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# Out-of-state tags irk local citizens

## At separate meetings on Monday, local citizens call out county residents who avoid paying state taxes by tagging vehicles in Oklahoma

Can law enforcement agencies do anything to cut down on the number of Montgomery County residents who tag their vehicles in Oklahoma?

It is an issue that has aggravated city and county officials for decades, believing that Montgomery County loses out on tax revenue to the Sooner State.

Those concerns were raised at separate meetings on Monday, including at the Montgomery County Commission meeting and at the Caney City Council meeting.

At the Montgomery County Commission meeting, Coffeyville resident Max Williams said he believes the number of Coffeyville residents who tag their vehicles in Oklahoma continues to grow.

“Do you know how much money you are losing out?” Williams asked the commission. “You can stop having to increase taxes if you just enforce the law on out-of-state tags.”

Williams said some Coffeyville businesses have become the most visible violators of the law, as business owners and workers drive their service vehicles with Oklahoma license plates.

Williams said it was easy for any Kansas resident to obtain an Oklahoma post office address or purchase an inexpensive lot in Oklahoma and establish it as an official address for Oklahoma tag purposes.

hits me that these people are not paying sales taxes or property taxes, as everyone else does.”

Caney Police Chief Ike Dye chimed in, “It bugs the heck out of me. But all we can do is tell drivers the way it’s supposed to be ... and hope they change their ways.”

“We can’t write tickets or take them to court, because there’s nobody at the local or county level to prosecute the

cases. Courts and the county attorney have more important things to prosecute, so license tags are a low priority to them.”

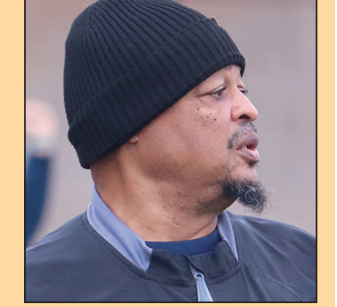
So, can the out-of-state violators be ticketed?

Yes . . . but only if law enforcement agencies and prosecuting attorneys have the time and desire to investigate those matters, said county counselor Paul Kritiz.

Most cities, including Coffeyville and Caney, have adopted the Standard Traffic Ordinance (STO), which is a comprehensive traffic code for Kansas cities. The STO includes a section relating to illegal vehicle tags, which mirrors state law (K.S.A. 8-142), but it makes no reference to out of state tags as an offense.

“The law that prohibits a person from registering a

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**PIRATES GET READY**  
ICC prepares to open 2025 football season with home bout against Trinity Valley on Saturday.

**PICKING UP THE BILL**  
Caney Betterment Group agrees to purchase new diving pool for Caney Swimming Pool.



**CUTE KIDDO**  
Coffeyville boy in the top 10 for Toddler of the Year competition sponsored by Toys for Tots.

**PROJECT DELTA**  
Cherryvale industry project prepares for real estate transfer; Texas firm to be developer.



## Getting a leg up on the marching band season

Members of the Independence High School marching band have been putting in the hours in preparation for the 2025 fall season. At a preseason camp last week, IHS band students braved hot, humid weather to go through various marching routines.

ANDY TAYLOR / MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHRONICLE

# Cherryvale city budget for 2026 proposes tax hike

CHERRYVALE — Cherryvale city taxpayers are projected to face a projected 9 percent tax hike under the City of Cherryvale’s proposed 2026 budget plan that is released in summary form in this week’s issue of the Montgomery County Chronicle.

A summary of City of Cherryvale’s proposed 2026 budget can be found on page 13 of this edition.

Under the proposed budget, the Cherryvale City Council is seeking a maximum tax rate, which is expressed in terms of mills, of 53.074 mills — which is an increase from the 48.703 mills now assessed in the

2025 budget cycle (budget years begin on Jan. 1 and end on Dec. 31).

That is a difference of 4.371 mills, which translates to an increase of 8.9 percent.

Actual budgetary spending authority for the City of Cherryvale is projected to increase from \$3,917,908 to \$5,482,929.

The ad valorem tax levy, which is the total amount of property taxes needed for the budget, will increase by about \$70,000 — from \$476,926 to \$546,616.

That means local property taxes account for about 10 percent of

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# For 20 years, CUFF meal has been vital food resource



Members of the First Church of the Nazarene in Independence served 219 meals at the CUFF Meal in Independence on Thursday, Aug. 7.

ANDY TAYLOR / MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHRONICLE

INDEPENDENCE — A unique meal partnership among several Independence churches celebrates its 20th anniversary this summer . . . with high attendance to punctuate its purpose and mission.

It is the CUFF Meal, which stands for Community United for Feeding Friends. It is held each Thursday evening at the host site: Wesley Center of the First United Methodist Church. However, individual churches share in the preparation of food on their designated week.

Free meals are available to anyone on a first-come, first-serve basis; there are no restrictions on income, age, sex or church affiliation.

And, by the appearance of recent CUFF Meals, the program is serving a large population of the Independence community.

In recent weeks, the CUFF Meal program has served more than 200 meals. All meals are free, however monetary contributions are allowed and appreciated.

Meeting the food needs of individuals and families is the aim for the program, which is a response to the Bible scripture to feed the hungry.

When the program began in the summer of 2005, meal participation was between 15 to 20 persons. The original meals were held in sit-down fashion at the First Christian Church and later the Church of the Epiphany Episcopal.

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The timeless humor of Will Rogers

“The Republican platform promises to do better. I don’t think they have done so bad. Everybody’s broke but them.”

From the Will Rogers Museum in Claremore, Oklahoma