

National Orphan Train Complex to host annual celebration honoring founders

BY GREG MARKWAY

NOTC Vice-President and Orphan Train Rider Descendant,
Jefferson City, Missouri

The National Orphan Train Complex will host its Annual Celebration on June 11-13, 2026, with this year's theme, *Honoring the Founders*, recognizing the individuals and events that shaped one of the most significant child welfare movements in American history.

The celebration will highlight the legacy of Charles Loring Brace, founder of the Children's Aid Society, whose efforts in the 19th century helped establish and popularize the Orphan Train Movement. The event will also honor Mary Ellen Johnson, whose vision and dedication led to the preservation of orphan train history through the founding of the Orphan Train Heritage Society of America.

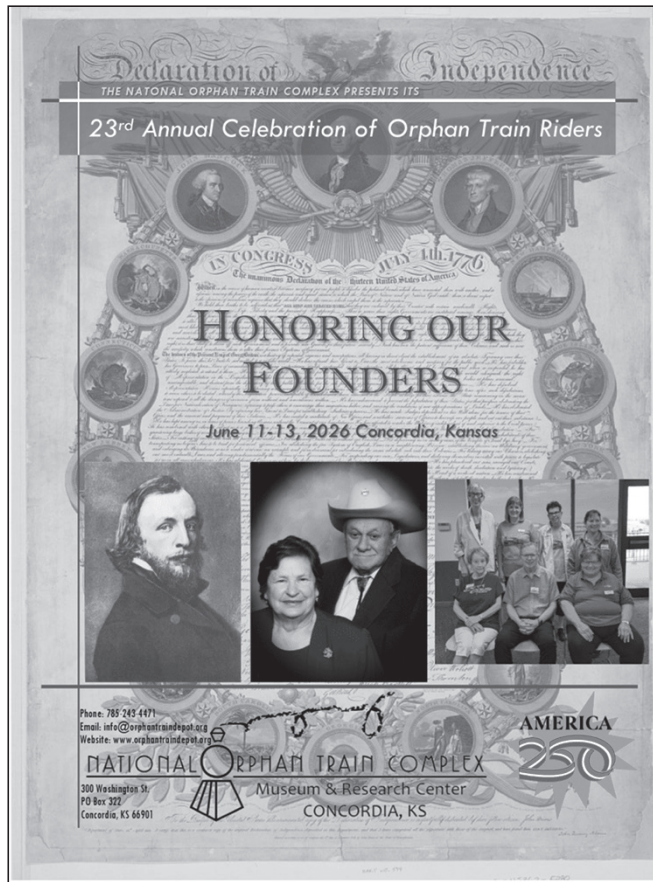
In addition, the celebration will recognize the broader historical milestone of America's 250th anniversary, connecting the nation's founding ideals with the stories of resilience and opportunity embodied by orphan train riders.

A featured event will take place on Friday, June 12, at 7:00 p.m., when acclaimed performer Adam Lindquist brings history to life with his renowned portrayal of Theodore Roosevelt. The performance will offer an engaging and educational experience for audiences of all ages.

Throughout the weekend, attendees can also participate in a community-wide scavenger hunt centered on Concordia's well-known orphan train rider statues, encouraging visitors to explore the town while learning more about the lives and journeys of these children.

The Annual Celebration is open to the public and invites families, historians, and community members to come together in remembrance, education, and celebration of a shared past that continues to shape the present.

Events begin Thursday, June 11, at 4:00 p.m., with the unveiling of the new window covering in the Education Station and a statue plaque in the NOTC Courtyard. On Friday, June 12, a new orphan train rider statue will be dedicated outside the Brown Grand Theatre.



For more information about the event, visit the National Orphan Train Complex or contact the museum directly at 785-243-4471 or email: info@orphantraindepot.org.

Graduation

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Today, Dallas is the owner and operator of Geisler Roofing & Home Improvement. Lisa now devotes her time to caring for their grandchildren and managing the family's rental and Airbnb properties. Together, Dallas and Lisa have built a life centered on family and community. They are the parents of four adult children—Sara Hake, Tyler, Austin and Trent—and proud grandparents to nine grandchildren. They enjoy attending Cloud County Community College and Kansas State athletic events, supporting their grandchildren's activities, remodeling homes, and spending time with their growing family.

The student speaker at graduation will be Jarell Yardin, Concordia campus Student Senate president. Clare McCain, president of the Upsilon Tau Chapter of PTK on the Concordia campus and Tiffany Loeffler, Beta Eta Xi Chapter president of the Geary County PTK chapter, will introduce the Faculty of the Year award winner.

