

Overbrook — Osage County Fair



Chris Faimon/Herald-Chronicle
The 4-Hers began weighing in their animals at the Overbrook — Osage County Fair Tuesday. The fair will run through Aug. 9. See last week's newspaper for a schedule of events.

CCS to host inflatables during Overbrook's fair

OVERBROOK — The Community Christian School of Overbrook (CCS) will host inflatables during the Overbrook, Osage County Fair, this Friday and Saturday at the Overbrook fairgrounds. The event coincides with other fairground events, including a rodeo and tractor pull, all of which are put on by the Overbrook community in the spirit of summer fair fun. The inflatables

will include a water slide, obstacle course, jousting arena, and a smaller bounce house for younger children. The inflatables will be available for children from 1 to 8 p.m. Friday, and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Ticket prices vary, and will be available onsite. To ensure all children get to enjoy the inflatables, the school will host a “Community Power

Hour” from 10 to 11 a.m. Friday, where the inflatables will be free to everyone. In addition to the inflatables, cotton candy and fresh-baked goods will also be available for purchase. The fundraiser, along with profits from the ticket sales, will go toward scholarships and tuition assistance for CCS students, as well as for school supplies and other school events.

Osage County Commission
Commissioners review budget progress

LYNDON — The Osage County Commission met Tuesday, July 29, with Commissioners Les Holman and Brandon Smith present. Commissioner Heather Kuder was absent from the meeting room, but participated by phone. Osage County Clerk Michelle Morris was also in attendance, and County Counselor Josh Ney was available by phone. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by roll call and approval of the amended agenda. One item, an economic development presentation by Colleen Mendoza, was removed, while three items were added, including a township officer recommendation, an intangible tax form, and an executive session for payroll discussion. The majority of the meeting was devoted to an in-depth review of the 2025 budget draft led by Scott Lloyd, a financial consultant. Lloyd provided commissioners with two documents: one detailing all changes made since the last budget discussion, and another summarizing mill levy projections. He noted that the county's 2025 mill levy had been preliminarily set at 45.715 mills, the same as the previous

year. However, because of an approximately \$10.7 million increase in assessed valuation, the county is expected to collect \$490,738 more in property tax revenue. Lloyd emphasized the need to analyze departmental expenditures to determine if projected spending could be reduced, particularly to increase unencumbered cash reserves for 2025. The current draft shows reserves at \$684,000, which Lloyd advised should be closer to \$1.5 to \$2 million. He encouraged department heads to review their actual spending to date and provide projections through year-end to help balance the budget. Among the budget changes discussed were adjustments to the ARPA grant fund, the addition of two leased Kenworth dump trucks, and clarification of personnel expenses related to employee compensation. Lloyd also flagged the election fund's deficit, and discussed whether the fund should be merged with the general fund to avoid over- or under-levying. Commissioners and county staff also discussed tracking recycling costs more transparently and proposed creating a separate budget line to monitor related expenses.

They also reviewed capital improvement projects and confirmed the transfer of funds for a bridge project. A detailed timeline was established for finalizing and publishing the budget. The commission aims to finalize the document by Aug. 12, to allow for publication on Aug. 18 and again on Aug. 25, ensuring compliance with state hearing requirements for the Sept. 15 public hearing. The commission held multiple executive sessions to discuss non-elected personnel and payroll matters, including with Sheriff Chris Wells and Land Development Director Tricia Webb. After returning to open session, the commission approved payroll action forms submitted by both departments. The commission appointed Allen Roney as trustee for Scranton Township upon recommendation of remaining township officers. Michelle Rooks was formally appointed as interim county appraiser through a resolution effective July 1, for a period not to exceed six months. The commission approved a 5% See **Commission** | 8

