



**July 4th  
skies to be  
filled with  
rockets'  
red glare**

**INDEPENDENCE** — A town with a name that is synonymous with the July 4th holiday will celebrate America's birthday in star-spangled style on Friday.

Independence's annual fireworks show will take place at Riverside Park at 9:30 p.m. Friday.

Prior to the fireworks show, which is sponsored by the Independence Rotary Club, the Mid-Continent Band will hold a concert performance from the Hille Band Shell at 8 p.m.

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and again from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., the Riverside Park train, carousel and miniature golf course will be open.

Persons who will attend the fireworks show at Riverside Park are reminded that fireworks are prohibited within the boundaries of the park, zoo and Mount Hope Cemetery.

# More than 110 vendors sign up for Coffeyville's Summer Celebration

COFFEYVILLE — Walter Johnson Park will be filled with star-spangled excitement on Saturday, July 12 for the annual Coffeyville Summer Celebration.

Organizers said more than 110 vendors — including more than one dozen food vendors — will be in the park for a full-day of fun activities, culminating with the region's largest fireworks show at dusk.

Foggy Bottom Boys will ignite the aerial shells and other fireworks. An estimated 65,000 individual fireworks will be ignited for the big show.

Radio station KUSN (98.1 FM) will provide the soundtrack for this year's fireworks show.

Sister stations KGGF will be at Walter Johnson Park at several times during the day-long festivities.

Gail Smith and Mike Bradley, who organize the annual Summer Celebration, said this year's festivities will be bigger — thanks to contributions from new partners City of Dearing and City of South Coffeyville, as well as Bartlett

• see **CELEBRATION** page A8



## Hoping to catch a whopper

With a fully-loaded hook and bobber ready to attract hungry fish, Addie Overall of Cherryvale prepared to cast her fishing rod into Cherryvale's Lake Tanko during a fishing derby on Saturday. Overall was one of 48 youths who participated in a fishing derby as part of the Freedom Fest celebration. Besides the fishing derby, the celebration included a 5K run, food trucks, live music and an fireworks show at dusk.

ANDY TAYLOR / MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHRONICLE

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# ICC budget to stick with neutral tax revenue

BY ANDY TAYLOR  
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**INDEPENDENCE** — Additional property tax dollars are not anticipated for Independence Community College taxpayers for the 2025-26 budget year.

At Monday's ICC trustee meeting, trustees agreed to pass a resolution that declares the trustees' intent to not exceed the revenue neutral rate of 33.779 mills for the 2025-26 budget cycle, which begins July 1.

A revenue neutral rate, also known as RNR, mean that ICC will not levy any additional property tax dollars above or beyond what was raised for the 2024-25 budget cycle.

Therefore, the tax revenue is “neutral” — not more or any less when compared to the previous budget year.

ICC was able to lower its tax levy to the RNR level because of higher taxable valuations across the ICC tax district. Dr. Jonathan Sadhoo, ICC president, said ICC's predicted tax valuation is more than \$192 million — a sizable jump from the \$183.3 million that was used to prepare the college's 2024-025 budget.

With a higher tax valuation, a governmental entity is capable of decreasing its tax levy without triggering additional tax revenues. In theory, the property tax valuation process can be compared to a teeter-totter: when property valuations increase, the tax levy is capable of being lowered

On the flip side, if property valua-

tions decrease, then the tax levy generally has to increase in order to make up for the loss of tax revenue.

For the sake of comparison, ICC's

tax rate for the 2024-25 budget year was 35.415 mills. For the 2023-24 budget year, the tax levy was 37.180 mills

Since 2020, ICC has lowered its tax rate, which is measured in terms of mills, by more than 19 percent.



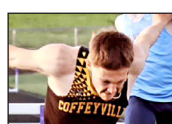
## Learning the ropes at ICC

This week begins a series of new student orientations at the Independence Community College campus. Senior campus recruiter Chris Cameron (with back to camera) provided a campus tour to new students and their parents during an orientation on Monday. The tour followed a busy Sunday, in which 120 new students, primarily fall sports athletes, moved into the college dormitories. For more details about the enrollment projections for ICC for the 2025-26 school year, see story on page A3. PHOTO BY KRIS FERGUSON / ICC STAFF

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## Horner is all-area boys' track athlete

Field Kindley's Jake Horner proved his athletic mettle by ending track season as state champion. See page B6-B7

