



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

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FRIDAY
AUGUST 15, 2025

CALENDAR

Friday, August 15
•Clean and Serene Narcotics Anonymous meeting Galena Community Room 6 p.m.

Saturday, August 16
•Hot Rods and Hoses Car, truck and cycle show begins at 3 p.m. in Scammon. Games, vendors, live music.
•Breaking the Chains of Addiction Narcotics Anonymous Spiritual Support Group at the Fellowship Baptist Church in Baxter Springs 4 p.m.

Sunday, August 17
•Attend the Church of your choice.

Monday, August 18
•Cherokee County Commissioners meet in Room 34 of County Courthouse 9 a.m. This meeting will be livestreamed over checoukantv.com and archived for later viewing. This is an in person meeting only.
•Columbus City Council meets in City Council Chambers of City Hall at 5:30 p.m. This meeting will be livestreamed over checoukantv.com and archived for later viewing. Some participants meet virtually.
•Senior Exercise 10 a.m. at the Hospitality Center 516 N. Kansas. Pat Niggemann, leader.
•Baxter Springs Disc Golf League 6 p.m.

Tuesday, August 19
•Mercy Auxiliary Volunteers meeting 9 a.m. at St. Rose Parish Hall.
•Bunco activities at the Cherokee County Hospitality Center 516 N. Kansas 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Everyone welcome.
•Baxter Springs American Legion Post 206 meets at 6:30 p.m. in the Post Home at 13th and Military Avenue.
•Recovery through Christ Fellowship 7 p.m. Fellowship Baptist Church in Baxter Springs.

Wednesday, August 20
•Baxter Springs Kiwanis Club meets Noon -1 p.m. at Van's Steak-house
•Free meals to go at Connecting Point Church, 1923 W. Maple 5:30 p.m. (Orders must be placed before 4 p.m. Monday prior to pick up) 620-429-1262 or 620-778-5761.

DEATHS

Gwenith Pendleton, 83
Baxter Springs

Ruby Rion, 82
Crestline

Dianna Turner, 65
Joplin, Mo.

Harold Huggins, 83
Mt. Vernon, Mo.

Musing Under the Clock Tower

Moses had the first tablet that could connect to the cloud.



Several years ago seeing a powerchute in the skies over Columbus was not unusual, since they were manufactured here. However in today's world they are seldom seen, Tuesday evening this powerchute was travelling south near Highway 7.



The tradition continues as the County Courthouse fountain once again was filled with soap on the first day of school. This year the fountain had a new paint job which added to the suds.

Farmers market month continues

Kansas Farmers Market Month continues at the Columbus Farmers Market.

“This is the seventh season of the local Farmers Market,” said Liz Simpson. “We’ll continue to promote the market and its value to the community.”

“We have 20 market vendors who participate on a regular basis with 12-15 in attendance every week,” Simpson continued. “The market participates in the Kansas Senior Farmer’s Market Nutrition Program which provides coupons for 60 plus income-eligible residents to purchase fresh produce and honey.”

Last year alone \$17,500 in coupons were distributed to low income seniors.

When the KSFMNP vouchers were delayed and reduced due to COVID and again this year due to

federal cuts, the market stepped in and distributed coupons using local funding, Simpson said.

The market has received several grants which have helped fund projects such as improved parking, picnic tables and benches, market lot improvements to make it more level and safer to walk, and shade units to make the market safer for vendors, shoppers, and visitors.

SEK foundation has new plan

After raising over \$1.95 million for nonprofit endowments in Southeast Kansas over the last nine years, the Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas (CFSEK) is taking its biggest fundraising event to the next level! CFSEK and its affiliates in Columbus, Fort Scott, and Girard are excited to announce that Match Day will now be Match Week!

Thursday, August 14th, CFSEK hosted a press conference in Pittsburg to announce this change.

