

Budget: Cuts requested

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the county tax levy for 2026 to fund proposed requests. Another version, with a 3 percent cost-of-living increase, showed a projected 5.991-mill tax increase. The 2025 county mill levy was 44.907 mills. Wilson asked commissioners if they wanted to try to stay at the county’s 2026 revenue neutral rate of 44.386 mills. The revenue neutral rate is the mill levy that would raise the same amount of money as last year based on the county’s new valuation. The county’s estimated assessed valuation as of July 1 that will be used in building the proposed 2026 budget is \$218,685,549, an increase of \$2,646,623 from the Nov. 1, 2024, final assessed valuation of \$216,038,926. Chairman Jon Ungerer said he wasn’t sure if commissioners could get to the 2026 revenue neutral rate. “I do not want to increase six mills either,” he said. If all departments cut 3 to 5 percent, Ungerer estimated

that action could lower projections by about two mills. Wilson, Ungerer and Commissioners Greg Meyer and Austin Cline looked at other possible cuts to items in the county general fund and discussed cuts in appropriations requests. The budget document is a work in progress. Commissioners hope to meet in July with a representative for Freedom Claims for an update on the county’s health insurance costs since changing health plans at the first of the year. County employees have a card for Blue Cross and Blue Shield and a card for Freedom Claims, a claims management company, to present to a provider for coverage. Freedom Claims offers a medical reimbursement plan that is used by about 30 counties and more than 15 cities in Kansas. Commissioners must decide by July 21 if they plan to exceed the revenue neutral rate. A public hearing will be scheduled, likely in September.

July 4: Activities set

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Road Rally, a countryside adventure full of clues and competition. The cost is \$10 per person or \$40 max per carload, with proceeds supporting depot preservation. From 1 to 4:30 p.m., the focus shifts to Marysville City Park, where games, contests and family-friendly activities will be in full swing. People can try their hand at croquet, flickin’ a rubber chicken, lemonade pong or kite flying. Swimming at the Marysville Aquatic Center will be free from 1 to 6 p.m. At 2:30 p.m., the bike parade and pet parade will take place side by side. Prizes will be awarded in each parade for Best in Show, Most Patriotic and Best Group Entry, with winners receiving Chamber Bucks. It’s a Sweet Treat Day Bakery and Mama Ging’s House of Lumpia will be serve food from noon until 5 p.m. “This is just good, old-fashioned fun,” said Brian Fragel, who’s helping coordinate the afternoon events. “It’s kids running around, and everybody just enjoying the day together.” Volunteers are still needed for short shifts in the afternoon. Anyone interested can email marysvillecms@gmail.com or call 785-562-3101. A free volunteer T-shirt will be provided.

Blue Rapids

- 9 a.m., kickball tournament at the ball park. People can contact Max Blaske to sign up, 785-713-9197.
- 10 a.m., pickleball tournament at the Riverside Park court.
- 11 a.m., triathlon — swim, bike and run — Blue Rapids City Pool.

- 2 p.m., golf cart poker run at the public square, with registration beginning at 1 p.m.
- 4 to 8 p.m., crafter and vendor show at the fairgrounds.
- 5 to 7 p.m., firemen’s supper. Public welcome.
- 6:30 p.m., Kiddie Parade. Children will line up on the north side of the 4-H building starting at 6:15 p.m. For more information, people can call Jacey Steinfert at 989-502-1029.
- 7:15 p.m., duck race at Riverside Park.
- 8 p.m., cake walk at the fairgrounds, and Side-tracked band will perform.
- 10 p.m., fireworks at the ball field.

Waterville

Waterville will observe the Independence Day holiday on Thursday, July 3.

- 5 p.m., chicken dinner served by the Terry Yungeberg family at the ball field.
- 6 to 9 p.m., swimming at the city pool will be free.
- 10 p.m., fireworks show at the ball field.

Hanover

Hanover Days of ‘49 is Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

- Thursday — Landoll Night with free carnival rides at fairgrounds. Wristbands will be handed out from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Angie Kriz & PolkaToons will perform at 7 p.m. at the fairgrounds.
- Friday — tractor show downtown all day, corn hole tournament at 10 a.m. and turtle races at 2 p.m. at the Community Building. Parade at 6:30 p.m. downtown. Pure Sound DJ performs at 9 p.m. at the Community Building.
- Saturday — tractor show all day, farmers market from 8 a.m. to noon, car show from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Parade at 5:30 p.m. Lazy Wayne Band performs at 9:30 p.m. Fireworks will be at dusk about 10 p.m.. The carnival will be open all three nights.

