.

Feelin' Groovy Hot Air Balloon from Topeka arrived at the Muscotah City Park last Friday evening, for the lift off from the ballfield. They went north of town for about a 45 minute ride over the countryside. After the ride the ladies were very excited. Stephanie said the highlight of the trip was seeing the green fields and watching deer run. Sandy enjoyed the peacefulness of the ride and looking at the green countryside. Both ladies said they would do it again.

Feelin' Good pilot, Elliott Crabtree, along with his three crew members, have been giving rides for the last several years. After each ride everyone toasted a good ride with a cup of grape juice and recite a prayer.

It was a perfect lift off as the balloon took flight over the town's water tower. Word traveled fast and it drew a lot of spectators since hot air balloons are not a usual sight in town.

U.S. 59 bridge project in Atchison County

A Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) bridge improvement project on two U.S. 59 bridges was scheduled to start Tuesday, May 27, in Atchison County, weather permitting.

The project includes grading and bridge surfacing work on the U.S. 59 bridge over Stranger Creek, approximately three miles north of K-116, and the U.S. 59 bridge over 262nd Road.

Work at the Stranger Creek bridge will begin first and is expected to be completed in late November. Work at the 262nd Road bridge is scheduled to begin in September and be completed by December 2026.

For the duration of this work, temporary traffic signals will be used to direct single-lane traffic one-way through each bridge work zone. Motorists should expect delays of up to 15 minutes.

Traffic will be controlled using temporary traffic signals, traffic cones and signs.

Ebert Construction, of Wamego, is the contractor for the \$6.96 million project. Work will occur during daylight hours, Monday through Friday.

KDOT urges motorists to stay alert and follow posted signs in work zones. For current road conditions, visit KanDrive.gov or call 511. For updates on highway projects in northeast Kansas, visit NewsReleases/District1-NortheastKansas.

Pony Express Annual Re-Ride

The powerful legacy of the Pony Express continues on Friday, June 20, 2025, as the Kansas Division of the National Pony Express Association (NPEA) takes the reins from the Nebraska Division at the Nebraska/Kansas state line, launching an exciting day of history, heritage, and horsemanship. Riders will relay the symbolic mochila through several iconic Kansas towns before handing it off to the Missouri Division at Elwood, Kansas. This coast-to-coast re-ride commemorates the legendary Pony Express mail service of 1860-1861, with hundreds of riders participating in a 10-day, 24/7 relay from Sacramento, California to St. Joseph, Missouri.

On June 20, the Kansas Division will receive the mochila at the state border, a symbolic connection between neighboring states on the original Pony Express Trail.

Route Highlights: Nebraska/Kansas State Line (Handoff from Nebraska Division) Friday, June 20 approximately 10:00 PM CDT.

Horton, Saturday, June 21, approximately 1:15 PM.

St. Joe Bridge, Elwood (Handoff to Missouri Division), Saturday, June 21, approximately 7:00 PM.

HORTON CITY MUNICIPAL COURT

Aldin, Erica, Spring Hill, TN, speeding 19 mph over limit,, \$199.00 total costs

Broussau, Michael E., Falls City, NE, speeding up to 10 mph over, \$145.00 total costs

Brown, Sally Rae, Hiawatha, speeding up to 10 mph over, \$145.00 total costs

Broyles, Karen Sue, Horton, speeding up to 10 mph over, \$145.00 total costs

Byrd, Abigail D., Wood Dale, IL, speeding up to 10 mph over, \$145.00 total costs

Connelly, Michael, Leavenworth, speeding up to 10 mph over, \$145.00 total costs

Dliu Resminder, Singh, Orlando, KS, speeding 17 mph over limit, \$187.00 total costs

McConnaughey, Rachelle Roxamn, Troy, speeding up to 10 mph over limit, \$145.00 total costs

Posley, Joshua Cole, St. Charles, MO, speeding up to 10 mph over limit, \$145.00 total costs

Shockley, William Charles, Jr., Topeka, FTY at stop or yield sign, \$175.00 total costs

Stanley, Angelo Brandon, Kansas City, MO, FTY at stop or yield sign, \$175.00 total costs

Woodruff, Kristin R., Troy, speeding up to 10 mph over limit, \$145.00 total costs

Horton City Commission meeting

Unofficial minutes

By Clerk Brianna Monson

At 5:15 P.M. the Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regular meeting on Monday, June 2, 2025.

