

SOCIETY

Construction activity abounds during first half of 2025

Since the first of the year the sight of construction workers (paid or otherwise) operating nail guns, electric drills, and power saws has been much in evidence in Jefferson County.

In fact, when compared to the corresponding period in 2024, both the first and second quarters of this year saw the Community Development Office issue more building permits for an assortment of projects on private property, according to two of the three reports Community Development Director Stephan Metzger shared with County Commissioners David Christy, Richard Malm, and Doug Walbridge during their meeting July 21.

The two reports, “2025 Building Permit Report — 1st Quarter” and “2025 Building Permit Report — 2nd Quarter,” put the permit total for Jan. 1-March 31 and the permit total for April 1-June 30 at 43 and 58, respectively.

Those 43 building permits handed out during the first three months of the year topped the first quarter total for all but one of the previous four years.

Better yet, the 58 permits that went out the door during the second three months of the year were the most for the five-year period encompassed by the years 2021-2025.

Just for the sake of comparison, the CDO issued 38 first-

quarter building permits last year, 37 in 2023, 47 in 2022, and 29 in 2021.

And doing some more comparing here, last year’s second-quarter permit total was 38, the 2023 total 57, the 2022 total 45, and the 2021 total 46.

The “2025 Building Permit Report - 1st Quarter” had the following categorical breakdown for the 43 permits handed out by Metzger’s office:

Dwelling, 19; dwelling addition, 3; guesthouse, 2; accessory structures, 19; addition to accessory structures, 0; commercial, 0; commercial additions, 0.

Residents of Sarcoxie Township were the recipients of 6 permits, Fairview, Jefferson and Kentucky Township residents 5 apiece, and both Ozawkie and Oskaloosa Township residents 4 each.

The remaining permits were distributed among Delaware Township residents, 3, Rock Creek Township residents, 3, Rural Township residents, 3, Kaw Township residents, 2, Union Township residents, 2, and a Norton Township resident, 1.

The issuance of the permits netted \$9,500 for the CDO, the best number for the quarter for the 2021-2025 period.

The “2025 Building Permit Report — 2nd Quarter” had the following categorical breakdown for the 58 permits Metzger’s office issued:

Dwelling, 23; dwelling addition, 3; guesthouse, 1; accessory structures, 28; addition to accessory structures, 2; commercial, 1; commercial additions, 0.

Eleven of the permits went to Fairview Township residents, 8 to Jefferson Township residents, 7 to Sarcoxie Township residents, 6 to Oskaloosa Township residents, and 5 to Delaware Township residents.

The other permits were divided among Kentucky Township residents, 4, Rock Creek Township residents, 4, Rural Township residents, 4, Kaw Township residents, 3, Norton Township residents, 2, Ozawkie Township residents, 2, and Union Township residents, 2.

The CDO took in \$12,325 through the issuance of the permits. That figure for the quarter was surpassed by only one other in the past four years, 2023’s \$12,950.

The third report presented to Christy, Malm, and Walbridge, “Quarterly Report of Dwellings from 1998-2025,” indicated that Metzger’s office handed out 21

building permits for dwellings during the first quarter and 23 during the second.

The last time both numbers were bettered was the second quarter of 2018, when the Planning and Zoning Department issued 25 permits.

The 44 dwelling-related permits issued so far this year leave the CDO just 10 behind the total for all of 2024, 54.

According to the report, the combined estimated cost of construction for the 21 dwellings associated with the first-quarter permits was \$7,143,000. That translates into an average cost per dwelling of \$340,143.

For the 23 dwellings tied to the second-quarter permits, the combined estimated cost of construction was \$6,332,029, for an average cost per dwelling of \$275,306.

POLICY ON SUBMISSIONS

News and society items are printed once free of charge, but are subject to editing. We welcome community reporting.

News items must be typed and accompanied by name, address, daytime phone number and email address of the person submitting the item.

Photos for births, engagements, weddings, and anniversaries are printed at a cost of \$20. A charge of \$30 is assessed if the item is requested to be printed in both newspapers. Only quality photos will be accepted. Pictures printed off home computers on bond paper are usually not satisfactory and will not be run.

The paper charges for thank yous, apologies, and other expressions not considered news.

Promotions and fundraisers are considered advertising and will be charged, including nonprofit groups. “If you charge, we charge,” is the key.

Advertising rates apply to obituaries. Letters to the Editor are encouraged and welcome. They must be signed and contain the address and phone number of the person submitting the letter. Letters will not be published to arbitrate disputes between private parties.

Political letters are accepted up to two weeks prior to an election. Any correspondence from a candidate must be a paid advertisement, except where responding to a paper’s editorial column or someone’s letter.

The deadline is noon Monday, but there is no guarantee that submissions will be included in that week’s paper.

THE OSKALOOSA Independent 607 Delaware P.O. Box 278 Oskaloosa, KS 66066 independent@jeffcountynews.com (785) 863-2520

In Memory of Fred Shade

April 8, 1946 - August 7, 2024

You brought smiles, laughs, and much more, and your favorite line “Good enough for who it’s for”

You are missed very much, Your family



OBITUARIES

ONA PERKINS-KING

Ona “Kay” Perkins-King, 80, of Oskaloosa, died Tuesday, July 29, 2025, at Anew Place care center in Nortonville. She was born August 3, 1944, at Oskaloosa, the daughter of George Rolla and Mabel Mae Brown Peppard. She was a 1962 graduate of Oskaloosa High School.

