



Courtesy of Osage City Chamber of Commerce
Grace Lutheran Church won first place at the Osage City, Osage County fair parade for their "A Time to Sew" float.

Osage County fair, parade results

OSAGE CITY — The Osage City, Osage County fair kicked off Wednesday, July 9, and ran through Saturday, July 12. Activities included carnival rides, vendor booths, the Lions Club food stand, baby races a 1980s party, races and contests, live musical entertainment, a fireworks show, and the annual fair parade.

The parade kicked off Friday evening's events, beginning at 6:30 p.m., with the theme "Back in the Day." Included in the parade were the Boy Scouts leading the color guard, followed by the fire department, law enforcement, EMS, Jim and Dena Paul as Mr. & Mrs. Osage City, Jeanette Stromgren as parade marshal, and the Twin Lakes Cruisers car group. Also in the parade were the high school band, color guard, spirit groups, floats, golf carts/ATVs, the Shriners, horses, poop scoopers, and more.

Float winners were, first (\$125), Grace Lutheran Church, second (\$100), OCHS dance team, third (\$75), OCHS cheer team, and fourth (\$50), Community Covenant Church. Golf cart/ATV winners were, first (\$30), April Peet, and second (\$20), Scott Carson. Winners in the horse category, taking home \$50 each, were Terri Neill,



Courtesy of Osage City Chamber of Commerce
Jamie Leeper and Amanda Barnum were winners in one of the horse categories.

and Amanda Barnum and Jamie Leeper.

In conjunction with the parade, the Chamber and Osage County Fire District No. 2 offered the opportunity for children to color a picture, with the anticipation of being selected to ride on the fire truck in the parade. Selected were Riley Gile, Tucker Bradley, Austin Miller, Aspen Miller, Nathan

Miller, Davina Bomberger, and Ayva Capoun.

Also Friday evening, there was an ice cream social and bingo, and live music provided by the band Delta Haze.

Saturday events included an all-you-can-eat breakfast, sponsored by the Lions Club, from 7 to 10

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Burlingame USD 454

Board approves official appointments for 2025-26 school year

BURLINGAME — The Burlingame USD 454 Board of Education held its monthly meeting July 9. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. and was adjourned at 9:13 p.m. Board members present were Melissa Droege, Pam Masters, Chrissie Atchison, Krista Rowley, Wes Colson, and Jamie Bowman. Board member Audrey Ross was absent. Burlingame USD 454 staff members Marcy Cassidy (superintendent), Shelley Banzhaf (elementary school principal), Taylor Montgomery (junior high/high school principal), and Christi Droege (board clerk) were also present.

The meeting kicked off with five separate executive sessions to discuss employee performance pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA.

The Board approved multiple official appointments, designations, and actions for the 2025-26 school year. Christi Droege was appointed as clerk of the board, and Megan Summers as deputy clerk; John Dorr as treasurer of the board, and Christi Droege as deputy treasurer;

KASB Legal Staff as legal counsel; Bank of Burlingame as primary depository, and all other Osage County banks as secondary depository; Shelley Banzhaf as the homeless children coordinator; Megan Summers as the authorizing representative/designated signee of food service, and Marcy Cassidy as hearing officer; Christi Droege as KPERS and BCBS employer representative; Christi Droege as petty cash fund treasurer for the district office, and Jessica Lockwood for K-12 schools, with Teresa Carson as deputy; Shelley Banzhaf as truant officer for the elementary school, and Taylor Montgomery for the junior high/high school; Marcy Cassidy as the coordinator for the Kansas Local Consolidated Plan; Marcy Cassidy as the purchasing agent, as well as the federal programs official; Jessica Lockwood as the treasurer of activity funds, with Megan Summers as assistant treasurer; Osage County Herald-Chronicle as the official school newspaper; sale of surplus property; 2025-2026 calendar; breakfast and lunch federal

program participation; and bonding for employees.