Mayor Stirtion called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m., and the opening prayer was led by Pastor Bud Elliott. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Present: Mayor Bryan Stirtion, Commissioners Josh White, Avery Thornton, Carmela Boller and Tina Nigh. City Attorney Kevin Hill and City Clerk Brianna Monson were also present.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to adopt the agenda, removing the 10-minute executive session and reducing the 5-minute executive session down to 3 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner White. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Nigh to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2025, regular meeting, and to approve the consent agenda modifications from the May 5th, 2025, meeting as sent out in the packet. Seconded by Commissioner Thornton. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Nigh to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3864 (Payroll) for \$45,413.99. Seconded by Commissioner Thornton. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Nigh to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3865 (Disbursements) for \$76,184.72. Seconded by Commissioner Thornton. All aye.

No Public Comments
Discuss Employee Purchasing Card Manual & Agreement

The city Purchasing Card Training Manual and Purchasing Card User Agreement need to be updated. Motion by Commissioner Nigh to change the Program Administrator from the previous city clerk to Brianna Monson, and for her to update the manual where needed. Carol Stirtion will remain Assistant Program Administrator. Seconded by Commissioner Thornton. All aye.

Consider Approval of Temporary Liquor License

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Frozen Drinks On The Go, LLC for a temporary liquor license for the Summer Slam event on July 3rd, 2025, at Hickory Point at Mission Lake. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

Public Works Updates

Public Works Superintendent Randy Mayfield was present to provide updates to the Commission on the water, sewer, electric, and street departments, and field any questions from the Commission.

-The pool is open for the season. They found the leak in the line that goes to the outside fountain, so they were able to just shut that off.

-Chubb Insurance is supposed to be here next Tuesday to give an update and check out what they've already done.

-Commissioner Boller says we need to start thinking about haydite.

Police Department/Dispatch Updates

Chief Entriakin provided updates on the Police Department and Dispatch.

-Entriakin got three bids for the loan on the police vehicle.

-First Option Bank would be 3 payments with an interest rate of 4.39%

-Union State Bank would be 4 payments with an interest rate of 5.25%

-GNBank would be 4 payments with an interest rate of 4.99%

Motion by Commissioner Nigh to go with First Option Bank due to less payments and lower interest rates. Seconded by Commissioner Thornton. All aye.

Administrative Updates

City Clerk Brianna Monson provided updates to the commission.

-Monson talked to KMIT about the pre-employment testing. They do have a program for cities that we can sign up for. Someone from KMIT should be getting ahold of her with more information.

-She sent to KU and K-State asking if their Public Affairs program still takes on projects such as the city's comprehensive plan. KU sent back that they do not currently provide those services. We need to move on and get with a company that can update the zoning book and the comprehensive plan.

-The 2025 CCR report is available online.

-Highland Community College was selling some of their office chairs. We were able to purchase 6 chairs for the commission room at \$25 each.

-Brown County Humane Society will be having a vaccine clinic Saturday, June 7th.

-Commissioner Thornton asked if we had heard anything new on the housing grant? Brianna will get ahold of Garrett Nordstrom for an update.

3-Minute Executive Session

Motion by Commissioner Nigh to go into a 3-minute executive session to discuss the potential acquisition of real estate to include Mayor Stirtion, Commissioners White, Thornton, Boller, and Nigh, Attorney Hill, Clerk Monson, and Randy Mayfield. Seconded by Commissioner Thornton. All Aye. After executive session, no action was taken. Information only.

