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MARSHALL COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

County
seeks cuts
in budget
requests

By Chris Pannbacker

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The 2026 Marshall County budget requests will be sent back to county department heads, who will be asked to find at least a 3 percent reduction, and preferably 5 percent, county commissioners decided Monday.

Commissioners will look at the updated requests when they meet July 14. Commissioners do not meet next week.

On Monday, the commissioners began working with preliminary 2026 budget documents prepared by County Clerk Sandy Wilson. One projection, with no cost-of-living adjustments for county employees, showed an increase of 5.193 mills in the county tax levy for 2026 to fund

See **Budget, 5A** ►



Towns plan
Independence
Day festivities

Marysville's City Park is about to come alive with red, white and blue fun as final touches are made for An Old-Fashioned Fourth of July this Friday.

Activities are planned throughout the day, and the celebration offers a small-town vibe with something for all ages. All of the events are open to the public.

The morning kicks off at 9 a.m. with the Walk, Run or Ride along the Blue River Rail Trail, starting at Backroads Bicycle in downtown Marysville. The casual outing also will have a scavenger hunt for kids 12 and under, plus drinks and snacks.

At 10 a.m., teams will line up at the Historic Union Pacific Depot for the

See **July 4, 5A** ►

Effects of federal bill



Pam Harrison

Community Memorial Healthcare nurse Rebekah Schotte, left, and Wendy Hale, patient care assistant, worked Tuesday morning in the hospital's emergency room.

Medicaid cuts — what would they
mean to Marshall County?

By Sarah Kessinger

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The federal budget bill, dubbed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, passed the U.S. Senate Tuesday. Its current version will mean harder times for Marysville's hospital and surrounding counties' medical facilities designated by the federal government as Critical Access Hospitals.

The bill would make extensive cutbacks and changes to federal

Medicaid funding.

Medicaid is insurance for Kansas' poorest residents, many of them children, and disabled Kansans.

In Marysville, Community Memorial Healthcare administrator Curtis Hawkinson said CMH would face lower Medicaid reimbursement under the federal budget bill, which passed the Senate on a 51-50 vote, sending it back to the House for more revisions this week.

President Trump urged House passage so he can sign it by the

Fourth of July on Friday.

The new law means more uninsured residents and less funding for hospitals and clinics to provide health care, Hawkinson said.

"The hit to CMH with more stringent and frequent eligibility processes will mean many Medicaid beneficiaries will be automatically unenrolled," he said, "causing more uninsured patients and more uncompensated care for hospitals, including CMH."

See **Medicaid, 8A** ►

Much-needed rain falls across county

By Chris Pannbacker

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Finally.

A widespread generous rain blanketed much of Marshall County Monday morning, with many totals above 1.5 inches, according to the Marshall County Kansas Rainfall Totals Facebook page. The Marysville water plant recorded 1.88 inches as of 8 a.m.

That rainfall, combined with what some in the county received in the last week, gave those who had been on the precipitation short side

some grace and helped build soil moisture for those who have been receiving more regular rainfall through June.

Night-time temperatures cooled early in the week, helping to stretch the rain's beneficial effects. Forecasts show chances of rain on multiple days beginning Thursday through much of next week.

Christopher "Chip" Redmond, assistant meteorologist-KSU Weather Data Library/Mesonet manager, said that so far in 2025, many areas have had timely moisture.

"They say the best summer crops are in a drought with timely pre-

cipitation. . .The good news is that we continue to receive precipitation and heat events have been short in duration," Redmond said. "We've developed some positive soil moisture now that should help to prevent excessive heat as well. Additionally, monsoon moisture is building in the southwestern U.S., and we continue to see tropical activity in the eastern Pacific. These are both indications that we will see periods of showers and storms, enough for timely rainfall, but overall likely resulting in a continued building of

See **Weather, 3A** ►

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