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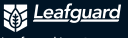
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*Does not include cost of material. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Leafguard or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Previous/future purchases are not eligible for a discount or sale price adjustment. Sales tax does not qualify for discount. This offer cannot be combined with any other sale, promotion, discount, code, coupon or offer. This promotion has no cash value. Leafguard reserves the right to end any promotion at any time without notice. Offer ends 9/30/2026.

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Times Record News

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2026 | TIMESRECORDNEWS.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Council welcomes new city manager

Councilmembers vote to apply for grants

Lynn Walker

Wichita Falls Times Record News
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

The Wichita Falls City Council on Tuesday voted to apply for a federal grant for up to \$6 million to build a new bus transfer station on South Weno-nah Boulevard.

The transfer station would replace the one at Sikes Senter, which the city owns and intends to have demolished.

Public Transportation Administrator Jen-ny Stevens said the ap-plication was for a com-petitive grant.

“So fingers crossed, we will do well,” she said.

Stevens said the city may get word on whether it has been awarded the grant toward the end of the year.

She said the facility would have a lobby, restrooms and canopies to provide shelter for riders.

City Council members also set their Sept. 15 meeting for adopting a budget and property tax rate that will take ef-fect Oct. 1.

The proposed \$330.3 million bud-get would represent an almost 25% in-crease in spending over the present year, lower the property tax rate, but raise the amount of property tax col-lected by \$490,338, which increases the annual tax bill on a median-valued home by approximately \$7.

See COUNCIL, Page 2A

Marie McDonald's niche at Crestview Mausoleum in Wichita Falls, seen on Sept. 1, reflects her colorful career.

60 years ago, a rising local personality perished

Lynn Walker Wichita Falls Times Record News | USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

Marie Elaine McDonald in an interview with the Wichita Falls Record News on July 22, 1966, as seen in this file photo. The original caption said, “GIRL IN A WHIRL - Miss Marie McDonald, daughter of Orison McDonald, looks over some of the magazine and newspaper stories about her and her job in Washington D.C. — making twice-daily traffic reports from a helicopter.” WICHITA FALLS RECORD NEWS FILE VIA NEWSPAPERS.COM

Tuesday marked the 60th anniversary of the violent death of a Wichita Falls woman who had achieved success as a fashion model, actress, radio and television personality, and political worker. ● Her last very unique job claimed her life one day before her 29th birthday. ● Marie Elaine McDonald described her last job to Wichita Falls Record News writer Martha B. Steimel during a visit to her hometown. In 1987 the Record News combined with the Wichita Daily Times to become the Times Record News.

The July 22 article on McDonald was published just weeks before her death. The article said McDonald “swoops over metropolitan Washington D.C. in a helicopter 5 hours a day to make radio reports on traffic conditions.”

McDonald said in the article, “Some-times when there are serious accidents, the traffic is so heavy ambulances can’t get to the scene fast enough. That’s when our helicopter drops down to help get victims to a hospital.”

She also said police sometimes asked her and her pilot to help look for crimi-

nals in addition to flying medicine to cancer patients and expectant mothers to a hospital during a blizzard.

They even rescued a dog from ice in the Potomac River, she said.

McDonald recalled some motorists painted greetings to her on top of their cars.

The article said McDonald, a Wich-ita Falls High School graduate, took a job in U.S. Sen. John Tower’s office right after her graduation from

See MCDONALD, Page 2A

WICHITA COUNTY

Residents to get property tax rate cut in 2027

Lynn Walker

Wichita Falls Times Record News
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

The Wichita County Commissioners Court on Tuesday voted to adopt an \$85.6 million budget for 2027 that in-cludes a property tax rate reduction.

Wichita County Judge Jim Johnson said the cut equates to a \$1.3 million re-duction in revenue, which he said would be made up with additional spending from the county’s fund bal-ance.

He likened the fund balance to a sav-ings account.

Johnson said the cut means owners will pay \$2.71 less per \$100,000 of value on their property than in the current budget year.

He cautioned that property values vary.

See TAX CUT, Page 2A

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