



# Columbus News-Report

The Official Newspaper for Cherokee County, cities of Columbus, Baxter Springs, West Mineral, Roseland, Scammon, Columbus USD 493 and Southeast USD 247 and Baxter Springs USD 508

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 57

COLUMBUS, KS. 66725

SINGLE COPY \$1.50

© Copyright 2025

**FRIDAY**  
**APRIL 25, 2025**

## CALENDAR

### Friday, April 25

•Clean and Serene Narcotics Anonymous meeting Galena Community Room 6 p.m.

### Saturday, April 26

•Kiwanis Club Easter Egg hunt at Baxter Springs High School 11 a.m.

•Baxter Springs AYRA Rodeo 2 p.m.  
Baxter Springs Saddle Club.

•Breaking the Chains of Addiction Narcotics Anonymous Spiritual Support Group at the Fellowship Baptist Church in Baxter Springs 4 p.m.

### Sunday, April 27

•Attend the church of your choice.

### Monday, April 28

•Cherokee County Commissioners meet in Room 34 of County Courthouse 9 a.m. This meeting will be livestreamed over checoukantt.com and archived for later viewing. This is an in person meeting only.

•Senior Exercise 10 a.m. at the Hospitality Center 516 N. Kansas. Pat Niggemann, leader.

•Lady Titan softball at Colgan 4:30 p.m.

•Titan Baseball at Colgan 4:30 p.m.  
Baxter Springs Disc Golf League 6 p.m.

•Columbus City Court meets in City Council Chamber at 4 p.m.

•The Columbus Lions Club meets at Maple UnCommon Guest House and Gallery at 6 p.m.

•Columbus City Library Board meets at the Library at 6 p.m.

•The Columbus Lions Club meets at Maple UnCommon Guest House and Gallery at 6 p.m.

•Galena Route 66 Lions Club meets 6 p.m. at the Galena Senior Center located at 8th and Wall in Galena.

•Baxter Springs Lions Club meets at the Lions Club Building 14th and Park at 6 p.m.

### Tuesday, April 29

•Titan JV baseball at home vs. Colgan 4:30 p.m.

•Lady Titan Softball JV at home vs. Colgan 4:30 p.m.

•Bunco activities at the Cherokee County Hospitality Center 516 N. Kansas 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

## DEATHS

**Daniel Groves, 76**  
Scammon

**Judith Brown, 82**  
McCune

**Jo Ann Bagg, 91**  
Littleton, Colo.

## Musing Under the Clock Tower

If they do away with pennies how can we buy thoughts?



Concept drawings of the new Crossland buildings to be located near their home office in Columbus. *Courtesy photo.*

## Crossland seeks bonds to build new center

More than \$4.7-million in industrial development bonds are being sought by Crossland Construction to build and equip a new office building currently under construction near the company's general offices in Columbus.

The nearly 20,000 square foot building will be used as a training center

in addition to adding office space. According to the application the building will create 14-17 new jobs.

A public hearing will be held at 5:30 p.m. May 5, in the City Council chamber at City Hall to consider adoption of the ordinance authorizing issuance of the bonds. Crossland is purchasing all the bonds and will not constitute any li-

ability to the city. The issuance of the bonds shall not directly or indirectly obligate the City of Columbus.

The bonds would be for a 10 year term.

Crossland, whose home offices are located in Columbus is Cherokee County's largest employer and is among the largest construction firms in the United States.



New members of the Columbus chapter of National Honor Society were inducted during a recent ceremony. The inductees include Lemmie Stone, Shade Schuberger, Landrey Perry, Amory Neely, Hannah Noel Tatum Kirk, Natalie Wary, Faith Williams and not pictured Torey Tedlock. *Courtesy photo.*

## KDHE issues Cow Creek stream advisory

Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has issued

a stream advisory for Cow Creek near the city of Pittsburg and Highway 160 and

Spring River to Empire Lake.

The stream advisory is the result of operational problems at the Pittsburg Wastewater Treatment Facility. The city is correcting the issues.

The advisory has been issued because potential elevated levels of E. coli bacteria and other contaminants may be present in Cow Creek and Spring River. KDHE advises residents to stay away from the streams at this time. If you live or have activities near these streams, do not enter the stream or allow children or pets to enter the stream.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment will rescind the advisory once contact has been deemed safe.

## USD 493 students place high at electric competition

Three student teams, including USD 493 students Brenden Maxton, Kinden Riddle and Gabe Edwards, sponsored by Heartland Rural Electric Cooperative earned top honors at this year's SunPowered Student Challenge, held April 2 at Wichita State University. The annual event brought together high school students from across the state to test their knowledge and skills in solar energy and engineering through hands-on, collaborative challenges.

