

OBITUARIES

Orvilla May Blecha

ELK CITY — Orvilla May Blecha, age 106, of Elk City went to be with her Lord and Savior and heavenly family on Aug. 16, 2025.

Orvilla was born Sept. 2, 1918, west of Elk City, to Samual Harvey Attebery and Azalia Leta (Greenburg) Attebery. Orvilla attended schools at Pleasant Hill, Star, and Mount Tabor. She lived her entire life in and around Elk City.

Orvilla married Othie Tharp Blecha on April 12, 1939, in Sedan. To this union, three daughters were born.

Early in life, Orvilla was baptized in the Nazarene Church in Elk City, and recently rededicated her life to the Lord on Sept. 22, 2024, at the Bible Baptist Church in Neodesha.

Orvilla enjoyed working on the farm with her husband and also enjoyed embroidery, gardening, flowers, reading, word searches, making quilts, and family gatherings.

At the young age of 87, she took her first small airplane ride and was in her 80s when she rode her first motorcycle with her grandson Chris.

Orvilla is survived by her daughters, Mavis (Bradley) Helms of Elk Falls, Linda (Dean) Silvey of Chanute, and Charlene Dailey of Elk City; eight grandchildren, Robert, Jeffery, Chris, and Stephen Allen; Jaylene Childs Chaplin and Brandon Helms; two step-grandchildren, Anthony Dailey and Roslyn Snow; numerous great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, and also great-great-great grandchildren. Also surviving are one sister, Velma Flannery, and one brother, Ray Attebery, both of Arkansas, and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband Othie; her parents, Samuel Harvey and Azalia Leta Attebery; sisters Mary, Azalia, Jane, Marvinne, and Pauline; brothers Lee and Ed, and three infant siblings.

Services will be held at the Elk City Church of the Nazarene at 2 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 21 with burial immediately following at Oak Hill Cemetery. Memorial contributions can be made in Orvilla's name to the Elk City Church of the Nazarene, Bible Baptist Church in Neodesha, or Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice and can be left with Countryside Funeral Home.

The family has entrusted arrangements to Countryside Funeral Home.



DEATH NOTICES

Delores M. Fowler
CHERRYVALE — Delores M. Fowler, age 75, died Aug. 15, 2025, in Wichita, Kan. A graveside service will be held at 10 a.m., Friday, Aug. 22, 2025, at Fairview Cemetery in Cherryvale. Arrangements are being held through Potts Chapel.

Edna Ann Findley
COFFEYVILLE — Edna Ann Findley, age 88, of Coffeyville died Aug. 12, 2025. Funeral services were held Wednesday, Aug. 20 at Ford-Wulf-Bruns Chapel in Coffeyville. Bural was in Restlawn Memorial Park Cemetery in Coffeyville.

Marie Elaine Sales
SOUTH COFFEYVILLE — Marie Elaine Sales, age 69, of South Coffeyville died unexpectedly on Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2025 in Coffeyville. Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m., Friday, Aug. 22 at Ford-Wulf-Bruns Chapel, 2405 Woodland Ave., in Coffeyville. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 21, also at the chapel. Following cremation Marie will be buried in Fairview Cemetery in Coffeyville.

Adrian M. Riley
COFFEYVILLE — Adrian M. Riley, age 79, of Coffeyville died Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2025, at Pleasant Valley Manor in Sedan. Graveside services were held Monday, Aug. 18 at Robbins Cemetery west of Coffeyville. David W. Barnes Funeral Home in Coffeyville was in charge of arrangements.

Larry P. Wooten
MIAMI, Fla. — Coffeyville native Larry Paul Wooten, age 85, died Friday, Aug. 16, 2025, at his home in Miami, Fla. Graveside services will be held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 23, at Restlawn Memorial Park in Coffeyville. Ford-Wulf-Bruns Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Cheryl Yvonne Moore
COFFEYVILLE — Cheryl Yvonne Moore, age 78, of Coffeyville died Friday, Aug. 15, 2025. Per Cheryl's wishes, cremation has taken place under the direction of David W. Barnes Funeral Home. A celebration of life honoring both Cheryl and her late husband Jim Moore will be held at a later date.

Coffeyville Stockyards, LLC

- Calf/Yearling Sale Every Wednesday 9am
Coffeyville, KS
- Cow/Bull Sale Every Thursday 10 am
Coffeyville, KS
- Hog, Sheep & Goat Sale Second Monday Every Month 5PM
Coffeyville, KS

Owners & Operators:
Tylen Layton (918)440-7081
Doug King (479)903-3622

We accept cattle all week until 10PM with hay & water.
FREE on the farm appraisal. **FREE** advertising of your livestock that is consigned early. We **GREATLY** appreciate your business.
 "Come sell 'em in the 'Ville".

North Town Office- (620) 251-5460
 coffeyvillestockyards.com

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries are printed in their entirety for a \$75 fee for up to 500 words. Any obituary over 500 words will be charged at the advertising rate of \$8.00 per column inch. To submit a paid obituary, contact the Montgomery County Chronicle at (620) 577-4053 ext. 2, or (620) 879-2156. Or, submit an e-mail to chronicle@taylornews.org.

The Montgomery County Chronicle publishes death notices as a free service. The death notice contains only the name of the deceased, date of death, and time and location of a funeral and burial service. Further biographical information can be contained in a paid obituary.