Legislators consider expanding mail-in ballot request time

By Ariona Cook

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Area legislators are discussing widening the window to request mail-in ballots for state and local elections. Loud Light, Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice and the Disability Rights Center of Kansas, three organizations that support voter access initiatives, filed a lawsuit challenging Senate Bill 4, which the Legislature passed this spring to repeal the grace period for mail-in ballots. The law takes effect Jan. 1 and will end the current three-day grace period currently allowed for mail ballots to arrive in the Marshall County clerk’s office after election day. The organizations released a joint statement saying the new law “carelessly disregards the realities of postal delivery delays, which will disproportionately harm rural, elderly and disabled voters.” State Sen. Elaine Bowers, a Concordia Republican whose district takes in part of Marshall County, said the three-day grace period didn’t fulfill its original purpose. “This law was originally intended to help address slow mail delivery, but unfortunately the situation has only worsened in

recent years — especially in Marysville, where it is now one of the most common complaints I hear from constituents.” However, Bowers recently said she would support making up for the three days lost. “There have already been discussions about adding three additional days to the front end of the timeline for requesting ballots, and I do support this idea for next (legislative) session.” For now, Bowers encouraged voters to return their completed ballot in person rather than by mail. People can return them to the clerk’s office, the drop box in front of the Marshall County Courthouse or to a polling place by 7 p.m. on election day. “I trust our local election officers to handle ballots properly,” she said, “and ensure they remain within the county, rather than being rerouted through state mail facilities or even sent out of state.” Rep. Lisa Moser, Wheaton Republican whose district includes all of Marshall County, recently told the Advo-



Sen. Elaine Bowers



Rep. Lisa Moser

cate that she also is interested in the idea of expanding the advance voting window. “While visiting with a House colleague from Wichita, Rep. Sandy Pickert, District 88, she mentioned that in speaking with her constituents, a suggestion was made to add on days at the beginning of the advance voting process. I told her I would be interested in learning more.” Moser said the Legislature, when determining how many days, should consider what would be most efficient considering mail delivery schedules. “Since mail does not move on Sundays, and with (the) election being on Tuesdays, it could be likely to add three or four days depending on which will give the public the most opportunity to get their ballots to the election office, with near the same number of days as the current three-day grace period following election day.” A key person to look to when considering this measure is Rep. Pat Proctor, a Leavenworth Republican who chairs the Kansas House Elections Committee, said Moser. “If the bill has a hearing, Chair Proctor will decide to either work the bill in committee for a vote to pass (or fail) out of committee, or allow the bill to simply sit

and later die in committee.” Proctor made headlines earlier this year after videos of his remarks about mail-in voting on a February 2024 private Zoom meeting organized by House Majority Leader Chris Croft were leaked. “If it was up to me, Election Day would be Election Day. There wouldn’t be early voting. Mail-in ballots would only be for military or severely disabled. But I got to bring 84 people with me, so I’m chipping away at it.” The 84 that Proctor refers to is the number of Kansas House members needed to overturn a governor’s veto. According to the Kansas Reflector news site, Proctor also said Loud Light and Appleseed, which sabotaged his prior attempt of gaining bipartisan support to overturn Gov. Laura Kelly’s potential veto on last year’s similar legislation to Senate Bill 4. “I had a deal, and then Loud Light and Appleseed, which are the kind of bomb throwers in the election debate, they blew it up...I told them all, this is your year for a deal. You can either negotiate and we can get a deal, or next year I’m ramming the thing through the way I want it to look,” Proctor said.

