

# Hays Police Department issues Bitcoin ATM scam warning

HAYS — The Hays Police Department is issuing a public safety alert regarding a significant increase in scams that coerce residents into sending money through Bitcoin Automated Teller Machines (BTMs). These sophisticated schemes, often involving impersonation of government officials or trusted entities, have resulted in substantial financial losses for victims nationwide, and Hays is not immune.

“Let me be absolutely clear: no legitimate government agency, law enforcement, or utility company will ever demand payment through a Bitcoin ATM, gift card, or wire transfer,” said Hays Chief of Police Don Scheibler. “If someone tells you to use one of these machines to pay a fine, resolve an issue, or protect your money, it is a scam. Hang up immediately and verify the request through official channels.”

Scammers typically initiate contact through unexpected

phone calls, text messages, or email, often creating a high-pressure, urgent scenario.

They may pose as IRS agents threatening arrest for unpaid taxes, law enforcement officials claiming involvement in money laundering, or tech support representatives warning of compromised bank accounts.

The common thread is the demand for immediate payment via a Bitcoin ATM, often directing victims to specific locations and providing QR codes to facilitate the transfer of funds directly to the scammer’s digital wallet.

“These criminals exploit fear and a sense of urgency,” Scheibler said. “They will keep you on the phone, preventing you from seeking advice from family or friends, and pressure you into withdrawing large sums of cash. Once that cash is deposited into a Bitcoin ATM and converted to cryptocurrency, it is almost impossible to retrieve.”

The financial toll of these scams is alarming.

Nationally, fraud losses involving Bitcoin ATMs have surged, increasing nearly tenfold from 2020 to 2023, and exceeding \$65 million in tracking the first half of 2024 alone, according to the latest information available.

The median loss reported by individuals who used BTMs in these scams was a staggering \$10,000.

Individuals aged 60 and over are disproportionately affected, accounting for approximately \$46 million, or 71%, of reported BTM-related losses in the first half of this year.

Broader cryptocurrency investment fraud schemes have led to billions of dollars in losses annually.

The difficulty in recovering funds stems from the inherent nature of cryptocurrency transactions.

Once funds are transferred

via a BTM, the transaction is irreversible.

The decentralized and often anonymous nature of blockchain technology, coupled with the international reach of these criminal networks, makes tracing and recovering stolen funds exceptionally challenging for law enforcement.

Scammers frequently disperse stolen cryptocurrency across numerous digital wallets to obscure their tracks, further complicating recovery efforts.

Further, victims are often re-victimized by “recovery scams,” fraudulent services that promise to retrieve lost cryptocurrency for an upfront fee, only to steal more money.

The Hays Police Department urges all residents to remain vigilant and follow these critical prevention tips:

- Never respond to unsolicited calls, texts, or emails demanding immediate payment, especially if they involve Bitcoin ATMs, gift

cards, or wire transfers.

- Always verify requests independently. If you receive a suspicious call from an alleged government agency or business, hang up and call them back using a phone number found on their official website or a trusted bill, not one provided by the caller.
- Slow down. Scammers rely on panic. Take time to think and discuss the situation with a trusted family member or friend.
- Understand that legitimate entities will never demand payment in cryptocurrency.

If you believe you have been targeted by a Bitcoin ATM scam or any other financial fraud, please contact the Hays Police Department immediately at 785-625-1030.

You can also file a report with the Federal Trade Commission at ReportFraud.ftc.gov and the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) at ic3.gov.

# Stafford Commissioners approve adding Sergeant

The Stafford County Board of County Commissioners met on Wednesday, July 30, 2025, in the Commission Room in the Annex. Chairman Stanford called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Present: Jim Stanford and Todd Wycoff.

Commissioner Wycoff moved, and Commissioner Stanford seconded, to approve the minutes from the July 23rd meeting. Motion carried 2-0.

Commissioner Wycoff moved, and Commissioner Stanford seconded, to approve the presented tax roll corrections. Motion carried 2-0.

The 2026 budget has been finalized, and the budget hearing is scheduled for August 13, 2025.

Rob Murrow, Sheriff and Charlie Brown, Sergeant, met with the commissioners regard-

ing their department budget. The commissioners advised them of the changes made to the proposed 2026 budget. An additional Sergeant position was approved, and an additional vehicle expense was removed from the department budget and moved to the Sheriff Equipment Reserve Fund.

Gina Schwein, Communications Director, joined the meeting to discuss her final department budget. One additional part-time position was approved for dispatch in lieu of the request for two part-time positions.

