



Doniphan County Courthouse in Troy

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Pray for
America



Queen Ella Wisler & King Chase Hewins

Riverside Royalty

Riverside High School hosted their homecoming game Friday, September 26, 2025. Crowned Queen was Ella Wisler and King was Chase Hewins.

Other contenders included Jaylen Wilson, Mason Hayes, Trinity Jackson, Beckham Griffin, Jessenia Perez, and Maddox Meers. Flower Girl Raelynn Estes and Crown Bearer Rhett Ernst accompanied them.



An American flag waves in the breeze atop a new flagpole installed in Wathena. Submitted photo.



Mike Schultz of St. Joseph, pictured above, lays bricks for the base of the new flagpole in Wathena. He is the stepson of Floyd McElwain, one of the men who organized the project. Submitted photo.

New Flagpole and Flag for Wathena

By Mary Winder, Chief reporter
An area businessman and a long-time Wathena resident teamed up to spearhead the installation of a flagpole for an American flag to greet folks who are driving through the city of Wathena on U.S. Hwy. 36.

Floyd McElwain of St. Joseph, who owns the building at 105 E. St. Joseph Street in Wathena where he maintains an office for his business, McElwain Sprayers, LLC, and Mike Gabriel of Wathena organized the project. Both men emphasize that they had plenty of help with the project from various businesses, entities, and individuals.

The flagpole project actually began last fall when Gabriel shared his idea of installing a flagpole for an American flag in Wathena with McElwain.

"I had been looking for someplace in Wathena to put in a flagpole

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Zoning Hearing to be held Oct. 8th

On Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 7:30P.M. the Doniphan County Regional Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing in the Doniphan County Courthouse, Office of the County Commissioners in Troy.

This meeting will be conducted upon the application of Bryan Paden, represented by Evergy to amend the zoning of the following described real estate located at 2249 175th Road, Wathena, KS. from Industrial to Industrial, Conditional Use to allow an Evergy electrical substation on the property.

All interested persons and citizens may appear and will be given an opportunity to be heard either in support of or in opposition to the application for the zoning amendment.



Troy Royalty

On Friday, September 26, Troy High School crowned their homecoming royalty. Pictured from left to right front row: Kindergarten escorts Carter Smith, Kolbi Norris, Kennedy Carpenter, and Holden Carskaddon. Back Row: Hunter Engemann, Harper Whetstine, King Henry Geiger, Queen Nicole Judd, Caden Rosenberg, Alyson Grable, Colton Luedke, and Addison Grable.

Photo Credit: Bethany Cluck



A group of first grade students from Troy Elementary School and an adult helper work together to plant native prairie plants at the Troy Community Park recently as part of the Plant A Prairie program of the Kansas Native Plant Society. Pictured from left to right are: Lincoln Whetstine, Brantley Klaus, Kimbrey McCoy, Selena Smith, Taylor Huss, Liam White, and Leyton Hazzard.

Troy First Graders Plant a Mini-Prairie

By Mary Winder
Chief reporter

Powered by their own enthusiasm and led by some caring adults, a group of Troy Elementary School first graders planted native prairie wildflower plants at the Troy Community Park on Sept. 17. The project was made possible through the Plant A Prairie program sponsored by the Kansas Native Plant Society.

"I thought it went really well!" says Maggie Michalak, first grade teacher at Troy. "The students had a good time. They liked getting their hands dirty, and they were really excited to get to do the planting themselves. It may have been the first time some had ever been gardening."

Selena Smith of rural Fanning, who is a Master Gardener and a member of the Troy Community Park Committee, organized the project.

"Selena contacted our principal, Allisha Engemann, about this program at the end of last school year, and Allisha then asked if I wanted to do it with my first grade students. I said, 'Yes!'" explains Maggie. "Then, Selena got back in touch with me at the beginning of this school year to work out the details."

After receiving the green light last spring to go ahead with carrying out the program, Selena moved forward with the plans.

"I'd read about the Plant A Prairie program before and thought it would be a neat project to get the kids out-

side and in nature, and to teach them about native plants," says Selena. "There was an application I filled out in the spring and shortly after was approved."

The Kansas Native Plant Society (KNPS) website includes information about this program.

"Each Plant A Prairie garden includes 32 live plants (8 species)—enough for an 8 foot by 10 foot classroom garden—along with a native plant ID field guide, planting instructions, a Plant A Prairie garden sign, links to teaching resources, and expert advice via phone or email," the website states. "Kansas teachers K-12 and leaders of youth organizations are eligible to apply. The number of kits is limited."

"Students will enjoy the hands-on experience of planting and tending their mini-prairie," the website continues. "They can learn the basics of plant biology and prairie ecology. And, the completed garden helps preserve our natural heritage by providing a way station for bees, butterflies and birds."

There is no cost to the participants in the Plant A Prairie program. The plants are provided for free and are hand-selected to match local growing conditions.

"Funding for Plant A Prairie is provided by the Gary and June Kliesen Memorial Fund," the website mate-

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Artist Chris Fleck paints on the new Welcome to Wathena mural in downtown Wathena.

Wathena's Main Street Mural on Display

The American Legion Post #161 Auxiliary is excited to announce that they were recently awarded a grant from the Kansas Department of Commerce, office of Rural Prosperity to commission a mural on Main Street, Wathena to tell our towns history and encourage people to visit.

According to the State's press release on Sept. 17th, 2025, Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland announced that the agency has awarded \$75,000 in Rural Mural funding to support public art projects in rural communities across the state.

"Our rural communities are the backbone of what makes our state so great — they're rich in culture, resilience and unique identity," Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland said. "Investing in these large-scale public art pieces allows communities to signal not only hometown pride but a commitment to harnessing creativity to drive economic growth across Kansas."

Twelve recipients of the Rural Mural grant were awarded including: Mo-Kan Regional Council (\$4,697): A mural project showcasing the spirit and resilience of small-town life in Wathena.

According to Theresa Rohrer, American legion Auxiliary project chairman, local Artist Chris Fleck of St. Joseph was commissioned to design and paint the mural based on the foundational components selected from Auxiliary members.

Tribute to our history include Chief Wathena, patriotism, the Pony Express, agriculture, and our apple industry along with others.

If you would like to make a donation to help with the matching funds, check may be made to American Legion Auxiliary mural project, PO Box 83, Wathena, KS.

Special thanks to Col. John and Dr. Heather Cluck for their in kind donations of building site, lift and other services. More information on official ribbon cutting, will be coming soon.

Troy Man Sentenced for Sexual Battery

Hunter Artman, a 24-year-old man from Troy, was sentenced to six months in jail after pleading no contest to a misdemeanor charge of sexual battery. The sentencing took place in Doniphan County District Court on Thursday, September 25, 2025.

The charge stems from an incident in April 2019, where Artman was accused of sexually assaulting a woman. He was formally charged in February 2023 after an investigation by the Doniphan County Sheriff's Office.

As part of a plea deal, a more serious felony rape charge was dismissed. Following the hearing, Artman was ordered to report to the Doniphan County Jail to begin serving his sentence.



Yard of the Month

The Highland Community Action Team (HCAT) congratulates Tana and Dennis Snyder for the honor of having their yard in Highland named as the "Yard of the Month" for the month of September. Their beautiful yard is pictured above.



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