

Solar Energy Showdown



Submitted
Evergry held a come-and-go informational meeting Sept. 24, regarding the Northern Harrier Solar Project, at the Osage City Community Building. The meeting, in which members of the community were invited to attend, attracted a group of protestors who showed up to make their opposition known.

Santa Fe Trail moves up to Class 4A

Katie McMurray | Reporter

TOPEKA — The Santa Fe Trail Chargers will move up to Class 4A this year for sports and activities other than football, according to the 2025-2026 classifications released Sept. 25 by the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA). Osage City remains a Class 3A school, Lyndon remains in Class 2A, and Burlingame and Marais des Cygnes Valley remain in Class 1A. Additionally, the five area schools will see no major changes in classification for football. Football classifications were also released Sept. 25 by the KSHSAA.

The 2025-2026 classifications are based on enrollment figures as of Sept. 20, based on 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades. The KSHSAA determined the classifications for state competition in all sports and activities except football.

Football classifications cover a two-year period. The 2026 and 2027 football classifications are based on enrollment figures for 9th, 10th, and 11th grades, also as of Sept. 20. There are six 11-man classifications, two 8-man classifications, and one 6-man classification.

The KSHSAA classifies the largest 32 schools as Class 6A (1,067-1,919 students), the next largest 32 as Class 5A (686-1,037), and the next largest 32 as Class 4A (318-672). Class 3A (184-317 students) includes the next 40 schools, Class 2A (124-181) the next 40, and Class 1A (69-124) the remainder of schools playing 11-man football, 38 this year. Class 8-Man Division I (70-104 students) includes the

largest 40 schools playing 8-man football and the remainder, 50 this year, compete in Class 8-Man Division II (28-69). Class 6-Man (9-54 students) includes 28 schools this year.

Santa Fe Trail, with 239 students in 9th, 10th, and 11th grades – up 17 from 222 two years ago – will remain in Class 3A. Osage City has 148 students in 9th, 10th, and 11th grades, down 18 from 166 in 2023, and remains in Class 2A. Lyndon has 101 students in 9th, 10th, and 11th grades, up 7 from 94 in 2023 and remains in Class 8-Man Division I. Burlingame remains in Class 8-Man Division II with 55 students in 9th, 10th, and 11th grades, down 9 from 64 in 2023. MdCV remains in Class 6-Man, with 30 students in 9th, 10th, and 11th grades, down 25 from 55 in 2023.

Amongst Pioneer League schools, Santa Fe Trail (239 students), Iola (227), Osawatimie (213), Anderson County (209), Prairie View (196), Burlington (190), and Wells-ville (186) will all remain in Class 3A. While Santa Fe Trail is up 17 students from 2023, Burlington is up 3 students, Iola is down 26, Osawatimie is down 21, Anderson County is down 15, Prairie View is up 2, and Wellsville is down 10.

Amongst Lyon County League schools, Olpe (74 students) remains a Class 1A school in 11-man football. Madison/Hamilton (62) and Northern Heights (77) drop down to Class 8-Man Division II. Burlingame (55), Lebo (51), Hartford (44), and Waverly (43) remain in Class 8-Man Division II. Marais des Cygnes Valley (30) remains in Class 6-Man. While Burlingame and

MdCV are down 9 and 25 students, respectively, from 2023, Olpe is down 2, Northern Heights is up 3, Madison is down 14, Hartford is up 2, Lebo is up 4, and Waverly is up 7.

Amongst Flint Hills League schools, Osage City (148 students), Council Grove (176), and West Franklin (139) remain in Class 2A, while Mission Valley (107) and Wabaunsee (81) remain in Class 1A. Cair Paravel (96) drops down to Class 8-Man Division I from Class 1A. Lyndon (101) and Chase County (95) remain in Class 8-Man Division I. While Osage City is down 18 students and Lyndon is up 7 from 2023, Council Grove is down 2, West Franklin is unchanged, Mission Valley is down 7, Wabaunsee is down 8, Cair Paravel is down 5, and Chase County is up 10.

For all other sports and activities, the KSHSAA classifies the largest 36 schools as Class 6A (1,323-2,481 students), the next 36 largest as Class 5A (814-1,283), and the next 36 largest as Class 4A (308-680). Class 3A includes the next 64 schools (169-301), while the following 64 schools compete in Class 2A (107-168) and the remainder, 112 this year, comprise Class 1A (12-106).