Phillip Nusser and Trent Harman, Road Department, came in regarding the finalized 2026 budget for the Road Department. The only changes made to that budget were to change the special equipment transfer from \$100,000.00 to \$90,000 and to

build in a \$50,000 cash reserve.

County Clerk Lisa Weber provided information on the latest building inspection. Discussion was also held regarding different safety options that can be implemented that could help with savings on insurance premiums.

Payroll and Accounts Payable Claims for Payment were approved and signed as follows:

General \$ 215,124.88  
Road & Bridge 63,498.03  
Health 13,585.39  
Rural Fire 7,115.00  
Nox Weed 4,315.92  
Appraiser 11,673.21  
Solid Waste 4,111.39  
EMS 34,785.77  
Motor Vehicle 2,130.00  
Insurance Reserve 650.74  
PHEP Grant 100.00  
**Total \$ 357,090.33**

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

## BRIEFLY

### Kiwanis chapter celebrates charter

HOISINGTON — The newly formed Hoisington Kiwanis Club invites the public to “The Last Splash of Summer,” a free charter party from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9, at the Hoisington Pool. There will be free food, drinks, giveaways and a DJ with music. Dallas Arp, branch manager at Landmark National Bank in Hoisington, is the president of the new club.

### Bike Safety Rodeo planned for Aug. 16

HOISINGTON — Children can attend a free bicycle safety rodeo from 9-11 a.m. (come and go) on Aug. 16 at the west parking lot of Clara Barton Hospital. It is being sponsored by Clara Barton Hospital, the Hoisington Police Department, the Hoisington Kiwanis Club and the Pilot Club of Great Bend.

An officer will be available for car seat checks.

Participants will:

- learn bike safety
- learn biking traffic signals
- participate in a bicycle obstacle course
- receive a free helmet
- be entered for prize giveaways (Two bikes and one car seat will be given away.

Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information contact the Hoisington Police Department, 620-653-4995

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Public Notices

Legals-2

(First published in the Great Bend Tribune, July 26, 2025) -3t

Prepared by  
Travis J. Ternes, #27184  
ROBERT P. BURNS, P.A.  
2400 N Woodlawn Blvd., Ste. 215  
Wichita, Kansas 67220-3956  
(316) 613-2500  
tternes@rpbcconstructionlaw.com

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF STAFFORD COUNTY, KANSAS

GREG MANNING, d/b/a,  
Greg Manning Operating  
Plaintiff,  
  
v. Case No. SF-2025-CV-1  
  
L.G.W. Energy Resources, Inc. et al,  
Defendant.

Pursuant to Chapter 60 of  
Kansas Statutes Annotated  
AMENDED ORDER OF SALE  
(Pursuant to K.S.A. 60-2401)  
WHEREAS, there is of record in this Court an unsatisfied judgment as follows:  
Judgment Creditor: Greg Manning  
Judgment Debtor: LGW Energy Resources, Inc., Leoco and Company, LLC, and Leo G. Wetherill  
4400 Tomahawk Rd.  
Prairie Village, KS 66208  
Date of Judgment: June 23, 2025  
Judgment Balance Due: \$10,883.90 plus \$346.93 in interest  
Costs Unpaid: \$108.49 in cost for judgement interest continuing pursuant to K.S.A. 16-204.  
The Court has determined that the defendant is in default and not entitled to further service by failing to plead or appear in defense of this lawsuit. K.S.A. 60-255(a). This matter involves an oil lease and this is a special execution pursuant to K.S.A. 60-2401(d). The Court determines that the interests shall be levied and executed upon by providing notice of the sale pursuant to K.S.A. 60-2410(a).

To the Sheriff of Stafford County Kansas:  
  
You are hereby directed to seize and sell certain intangible real or personal property, described more thoroughly below, in satisfaction of said judgment, together with interest thereon and costs, including the costs and expenses for execution of this Writ, all in accordance with Article 24 of Chapter 60 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated.  
  
Leo G. Wetherill is the successor in interest to L.G.W. Energy Resources, Inc., Leoco and Co., LLC and d/b/a the Leo G. Wetherill foundation or a successor in interest to that foundation as the same is not registered with the Kansas Secretary of State's Office nor found in searches. Leo G. Wetherill owns working interest, overriding royalties and royalty interest in the following oil and gas lease in and under and that may be produced from the following described property in Stafford County, Kansas:  
  
The East Half of the Northwest Quarter (E/2 NW/4), the East Half of the Southwest Quarter (E/2 SW/4), the Northeast Quarter (NE/4) and the Southeast Quarter except the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (SE/4 except NW/4 of SE/4) of Section 16, Township 21 South, Range 11 West of the 6th PM.  
  