Postal changes
will create delays

OSAGE CITY — Changes to the U.S. Postal Service's operations are causing delays for local mail, including subscription newspapers. The truck that hauls mail from the Osage City Post Office to Topeka and Kansas City now departs earlier, leaving the post office with a cutoff time of 8:30 a.m. for mail to make that day's shipment. Previously, the truck left after 3:30 p.m. This adjustment means that newspapers destined for areas outside Osage County are likely to experience delays in reaching subscribers. The Osage City Post Office handles deliveries to Osage City, Lyndon, Vassar, Quenmo, and Melvern, bypassing the papers heading to Kansas City. The Herald-Chronicle also delivers directly to the Burlingame post office, which serves Burlingame, Harveyville, and Auburn; the Carbondale post office, which serves Carbondale and Scranton; and the Overbrook post office. The recent changes are part of a nationwide decision to stop afternoon mail pickups. As a result,

almost all outgoing mail, including bills, packages, and newspapers, will sit at local post offices or inside mailboxes for an additional day unless dropped off early in the morning. The Herald-Chronicle Publisher Chris Faimon said the newspaper is now shouldering some of the responsibilities previously handled by the Postal Service. “We try to avoid the so-called ‘black hole’ of Kansas City as much as possible,” he said. “The post office continues to raise rates and provide less service. Our postal rates have drastically increased, which has been a huge financial hit for the newspaper. Our local post offices and personnel are not the issue. They bend over backwards to get the papers to in-county subscribers the very next day. Our hands are tied by the decisions being made that affect subscribers outside of Osage County.” The changes are expected to have broader effects on mail delivery across the nation, as the Postal Service grapples with increasing costs and declining mail volume. Postal workers continue to adjust to the new schedule, though many local customers may continue to experience slower mail delivery.

County schools set
to resume classes

It's time for students to head back to classrooms for another year of learning. Burlingame USD 454 students will have their first day of school Wednesday, Aug. 13. Students within Lyndon USD 421 and Marais des Cygnes Valley USD 456 will begin their school year Thursday, Aug. 14. Osage City USD 420 students will have their first day of school Friday, Aug. 15, with dismissal at 11:30 a.m. Santa Fe Trail USD 434 students will stagger

their first day, with pre-kindergartners through freshmen returning to classrooms Thursday, Aug. 21, along with all new SFT students. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors will begin classes Friday, Aug. 22. The Osage County Herald-Chronicle will feature new administrators and teachers serving schools within Osage County in the next two editions, to help citizens of the community become better acquainted with those who will be working with our children.

Carbondale City Council

Council procedures scrutinized by resident

Gary Rush | Reporter

CARBONDALE — Council chambers at Carbondale City Hall played host to a full allotment of council members, community members, and city employees for the regularly scheduled Carbondale City Council meeting Aug. 4. Resident John Ryan approached the council with concerns about the council's ability to call special meetings. His reasoning for his concerns was a worry that perhaps the council was keeping secrets. The occurrence of note was to

how the council called a special meeting without receiving a written notice by three members of the city council, then issued to the mayor, in request of a special meeting. The main ideal, noted by City Attorney Tom Barnes II, was that to have three members of the council coming together to discuss and write a request of a special meeting to offer the mayor would be a special meeting in itself. Identified was an uncanny loophole in city policy and requirements from the State of Kansas concerning the nature of special meetings. Barnes promised to research the anomaly and provide conclusions during a future meeting of the city council. During the bulk of the meeting, it was motioned and accepted by all members of the council to purchase the property at 332 Main Street. It should be noted that the special meeting, for which Ryan expressed concerns, was held to allow Mayor DaPrato the ability to negotiate the purchase of the property at 332 Main Street. Resident Ray Whitaker requested the members of the council to clarify reason-

ing for what roads were to be addressed, or not, during the upcoming scheduled road renovations. His questions were answered during a portion of the meeting used to address public concerns not previously listed on the scheduled agenda for the proceedings. “I am just trying to figure out, with the considerable use of the road I am worried about, why it would not be higher on the list of needed repairs,” Whitaker said. “We have buses, trash trucks, and even a few semi-trucks that use the road, along with the regular traffic

from locals.” Mayor DaPrato and City Maintenance Supervisor Dustin Bretsnyder assuaged Whitaker's concern while addressing available funds and issues of road maintenance seen as in significantly greater need. An executive session was held, and, upon return, maintenance positions were offered to residents Bryce Moore and Dustin Hill, both who had previously applied for the positions. Both accepted the offers. Bretsnyder approached the

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