

CHRISTMAS ON MARKET



Sheila Holle/Herald-Chronicle

Osage City was buzzing Saturday during the Christmas on Market event, hosted by the Osage City Chamber of Commerce. Activities throughout the day included a bake sale (right), craft show, visits with Santa (above), fire truck rides, a Jingle Bell 5K run/walk, ping pong drops, quarter bingo, a raffle, the lighting of the downtown district, and the lighted parade.

Osage County Commission
Holman resigns from
leadership post, will
remain on board

LYNDON — Osage County Commission Chairman Les Holman abruptly resigned his chairmanship at the Nov. 18 commission meeting, effective immediately, telling fellow commissioners the role had simply become “too much,” while emphasizing he will complete his term as a regular commissioner. Holman’s term as 1st District commissioner, which includes Burlingame City, Scranton City, Burlingame Township, Dragoon Township, Fairfax Township, Grant Township, Scranton Township, and 2nd Ward and 3rd Ward of Osage City, runs through 2026.

Holman, who has led the three-member board for three years, became emotional during the announcement.

“I love all you guys,” Holman said, voice breaking. “When I got here, this place was a mess. ... But as chairman, it has become too much. I will sit the remainder of my term. I will serve as a commissioner for this county, but it will not be as the chairman.”

He thanked county employees and department heads for their work through recent turmoil and apologized for the emotion, adding, “I’m not upset for reasons you might think. It’s just become a lot.”

The resignation came after an often-heated department-head update in which several elected officials and staff voiced frustration with recent technology and financial

process changes.

Holman had to leave the meeting halfway through to return to his private-sector job. The meeting was a marathon session that lasted almost five hours, heavy on closed-door legal discussions and the county’s continuing struggle to clean up payroll, accounting and IT problems.

With Commissioner Holman already gone, the remaining two commissioners voted to formalize Commissioner Heather Kuder as acting chair until the board’s annual reorganization, likely in early January.

Commissioners spent significant time in closed session with County Counselor Josh Nye under

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Carbondale’s Christmas
event is Dec. 7

CARBONDALE — The Carbondale community will host its annual Christmas in Carbondale celebration Sunday, Dec. 7. This year’s theme is “The Polar Express.”

Activities for the entire family will take place throughout the day. A holiday vendor market will be open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and a fundraiser lunch special, offered by the Santa Fe Trail PTO, will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., both at the ELM building.

Beginning at 1 p.m., the edible holiday display competition will be held at City Hall. Entries must fit in an

18x18-inch area and be made entirely of edible materials. Participants should have their displays set up by 12:30 p.m., and the winners will be announced at 2:45 p.m.

The Carbondale City Library will welcome the arrival of Santa at 3 p.m. Children are invited to write wish list letters to Santa, and get their picture taken with him.

Kid crafts will take place from 3 to 5 p.m., where crew members from the fire and police departments will assist children with creative emergency responder crafts.

Lyndon Christmas
celebration is Saturday

LYNDON — Christmas in Lyndon will take place Dec. 6. The event will kick off at 10 a.m. with the “Christmas Vacation” parade, along with cookies and hot chocolate at the library.

Santa arrives with the parade and will be available for pictures, and children are invited to make ornaments at the library.

The annual Christmas bazaar is also planned.

In addition, the library will have breakfast burritos, regular



burritos, coffee, hot chocolate, and juice available for a freewill donation.

Contact Lyndon Pride at lyndonkspride@gmail.com with questions or for more information.

Local photographer named winner in KDA photo contest

MANHATTAN — The Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) has announced the winners of the 2025 KDA Photo Contest. Out of 158 entries showcasing Kansas agriculture, Karen Colstrom, Osage City, won three first-place awards and two second-place awards.

In the Agriculture at Work category, Colstrom was awarded first place for her “Amber Waves of Grain” photo and second place for her “Wheat Harvest 2025” photo. In the Picture Perfect Prairie category, she earned first place for her “Dreams of Home” photo and second place for her “Red Barn at Sunset” photo. Colstrom also earned the first-place award in the Farm Fresh category for her “Harvest Wheat” photo.

Preliminary votes on Facebook were tallied according to the number of likes, comments and shares earned by each photo or video. The totals identified the top five photos in each category, which included Agriculture at Work, Farm Animals, Farm Fresh, Picture



Courtesy of KDA

In the Picture Perfect Prairie category of the 2025 KDA Photo Contest, Karen Colstrom, of Osage City, took home the first-place award for her “Dreams of Home” photo.

Perfect Prairie, Video, and Youth Division. These photos and videos were then reviewed by members of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, agriculture leaders in the Kansas legislature, and leadership within the Kansas Department of Agriculture to select the winners in each category.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture values the ability to use real photos from real people in Kansas agriculture. The photos submitted to the contest have become the face of its agency publications, social media posts, promotional materials, and the KDA website, Agriculture.KS.gov. Many of the photo contest submissions are used to advocate for Kansas agriculture, and select photos will be displayed in KDA’s Manhattan office.

All photos submitted to the contest are available for viewing on KDA’s Facebook and Instagram pages. Winners in each category received a \$100 gift card and runner-up participants received a \$50 gift card.



Courtesy of KDA

This photo, titled “Harvest Wheat,” earned Osage City photographer Karen Colstrom first place in the Farm Fresh category in the 2025 KDA Photo Contest.



Courtesy of KDA

Karen Colstrom, Osage City, won first place in the 2025 KDA Photo Contest for her “Amber Waves of Grain” photo in the Agriculture at Work category.

