



Mahurins file lawsuit vs. Erie

Stub’s Market owners seek \$38k in grocery store sales

By EDDIE HIBBS III
Record Publisher & Owner

It’s now official. Dave and Shirlene Mahurin, the owners of Stub’s Market, have filed a civil lawsuit against the City of Erie. In April, an attorney, Robert Farmer of Nuss & Farmer, P.A., of Fort Scott, submitted a “debt collection letter,” addressed to the city, seeking more than \$38,000. The city officially received the court notice Monday, June 23, as delivered by the Neosho County Sheriff’s Office. In both the collection letter and the pending lawsuit (Case No. NOC -2025-CV-000042), the Mahurins argue the city still owes the 1/2 of one percent of gross sales, though both the debt collection and lawsuit list it as 5% of gross sales. In the original purchase agreement, the City of Erie purchased Stub’s Market for

\$300,000 plus an estimated \$100,000 in inventory Jan. 1, 2021. The agreement also included real estate and equipment. The agreement included an additional payment of 1/2 of one percent of gross sales for 10 years. According to the lawsuit (Paragraph 3, Page 2): “The Plaintiffs for the calendar year 2021 received \$5,827; for the calendar year 2022 an amount of \$5,532 was received; for the calendar year 2023, an amount of \$4,958 was received; for the calendar year 2024, and a partial payment in the amount of \$2900 was received.” The Mahurins believe that despite the City of Erie closing the store and then leasing it to Three River, LLC., the city still owed them the 1/2 of one percent of gross sales. The city, obviously, does not believe the city owes any additional payments on the 1/2 of one percent as the city no longer

has gross sales – hence the dispute and ensuing lawsuit. The city stopped paying the 1/2 of 1% of gross sales when the city stopped operating the grocery store and paid the Mahurins the fee for when the store was open under city operation. After closing for two months, the store resumed operation under the same name when Three River, LLC, signed a one-year lease with a start date of Sept. 1, 2024. The documents served to City Hall by the sheriff’s office were 26 pages in length. While the council took no action on the collection letter, the council entered into executive session Monday evening during the regularly scheduled meeting – hours after being served. The council agreed to hire an outside attorney rather than use City Attorney Melissa Miller. See LAWSUIT, Page Three

NEOSHO COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE PRESS RELEASES

Following the reports when two juveniles were struck by a train

Editor’s note: The following is a list of press releases shared by Neosho County Sheriff Greg Taylor pertinent to an incident when two local juveniles were hit by a train just south of Erie Wednesday afternoon, June 17.

Sunday, June 22

At approx. 12:38, I was notified by KDWP of a possible sighting of the child’s body in the Neosho River, at the KGE dam located a couple of miles south of US 400 Hwy in Labette County. Upon arrival, there were already personnel from KDWP, Labette County Sheriff’s Deputies, Labette Co. EMS, and other First Responders on scene. First responders were able to successfully recover the body. The body has been turned over to the Neosho County Coroner. This has been a very hard week for everyone involved. I want to express my gratitude to every first responder and our community who contributed to our recovery efforts. Thank you, Greg Taylor - Sheriff Neosho County Sheriff’s Office

Saturday, June 21

Another combined effort today was unsuccessful in finding the child. Over the last few days, first responders have utilized drones, planes, helicopters, boats, sonar systems, divers, law enforcement K9’s, cadaver dogs, and shoreline search crews. This has been a disheartening experience for all involved. Today the water began to rise and the current increased in the late afternoon. We are suspending the search until the water can drop to a normal level. I want to thank all of the first responders and dog handlers, some of which traveled across the state to get here to assist. I want to thank the property owner who was kind enough to allow us to stage and deploy from his boat ramp and property. We had an overwhelming amount of support and donations from the community of food and water for the responders. Our thoughts and prayers are with both families of this tragedy. We are still hopeful that the child will be found once the river drops to a favorable level. Greg Taylor - Sheriff