Commonly referred to as the Smith Estate.  
  
The above-described interests in the properties of all the named individuals and companies to be sold at the Stafford County District Court at public auction to satisfy the sum above on August 21, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., in the District Court, Stafford County, Kansas. Notice shall be published pursuant to K.S.A. 60-2410.

Submitted by:  
s/ Travis J. Ternes  
Travis J. Ternes, #27184

Public Notices

Legals-2

(First published in the Great Bend Tribune, July 26, 2025) -3t

Prepared by  
Travis J. Ternes, #27184  
ROBERT P. BURNS, P.A.  
2400 N Woodlawn Blvd., Ste. 215  
Wichita, Kansas 67220-3956  
(316) 613-2500  
tternes@rpbcconstructionlaw.com

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF STAFFORD COUNTY, KANSAS

GREG MANNING, d/b/a,  
Greg Manning Operating  
Plaintiff,  
  
v. Case No. SF-2025-CV-1  
  
CHRISTOPHER LEO WETHERILL,  
Defendant.

Pursuant to Chapter 60 of  
Kansas Statutes Annotated  
AMENDED ORDER OF SALE  
(Pursuant to K.S.A. 60-2401(d))  
WHEREAS, there is of record in this Court an unsatisfied judgment as follows:  
Judgment Creditor: Greg Manning  
Judgment Debtor: Christopher Leo Wetherill  
4400 Tomahawk Rd.  
Prairie Village, KS 66208  
Date of Judgment: June 23, 2025  
Judgment Balance Due: \$41,472.27 plus \$1,036.81 in interest  
Costs Unpaid: \$108.49 in cost for judgement interest continuing pursuant to K.S.A. 16-204.  
The Court has determined that the defendant is in default and not entitled to further service by failing to plead or appear in defense of this lawsuit. K.S.A. 60-255(a). This matter involves an oil lease and this is a special execution pursuant to K.S.A. 60-2401(d). The Court determines that the interests shall be levied and executed upon by providing notice of the sale pursuant to K.S.A. 60-2410(a).

To the Sheriff of Stafford County Kansas:  
  
You are hereby directed to seize and sell certain intangible personal property, described more thoroughly below, in satisfaction of said judgment, together with interest thereon and costs, including the costs and expenses for execution of this Writ, all in accordance with Article 24 of Chapter 60 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated.  
  
Christopher Leo Wetherill is the owner of working interest and may have ownership interest in a company with an overriding royalty interest in oil and gas lease in and under and that may be produced from the following described property in Stafford County, Kansas:  
  
The East Half of the Northwest Quarter (E/2 NW/4), the East Half of the Southwest Quarter (E/2 SW/4), the Northeast Quarter (NE/4) and the Southeast Quarter except the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (SE/4 except NW/4 of SE/4) of Section 16, Township 21 South, Range 11 West of the 6th PM.  
  
Commonly referred to as the Smith Estate.  
The above-described interests in the properties of Christopher Leo Wetherill to be sold at the Stafford County District Court at public auction to satisfy the sum above on August 21, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., in the District Court, Stafford County, Kansas. Notice shall be published pursuant to K.S.A. 60-2410(a).

Submitted by:  
s/ Travis J. Ternes  
Travis J. Ternes, #27184

Classified Ads Pack the Power!

Public Notices

Legals-2

First Published in the Great Bend Tribune July 26, 2025) -3t

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF STAFFORD COUNTY, KANSAS

GOLDEN PLAINS CREDIT UNION, Plaintiff,  
vs. Case No. SF-2025-CV-000004  
MELISSA LECKENBY, JASON VAUGHN BEITLER,  
AND THE STATE OF KANSAS ACTING THROUGH  
THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, THE  
STAFFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,  
UNKNOWN HEIRS, EXECUTORS,  
ADMINISTRATORS, DEVISEES, TRUSTEES,  
CREDITORS AND ASSIGNS OF THE  
DEFENDANTS; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF A  
DEFENDANT; UNKNOWN OFFICERS,  
SUCCESSORS, TRUSTEES, CREDITORS AND  
ASSIGNS OF A DEFENDANT THAT IS AN  
EXISTING, DISSOLVED OR DORMANT  
CORPORATION; UNKNOWN EXECUTORS,  
ADMINISTRATORS, DEVISEES, TRUSTEES,  
CREDITORS, SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS OF A  
DEFENDANT THAT IS OR WAS IN PARTNERSHIP;  
UNKNOWN GUARDIANS, CONSERVATORS AND  
TRUSTEES OF A DEFENDANT THAT IS A MINOR  
OR IS UNDER ANY LEGAL DISABILITY;  
UNKNOWN TENANTS Defendants.  
(Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 60)