MAYOR STIRTION

-There was a request for a dumpster for the month of June for the ballfields. The one that is down there is moved to the pool while it is open during the summer. The consensus of the commission is to allow the

request for a dumpster to be placed at the ballfield, with the cost coming out of the parks account.

-Derek also asked about umbrellas for the picnic tables at the ballfields. Commissioner Nigh asked if the ballfield association can help pay for them, since they are also bringing money in.

-Michelle Hundley with the Horton Housing Authority was present to let everyone know that she doesn't pick and choose the Housing Authority Board members. She does reach out to people, and the recommendation is sent to the mayor. There are three public board member positions and two tenant positions on the board. They already have a tenant position filled by someone at one of their locations and wanted the other tenant position to be filled by someone at the other location. Attorney Hill reminds that by state statute the mayor makes the appointments, and asked "you all don't disagree with that, do you?" Hundley agrees that the director sends the recommendation to the mayor, and the mayor will make the appointment. Hill said there was mention that there was a resolution where their board would make the appointment, but that wouldn't be effective to overturn the statute. Hundley said the current board did make a motion to change the bylaws; Hill said the state statute would trump that. The state statute gives the authority for appointments to the mayor and the mayor is the one who made the appointment. Members of the board were present to say the reason they made the recommendation that they did was to get someone from the other location to their board. Commissioner Boller said that was not made clear to the commission that that was why they were recommending the person they did. Per Kevin Hill, going forward, they can take recommendations from the Horton Housing Authority Board, like they have in the past, get input from the city commission, and on the date of appointments, invite the board to be at the city commission meeting to provide more input if desired. Paperwork will still need to be submitted when a term has expired, and it needs to be made clear if the person is wanting to be reappointed to the position or if it is to be made public that it is open.

COMMISSIONER WHITE

-White wanted to thank the city and the community for the support this weekend for the car show, city-wide garage sales and the flea market. They all had good turnouts. Mayor Stirtion thanked Commissioner White, the Chamber and everyone else involved in putting it all on, it brought a lot of

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Brown County Commissioners

Meeting minutes

By Clerk Nikki Lee

June 2, 2025

The Board of Brown County Commissioners met in regular session with the following members present: Chairman Lucas Heinen, Richard Lehmkuhl and William Pollock. Also present was Brown County Clerk, Nicole Lee. County Attorney, Kevin Hill, was present for a portion of the meeting via Zoom. Lucas Heinen opened the meeting at 8:10 p.m. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Lehmkuhl led the meeting with a prayer.

COUNTY PERSONNEL/PUBLIC COMMENT

No county personnel or public comment.

RFN CONSTRUCTION REQUEST

RFN Construction requested that BB Brother's Construction be named as the General Contractor for the Noxious Weed/Solid Waste building addition project. BB Brother's Construction would be able to obtain the Surety Bond required by the County for the project.

Motion by Richard Lehmkuhl to designate BB Brothers Construction as the General Contractor for the purpose of obtaining a Surety Bond with

no change to the original bid. Seconded by Lucas Heinen. Motion carried.

Ricky De Luna and Troy Henson were present to discuss the General Contractor request.

MINUTES 05-30-2025

Motion by Richard Lehmkuhl to approve the May 30, 2025 minutes with one correction. Seconded by William Pollock.

Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by William Pollock to recess into executive session for 5 minutes with the three commissioners, Brown County Clerk, Nicole Lee, and Brown County Attorney, Kevin Hill present for the purpose of discussing employee salary of non-elected personnel and to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will reconvene in the Commissioner's Room at 8:26a.m. Seconded by Richard Lehmkuhl. Motion carried. No binding action was taken.

BID OPENING

Sealed bids for a dump truck for Road and Bridge District 3 were received as follows: MHC submitted a bid of \$198,000 for a 2025 Kenworth T880 equipped with a 16' bed and HighLift tailgate, available immediately. Nexttran Truck Centers submit-

ted a bid of \$231,000 for a 2026 Mack Dump Truck with a 15' Mark E Classic Bed and HighLift tailgate, available in the first quarter of 2026. The decision was tabled to allow the Road Foreman time to review the bids.