Friday, June 20

Early this morning we found the river had dropped approximately 10 feet. A large contingent of first responders assisted with the search again today. In addition to resources used yesterday, today we were able to use cadaver dogs. We believe the river may drop another 5 feet overnight, and we will resume the search in the morning. We were notified that Redmond had to open their gates today and that increase of water will arrive in our area on Sunday. In today’s litigious world, where it often seems, no good deed can go unpunished. There are a lot of factors to consider when soliciting volunteer help. The Neosho River is private property and the law requires anyone on the river to have permission from the landowners on both sides of the river. With that said, I know we have a large contingent of river fishermen who have such permission for certain stretches of the river. No doubt many of these fishermen will be out enjoying their usual fishing holes on their Saturday off work. If any of you happen to see something while enjoying your normal activities, please call and we will get a first responder to your location. We desperately want to find this child, and hopefully give the family a little closure. Thank you again to every agency, first responder, and citizen who has assisted or supported our efforts. Greg Taylor - Sheriff

Thursday, June 19

Yesterday, members of the Neosho County Sheriff’s Office, Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks, Chanute Fire Department, Kansas Task Force 4, Anderson County Search and Rescue, St. Paul Fire Department, Pittsburg Fire Department, Cherryvale Fire Department, Neodesha Fire Department, Anderson County Sheriff’s Office, and Union Pacific Railroad were all on scene yesterday to assist with our search efforts. See SHERIFF, Page Three

EHS Hot Rodders qualify for nationals

Local club first from Kansas to advance to finals in Indy

By EDDIE HIBBS III
Record Publisher & Owner

Six local students and two instructors are not only making Erie history, they are making state history as well. Recently, the Erie High School Hot Rodders Club qualified for Nationals. This is the first-time ever for a team from Kansas to qualify. “I’m very excited and so are the students,” EHS instructor Jack Simmons shared Wednesday afternoon. “We started this three years ago, and we have now made it.” The contest involves disassembling, then reassembling a 350 Chevy in a timed contest. Based on last year’s figures, each EHS team member has earned selective scholarships, providing the team attends the national event scheduled for December at the Indianapolis Convention Center. Last year, a team from Cummings, Ga. repeated as national champions with an average time of 17 minutes and 27 seconds in four engine disassemble/rebuild contests. See RODDERS, Page Eight



Submitted photo

Members of the Erie High School Hot Rodders Club recently qualified for nationals. From left: Jack Simmons, Owen Coover, Carson Grady, Justus Graff, Issac Myers, Anthony Pasquarelli, Bryson Gildart and Justin Graff. Not only is this the first team from Erie to qualify, this is the first team from Kansas to qualify.

Community Means No One Walks Through Grief Alone

A memorial fund has been established to support the families of Kollin Showalter and Arthur Pollreis

If you feel led to help, donations can be made at COMMERCIAL BANK

Your kindness will be felt in ways words can't express.

Power to be off for north section

On Wednesday, July 2nd, beginning between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m., there will be an electrical outage due to repairs. This outage could last up to six hours and will affect all areas located north of Railroad Street. For any questions or concerns, please call 620-244-3641. Railroad Street is located between the Erie Volunteer Fire Department building and Beachner Grain on the north side of the city.

Thank You

The Erie Community wishes to express its heartfelt appreciation to Neosho County Sheriff Greg Taylor, his staff, and all the agencies and individuals to help with the devastating event of last week. In addition to Taylor and his staff, the Erie Community appreciates all the efforts from Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Kansas Highway Patrol, Labette County EMS, Labette County Sheriff’s Deputies, Chanute Fire Department, Kansas Task Force 4, Anderson County Search and Rescue, St. Paul Fire Department, Pittsburg Fire Department, Cherryvale Fire Department, Neodesha Fire Department, Anderson County Sheriff’s Office, Union Pacific Railroad Personnel, Erie Police Department, and all the volunteers who assisted – even providing refreshments for the first responders.