

## Local veterans to be honored throughout county

Activities will be held around the county to honor veterans for Veterans Day. Below is a list of events submitted to the newspaper.

### Burlingame

Burlingame USD 454 will honor area veterans at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 11 in the elementary school gymnasium. This is a community event, and all veterans and active service members are welcome to attend, as well as the public. Andrew Havens will be the guest speaker. A reception will follow the program.

### Carbondale

Carbondale Attendance Center will host breakfast for veterans and a guest at 8 a.m. Nov. 11 at the school. Veterans are asked to RSVP by calling (800) 836-9525 ext. 3. At 9 a.m., the school will host its annual Veterans Day assembly, honoring all who have served. The public is invited to attend the assembly.

### Lyndon

Lyndon American Legion Post 125 will host a Veterans Day soup supper from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Nov. 11 at the Le-



gion Post (the old community center). Everyone is welcome. Freewill donations will benefit the post's programs.

### Osage City

Osage City USD 420 and Cubs will honor local veter-

ans with a free meal 11 a.m. to noon Nov. 11 in the school cafeteria. The menu will consist of chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, a roll, peaches, and either water, tea, milk or coffee. Veterans are asked to call the elementary school at (785) 528-3171 no later than Nov. 7, to reserve a meal.

### Overbrook

The Overbrook Veterans Memorial Committee will host breakfast from 7 to 9 a.m. Nov. 8 at the American Legion Post 239 in Overbrook. Donations will support the Overbrook Vet-

erans Memorial at Jones Park.

Overbrook's annual Veterans Day parade will be at 2:30 p.m. Nov. 11. The parade will start at Kansas State Bank and progress up Maple Street, turn left at the pool, and continue in front of Overbrook Attendance Center. The public is invited to attend.

### Quenemo

Marais des Cygnes Valley Elementary School, Quenemo, will host its annual Veterans Day program at 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14, at the school. The public is invited to attend.

Melvorn Fall Festival

Marcia Patterson/Contributor

Kids of all ages, including, from left, Harper Lichtenauer, Emmett Lichtenauer, William Lichtenauer, and Chesney Lichtenauer, had fun Saturday at Melvorn's Fall Festival.

## Carbondale man sentenced to four life terms

WEST MEMPHIS, Ark. – An Osage County man was sentenced Oct. 30 to four life sentences, plus 830 years in the Arkansas Department of Corrections in West Memphis, Ark.

Aston Wardlow, 26, Carbondale, was convicted of murder in the first degree, 17 counts of terroristic acts, and 18 counts of firearm enhancements stemming from the June 2024 homicide of 23-year-old Ivori Harris of West Memphis, Ark.

At approximately 12:44 a.m. on June 29, 2024, officers and investigators with the West Memphis Police Department responded to a shooting, where they located Harris, who had sustained fatal



Submitted

Aston Wardlow

gunshot wounds while seated inside her vehicle.

The investigation determined that Harris and Wardlow had been in a six-year relationship categorized by domestic violence, stalking, and threats of harm. Surveillance footage from the

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## Council meetings to be live streamed

Gary Rush | Reporter

CARBONDALE — All council members were present for the regularly scheduled Nov. 3 meeting of the Carbondale City Council. All city departments were represented at the gathering as well.

It was announced that regularly scheduled council meetings will be live streamed in the near future. Preparations are being made to tackle the venture. This was enforced by the council through a motion to adopt the policy of live streaming and retention of city council meetings by Councilman Ronald Moeller. The motion was accepted and passed by unanimous vote.

City Clerk Emily Bessette approached the council with an off-agenda item, informing the council

### Carbondale City Council

that she would be taking the reins of the town's annual Thanksgiving dinner in support of Hope Against Hunger. The meal will be offered in the city council chambers within City Hall. In reply to Bessette's proclamation, the council voted to donate \$500 toward the cause.

"The meal will be held at noon," Bessette said. "We are looking for volunteers if anyone is interested. Cash donations on top of what the city has so generously provided, would be greatly appreciated. Anyone interested can contact City Hall."

The council moved forward, deciding upon the viability of several zoning queries presented to the council. A gazebo was permitted, as well as an addition to a local home that started as a mere deck and evolved into a full remodel.

Each point of interest was voted upon with unanimous acceptance. The final point of the impromptu zoning decisions concerned a housing development request to allow the construction of two modular homes. This, too, was approved by all council members.

City Maintenance Supervisor Dustin Bretsnyder held a discussion concerning the maintenance department's tractor. The tractor is experiencing issues, and Bretsnyder is attempting to request warranty work from a prior service provider to resolve the problem. The unnamed provider, however, is avoiding contact, and the members of the council requested Bretsnyder to continue his efforts of contact, while Mayor Anthony DaPrato said that he, too, would attempt to contact the service provider.

## Football Pick'em Contest Provost wins final week

It was a tight finish to The Herald-Chronicle's Week 9 Football Pick'em Contest, as contestants battled for the final weekly title before the grand prize announcement. When the final scores were tallied, Craig Provost of Burlingame emerged as the Week 9 winner, edging out the competition with just one fewer miss than the next closest challengers.

Provost missed five games total — Houston



over West Virginia, Packers over Panthers, Lions over Vikings, Colts over Steelers, and Washburn University over Missouri Western State — but that was still good enough to claim the top spot in the season's final round.

Second place went to Joanne Neu of Carbondale, who missed six games. Her missteps included Iowa State over Arizona State, Chiefs over

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### Osage County Commission

## Commission reviews IT transition, accounting fixes, payroll planning

LYNDON — The Oct. 28 Osage County Commission meeting covered wide-ranging county operations, from verifying bills and software access to launching new accounting and IT service transitions designed to stabilize financial reporting and restore efficiency. Commissioners Heather Kuder and Brandon Smith attended in person, along with County Clerk Michelle Morris. County Counselor Josh Ney joined later, and Commissioner Les Holman participated in parts of the meeting by phone.

Commissioners began the day confirming bills previously submitted by the district court

and other offices. Officials discussed establishing clearer procedures for verifying vendor payments and invoice dates. The district court also raised questions about department head access to the county's CIC financial software, which tracks accounting and billing.

County IT staff explained that a new firewall and remote access configuration had complicated login permissions. Options were discussed for allowing off-site access via a dedicated county computer or ethernet connection, while maintaining data security. Commissioners supported creating a dedicated connec-

tion port for the district court to access CIC without linking separate networks.

Representatives from Helix Technology Solutions (HTS) presented a proposal to assume county IT service responsibilities from Century Technology, citing unresponsive support, quarantined emails, and recurring hardware and printer issues under the current contract.

HTS outlined a plan for weekly on-site support visits, 24/7 remote assistance, and improved security oversight, including returning control of county email filtering to internal servers. The company has

already assisted departments, such as the clerk's office, treasurer, and land development. Commissioners tabled final action until next week, to allow for review of the proposed service agreement.

After an executive session for attorney-client consultation, the board approved hiring BT & Co., Certified Public Accountants of Topeka, as a short-term financial services consultant. The firm will help reconcile 2025 payroll and accounts payable (AP) records, ensuring compliance before the close of the fiscal year and during the county's transition to Paycor payroll software in

2026.

Hourly rates range from \$240 to \$335 depending on project level, with flexible termination rights. Ney said BT & Co. will focus on ensuring all federal and state withholdings, KPERS, and benefits are reconciled accurately.

Linda Smith, former county treasurer and now consultant, provided a detailed update by phone, reporting that fund status and comprehensive cash reports now match for the first time in several years – a milestone toward restoring audit accuracy. Smith has been

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