Tar Spot confirmed in Kansas cornfields

Tar spot, a fungal disease that has steadily established itself in Kansas cornfields over the past few years, has been detected again in the state, with the first confirmed report of 2025 occurring June 11 in northeast Kansas. “I think we have learned a lot in the last (few) years in terms of distribution and management,” K-State row crop pathologist Rodrigo Onofre said. “It is one of the corn diseases that we see survive in corn residue, so folks that have seen this spot before are going to be dealing with this disease for a long time.” Onofre emphasized the importance of knowing hybrid susceptibility to tar spot. “We know that there are some hybrids that are fairly susceptible to tar spot” he said. Early detection is crucial for best management practices. When scouting for tar spot in corn, Onofre said, it can be tricky to decipher tar spot from other corn diseases or insect residue on a leaf. He shared this tip: Get a wet cloth and try to clean that leaf. If it’s tar spot, it’s not going to rub off, but everything else will clean off. “For folks in the central and western part of the state, the tar lesion can show up anywhere

in the canopy due to wind or machine movement,” he said. Onofre said producers should be on alert even in counties not currently affected by tar spot “because wind movement still makes (corn fields) susceptible.” For those who are already affected by tar spot, Onofre recommended steps to take now to prepare for 2026. “The best thing that we could do for next year is start to think about more resistant hybrids, early scouting and a good herbicide management program. “This year for the first time, we have a partnership with Kansas Corn, and now we have a Kansas Corn Disease Center, where growers can go and find not just a tar spot map but other diseases too.”

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Downtown Marysville Historic District Nomination

OneMarysville is accepting proposals from qualified consultants to prepare a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nomination for a proposed historic district in downtown Marysville, Kansas. This effort supports the preservation and revitalization of our community's historic core.

Scope of Work Includes:

- Research and evaluation of historic resources
- Preparation and submission of NRHP nomination
- Public meetings and presentations
- Coordination with Kansas State Historical Society
- Final submission to the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review

The proposed district spans approximately 9½ blocks of downtown Marysville. A recent survey found 67% of the buildings within the area contribute to the district's historical significance.

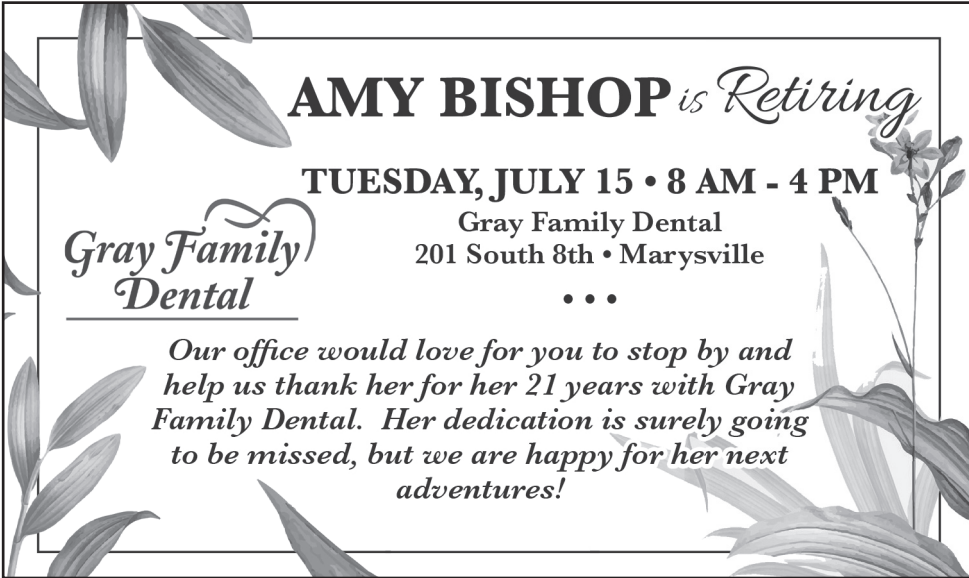
Consultant Qualifications:
Applicants must meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards and demonstrate experience with successful NRHP nominations.

Submission Deadline:
5 p.m., Friday, July 25, 2025
Both digital and hard copies are required.

Submit proposals to:
OneMarysville
Attn: Wayne Kruse
617 Broadway St. | P.O. Box 16
Marysville, KS 66508

To request full proposal details or ask questions, contact:
Wayne Kruse at 785-562-3101 or email marysvillecms@gmail.com.

This project is partially funded by the National Park Service and administered by the Kansas State Historical Society. OneMarysville is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
(First published in The Marysville Advocate on Thursday, Jul 3, 2025)



AMY BISHOP *is Retiring*

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Our office would love for you to stop by and help us thank her for her 21 years with Gray Family Dental. Her dedication is surely going to be missed, but we are happy for her next adventures!