



(Left photo) Rudy and Kathy Taylor on their wedding day on Aug. 20, 1965, and (right photo) upon the observance of their 60th wedding anniversary in 2025.



Caney couple observes 60th anniversary

CANEY — Rudy and Kathy Taylor, Caney, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Aug. 20.

No formal event was observed, although the couple plans a trip in the fall to Branson, Mo., to celebrate the occasion.

Rudy Taylor and Kathy George were married on Aug. 20, 1965, at the Caney Church of Christ with an abundance of friends and family in attendance. Everett Cox, minister, presided to join the couple in matrimony.

Both the Taylors were in college at

the time, studying at Oklahoma Christian College where Kathy also worked three years in the business office. Rudy transferred to Central State College, Edmond, Okla., and later earned a degree in journalism and broadcasting.

After living in Bartlesville for two years, Rudy and Kathy moved to Caney and purchased the Caney Chronicle which had been published for many years by her parents, H.K. and Ethel George.

The couple was blessed by the arrival of three children, Matt, Andy and Jenny

(Diveley) and they have six grandchildren: Ryan, Carson and Amanda Taylor; Trenton and Ethan Diveley; and Lillie Taylor.

Also considered family are daughters-in-law, Paula Taylor and Amy Taylor, and a son-in-law, Landon Diveley.

For the past 55 years, Rudy and Kathy have worked side-by-side in publishing the Montgomery County Chronicle and two sister publications, Prairie Star and Labette Avenue.

The Taylors are longtime members of the Tyro Christian Church.

Verdigris Vista Trail set to open soon as system expands

BY ANDY TAYLOR
chronicle@taylornews.org

INDEPENDENCE — Final touches are being applied to a public walking trail that hugs the west bank of the Verdigris River.

At last Thursday's Independence City Commission meeting, Brittney Holum, who serves as the Community Foundation for Independence's Rural Champion, updated commissioners on the progress of the Verdigris Vista Trail, which is a 2.4-mile trail that will soon be open to pedestrians and bicyclists.

The new trail has its two termini at the north side of the Central Park Sports Complex's east fields and north of the Santa Fe steam locomotive at Riverside Park.

Holum said several matters need to be completed before the trail is open to the public. This includes having the South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad finish installing a safety barrier on its tracks that crosses the new trail, final grooming of the trail surface itself, building a gate that will inhibit vehicles from traversing the walking trail along Wells Drive, and creating signage along the trail. Commissioners gave Holum permission and volunteers to install new signage.

The Verdigris Vista Trail is part of a larger network of trails in Independence, Holum reminded the commission. The new trail will have access to the Eagle Loop bicycle trail, the Central Park Sports Complex walking trails, and the walking trails at Riverside Park.

Signage to be erected will instruct trail users about the network of trails, she said.

The Independence trail network is part of the Ad Astra Trail Initiative — a statewide organization of communities that promote the growth of walking, bicycle and equine trails across the Sunflower State.

New housing project

Housing development also highlighted discussions at the Independence City Commission meeting.

Commissioners agreed to commit four, vacant, city-owned lots for use in an affordable housing program. April Nutt, Independence Housing Authority director, said the IHA is seeking a federal Home Loan Bank Affordable Housing Program grant valued at \$1.5 million to assist Trident 3D Homes for the potential construction of 40 single-family homes on infill lots owned by the Independence Land Bank. The four lots are located at 913 W. Myrtle, 917 W. Myrtle, 401 N. 10th, and in the 800 block of West Myrtle street.

Having the four city lots committed to the housing program will "sweeten the

deal" when applying for the federal grant, Nutt told the commission.

On a related note, commissioners granted a \$24,561.03 Downtown Independence Building Grant to Morrison Properties for a property it owns at 113 W. Myrtle. The money will be used to assist Morrison Properties in replacement of the roof, tuckpointing the exterior and replacing windows and exterior doors.