NEK-CAP

NEK-CAP representatives Christy Morey and Jason Gibson presented the commission with a 2026 funding request in the amount of \$5,000 to assist with the administration of the Housing Choice Voucher Program. Morey and Gibson explained the program's function and noted that the funding would only be requested if the federal government discontinues the Community Services Block Grant.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by William Pollock to recess into executive session for 5 minutes with the three commissioners and Brown County Clerk, Nicole Lee present for the purpose of discussing employee salary of non-elected personnel and to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will reconvene in the Commissioner's Room at 9:20 a.m. Seconded by Richard Lehmkuhl.

Motion carried. No binding action was taken.

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Brown County District Court

Compiled by Melanie Davis, Headlight reporter

CRIMINAL

Status Conference on Heather J. Price has been scheduled for June 18. She is charged with possession of marijuana, a class B nonperson misdemeanor and possession of drug paraphernalia, a class B nonperson misdemeanor.

Hearing on Tyler Eugene Cook, Hiawatha, KS., has been scheduled for July 30. He is charged with domestic battery, a class B person misdemeanor.

Bond hearing on Manuel Espinoza Nunez, Hiawatha, KS., has been scheduled for June 11. He is charged with aggravated battery, a level 7 person felony and criminal damage to property, a class B nonperson misdemeanor.

Arraignment on Connor A. Barnes, Hiawatha, KS., has been scheduled for July 21. He is charged with possession of marijuana with intent to sell, a drug severity level 2 felony; possession of marijuana without a tax stamp, a level 10 felony; possession of marijuana, a class B nonperson misdemeanor; and possession of drug paraphernalia, a class B nonperson misdemeanor.

Sentencing on Alicia Jennings, Morrill, KS., has been scheduled for

July 21. He is charged with possession of methamphetamine, a drug severity level 5 felony and possession of drug paraphernalia, a class B nonperson misdemeanor.

Preliminary hearing on Sarah Marie Cook, St. Joseph, MO., was held and has been continued to July 16. She is charged with possession of methamphetamine, a drug severity level 5 felony and possession of drug paraphernalia, a class B nonperson misdemeanor.

Preliminary hearing on Edward Blough, Henderson, IA., was held and has been continued to July 23. He is charged with possession of methamphetamine, a drug severity level 5 felony; possession of marijuana, a class B nonperson misdemeanor; and possession of drug paraphernalia, a class B nonperson misdemeanor.

Arraignment on Christina Roberts, Fort Worth, TX., was held and has been continued to June 9. She is charged with possession of methamphetamine, a drug severity level 5 felony; possession of marijuana, a class B nonperson misdemeanor; and possession of drug paraphernalia, a class B nonperson misdemeanor.

Preliminary hearing on Robert Allen Hendricks, Marysville, KS., was

held and has been continued to July 23. He is charged with possession of methamphetamine with intent to sell, a drug severity level 2 felony; possession of methamphetamine without a tax stamp, a drug severity level 10 felony; possession of marijuana, a drug level 5 felony; and possession of drug paraphernalia, a class B nonperson misdemeanor.

Arraignment on Cameron Mayer, Horton, KS., has been scheduled for June 9. He is charged with possession of marijuana, a drug severity level 9 felony and possession of drug paraphernalia, a class B nonperson misdemeanor.

Preliminary hearing on Tyrone Alexander Mendez, Horton, KS., was held and has been continued to July 16. He is charged with possession of methamphetamine, a drug severity level 5 felony; possession of marijuana, a class B nonperson misdemeanor; 2 counts of endangering a child, a class A person misdemeanor; and possession of drug paraphernalia, a class B nonperson misdemeanor.

Sentencing on Parker Ray Cash-Hammon, Tulsa, OK., has been scheduled for June 9. He is charged with

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