

Herald-Chronicle



Members of the Santa Fe Trail Committee, from left, Sheila Curtis, Kevin Moon, Karen Smart, Holly Savage, Traci Suddarth and Fred Diver, in front of the mural that was installed Oct. 16 at Burlingame City Hall.

Burlingame mural captures rich history, celebrates Santa Fe Trail

Sheila Curtis | Contributor

BURLINGAME — In 2021, a group of community members in Burlingame formed the Santa Fe Trail Committee to commemorate and celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail in September of that year.

Over the course of three years, meetings were held, often with more questions than answers. What kind of mural? Where to put the mural? Who would be the artist? And how much

would it cost? The group researched and brainstormed, finally securing the artist, Holly Savage, and the location, the west side of the city hall building.

Money was the primary concern. The committee had vowed not to ask for donations, so when a grant was announced by the Department of Commerce for small town murals in early spring of 2024, the group decided to apply.

The committee was not deterred and continued work with Savage on what to include on the mural. For a town with so much history

as Burlingame, the task was difficult. Lists were made and shortened according to the space on the mural.

The Santa Fe Rail crossing Trail had to be included as well as the train depot and the coal mines, which were discovered in 1860. More areas depicted are the first public school house built on the hill, the Union soldier in the cemetery, wagon use of the Santa Fe Trail, which later became the widest all brick main street in the country with model Ts in the mid-1920s, and the Christmas tree in the intersection that many citizens remember.

mainstay for Burlingame since the town was founded.

As word of mouth spread about the mural, the committee received donations from the Burlingame Masonic Lodge, MFA Oil, P&K Country Designs, Fred Diver, Raylene Quaney, Erin and Andy Dierks and Reggie and Gary Fosberg. With help from family members Randy Suddarth, Mike Curtis, and Shana and Ernie Webb, the committee hosted a barbecue fundraiser. By August, enough funds were accumulated to pay Savage and Coffelt Sign Company, Emporia, who assisted in the finishing and hanging of the mural.

USD 421 Superintendent arrested, placed on leave

Daniel Davis | Managing Editor

LYNDON — Lyndon USD 421 Superintendent Brad Marcotte was arrested Friday afternoon by Lyndon Police Chief David Forkenbrock. He was booked into the Osage County Jail for endangering a child and interfering with law enforcement.

Bryant Derley, president of USD 421 Board of Education, issued a press release on behalf of the school district.

"I'm writing to let you know that Superintendent Marcotte was arrested this afternoon for child endangerment and obstruction," the statement read. "No students were harmed. Tonight, the board voted to place Mr. Marcotte on administrative leave."

A special meeting of the USD 421 Board of Education was called for 6 p.m. today at Lyndon City Hall.

The Herald-Chronicle reached out to Marcotte for comment, but did not receive a reply before press time.

CARBONDALE CITY COUNCIL

Students to assist in 'community spruce up'

Daniel Davis | Managing Editor

CARBONDALE — The Carbondale City Council met Monday night with three members present; councilmembers Kaitlyn Ball and Cheryl Lister were absent.

Eric Staab, social studies teacher for Santa Fe Trail High School, attended the meeting alongside several students who were there to learn how the local government operates. Staab also presented a few project ideas that his students would like to undertake this year.

"Every school year, we take a trip around our communities," Staab said. "We look at ways we could add a little spruce to our towns. We're just trying to help out and do what we can."

The class received funding from a couple different sources, Staab said, as well as from the USD 434 Board of Education.

One of the ideas Staab presented to the council was painting the gazebo at Carbondale Park.

"It's structurally sound, just could use a little TLC," Staab said.

Dustin Bretsnyder, public works supervisor, said there are a couple wooden boards that need replaced on the gazebo, but most of the work it needs is cosmetic.

Staab said the class would also like to add a new coat of paint to the bleachers at the Jones Youth Park Sports Complex. In a future project, students would also paint the inside of the bathrooms to "spruce them up," he said, ideally before baseball and softball season.

Other ideas Staab presented were weeding along the fence by the train track, and removing flowers and laying mulch at the gazebo.

The class will spend Nov. 6 working on the projects. Officially, no action was needed from the council, but its members expressed their approval of the ideas.

"If we're painting the boards and making it stable, I think it's a good thing," Councilman Kevin Seals said about the gazebo.

However, the council told Staab that he should pitch the bleacher repainting idea to the Carbondale Recreation Commission. Staab said he has worked with the commission in the past and would reach out to them again for this year's project.

The council discussed how to proceed with nuisance complaints about 218 and 220 Main Street. The properties have been discussed at

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Resident sues county, federal agency for \$10M

Daniel Davis | Managing Editor

LYNDON — Osage County resident Cynthia Shively is suing the county and the Army Corps of Engineers after a vehicle crash allegedly left her with "serious and permanent injuries." According to the lawsuit against Osage County, Shively's husband, Duane, was driving her 2019 Dodge Ram on Pomona Dam Road when he looked down. During that brief moment, the truck collided with a guardrail.

Shively was pinned to her seat as the guardrail went through her buttocks, leg and pelvic area, the lawsuit states. After emergency responders freed her, she was flown to a hospital, where she required treatment for "numerous life-threatening injuries," according to the court filing.