The property is being rehabilitated to include 11 second-floor apartments, which will add to the community's housing supply.

Other business

In other business at the Independence City Commission meeting last Thursday, commissioners:

- heard a presentation from the Montgomery County Action Council regarding the city's funding for the economic development organization. The City has designated \$25,000 annually for the organization. MCAC is seeking a 15.0 percent increase for 2026 which would bring the City's potential funding to \$28,750.

Commissioners took the request under advisement.

- set the date of Oct. 22 for a public hearing to consider the condemnation of 401 S. 2nd, which has been deemed dangerous and unsafe due to a May fire that heavily damaged the second floor and caused water damage throughout the structure.
- agreed to waive rummage sale permit fees for local participants in the Kan-Okla 100-Mile Highway Sale on Sept. 11-13.

- signed a proclamation declaring Aug. 21 as National Senior Citizens Day to honor older residents who contribute to a community's civic service and vitality.
- agreed to hold a public hearing on Thursday, Sept. 25 for the purple of applying for a loan from the Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund.

The grant-loan is being sought to replace lead-based water mains throughout the community.

This loan is advantaged in its interest rate, and is also subject to forgiveness of principal. The City has been approved for principal forgiveness of up to 50% on this loan.

- approved a contract with H.W. Lochner, Inc., for engineering services to be performed at the Independence Airport as part of an apron improvement project. The City of Independence received a grant through the Kansas Department of Transportation's Kansas Airport Improvement Program, or KAIP, to assist in the repair and replacement of apron. The apron is where aircraft are parked, unloaded or loaded, refueled, or maintained.

DATEBOOK

THURSDAY AUG 21

- First day of school for USD 447 Cherryvale-Thayer students.
- 37th Semi-Annual Quilt Affair at the Independence Historical Museum & Art Center, 123 N. 8th St., through Aug 29m 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Go to the IHMAC Facebook page for details.,
- Free permits available for those in Independence who wish to hold a sale during the KAN-OKLA 100-Mile Highway Sale. Permits available at the Independence Chamber of Commerce office, 616 N. Penn Ave., deadline for permits is Aug. 29.
- Every Thursday, community coffee at Caney City Library, 8 to 10 a.m., stop by for a visit and a cup of coffee.
- Weekly bulky items drop off, Independence Sanitation Yard, 21st & Maple, 8 a.m. to noon (Thursdays and Fridays); recycling day at the Independence Sanitation Yard, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; brush and limb drop-off at the City Brush Yard, half mile south of College Ave. on CR 4100 each Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon.
- Every Thursday, two mile walk, 9:30 a.m., Coffeyville Senior Citizens Activity Center, 601 Walnut St.
- Every Thursday, Independence Girls BSA Troop 1049 meets at 7 p.m. in the First Christian Church 319 W. Laurel.
- Every Thursday, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) closed classes (book study) are held

at 7 p.m., 213 W. Oak, Independence

FRIDAY AUG 22

- American Red Cross Blood Drive, Independence Civic Center, 410 N. Penn Ave, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Every Friday, the Cherryvale Historical Museum is open 1 to 3 p.m.
- Every Friday, sitting or standing exercise class at the Elk City First Christian Church, 8 to 9 a.m. The public is invited to attend.
- Every Friday, chair aerobics exercise class, 9 to 10 a.m., Coffeyville Senior Citizens Activity Center, 601 Walnut St.

SATURDAY AUG 23

- Grand Reopening for remodeled Genesis Food Pantry, 1312 W. 8th St., Coffeyville, 10 a.m. to noon. Free hot dogs, bounce house for kids, tours of remodeled food pantry, and honoring Genesis volunteer Richard Keck.
- Independence Farmers and Makers Market, 7:30-11 a.m., Chestnut & 8th Street parking lot.
- New Life Baptist Church Free Clothing Closet, 9 a.m. to noon, 2515 S. 10th, clothes for all ages.
- Every Saturday, Story-time at Caney City Library, 10 a.m.
- Abba's Apparel, a free clothing giveaway - all sizes, is held every Saturday at the First Southern Baptist Church in Cherryvale, 717 E. 6th St.,

from 9 a.m. to noon.