“We are excited to transition from Match Day to Match Week,” said CFSEK Executive Director Devin Gorman. “Expanding to a week-long event will give our participating nonprofit organizations more time promote the work they’re doing, while giving donors additional flexibility. We believe the changes will be a win for everyone involved, and we are eager to help our local nonprofits raise as much money as possible.”

Match Week 2025 will

take place November 10-14 with options to donate online or in person to the endowment funds of participating organizations.

New this year, CFSEK is also offering business sponsorships to boost the overall match amount for Match Week! If your business is interested in sponsoring Match Week, please contact the CFSEK office at (620) 231-8897 or visit SoutheastKansas.org/mwspponsors.



The Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad is making driving in the county difficult as track replacement is closing several rural roads. The construction is expected to continue through the month of August.

Most city budgets stay below 2025 revenue

Galena
The City of Galena has a proposed budget of \$5,211,642.

They had a mil rate of 76.534 mils in 2025 and have a proposed budget of 75.219 in 2026. The revenue neutral rate is set at 73,163 mils.

The assessed valuation is projected to be \$21,106,130 in 2026, an increase of \$930,218 over 2025.

The Galena budget hearing will be held at 6 p.m. on September 2 in the city Hall.

Weir
The City of Weir has a proposed budget of \$863,852 and an assessed valuation of \$2,830,298.

They had a mil rate of 60.064 mils in 2025 and have a proposed budget of 56,961 in 2026. The revenue neutral rate is set at 56,962 mils.

The assessed valuation is projected to be \$2,830,398 in 2026, an increase of \$146,221 over 2025.

The Weir budget hearing was held at 6:30 p.m. on August 11 in the City Hall.

Scammon
The City of Scammon has a proposed budget of \$1,642,625.

They had a mil rate of 24.658 mils in 2025 and have a proposed budget of 24,231 in 2026. The revenue neutral rate is set at 24,231 mils.

The assessed valuation is projected to be \$2,091,277 in 2026, an increase of \$36,292 over 2025.

The Scammon budget hearing was held at 7 p.m. on August 13 in the city Hall.

West Mineral
The City of West Mineral has a proposed budget of \$850,730.

They had a mil rate of 50.014 mils in 2025 and have a proposed mil rate of 50.014 in 2026. The revenue neutral rate is set at 50.014 mils.

The assessed valuation is projected to be \$850,739, a decrease of \$265 when compared to 2025.

The West Mineral budget hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. August 25 in the city Hall.

Baxter Springs
The City of Baxter Springs has a proposed budget of \$10,242,119 and an assessed valuation of \$36,045,939.

They had a mil rate of 43,874 mils in 2025 and have a proposed mil rate of 43,874 mils in 2026. The revenue neutral rate is set at 43,874 mils, exactly the same as 2025.

The budget hearing will be held Tuesday, August 26, at 6:45 p.m. in the city hall.

“We worked hard to maintain our revenue neutral rate, with the new swimming pool and the new fire station the taxpayers should be happy with no increase in the tax rate,” said City Treasurer DeAnn Auman-Hill.

Former vice-president and manager of the Columbus Labette Bank office Sean Carter has been appointed president of First National Bank of Parsons.

Carter, was a member of the Board of Directors of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce until his resignation Wednesday.

In leaving the Chamber Carter noted the quality of the organization and that it has been a good experience for him.

Carter was a native of McCune and went to high school at Southeast after attending grade school in McCune.

He most recently was

Shawn Carter named Parsons bank president

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Delinquent property tax

The second publication of the 2024 delinquent tax list is included in today's edition.

These properties are not on the upcoming delinquent tax sale listing which is currently being published on Tuesday.



Shawn Carter

marketing president of Equity Bank in Pittsburg.

Earlier Carter spent 16-years in the retail management with Wal-Mart finishing that part of his career as a district manager.

Carter worked for Labette Bank for 11 years beginning in Oswego and managing the Parsons branch for four years.

He and wife Jill live on the Carter family farm east of Parsons where the couple have resided for 17 years. His family has owned the property for 75 years.