

# THE JUNCTION CITY UNION



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Wednesday, September 24, 2025

## Around Town

► U-Stop Convenience Shop will hold a ribbon cutting at 10:30 a.m. Sept. 25, tomorrow at its location at 740 W. 6th St.

► Junction City Main Street will hold its Fall Downtown event from 4 to 7 p.m. tomorrow, Sept. 25 in downtown Junction City. There will be free activities, entertainment and fall festivities. There will be games, treats and fall-inspired surprises at every stop.

► Pawnee Mental Health is conducting a needs assessment in Geary County. The information gathered will be used to help shape mental health services in the community. The survey is anonymous and quick to fill out. Go to <http://bit.ly/462koJm> to fill out the survey. The last day to fill out the survey is Oct. 1.

► Junction City OktoberFest will take place from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3 and Oct. 4 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Washington Street between Sixth and 10th Streets. There will be craft beer, food and live music. Head to [www.junctioncityoktoberfest.com](http://www.junctioncityoktoberfest.com) for more information and to sign up for events.

► From 4 to 5 p.m. Oct 2 Tallgrass Healthcare Campus, formerly Valley View Senior Life, will hold a meet and greet for its new director at 1417 W. Ash in the Health Center Bistro. There will be light refreshments, a chance to connect and information about the future.

## Flu shot clinics coming to JC

Stormont Vail Health is kicking off its annual flu vaccination campaign with a series of drive-thru, walk-in, and scheduled flu shot clinics in Topeka, Junction City, and Manhattan. Flu vaccines are available for established Stormont Vail and Cotton O'Neil patients, with some exceptions.

Clinics are designed to be fast, convenient, and offer options for adults and children.

### Junction City walk-in flu shot clinic

Stormont Vail Health Flint Hills Campus

1103 St. Marys Rd.

• Today, Sept. 24 and Oct. 2, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- Ages 19 and older
- No appointment necessary
- Must be an established patient
- No first-time flu vaccines

## Community holds Kirk vigil



Christians and conservatives gathered in Heritage Park Sunday night to remember and pray for Charlie Kirk, a conservative activist who was shot and killed Sept. 10, and the message of pointing to Christianity that he was known for. Kansas City conservative podcaster Ben Keech led the memorial by remembering that while controversial, Kirk brought many people to Christ and he said his death has done that as well. See page 3 for photos. Story on page 2 (Ryan D. Wilson/Union Publisher)

## City approves revenue-neutral budget

Despite one city commissioner renewing his request to lower the city's mill levy, the Junction City Commission approved setting the 2026 budget by a 4-1 to be in line with the revenue neutral rate of 45.022 mills following a public hearing at last week's meeting. The budget calls for a total budget authority of \$61.32 million with \$10.28 million generated through property tax.

Commissioner Richard Pinaire

asked for a 3-mill decrease from the revenue neutral rate, a request he had made earlier in the budget process.

"I think our public, the citizens who voted for us, have asked for that. They would like to see a decrease," Pinaire said. "And I would like to adopt a budget that gives that decrease."

A 3-mill decrease would have meant cutting \$684,000 from the budget. Pinaire recommended they

start with not giving staff a 6% raise across the board, not to give increases to outside entities and "no additions or increases."

However, city finance director Jamel Wilcox said it was too late in the budget process to do that, as the budget has already been published. Changing the levy would have required another publication and the

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## Overnight I-70 closure to occur for bridge replacement in Junction City

The Kansas Department of Transportation plans to temporarily close a portion of I-70 in Geary County at J-Hill Road. The closure is necessary to demolish and remove the existing J-Hill Road bridge which will be replaced.

Eastbound and westbound I-70 will close at 7 p.m. today, Sept. 24, and reopen at 7 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 25.

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