Kay worked as a cook and dishwasher at Walker’s Elm Café and at Pat’s Drive-In in Oskaloosa. She was a member of Oskaloosa United Methodist Church and served 17 years as the Church Custodian.

Kay was married to Robert J. “Bob” Perkins on October 18, 1964, at Oskaloosa. He preceded her in death on August 4, 1982. She married Alvin R. King on June 20, 1989, at Oskaloosa. Alvin preceded her in death on November 11, 2010.

Kay is survived by her sister, Nancy L. Peppard, of Winchester, formerly of Oskaloosa, and her close friends and caretakers.

Funeral services were Tuesday, August 5, 2025, at Barnett Family Funeral Home, Oskaloosa. Burial was at Pleasant View Cemetery, Oskaloosa. Memorials are suggested to the Jefferson County Humane Society. barnettfamilyrh.com

Paid obituary

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Oskaloosa Independent July 31, August 7 and 14, 2025)3t

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, KANSAS

MIKE NIXON, Plaintiff, vs. KENNETH WILLITS, STATE OF KANSAS, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, KANSAS HIGHWAY PATROL, and ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS, if any, Defendants.

(Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 60) Case No. JF-2025-CV-000062

NOTICE OF SUIT

The state of Kansas to any all persons who are or may be concerned:

You are hereby notified that a Petition to Quiet Title has been filed in the District Court of Jefferson County, Kansas by Mike Nixon praying for a Kansas Certificate of Title to a particular 2018 Big Tex, 20 plus 5, flatbed trailer, free and clear of all liens and encumbrances, and that you are hereby required to plead to the Petition in the District Court of Jefferson County, Kansas, on or before 10th day of September 2025. If you fail to plead, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

Respectfully Submitted, /s/ Terry A. Iles Terry A. Iles, #17133 LAW OFFICE OF TERRY A. ILES The Liberty Building 214 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 301 Topeka, Kansas 66603 TEL: 785/232-2777 FAX: 785/232-0606 EMAIL: terryliles@ileslawoffice.com ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Oskaloosa Independent July 31, August 7 and 14, 2025)3t

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, KANSAS

PROBATE DIVISION IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JAMES D. CHILD, Deceased

Case No. JF-2025-PR-000031

NOTICE OF HEARING AND

NOTICE TO CREDITORS THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in the above Court and Case by Elizabeth Ann (Child) Kerkсиеk, 3415 - 27th Street, Grantville, Kansas 66429, requesting the issuance of Letters Testamentary and that she be appointed as Executor under the Kansas Simplified Estates Act.

Under the Kansas Simplified Estates Act, the Court need not supervise administration of the Estate, and no further notice of any action by the Executor or other proceedings in the administration of the Estate will be given, except the Notice of Final Settlement. Should written objections to Simplified Administration be filed with the Court, the Court may order supervised administration thereof.

You are required to file any written defenses to said Petition on or before the 22nd day of August, 2025, at 8:30 AM which time and place the Petition will be heard, and serve notice of such defense upon Petitioner’s Attorney. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said Petition.

All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate and serve notice of such claim upon Petitioner’s Attorney within four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, the same shall be forever barred.

ELIZABETH ANN (CHILD) KERKSIEK, Petitioner NYSTROM LAW OFFICE

K. KIRK NYSTROM Attorney No. 10385 112 S.W. 6th Avenue, Suite 509 Topeka, Kansas 66603 (785) 235-6977 Attorney for Petitioner

Am I growing plants, or feeding grasshoppers?

K-State Extension news

If gardeners get this eerie feeling that they’re feeding grasshoppers right now, they’re likely not alone.

Kansas State University horticulture expert Cynthia Domenghini said many grasshopper varieties make their home in gardens this time of year, preferring the luxurious accommodations – rife with leaves, flowers, stems, and seeds – as they molt and mature.

Grasshoppers have huge appetites and sharp, chewing mouth parts to damage fruit, defoliate a tree, or even devour entire plants. They are considered one of the most destructive garden pests.

“Full-sized adults are the most problematic because they have wings and can cover more ground,” Domenghini said. “They also have tougher skin, making insecticides less effective.”

Gardeners should act early if they detect grasshopper infestations.

“Nets and floating row covers can be effective protection for small areas, though grasshoppers have been known to chew through netting,” Domenghini said. “Gardeners who want to avoid synthetic (insecticide) treatments have to decide the amount of damage to garden plants that they can tolerate. In suburban areas, it is important for gardeners to work together to control grasshoppers and limit the destruction.”

Domenghini said insecticides are usually effective when the spray comes into direct contact with the grasshopper.

“Most insecticides have to be re-applied to eliminate new arrivals,” she said. “Immature grasshoppers are limited in their range since they travel by foot. They are easiest to control at this stage.”

For updated recommendations on pesticides, including a protocol for applying them, gardeners are encouraged to contact their local K-State Research and Extension office.

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THE OSKALOOSA INDEPENDENT

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