

News from Around the State



Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach is suing Pfizer for misleading claims it made related to the COVID vaccine. Kobach and Deputy Attorney General Fran Oleen, Assistant Attorney General Kaley Schrader, and Assistant Attorney General Melanie Jack today announced the lawsuit at a press conference in Topeka.

According to the complaint, filed today in Thomas County District Court, Pfizer misled Kansans about the vaccines' risks, including to pregnant women and for myocarditis. Additionally, Pfizer claimed its vaccine protected against COVID variants, despite data showing otherwise. The pharmaceutical giant also suggested its vaccine prevented COVID transmission, but later admitted it had never studied whether its vaccine stopped transmission.

The complaint also alleges that Pfizer coordinated with social media officials to censor speech critical of COVID-19 vaccines and declined to participate in the federal government's vaccine development program, Operation Warp Speed, to avoid government oversight.

U.S. Senator Jerry Moran (Kan.) – ranking member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee – spoke on the Senate floor regarding decisions being made at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) that limit veterans' access to care.

"For veterans – particularly those in rural states like yours and mine – the ability to get care closer to home can be life-changing and life-saving," said Sen. Moran. "Unfortunately, recently, VA leaders have been taking alarming actions to limit the choices the MISSION Act affords veterans in Kansas and across the country. It is unfathomable that the VA would consider leaving veterans with fewer options to seek the care they need."

"It defies my understanding how the VA expects to limit choices for veterans in the community – in other words, forcing them into a VA direct care system – while, at the same time, working to reduce the staff in that direct care system that are actually available to care for those veterans," continued Sen. Moran. "These actions could cost some veterans their lives and drive other veterans away from the VA healthcare benefits that they've earned and deserve."

A public hearing will be conducted at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, July 2, 2024, to consider changes to the administrative regulations relating to livestock movement and public livestock markets. The hearing will be held in person at the Kansas Department of Agriculture at 1320 Research Park Dr. in Manhattan, as well as via video conferencing system.

KDA is proposing revisions to two regulations – K.A.R. 9-7-1 and K.A.R. 9-7-14 – relating to movement of livestock into or through Kansas, and revocation and replacement of regulations under Article 10 of KDA's Kansas Administrative Regulations relating to public livestock markets.

A copy of the proposed regulation changes, as well as an expanded notice of public hearing, may be accessed on the KDA website at [agriculture.ks.gov/PublicComment](http://agriculture.ks.gov/PublicComment).

# Osborne County Commissioners

Osborne County Commissioners met June 17 in regular session. Present were commissioners Craig Pottberg, C.W. "Bill" Seaman, and Troy Schaefer; and Heather Betzold, county clerk.

Pottberg called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. in regular chambers.

Nadine Sigle, Osborne County Leadership Program, met with commissioners to request the county be the Hansen grant physical agent. Seaman made a motion for Osborne County to be the physical agent for the Osborne County Leadership class for the Hansen grant application; Schaefer seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion was also held on getting information on the county website updated for the leadership class.

Terry Nichols, road and bridge supervisor, met with commissioners to discuss renting an attachment for skid steer, mini excavator demonstration, Mt. Ayr and Natoma township roads, state detours, and equipment repair status.

Seaman made a motion to approve checks and vouchers in the amount of \$14,893.16; Schaefer seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioners reviewed the 2025 budget request for DNWKS and the Round Mount Township letter suggestions.

Tommy Bowler, maintenance, met with commissioners to discuss the clock, A/C units, waterline leak, and putting the marble on the Nex-Tech classifieds.

Schaefer made a motion to sign the contract with Kansas Drug Agency for County Drug and Alcohol testing for county employees not currently on; such as a courthouse, health, and noxious weed; Pottberg seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioners reviewed Air Med thank you and Water Pollution Control Permit. Commissioners also discussed the upcoming NCKLEPG meeting.

Chris Rhodes, IT/EM, met with commissioners to discuss .gov domain. Commissioners also requested Rhodes to update the County Leadership Class information on website and check with Nadine on any other changes she needs made to the website.

Seaman made a motion to accept payroll in the amount of \$99,358.37; Pottberg seconded. Motion carried.

Seaman made a motion to accept tax correction 2024-000092; Schaefer seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioners discussed breezeway and reviewed departmental budget requests.

Rhodes re-entered the meeting to discuss sewer gas smell in computer room.

Commissioners recessed at 10:24 a.m. to

Jewell County for the multi-county meeting.