- Every Saturday, open AA meeting, noon, 213 W. Oak, Independence.
- Every Saturday, the IGC-Sporting Heritage Center, 212 N. Penn Ave., Independence, is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A \$5 donation is suggested for tours.

SUNDAY AUG 24

- Elk City Masonic Breakfast at Carson Lodge, 7 -11 a.m.
- Elk City Church of the Nazarene will celebrate its 100 year anniversary, 10 a.m. service with several guest speakers, slide show, special music and fellowship. The public is invited to attend.
- Every Sunday, open AA meetings, noon and 6 p.m., 213 W. Oak, Independence.
- Square dance lessons every Sunday, 2 p.m. at the Coffeyville Senior Activities Center, 601 Walnut.

MONDAY AUG 25

- Coffeyville Community College proposed 2025-2026 budget hearing, 4 p.m., in the CCC Board Room. Taxpayers are invited to attend to ask questions and voice objections of proposed budget.
- Montgomery County Rural Fire Dist. No. 1 proposed 2026 budget hearing, 9 a.m., at the Montgomery County Commission Room, 300 E. Main, Independence. Taxpayers are invited to attend to ask questions and voice objections of proposed budget.
- Liberty Cemetery Dist. 13 proposed 2026 budget hear-

ing, 6:30 p.m., at the Liberty School. Taxpayers are invited to attend to ask questions and voice objections of proposed budget.

- Tyro City Council monthly meeting, 7 p.m., Tyro City Hall.
- Montgomery County Commission meeting, 9 a.m., in the lower level of the Montgomery County Judicial Center, Independence.
- The Cherryvale Senior Citizens bingo event will be held at 1 p.m., 107 E. Main.
- Every Monday, VFW Bingo Night, Independence VFW - 113 E. Myrtle, bingo packs start at \$3, doors open a 5 p.m., games start at 7 p.m.
- Every Monday at Caney City Library, chair yoga, 1 p.m.
- The Independence BSA Scouts meet every Monday at 7 p.m. in the Independence First Christian Church, 319 W. Laurel St.
- Every Monday, chair aerobics, 9 to 10 a.m., Coffeyville Senior Citizens Activity Center, 601 Walnut St.; at 10 a.m., line dance class.
- Caney Farmers Market, 4-6 p.m., Wark Memorial Park.
- Story time, activity and snack on Mondays at the Cherryvale Public Library, 1 p.m.; Book Club will meet at 6 p.m.

TUESDAY AUG 26

- Louisburg Township proposed 2026 budget hearing, 7 p.m., Louisburg Fire Department, Elk City. Taxpayers are invited to attend to ask questions and voice objections of proposed budget.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in the Montgomery County Chronicle on Thursday, Aug. 21, 28 and Sept. 4, 2025)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, KANSAS
SITTING AT INDEPENDENCE

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF TERRY RAY OLIVER, DECEASED
Case No. MGI-2025-PR-000039

NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:
You are notified that on August 14, 2025, a petition was filed in this Court by Casey L. Benning an heir, of Terry Ray Oliver, deceased, requesting petitioner be appointed as Administrator; and petitioner be granted Letters of Administration, without bond.

You are required to file your written defenses to the petition on or before September 25, at 09:00 a.m. in the Montgomery County District Court, sitting in Independence, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate within the later of four months from the date of first publication of notice under K.S.A. 59-2236 and amendments thereto, or if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, 30 days after actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Casey L. Benning, Petitioner

Jeffrey A. Chubb (#9915)
EMERT CHUBB, LLC
204 E. Laurel - P. O. Box 747
Independence, KS 67301
(620) 331-1800; (620) 331-1807-fax
jchubb@sehc-law.com
Attorneys for Petitioner

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