

Cawker City Picnic and Twine-A-Thon is this weekend

The Cawker City Picnic and Twine-A-Thon is taking place this weekend with events, fun, and food to keep the whole family entertained.

Friday happenings are from 7-9 p.m. including the Twine-A-Thon at the Ball of Twine.

The Golf Cart Poker Run begins at 7 p.m. at the Fitness Center. The Run ends at the Twine-A-Thon with proceeds benefiting the Fitness Center.

There will be food trucks and snow cones.

Live Music from Taylor Kline will be from 7-9 p.m. at the Ball of Twine.

Saturday gets underway with the Fitness Center Fun Run starting at 8 a.m.

Registration for the PTCO Poker Run opens at 8 a.m. at Cawker City Coffee. The Poker Run starts at 8:30.

Horseshoe Tournament registration begins at 8:45 a.m.

A host of activities get underway at 4 p.m. including the Bounce House which remains open until 8 p.m.

Don't forget to cast your vote for the Livestock Kissing Contest. Winner will be announced following the parade. Proceeds benefit Breast Friends Foundation.

Other events include the ball game, Ice Cream Social, Cawker City Swag Store, Train Rides, Dime

Toss and Sack Races.

The Cawker City Museum will also be open.

Funnel Cakes, popcorn and drinks as well as snow cones will be available.

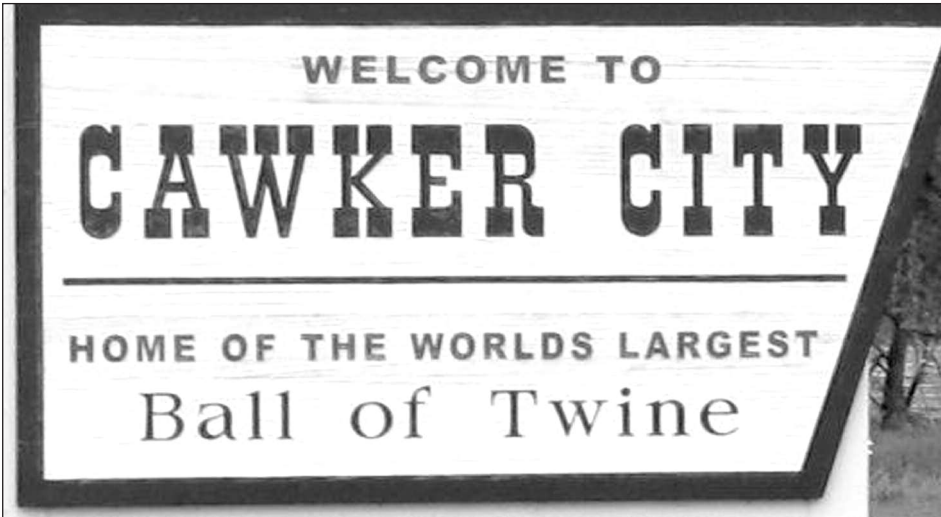
At 5 p.m. the Pit BBQ food stand opens, as does the Solomon Valley 4H Lemonade Stand.

Beginning at 5:30 is the Cake Walk and the Watermelon Stand.

Lineup for the parade begins at 5:30 p.m. at 1st and Lake Drive. Parade starts at 6:30 p.m.

From 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. will be live music from Petty Cash in the City Park.

Activities conclude on Sunday with the Golf Tournament which gets underway at 9 a.m.



Commission to consider Health Dept. building needs

Call to Order - The Mitchell County Commissioners met in formal session on Monday, July 21, 2025. Chairman Tom Claussen and member Mike Riemann along with Heather Weston, County Clerk, were in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Forum – None
Consent Agenda - The consent agenda was approved on motion by Mike Riemann. The motion was seconded by Tom Claussen and carried 2-0. The consent agenda consisted of the agenda for July 28, 2025 and the commission meeting minutes for July 21, 2025.

A Neighborhood Revitalization plan for Jordan and Ambria Gruber for a 30x50 residential building at the cost of \$43,545 was approved on motion by Mike Riemann. The motion was seconded by Tom Claussen and carried 2-0.

Cortney Murrow, County Health, was present to discuss an AC unit needing replaced at the Health Department and to request approval to run a camera in the building's sewer to pin point the issues they have been having. The commissioners were in agreement that both items be addressed.