"As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's acts and omission described below, plaintiff Cynthia Shively suffered serious and permanent injuries, including but not limited to fractures in her pelvis and legs, critical bleeding, respiratory failure, pneumothorax, pulmonary contusions, rib fractures, major skin injury to her left thigh/buttock area, wound care and debridement, osotomy installation and care, and heart complications,

including atrial fibrillation," the lawsuit states.

Shively is arguing the county is responsible for not replacing the guardrail, which featured blunt end terminals and was banned by federal law in 1995.

She is demanding \$10 million in her lawsuit against the county.

In addition to suing Osage County, Shively is also pursuing a case against the Army Corps of Engineers, the agency that installed the guardrail. Her previous tort claim was denied. The denial

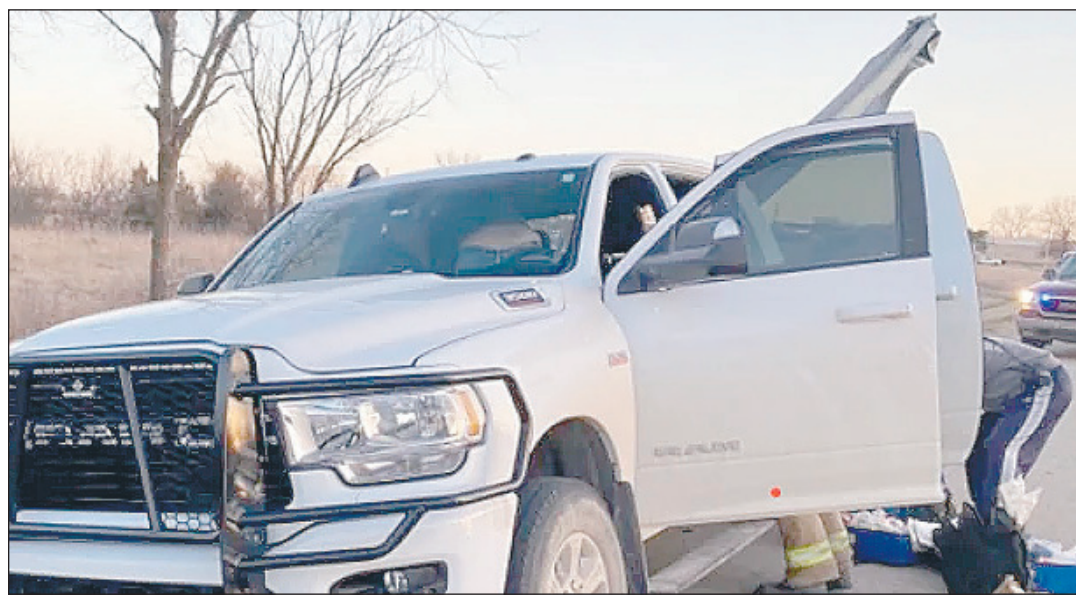
was based on Shively's testimony that Duane "looked down" before impacting the guardrail. Furthermore, the agency said it is Osage County's responsibility to maintain the guardrails on Pomona Dam Road.

In its legal response, Osage County lists 34 reasons for denial of its responsibility. Osage County asserted the driver was negligent as he diverted his eyes to feed their dog, and therefore at fault.

The county also claimed discretionary function immunity from Shively's case

under Kansas Law. While the Army Corps of Engineers argued it has no responsibility since it granted the easement to the county, Osage County argued that the guardrail still falls under the agency's purview and the county "cannot be held liable for any alleged dangerous condition resulting from the original federal design."

Shively requested a trial by jury for both cases, in the District Court of Osage County, Lyndon, and the U.S. District Court of Kansas, Kansas City.



The truck Duane Shively was driving after he impacted a blunt end terminal guardrail on Pomona Dam Road, which impaled his wife, Cynthia. She is suing Osage County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

PICK'EM FOOTBALL CONTEST

Allman wins with tiebreaker

OSAGE CITY — Becky Allman, Osage City, won the Week 7 Pick'em Football Contest after the tiebreaker was used. Allman and Max Provost, Burlingame, who won second place, both had one incorrect pick and it was the same: Iola over Burlington. The Wildcats won by three in a game that could have easily gone the other way (38-35).

The total points scored in all games was 1,061. Allman's guess of 1,018 was closer than Provost's entry of 984.

Four entrants dared to pick the 49ers over the Chiefs, who remain the NFL's only unbeaten team headed into week eight. The matchup was a rematch of this year's Super Bowl ... which was a rematch of the 2020 Super Bowl. Kansas City has been victorious every time. In Sunday's

game, the Chiefs scored four touchdowns, the most of any game this season.

A small majority of entrants picked Silver Lake to defeat Osage City, but the Indians won 35-21 Friday. They had a valid reason to favor the Eagles — Silver Lake has beaten Osage City the last 18 times they've played, with the Indians' last victory in 1993. The win saw the Indians continue their undefeated season while also securing the 2A District 3 title.

Ready to join in the fun? Read the rules and this week's games on Page 9 of this edition. Submit your predictions on the form to ochcnews@gmail.com, drop them off or mail them to our office at 527 Market St., Osage City, KS 66523.

You can't win if you don't play — good luck in Week 8!



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