"A lot of people think more solar is always bet-

ter, but that's not how the grid works," said Mark Scheibe, Heartland CEO. The CLC Wasps from Christian Learning Center in Fort Scott took home the top prize, winning both the Performance Challenge and overall first place in the competition.

The Uniontown Eagles from USD 235 Uniontown received the Curb Appeal Award. Also finishing strong, Columbus Solar from USD 493 Columbus along with the K.E. Helios Heroes from USD 273 Beloit shared the Collaborative Challenge title.

## Baxter students participate in PSU learning program

Students in the Pittsburg State University Honors College are planning a morning of screen-free play for Pittsburg youth ages five -seven as part of a semester-long project. The event, planned from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 26, is their final exam.

"It's all about creative play, where kids will have the chance to engage in exciting hands-on activities that encourage problem-solving, teamwork, and imaginative thinking," said Zoie Prothe, a Graphic Communication major from Paola. "Our goal was to create a solution to a community need so we created a day where children could connect with peers their age free of technology."

Other classmates involved include Adam Jonnes, a Biology (Pre-Med) major from Baxter Springs; Michael Karguth, a Biology (Pre-Med) major from Baxter Springs.

"It's been a valuable learning experience," said

Karguth. "There is a lot involved to pull off something like this."

Activities will include such experiences as building "spaghetti towers," board games, and engaging in structured outdoor play.

"They'll be immersed in an experience that promotes connection and fun, without the distractions of digital devices," Prothe said.

Her classmates include Eli Winter, a Nursing major from Clearwater, Oklahoma; Adison Randall, a Finance & Accounting major from Mound City; Olivia Wobken, a Biology major from Carl Junction, Missouri; and Landry George, a Nursing major from Pleasanton, Kansas.

The class has been working with partners from the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center at Greenbush, Sunshine Childcare, and Pitsco Education. They also have received support from faculty and staff in departments across campus on aspects

like age-appropriate activities, parental waivers, snacks, and volunteer recruitment.

Associate Professor Phillip Frank, Kelce College of Business, said the class was tasked with choosing a social issue that impacts youth in Pittsburg and to develop a plan to positively impact that issue, or causes of that issue, for their final project.

"The students have gone above the require-

## Columbus to review new strategic plan

Due to the rejection of the comprehensive plan by the Columbus City Council, City Administrator Jake Letner discussed with the Council using the material developed in the comprehensive plan for a strategic plan.

Letner asked the council to review his suggested strategic plan outline and offer their input at the next council meeting.

"A good strategic plan will look three-five years in the future and set goals that we will work towards over that time," said Letner. "Historically, the city has not operated under a strategic plan. However, I think having one could help us prioritize and accomplish meaningful projects and initiatives."

Following up with an explanation of how the information could be used, Letner said the effort put into the comprehensive plan could be reworked into a less restrictive strategic plan.

"While we did not ul-

## Council talks hiring environmental officer

Elimination of trash, dilapidated buildings, unkept lawns and junk cars will be the focus of a new city employee currently being sought by the City of Columbus.

A full-time code enforcement officer, hired at the department head level and reporting directly to the City Council at their meetings just as other department heads.

The full responsibilities of the new code enforcement officer will be determined once the job description is approved by the council. The City Administrator and City Clerk

timately adopt the comprehensive plan, we got some useful data and information out of the process. I don't recommend hiring an external consultant or paying any additional money to outside vendors to assemble the strategic plan," Letner explained. "We can incorporate what we learned through the comp plan process into the strategic plan."

The strategic plan should focus on things that the council has control over. Letne's recommendation is for the strategic plan to have five emphasis areas including water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure; streets, sidewalks, and parks; public safety; economic development and housing

"These aren't the only things that the City Council and staff are responsible for, but I think these categories capture a good portion of what we do as a city," concluded Letner.

## Car seat check Monday

The Cherokee County Health Department will be hosting a car seat check lane Monday, April 28 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on the parking lot west of the health department.

Free car seats will be provided to those who have expired, over weight limit or damaged car seats.

Child must be present to have it properly in-

stalled within your vehicle. Please limit one car seat per family. First come, first served. Must live in Cherokee County and must reside in the household.

In case of rain, the date will be changed to Friday, May 2 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

## Kiwanis egg hunt Saturday

The Baxter Springs Kiwanis Club Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday, April 26, at the High School at 11 a.m. The popular event was cancelled last Saturday due to inclement weather.

Everyone is encouraged to attend this year and visit with the Easter Bunny as well as picking up candy, and large prizes in plastic eggs.

The Kiwanis have conducted the traditional egg hunt for more than 25 years.



Columbus students Brenden Maxton, Kinden Riddle and Gabe Edwards were on the team that placed first in the Cooperative Challenge at the Solar Competition in Wichita in early April. *Courtesy photo.*