Clerk's Comments – None
Commissioner's Comments – None

Announcements – None
Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 a.m. on motion by Mike Riemann and seconded by Tom Claussen. The motion was carried 2-0.

The Mitchell County Commissioners did not meet on Monday, August 4, 2025 in formal session due to lack of agenda items to be discussed. This serves as a waiver of the minutes.

Tom Claussen, Chairman
Mike Riemann, Board Member
Cole Eberle, Board Member
ATTEST: Heather A Weston, Mitchell County Clerk

July Total Tax Collections at \$670.2M; 3.3% Above Estimate

The State of Kansas ends July 2025 with total tax collections at \$670.2 million. That is \$21.2 million, or 3.3%, above the estimate. Total tax collections were up 1.5% from July 2024.

"While this month's tax collections highlight the

strength of Kansas' workforce and economy in the short-term, I remain concerned about the long-term fiscal health of the state," Governor Laura Kelly said. "We must stay vigilant and recommit to fiscally responsible budgeting in order to stay

out of the red in the coming years."

Individual income tax collections were \$347.5 million. That is \$32.5 million, or 10.3% above the estimate. Individual income tax collections were up 12.7% from July 2024.

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Above, Landon Baetz, (second from right) was the Grand Champion Overall Showman at the Tri State Royal in Goodland on Saturday. Pictured with him are the reserve and 3rd overall showman who are fellow members of the Nebraska Swine Circuit. Landon is a member of the Nebraska Swine Circuit Board, which is a competitive livestock circuit in Nebraska. (Photo by Carrie Baetz)

Baetz is Tri State Grand Champion Overall Showman



Landon Baetz pictured with his market hog which placed fourth overall at the competition. (Photo by Carrie Baetz)

Landon Baetz, son of Doug & Carrie Baetz, competed at the Tri State Royal in Goodland, Ks., on August 9th.

The Tri State Royal is a livestock show for all County Fair Grand Champions from Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska.

He earned the title of Grand Champion Overall Showman and his market hog placed 4th overall, a prestigious honor.

Landon will be a senior at Lakeside High School and is the Lakeside FFA President, Solomon Valley 4-H President and Vice President of the Osborne County 4-H Council.

His Osborne County Grand Champion Market Barrow "Dennis" that placed 4th overall at the Tri State Royal was bred by Denhart Showpigs in Crawfordsville, Indiana, and is sired by the boar, "Damn Near Normal."

News Office still closed

The newspaper office located in Downs remains closed to the public until the position of editor is filled. Applicants can call 785-454-3514 for more information or email downsnews@ruraltel.net.

While the physical office is closed, the phones will be answered from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday thru Thursday, and emails will be checked. Mail will be checked weekly, so you can still submit news items and subscription payments through the mail or by dropping off at the office, 717 Railroad, Downs.

News items, including photos, and advertising submissions can be sent via email for the weekly edition to: downsnews@ruraltel.net

Kaetlin Hyman, Code Officer Lucas Wiseman, Attorney Scott Wright, Devon Housh, and Jerri Senger.

Minutes & Claims
The minutes of the July 7, 2025 meeting were reviewed. Landon made a motion to approve the minutes. Angie seconded the motion and the vote carried with four ayes.

The claims on hand for the month of July amounted to \$71,492.36, plus the outstanding Sunflower Electric Power, Rolling Hills Electric, and WorldPay bills were reviewed. Landon made a motion to approve the claims. Lindsey seconded the motion and the vote carried with four ayes.

2026 Budget Hearing
Sheila opened the public hearing on the 2026 budget. With no comments on the budget, the public hearing was officially closed.

OCCF seeks applicants for board positions

Osborne County Community Foundation (OCCF) is now accepting applications to fill a board vacancy representing the Alton area. This appointment will begin Sept. 1 and run through Dec. 31, 2025, with the opportunity to serve two full three-year terms starting in January 2026.

Additionally, beginning August 20, OCCF will begin accepting applica-

tions for three board seats opening in January 2026, representing the Portis, Osborne, and Natoma communities. Applications for these January openings are due no later than November 1, 2025.

OCCF board members play a vital role in strengthening our county by helping guide charitable investments, overseeing grantmaking, and support-

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