



The Kansas Bureau of Investigation Crime Scene Unit was dispatched to the shooting incident north of Carbondale Saturday, where four law enforcement officers and one civilian were shot, and the suspect, Stephen McMillan, was killed.

## One dead, five injured in Osage County shooting

CARBONDALE — One man is dead and five others are injured following a Saturday morning shooting incident near Carbondale.

Shortly before 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 15, The Osage County Sheriff's Office and Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) were dispatched to a domestic disturbance at 11222 South Topeka Avenue, on what's known as Old 75 Highway, just north of Carbondale. The call was in response to a female resident calling 911.

Upon arrival, law enforcement encountered a suspect, later identified as 22-year-old Stephen M. McMillan, outside the home. According to KHP Superintendent Erik Smith, in a press conference held Saturday afternoon at the Carbondale library, gunfire erupted within less than 10 minutes of being on the scene.

Three deputies and two KHP troopers fired dur-



Osage County Sheriff's Office deputies, from left, Deputy Christian Moran, Corporal Clayton Hartpence and K9 Deputy James Cason, along with Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper Adam Ellis were shot and wounded when dispatched to a domestic disturbance call north of Carbondale.

ing the incident. Three deputies, one trooper, McMillan, and a male resident identified only as McMillan's 77-year-old grandfather, were struck by gunfire. McMillan was pronounced dead at the scene. His grandfather was injured and taken to a nearby hospital, where he is expected to recover.

Osage County Deputy Christian Moran, Corporal Clayton Hartpence, and K9 Deputy James Cason, as well as KHP Trooper Adam Ellis, were also injured. All were taken to Stormont-Vail Regional Health Center in Topeka. Ellis was later transferred to KU Medical Center.

The last report The Herald-Chronicle received was that two of the deputies have undergone surgery and are in good condition, and the third deputy has been discharged from the hospital. Trooper Ellis has a long road to

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### Carbondale City Council

## Council pursues abatements

Gary Rush | Reporter

CARBONDALE — With the exception of Kaitlyn Ball, all council members were present for the regularly scheduled Nov. 17 Carbondale City Council meeting. In addition, all city department heads were in attendance, as well as Mayor Anthony DaPrato.

"So, what happened was that the judge (Judge Rick Godderz) deemed the situation should be abated," Carbondale Chief of Police Shannon Seals said. "Abated means to clean up the property." Seals' statement was in response

to an issue concerning Carbondale citizen Jesse Zimmerman, who had not been available to tend to the delinquent property in question, due to active-duty deployment.

Seals spoke later of two different properties that were deemed in need of abatement. The first property addressed belonged to Zimmerman, and Seals affirmed he had been overseas.

"I was in Kuwait during that timeframe, and I have returned home recently due to a medical issue," Zimmerman said. "I have the truck in question running, and I have plans for somewhere to

relocate the motorcycle."

"When do you think the issues can be resolved," DaPrato asked.

"I expect to have it taken care of before the Thanksgiving holiday, as I have to leave for Maryland shortly afterward," Zimmerman replied.

City Attorney Tom Barnes II suggested the council take no action at this time toward the abatement resolution offered by Judge Godderz, to allow Zimmerman the opportunity to resolve the issue. He also confirmed that, if no progress

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### Santa Fe Trail USD 434

## Grant funds student-led bank

Gary Rush | Reporter

All board members were available for the regularly scheduled meeting of the Santa Fe Trail USD 434 Board of Education on Nov. 12. Board President Tanner Black directed the momentum of the meeting from his seat at the head of the board member table.

The meeting opened with a report from CTE Coordinator Tasha Smith. Within the report, Smith offered the Perkins Modernization Reserve Grant for the board's

approval. The grant of \$13,500 is to be used for a student-led bank. Board members welcomed the grant and showed their approval by voting unanimously to receive the grant.

The meeting moved forward with a short executive session, in which the members of the board, along with Superintendent Faith Flory, made necessary decisions concerning the employment of personnel.

Board members listened to reports from the heads of each

of the four attendance centers within the district. Within their individual reports, the delegates spoke of outstanding happenings within their respective schools and identified students of outstanding merit. Each school designates a "Charger of the Month," which is an accolade given to an outstanding student for their efforts and attributes positively effecting the district.

SFT High School Principal, Kyle

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## Christmas on Market is Saturday

OSAGE CITY — The annual Christmas on Market event is Saturday in downtown Osage City. This year's theme is "Christmas Movies."

In addition to food vendors being set up and businesses being open for shoppers, activities will be held throughout the day, including a 5K

run/walk, raffles, a story stroll, a craft show, a retail poker run, a bake sale, visits with Santa, a toy expo, face painting, fire truck rides, ping pong drops, gingerbread house building, a cookie contest and cookie feed, and the annual lighted parade.

Turn to Page 6 for the full schedule of events.

## Early deadline next week

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the deadline for all news and advertising items for the Nov. 27 edition is noon Friday, Nov. 21 (tomorrow).

The newspaper will be distributed to area racks Tuesday, Nov. 25, and re-

ceived in the mail by local subscribers Wednesday, Nov. 26.

The Osage County Herald-Chronicle will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 27 and 28, so the staff can enjoy time with their families.

## Local toy drive is under way

OSAGE COUNTY — The Osage County Sheriff's Office is partnering with area first responders to collect new (unwrapped) toys for Osage County children in need. Toys are now being collected for the sixth annual Operation Christmas for Kids toy drive, and final pick up will be Tuesday, Dec. 9.

Drop-off locations can be found in each town within Osage County. In Burlingame, at City Hall, the library, and Dollar General; in Carbondale, at City Hall/police department, the library, and Dollar General; in Lyndon, at the law enforcement center, police department/City Hall, Advanced Title, Dollar General, Charger Arms, veterinary

clinic, and the library; in Melvern, at City Hall; in Osage City, at City Hall, the fire station, the library, the senior center, Canine Country Clips, Osage Hardware, Osage Garden & Produce, Dollar General, and DG Market; in Overbrook, at the police department/City Hall, the fire station, Dollar General, the library, and Kansas State Bank; in Quenemo, at City Hall; in Scranton, at the fire station, City Hall, Harrison Shooter Supply, and Club Four Corners restaurant; and in Vassar, at eStore, Green Acres restaurant, Dollar General, and South Shore Animal Hospital.

Email [operationchristmasforkids@oscosheriff.org](mailto:operationchristmasforkids@oscosheriff.org) with questions.

## Melvorn to light up the town Nov. 30

MELVERN — The Christmas lighting event in Melvern, sponsored by Melvern Pride, will take place at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 30, at the community center.

In addition to the

lighting, the event will feature caroling, cookie decorating, balloon art, goodie bags, cookies, and hot cocoa. Santa and Rudolph will also be in town and available for photos.

### Osage City USD 420

## Board accepts memorial fund donation

OSAGE CITY — The Osage City USD 420 Board of Education met Nov. 12 for its regularly scheduled meeting. All board members were present, except Tyler Parsons. Also in attendance were the school principals, the superintendent, and the board clerk.

The board accepted a donation of \$630 from the John Reed Memorial fund, for the Osage City High School Activities Fund.

Kim Linck, of Varney and Associates, presented

the 2025 audit report, which the board approved.

The board voted to accept donations from Perry Thomspson, David Davies, and Don Jones to the Osage City FFA Chapter. The motion failed, 3-3, with Cally Tice, Jim Lohmeyer, and Gerad Fagan voting no.

Lohmeyer gave the Three Lakes report.

Superintendent Ted Hessong gave his monthly update, which included

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