Also approved were Resolution 2026-01 through 2026-07, which include Activity Fund Accounting, Home Rule Authority, GAAP Waiver, Destruction of Certain Records, petty cash limits for the district office and petty cash limits for the elementary and junior high/high schools, and Adoption of Official Board Policies for 2025-2026. In addition, textbook/activity/lab fees were set, including \$25 for book/Chrome book rental (with insurance coverage costing an additional \$20 fee); vocational/lab fees set as pay for materials; \$100 for district students and \$200 for non-district students for driver's education; junior high activities, free for district students, \$3 for visiting students, and \$4 for adults; senior high activities, free for district students, \$4 for visiting students, and \$5 for adults; school plays, \$3 for students and \$5 for adults; athletic physicals, the district will pay \$10,

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Osage County Commission

Commissioners set public hearing for 2026 budget

LYNDON — The Osage County Commission met July 8, with Commissioners Heather Kuder and Brandon Smith present, along with County Clerk Michelle Morris. Commissioner Les Holman was not present, but he participated remotely by phone in some portions.

The Commission approved a motion to notify the state of the county's intent to exceed the revenue neutral rate (RNR) for the 2026 budget. A public hearing on the matter was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Sept. 15 at the Osage County Courthouse. Commissioners cited rising expenditures in public safety retirement contributions, infrastructure, IT needs, and upcoming elevator repairs as justification for maintaining the current mill levy of 45.715, which would generate approximately \$490,000 in additional revenue, due to higher assessed valuations. A similar motion was passed for the Sail-A-Way Sewer District, setting its levy at 73.112.

Commissioners also discussed how to manage Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) applications during the program's temporary

suspension. A resident who had already initiated a building loan and was prepared to begin construction raised concerns. However, due to delays related to required wastewater inspections, officials indicated that the timeline for this and similar projects would likely align with the anticipated relaunch of the revised NRP in late August.

Tom Lewis of Lyndon was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Fire District No. 5 board, following a recommendation from the district. Commissioners also approved a letter of support for the City of Carbondale's application for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to fund park improvements. The letter was presented to the commissioners by Economic Development Director Colleen Mendoza. As a community, Carbondale has raised \$153,000 in match money toward the project.

Discussion continued on a proposed overhaul of the county's CivicPlus website. Commissioners reviewed a plan to move from the county's basic package to the "Ultimate"

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Osage City USD 420

Board recognizes track athletes

OSAGE CITY — The Osage City USD 420 Board of Education met July 9, with board members Alex Carson, Gerad Fagan, Jim Lohmeyer, Corey Linton, Tyler Parsons and Cally Tice present. PJ Heptinstall was absent. Also in attendance were Ted Hessong (superintendent), Tim Riemann (middle school principal), Dena Paul (elementary school principal), and Patty Brenner (clerk).

The meeting kicked off with the Board recognizing high school track state champions and medalists Quenten Stark, Kaelyn Boss, Casen Parsons, Lexi Boss, Tate Smith, Reed Silver and Alaynah Dorsey.

Dustin Avey from Piper Sandler shared information with the Board regarding mill levies for a possible bond project in the future.

Next, the Board approved multiple positions and appointments for the 2025-2026 school year. Pam Whitmer was appointed as treasurer, Patty Brenner as board clerk, Michelle Martin as deputy board clerk, and Michael Coffman and KASB as school attorneys. All banks in Osage City were designated as

official depositories for school funds; the Osage County Herald-Chronicle was designated as the official newspaper for legal publications; Superintendent Hessong was appointed the authorized representative in matters pertaining to federal funds; and Patty Brenner was appointed as the KPERS representative.

All USD 420 principals were appointed as truant officers; Jim Lohmeyer was appointed as the board representative for Three Lakes Educational Cooperative, with Gerad Fagan as the alternate; and Corey Linton was appointed as the Recreation Commission representative. Cally Tice was appointed as the elementary school site-based council board representative, Corey Linton as the middle school representative, and Tyler Parsons as the high school representative. Jim Lohmeyer was appointed as the Community Foundation Board representative; and PJ Heptinstall was appointed as the Professional Development Board representative.

It was designated that the USD 420 Board of

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