Pottberg, Seaman and Betzold attended the multi-county meeting at Lovewell State Park with Jewell County, Mitchell County, and Smith County. Thane Loving, state park director, gave a short presentation on the history of Lovewell State Park. Topics of discussion was USD 273 bond, state tax budget, cost of living raises, wages, budgets, and plans with old hospitals. Next meeting will be held Sept. 16 at Mitchell County. Pottberg then participated in the NCKLEPG meeting.

Pottberg, Seaman and Betzold reconvened in regular session in commissioner chambers at 2:50 p.m.

Pottberg made a motion to approve the June 10 minutes with addition; Seaman seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioners further reviewed departmental budgets.

Seaman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 p.m.; Pottberg seconded. Motion carried.

(First published Thursday, June 27, 2024, in the Downs News & Times.)

**ORDER**

For closing of Registration books before Primary Election **Tuesday, August 6, 2024** Pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 25-2311(c), notice is Hereby given that on the 16th Day of July, 2024, all Registration books for the primary Election will close at the end of Regular business hours. Registration Books will remain closed until the 7th day of August, 2024 Need to register? Go to [sos.ks.gov/elections/voter-information.html](http://sos.ks.gov/elections/voter-information.html) or visit the County Clerk's Office

26-3t-d

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**ADVANCED VOTING BEGINS**

**For the Primary Election**  
Wednesday, July 17, 2024 in the County Clerk's Office  
2nd Floor of the Courthouse  
For a mail ballot application go to [sos.ks.gov/elections/voter-information.html](http://sos.ks.gov/elections/voter-information.html) or call County Clerk's office at 785-346-2431

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(First published Thursday, June 27, 2024, in the Downs News & Times.)

**NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION**

A Primary Election will be held August 6, 2024. Candidates for the following offices will be nominated by each political party which has qualified to participate in the Primary Election:

One candidate for United States House of Representatives, 1st District

Paul Buskirk; Democratic; 2804 Meadow Dr, Lawrence, KS 66047

Eric Bloom; Republican; 2011 Hogan Dr, Lawrence, KS 66047

Tracey Mann; Republican; PO Box 1084, Salina, KS 67402

One candidate for State Senate, 36th District  
Robert Bonanata; Republican; 107 Kansas Ave, Russell, KS 67648

Elaine S. Bowers; Republican; 1326 N 150th Rd, Concordia, KS 66901

One candidate for State Representative, 109th District  
Keith Griffin; Democratic; 104 S Smith St, Holyrood, KS 67450

Troy L. Waymaster; Republican; 3528 192nd St, Bunker Hill, KS 67626

One candidate for District Court Judge, 17th District, 1st Division

Jill Elliott; Republican; 807 Ash St, Hill City, KS 67642

Jessie A. Thompson; Republican; 515 N 11th Ave, Hill City, KS 67642

One candidate for District Court Judge, 17th District, 2nd Division

Paula D. Hofaker; Republican; 213 W Main St, Logan, KS 67646

One candidate for District Magistrate Judge, 17th District, 4th Position

Renee J. Henke; Democratic; 1315 2nd St, Downs, KS 67437

One candidate for County Commissioner, 1st District  
Craig E. Pottberg; Republican; 929 S Hwy 181, Downs, KS 67437

One candidate for County Commissioner, 3rd District  
John Clark; Republican; 2774 W 252nd Dr, Natoma, KS 67651

Roger Hobrock; Republican; 507 Koelling St, Natoma, KS 67651

Rex A. Johnston; Republican; 1074 S 230th Ave, Alton, KS 67623

Bradley Murphy; Democratic; 1866 W 300th Dr, Waldo, KS 67673

One candidate for County Clerk  
Heather Nichole Betzold; Republican; 234 S Second St, Osborne, KS 67473

One candidate for County Treasurer  
BobbiJo Boxum; Republican; 220 S 6th St, Osborne, KS 67473

One candidate for County Register of Deeds  
Megan Kuhlmann; Republican; 1029 S Hwy 181, Downs, KS 67437

One candidate for County Sheriff  
Scottie Becker; Republican; 1200 1st St, Downs, KS 67437

One candidate for County Attorney  
Paul S. Gregory; Republican; 214 S 4th St, Osborne, KS 67473

One candidate for Township Trustee in the following townships:

Ross Township: Edgar N. Reinert; 186 County 685 Ave, Downs, KS 67437

Bloom, Corinth, Delhi, Jackson, Liberty, Penn, Round Mound, Tilden, & Valley Townships- NO FILINGS

One candidate for Township Treasurer in the following townships:

Bloom Township: Linda K Streit; Republican; 218 W 180th Dr, Tipton, KS 67485

Delhi Township: Melvin Schultz; Republican; 2957 S 50th Ave, Lucas, KS 67648

Penn Township: Richard Mans; Republican; 913 S 130th Ave, Osborne, KS 67473

Corinth, Jackson, Liberty, Ross, Round Mound, Tilden, & Valley Townships: NO FILINGS