LOCAL NEWS



Specialized training for CCC faculty, staff

Ahead of the fall semester, Coffeyville Community College faculty and staff participated in two critical safety trainings this week: CPR/AED certification and QPR Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper training. The CPR and AED portion, led by CCC EMT/Paramedic Instructor Casey Goff and part-time EMT/Paramedic Instructor Kyle Evans, provided hands-on instruction for life-saving techniques on adults, children, and infants, along with AED operation. The training equips participants with the skills and confidence to respond quickly and effectively in an emergency. In partnership with Four County Mental Health Center and CCC Counselor Megan Brown, selected faculty and staff also took part in the QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Program. This evidence-based program trains individuals to recognize warning signs of a suicide crisis, offer hope, and connect individuals to appropriate help.

PHOTO BY COFFEYVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Cherryvale: property tax rate hike for 2026

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the revenue for the 2026 total budget. The remainder of the revenue — which would be about 90 percent — is derived through a myriad of fees and other taxes, including sales taxes, utility fees, and enterprise funds.

In explaining why the City of Cherryvale is projected to see an increase in budget expenditures, city administrator Michael Hall told councilors on Monday night that the proposed plan accomplishes the goals that the council set out: to enhance wages of city employees and to add revenue into capital outlay purchases.

Otherwise, all other projects and activities will likely operate without any increases in budgetary spending, he said.

The 2026 budget plan is built on an assessed valuation of \$10,299,223. This is an increase from the \$9,792,412, that

was used to build the current 2025 budget.

With that increase in valuation, the volume of tax dollars received per mill will increase. One mill is \$1 for every \$1,000 of assessed valuation. So, one mill in the 2025 budget cycle will generate \$9,792.41 (\$9,792,412 / \$1,000 = \$9,792.41). For the 2026 budget cycle, one mill will generate \$10,229.22 (\$10,229,223 / \$1,000 = \$10,229.22).

In preparing its budget plan for 2026, the City of Cherryvale staff had the option of meeting the Revenue Neutral Rate, or RNR, for 2026. The RNR for 2026 was 46.306 mills.

The Revenue Neutral Rate is an optional tax rate that allows for local governments to not increase their tax levy (the total amount of collected property taxes) from one budget year to the next. The RNR is an attempt to limit tax rate increases by keeping the volume of col-

lected taxes the same from year to year.

Had the City chosen to meet the RNR rate for 2026, then it would have meant the City's property tax levy would have remained at \$476,926.

However, staff cited escalating costs and expenditures, including fuel, salaries, insurance and other commodities as a reason to exceed the RNR level.

The budget process is far from over. The public has a chance to ask questions or express opinions about the proposed spending plan at a public hearing at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 2 at Cherryvale City Hall.

After the hearing, the council will then vote whether to adopt the 2026 spending plan. It can either adopt a plan reflecting a tax rate or 53.074 mills . . . or less. However, it cannot raise that tax rate above the 53.074-mill level.

Tags: blame sits with proximity to Oklahoma

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vehicle in any county other than the county in which the owner of the vehicle resides or has a bona fide place of business presents some challenges, in terms of proving the elements of that offense," said Kritz. "The information gathered during a traffic stop may or may not be sufficient to prove or disprove residency."

To prove that a Kansas resident is violating the law will require considerable in-

vestigation by law enforcement agencies, he said. Such investigations require considerable time to determine whether a Kansas resident is driving an Oklahoma-tagged vehicle that is kept or stored on their Kansas property for more than 51 percent of the resident's home ownership.

The other issue that complicates the situation is the prosecution. Kritz said the Montgomery County Attorney's office will not prosecute non-compliant, out-of-state license plates due to the issue

being considered a low-level, civil matter. Lack of resources, namely a limited staff, has caused the county attorney to turn away requests for non-compliant license plate prosecution, he said.

Additionally, the current criminal case load confronting the county attorney's office was considerably for greater concern to the prosecutors than dealing with out-of-state tag prosecutions, Kritz reported.

"Resources are a consideration, and I believe the

Montgomery County Attorney's office has determined it does not currently have the resources to make prosecution of illegal out of state tags a high priority," Kritz said. "I do know tickets are written from time to time by Kansas Highway Patrol troopers for illegal out-of-state tags, based on the state law. Those are typically in situations where the trooper is aware that the offender resides in Montgomery County and has an out-of-state tag."

CUFF Meal: ministry created 20 years ago

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Now, the weekly CUFF meals have found a home at the Wesley Center, where the drive-thru entrance allows meal participants to retrieve a meal without leaving their vehicle.

The meals are served around 6 p.m., and the line of autos at the Wesley Center sometimes begin forming around 3 p.m. — an indication of people's desire to receive a free, home-cooked meal.

The COVID pandemic caused the meal program to go from in-person, sit-down style to the drive-thru format. It has retained that format ever since, as the drive-thru service allows for quick distribution of meals and lesser burdens on the First United Methodist Church, whose volunteers were accustomed to the weekly set up and tear down of tables and chairs.

Individual churches prepare the meals, but members of the First United Methodist Church are the designated meal distribution team — sacking meals and taking orders from people who sit in line to await their bounty.

Churches that share in the CUFF Meal program include the First Church of the Nazarene, First Christian Church, First Presbyterian Church, Zion Lutheran Church, First United Methodist Church, Grace Memorial Methodist Church, St. Andrew Catholic Church, and Church of the Epiphany Episcopal.

Entrees vary from church to church — but churches have served everything from lasagna to meatball submarine sandwiches.

Chips and cookies typically accompany each meal.



Volunteers with the First United Methodist Church sack styrofoam trays filled with meals for distribution at a recent CUFF Meal at the Wesley Center.

ANDY TAYLOR / MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHRONICLE