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With the upcoming Clyde Watermelon Festival this weekend, Clyde business Country Expressions decided to show its excitement for the upcoming celebration by participating in the window decorating contest that previews the local tradition. The festival will begin on Friday, Aug. 28 and conclude on Monday, Sept. 1.

PHOTO BY OLIVIA BERGMEIER | CONCORDIA BLADE-EMPIRE

City Commission approves placing sales tax vote on November ballot

A Resolution that places a proposed sales tax on the November ballot, approval of a USDA Community IRA Grant for tree replacement, and an increase in court costs were part of another busy city commission meeting on Wednesday, August 20.

The meeting began with commissioners unanimously approving Resolution 2025-2208 that authorizes a ballot question for voters in the November 4, 2025, general election. The question will ask voters if they want to approve a one-percent citywide retailers' sales tax for the design, construction, maintenance and operations of a proposed Community Activities Center at Rasure Field.

During their July 2, 2025, meeting the city commission authorized staff to proceed with applications for various funding options for the proposed project, including the Blueprint to Build (B2B) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), as well as an application for a USDA Community Facilities low interest loan.

A public hearing on the proposed project was held on August 13, 2025. This public hearing was a requirement of the B2B CDBG grant application that is due November 14, which offers a potential

award of \$2.5 million.

The current cost of the proposed project is estimated to be: grant administration (0.6%) \$100,000; design services (6%) \$1,020,000; general conditions (4%) \$695,000; construction/equipment (88%) \$14,945,000; and miscellaneous expense (1.4%) \$240,000, for a total budget of \$17,000,000.

The proposed project would raise \$2.5 million from the B2B grant, \$5 million in private donations, and \$10 million from the USDA low interest loan.

The one-percent citywide retailers' special purpose sales tax is estimated to provide \$10 million toward design and construction of the facility, and \$200,000 annually for operations of the facility during the 10-year special sales tax period.

From 2009 to 2019, sales tax for the City generated \$1.1 million – \$1.2 million annually. Since 2020, the City's existing 1% citywide retailers' sales tax has generated \$1.2 million – \$1.6 million annually.

Imposition of a new sales tax requires a public vote, but the city commission had to first pass a resolution calling for the vote and authorizing the ballot question.

See CITY on 13A

Concordia resident dies in plane crash

David Kadel, 76, of Concordia, died in a plane crash near Blosser Municipal Airport Sunday evening.

According to the Kansas Highway Patrol, Kadel was flying a Rans S-21 Airaile single-engine plane. Shortly after takeoff, it appeared that the plane suffered a possible mechanical issue and crashed near 1674 N. 150th Road in Concordia.



Cloud County Community College (CCCC) celebrated its 60th Birthday alongside its new fall semester students on Thursday, August. 21, at the Career and Technical Education building at CCCC in Concordia.

PHOTO BY OLIVIA BERGMEIER | CONCORDIA BLADE-EMPIRE



Delish owners Amanda and Jason Townsdin prepare blueberries for freeze drying by puncturing the skin of the fruits to allow the moisture to escape at their commercial kitchen on Thursday, July 31, in Concordia.

SEE STORY ON PAGE 5A

PHOTO BY OLIVIA BERGMEIER | CONCORDIA BLADE-EMPIRE



An ornate box turtle looks around as she races toward the edge of the circle during the annual Tootlefest Turtle Races on Saturday, Aug. 23, in Miltonvale.

PHOTO BY OLIVIA BERGMEIER | CONCORDIA BLADE-EMPIRE

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