NOTICE OF SALE  
Under and by virtue of an order of sale issued by the Clerk of the District Court of Stafford County, Kansas, in the above action, wherein the parties above named were, respectively, plaintiff and defendants, to me, the undersigned Sheriff of Stafford County, Kansas, I will offer for sale at public auction and sell to the highest bidder for cash in hand, at the front door of the courthouse in the city of St. John, Stafford County, Kansas, on the 21st day of August, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. of said day, the following described real estate situated in Stafford County, Kansas, to-wit:  
  
West thirty-nine feet (W/39') of lot five (5) and all of lot six (6), block thirty-three (33), Addition No. 1, City of St. John, Stafford County, Kansas  
Hope, Mills, Bolin, Collins & Ramsey

to satisfy the judgment in the above entitled case. The sale is subject to the three-month (3) redemption period of the defendants and is further subject to court confirmation.  
  
Robert Murrow,  
Stafford County, Kansas Sheriff

Michael E. Collins, SC# 07384  
HOPE, MILLS, BOLIN, COLLINS  
& RAMSEY LLP  
607 North Seventh Street, P.O. Box 439  
Garden City, Kansas 67846  
Phone: (620) 276-3203  
Attorneys for Plaintiff

Public Notices

Legals-2

(Published in the Great Bend Tribune, August 9, 2025) -1t

NOTICE OF HEARING  
THE GOVERNING BODY OF  
BARTON COUNTY  
will meet on August 13, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., at  
1400 MAIN ST., STE. 108 GREAT BEND, KS  
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  
1400 MAIN ST., STE. 108 GREAT BEND, 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 final assessed valuation.

FUND	Prior Year Actual for 2024		Current Year Estimate for 2025		Proposed Budget for 2026	
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Est. Actual Expenditures	Estimate Tax Rate*
General	9,777,443	12.005	10,429,211	13.805	10,881,111	3,324,970
Debt Service						9.455
Road & Bridge	4,736,087	10.741	5,306,535	9.186	5,536,815	3,601,543
Noxious Weed	688,826	0.670	637,420	0.650	704,440	296,457
Sp. Bridge Replac.	331,830	1.112	360,000	0.368	360,000	324,982
Employee Ben Fnd	3,255,057	8.942	3,774,525	8.365	3,976,000	3,188,241
Ambulance Fund	729,130	2.027	729,350	2.019	729,350	661,610
Mental Health	121,868	0.338	125,000	0.346	125,000	109,824
Dev. Disabilities	68,462	0.190	70,000	0.193	70,000	61,696
Health Fund	1,752,668	0.871	1,663,784	0.840	1,717,681	283,499
Special Liability	79,313	0.225	80,000	0.196	85,000	78,442
Memorial Parks	16,969	0.053	40,000	0.051	40,930	10,150
Solid Waste	1,370,341		1,634,692		1,619,055	
Special Alcohol			14,557		15,352	
Special Parks	3,025		5,526		4,821	
911 Emergency						
Telephone Tax	204,171		243,850		269,200	
Non-Bud. Funds-A	41,343		45,000		45,000	
Non-Bud. Funds-B	3,194,455					
Non-Bud. Funds-C	780,314					
Non-Bud. Funds-D	3,033,435					
Non-Bud. Funds-E	135,707					
TOTALS	30,320,624	37.174	25,159,450	35.819	25,979,755	11,941,414
						33.921

Revenue Neutral Rate\*\*  
Less: Transfers 658,858 50,559 25,000  
Net Expenditure 29,661,766 25,108,891 25,954,755  
Total Tax Levied 11,998,892 11,998,821 xxxxxxxxxxxx  
Ass'd Valuation 320,866,541 333,865,347 352,016,332

OUTSTANDING INDEBTEDNESS, JANUARY 1  
2023 2024 2025  
G O Bonds 0 0 0  
Revenue Bonds 0 0 0  
Other 0 0 0  
Lease Purch Princ 0 0 0  
Total 0 0 0

\*Tax rates are expressed in mills  
\*\*Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988  
Bev Schmeidler,  
County Clerk

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