The following officers will be elected in each political

party which has qualified to participate in the Primary Election:

One Precinct Committeeman in each Precinct- NO FILINGS

One Precinct Committeewoman in each Precinct- NO FILINGS

**POLLING PLACES WILL BE OPEN FROM 7:00 A.M. UNTIL 7:00 P.M. ON AUGUST 6, 2024**, at the following locations:

**DOWNS MEMORIAL HALL**; 501 Morgan Ave, Downs, Kansas for City of Downs, Bloom Township, Corinth Township & Ross Township

**ALTON HARDMAN HALL**; 685 Mill St, Alton, Kansas for City of Alton, Grant Township, Sumner Township, Hawkeye Township, Kill Creek Township, & Mt. Ayr Township

**OSBORNE VETERANS BUILDING**; 123 W Main St, Osborne, Kansas for City of Osborne Ward I, Osborne Ward II, Osborne Ward III, City of Portis, Bethany Township, Covert Township, Delhi Township, Hancock Township, Independence Township, Jackson Township, Lawrence Township, Penn Township, Tilden Township, Valley Township & Winfield Township

**NATOMA COMMUNITY CENTER**; 709 N 2nd St, Natoma, KS for City of Natoma, Liberty Township, Natoma Township, Round Mound Township, & Victor Township

**Pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 25-3110 ( C ), notice is hereby given that the registration books for Osborne County will be closed on the 16th day of July 2024, for the primary election will close at the end of regular business hours. Registration books will remain closed until the 7th day of August 2024.** Person may register during regular normal business hours at the following locations: Osborne Co. Clerk's Office, Osborne City Clerk, Downs City Clerk, Osborne Public Library, and Social Rehabilitation Services.

A citizen of the United States, who is over 18 years of age on or before August 6, 2024, must register before he or she can vote. Registration close 20 days prior to every election.

When a voter has been registered according to law, his or her registration shall continue to be valid until one of the following occurs:

The voter changes name by marriage, divorce, or legal proceeding

The voter changes residence

If either of the above has occurred, the voter must re-register. Any person may apply to the County Election Officer to be registered. Such application shall be made on a form approved by the Secretary of State, which shall be provided by the County Election Officer upon request. Such application shall be signed by the applicant under penalty of perjury.

**ADVANCED VOTING WILL BEGIN ON WEDNESDAY JULY 17, 2024, AT THE OSBORNE COUNTY CLERKS OFFICE, 423 W MAIN ST, OSBORNE KS DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS. ADVANCED VOTING WILL END ON MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2024, AT 12:00 NOON.**

The public testing of voting equipment of the Open Elect Freedom Vote Tablet and the Open Elect Voting Optical Scan, machine used in the August 6, 2024 Primary Election will be held in the County Election Officers' Office, Osborne County Courthouse, 423 W Main St Osborne KS on Friday, July 12, 2024 9:00 A.M. The post-election testing will be held on Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. in accordance with K.S.A. 25-4610.

The official canvass of votes in accordance with K.S.A. 25-3104, following the August 6, 2024 Primary Election, will be held August 19, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. in Commissioners' Chambers at the Osborne County Courthouse; 423 W. Main, Osborne, KS.

Witness my hand and official seal of Osborne County, Kansas, this 20th day of June, 2024.

Heather Nichole Betzold seal  
Osborne County Clerk/Election Officer

26-3t-d

## Grain Markets

Tuesday, June 25  
Midway Co-op

Wheat .....\$5.22  
Milo .....\$3.93  
Corn .....\$4.13  
Soybeans .....\$10.51

Scouler Grain Co.

Wheat .....\$5.74  
Milo .....\$4.39  
Corn .....\$4.59  
Soybeans .....\$10.86

## Senior Citizen Menu

The Osborne County Nutrition Center in Downs invites those 60 and older and their spouses to pick up the daily lunch at the Downs Senior Center Monday through Friday. For reservations, please call by 9 a.m. to 454-6228. Requested contribution is \$3.75 per meal.

Friday, June 28: Hamburger patty, lettuce, tomato, onion, potato salad, bun, watermelon

Monday, July 1: Pulled pork, baked beans, bun, mandarin oranges

Tuesday, July 2: Chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, California blend vegetables, bread, emerald pears

Wednesday, July 3: Goulash, Italian blend vegetables, cinnamon apples

Thursday, July 4: Closed

Friday, July 5: Taco salad, lettuce and tomatoes, chips, tropical fruit

## What do you get without advertising?

Nothing

Call Downs News & Times 454-3514