Santa Fe Trail moves up to Class 4A, with 316 students in 9th through 12th grades. Santa Fe Trail's enrollment is up 18 students from 298 in 2024. Osage City remains in Class 3A and has 202 students in 9th through 12th grades, down 15 from 217 in 2024. Lyndon remains in Class 1A and

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Osage County Commission

Commissioners address recycling, housing, sheriff's budget

LYNDON — The Osage County Commission addressed issues involving recycling, housing development, delinquent property taxes, and the sheriff's department budget during its Sept. 23 evening meeting at the county courthouse.

All three commissioners – Les Holman, Brandon Smith, and Heather Kuder – were present, along with County Clerk Michelle Morris and County Counselor Joshua Ney.

During public comment, a county resident raised concerns about delinquent property taxes tied to a property in Carbondale. The individual said the issue stemmed from a loan taken out on the prop-

erty that was not discovered until after a family member's death. Commissioners said the matter would need to be discussed with the incoming county treasurer, who begins duties Oct. 13. The patron was concerned with tax foreclosure on the property.

Under unfinished business, the commission approved two resolutions. Resolution 2025-23 supports an application to the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation for the Kansas Housing Investor Tax Credit Program. Resolution 2025-24 endorses housing development and a moderate-income housing fund application. The resolutions support housing projects in county

municipalities, with Osage City and Carbondale excluded due to previously awarded funding.

Recycling program operations were discussed under new business. The program costs about \$83,700 annually, but contamination from improper materials and other waste has led to trailers being rejected and redirected to landfills. Four of the eight trailers used for collection need replacement, estimated at \$14,900 each for a used trailer. Commissioners discussed the possibility of consolidating recycling into a monitored county facility and reaching out

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Osage City's fall event is Oct. 11

OSAGE CITY — The annual Fall Fest, hosted by the Osage City Chamber of Commerce, will be Saturday, Oct. 11, at Santa Fe Park in downtown Osage City.

The Chamber has a full day of family-friendly events planned, including a beer garden,

food trucks, pumpkin painting, making scarecrows, face painting, an obstacle course, a craft show, a cornhole tournament, a keg roll, stein games, and a pie-eating contest. In addition, downtown businesses will be open for shopping.

Annual fall festival slated for Oct. 11

OVERBROOK — The seventh annual Fall in Love with Overbrook fall festival, hosted by the Overbrook Farmers Market, will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11, at the Overbrook-Osage County Fairgrounds,

510 North Cedar Street, Overbrook.

The event will feature food vendors, arts and craft vendors, pumpkins and gourds, a photo booth, a touch-a-truck event, various fundraisers, and more.

Fiesta on the Trail fundraiser is Saturday

OVERBROOK — The Overbrook Historical Society will host Fiesta on the Trail from 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4, on the corner of Maple and Santa Fe Trail streets in Overbrook, the future home of the Overbrook Historical Society and Museum.

The event will feature live music, a 50/50 raffle, a quilt raffle, and authentic Mexican food prepared by Victor and Laura Alvarez-Fernandez, former owners of

Los Vaqueros Mexican Restaurant. Guests can enjoy two tacos, rice, beans, chips and salsa, and a drink for a suggested donation of \$10.

Proceeds will benefit the Overbrook Community Foundation on behalf of the Overbrook Historical Society and Museum. Thanks to a 50% matching grant from the Patterson Family Foundation, contributions will have double the impact.

Football Pick'em Contest

Ladies take the crowns

OSAGE CITY — Another great week of football is behind us, and one well-researched entry, submitted by Judy Patterson, Lyndon, emerged as Week 4 winner in The Herald-Chronicle's Pick'em Football Contest. Patterson correctly predicted 17 of the 20 matchups. Her only losses were predicting KU over Cincinnati, Anderson County over Iola, and the Packers over the Cowboys (which ended in a tie). With the win, Patterson takes home \$25 cash.

For second place, five contestants missed five games. Dee Storrer, Osage City, came out on top in the tie-breaker with a guess of 1,113 total points. The actual points scored was 1,186. Max Provost guessed 1,102; James Ratliff, 1,102; Becky Allman, 1,101; and Barbara Cripps, 1,047. Storrer



receives a \$10 Sonic gift card for her efforts.

Both winners, as well as all other entries, predicted that the Kansas Jayhawks would beat the Cincinnati Bearcats. They fell in a close matchup, 34-37. Also, the tie between the Dallas Cowboys and the Green Bay Packers counted as a loss for everyone, understandably.

All in-county schools won again – and by large margins. Osage City beat West Franklin 74-0; Santa Fe Trail beat Osawatimie 61-7; Lyndon beat Chase County 68-18; Burlingame beat Centre-Lost Springs 48-0; and Marais des Cygnes Valley beat Altoona-Midway 54-6.

Join in the fun this week. Read the contest rules on Page 9 of this edition, and send in your predictions.

You can't win if you don't play! Good luck in Week 5!



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