



Early Rod Run, drag races draw numerous spectators



The 43rd annual Atwood Early Rod Run brought more than 100 entrants to Atwood for the "Show and Shine" car show Saturday. Miyah Hanzlick, (third from left) was crowned 2025 Pinup Queen. Many of those whose cars were on display participated in the drag races that followed at the Atwood airport, sponsored by the Atwood Lions Club. The Rod Run is organized by the Atwood Ambassadors, a group of volunteers responsible for hosting or assisting with many public events throughout the year.

Photos by Kati Latulip



Memorial Day Observances City council reviews construction plans

Pastor Darin Laws from Atwood Baptist Church will give the Memorial Address during the Memorial Day service that begins at 10 a.m. Monday, May 26 at Fairview Cemetery in Atwood. The public is encouraged to attend.

Veteran Beth Guth will present the poem "In Flanders Fields" written during WWI by Canadian physician Lt. Colonel John McCrae. The memorial wreath will be laid. Chris Niermeier will play "Taps."

In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held at the American Legion Hall.

The McDonald American Legion post will conduct a Memorial Service at 10 a.m. Memorial Day at Grace Cemetery in McDonald.

There is no Memorial Day service planned for Herndon.

By Rosalie Ross

When Atwood City Council met in regular session May 15, they heard from Brian Clark, board member of Two Homes LLC. He updated them on the construction plans for Moderate Income Housing homes. They are currently looking for more contractors to speed up the process. They are planning to start work on the MIH home on Blaine Street within a month to six weeks. One of the homes will be located on South 7th St. They have the necessary easement to start now. David Blau with Miller & Associates is planning to have the platting legal notice before the June city council meeting.

Atwood City Librarian Grace Kastens appeared to present the library's proposed budget for 2026. She also reviewed the 2024 library statistics and usage for 2024, noting that 185 programs were offered to the community and 1,424 people attended. Kastens also thanked the city crew for fixing the wall at the

library. The mayor and council thanked Kastens for the wonderful job she is doing by providing so many library activities.

Blau provided the council with information for BSB Construction pay application #2 in the amount of \$104,594.55 for work completed on the water project through May 5. The council voted approval of the payment.

Clerk Dana Philpott reported on a budget online seminar, learning they changed the date to Oct. 1 to get the budget to the county clerk, regardless of whether the Revenue Neutral Rate is exceeded or not. Philpott and Mayor Janet Stice met with Corina Cox who is with the Northwest Kansas Planning & Development Commission to discuss the MIH grant and other grant opportunities.

City Attorney Charles Peckham attended the variance hearings, communicated with the police on several issues appeared in city court and sent out subpoenas for several trials. He reviewed issues regarding the water main expansion to SurePoint.

City Superintendent Rick Kramer said his crew has been helping with the water project when needed. He said the swimming pool is ready for the season. He also noted that two zoning permits have been approved.

Council member Diana Tongish reported that the pool will open May 24. Summer activities at the pool are posted on the pool Facebook page.

Tongish also reported that the theatre will show Summer Rec movies at 2 p.m. every Thursday beginning June 5 and continuing until July 3. The theatre board will show movies starting July 10 for a fundraiser. A movie pass for five movies can be purchased in advance for \$20 for this fundraiser. The board is discussing the purchase of the ADA compliant hearing impaired equipment.

Councilman Mark Vrbas reported a phone call from Rawlins County law enforcement personnel and he scheduled a meeting with them. In the meantime, there was another meeting of the city and county attorneys.

The sheriff, Councilman Dakota Dunker and Police Chief Brian Withington also went to that meeting.

During the May 15 council meeting, Vrbas stated that he is gathering information to prevent having a barrier so both Rawlins County Sheriff's department and the Atwood City Police department can work together.

Chief Withington stated that there never was a barrier about working together, it is about the services that the city is paying for and are not receiving from the sheriff's office. It is his duty as the police department head to make sure they are getting the services from the tax dollars the city is currently paying for.

There was a discussion about a new contract that would redefine what services the city is paying for. Councilman Dunker stated his concern that a new contract could mean an increase in the fee amount.

Mayor Janet Stice pointed out that the state statute overrides

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News at a Glance

Alumni Celebration

Rawlins County High School alumni will hold their annual celebration beginning at 6 p.m. with a banquet and program Saturday, May 24 at the Columbian Hall. Dance at 9 p.m. Last minute Reservations: Call 785-626-7052.

Stevens Chapel Open House

The Rawlins County Historical Museum is planning an open house at Stevens Chapel on Sunday, May 25. It will be open from 1 to 4 p.m. with a sing-along at 2 p.m. led by Kevin Dixson.

Kids Get Free Lunch

Any child age 18 or younger may come to lunch provided by USD 105. Lunch will be served from 11:30 to 12:30 every Monday through Friday from Tuesday, May 27 through Friday, June 27 at the elementary school cafeteria. There are no income requirements and there is no registration. A packaged afternoon snack will be sent home with each child who comes for lunch.

Magic Man at Library

The Magic Man will be Atwood Public Library at 2 p.m. Friday, May 30. The children's summer reading program, "Color My World" begins May 22. The library is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Ol' Depot Celebration

Members of the Ol' Depot will honor its 37th anniversary with festivities from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 31. There will be refreshments, discounts and drawings.

Museum Hours

The Rawlins County Museum in Atwood will be open every Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. beginning May 24. Regular hours are 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

RCHC board discusses expansion

Members of the Rawlins County Health Center board discussed their ongoing plans for re-assigning spaces within the current facility and some expansion of space for the therapy departments. Several of the upgrades are projects that were put on hold from the 2018 build. There will better accommodations for the visiting providers and the surgical suite will have space for pre and post op patient care.

Gimmie Jo Jansonius, state director for rural development

with USDA, visited the Atwood facility last week and attended the board meeting remotely to answer board questions. The RCHC loan application has been completed and documented with USDA and is awaiting final approval. The feasibility study may need to be revisited and financial studies brought up to date. Interest rates are going up and that will need to be considered in the process of going forward. In the meantime, it will be important to keep current with what is going on in Congress.

Amie Powell, Chief Operations Officer reported that volume trends for the rural health clinic and the specialty clinic are looking good. Physical Therapy continues to grow in numbers of patients served.

Chief Clinical Officer Allison Mulch reported that the Kansas State Board of Pharmacy inspector came and found zero deficiencies.

Gail Shepherd, Human Resources Director remarked upon the success of the RCHC 75th anniversary celebration due to

many helping hands. There will be three Nex-Gen youth working at the hospital this summer.

CFO Heather Prideaux presented the April financials which revealed a doubling of acute admissions over April of last year. She said cash collections are 10% higher than at this time last year. Her department is beginning to prepare the budget for next year. There are 276 days of cash on hand.

Allison Mulch presented a

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