Football

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The Greater Wichita Athletic League submitted the proposal, and it was brought forward by Board of Directors members Sara Richardson and Chris Asmussen.

Flag football has its own rulebook under the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). Mark Lentz, KSHSAA assistant executive director, has served on the NFHS rules writing committee, and Jeremy Holaday, assistant executive director, will sit in Lentz's place after his retirement on July 1.

Additional details regarding competitive classifications, state tournament format and implementation guidelines will be communicated to member schools in the coming months.

COMMUNITY SUPPER

• **Wednesday, June 3, 2026— Cloud County Community Supper** from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Free Hot Meal, All Are Welcome! Concordia National Guard Armory, 2115 Blosser Drive. Curbside Pick Up Only! For information, call (785) 614-0148.

• **Wednesday, June 10, 2026— Cloud County Community Supper** from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Free Hot Meal, All Are Welcome! Concordia National Guard Armory, 2115 Blosser Drive. Curbside Pick Up Only! For information, call (785) 614-0148.

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Cloud County closes out home health, begins bridge construction next week

BY OLIVIA BERGMEIER

The Cloud County Commission met for its regular meeting at 9 a.m. on Monday, May 11, where commissioners Ron Copple, Dannie Kearn and chairman Mike Cleveland attended, alongside clerk Shella Thoman.

Before discussing county department updates, the commissioners addressed several routine business items, including four tax abatements totaling \$274.46 and rebates at \$30.04. The commission also approved an emergency management memorandum of understanding between Cloud and Mitchell counties.

County officials also discussed the significant concrete work at the Ross Doyen Bridge on 190th Road, where the county closed the road during the pouring of more than 500 yards of concrete that day.

Speaking of infrastructure, Cloud County Highway Administrator Rod Michaud attended the meeting to hold a five-minute executive session, where no action was taken afterward. Michaud also reported that beginning during the week of Sunday, May 17, county highway workers will close 170th Road between Gold and Fawn roads for two weeks for a bridge replacement project.

Solid waste director and recycling manager Mike Hake provided a report to the commission, detailing a structural issue with the concrete abutment wall at the lower truck entrance to the solid waste building.

"Advice and exploration will be done to figure out how to stop the concrete wall from moving anymore," Cleveland said.

Hake also reported that the county sold 43,724 pounds of cardboard for \$85 per ton, which totals about \$2,000.

Cloud County Emergency Management Director McKenna Haas approached the commission after Hake, where she discussed the Kansas State Mesonet Weather Tower grant is still in place but has yet to be funded, so construction on the tower has not begun.

Haas said that she has written multiple grant requests to the state of Kansas for tornado shelters, since the county needs approval from the state before officially applying for FEMA grants.

Home health administrator Kendra Annon attended the meeting to discuss the closeout of the county's

home health services. According to Annon, after two more pending patient discharges this week, all patients and clients will be placed with other local services like OCCK, Inc.

"The commissioners would like to thank Annon for her hard work in this very trying process," Cleveland said.

Cleveland said that local home health services offered to place all the Cloud County Home Health employees, all but one of whom found new positions in these local services.

Cloud County Courthouse Maintenance Manager Jeff Thoman and Assistant Manager Gary Wilk attended the meeting to discuss recent maintenance projects, like the installation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) air conditioning mini-split system. In further HVAC projects, the maintenance department is working on the long-term assessment of the chillers on the air conditioning system.

Jeff Thoman also reported that Metro Elevator performed a complete assessment of the courthouse elevator system and will determine future needs after review.

OCCK Executive Director Sheila Nelson-Stout attended the meeting as well, where she and a few staff members met with the commission to discuss a past-year review and annual budget request.

"OCCK assumed responsibility for most of the clients and staff of the Cloud County Home Health Division of the Health Department as we end the agency on Friday," Cleveland said. "OCCK is continuing to expand services in North Central Kansas."

After some further discussion on the agency's work with EMT fall care training and Red Cross blood drive transportation assistance, the commission moved on to speak with Cloud County Appraiser Kim Winsett.

Winsett approached the commission to discuss the current status of the county's floodplain since she's also the local floodplain coordinator. Their discussions on the floodplain required no action for the day.

The commission then adjourned the meeting at 11:33 a.m., with the next meeting scheduled for 9 a.m. on Monday, May 18, at the Cloud County Courthouse, 811 Washington Street, in Concordia.



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GENERAL NOTICE TO CONTROL NOXIOUS WEEDS

The Kansas Noxious Weed Law K.S.A. 2-1314 et seq requires all persons who own or supervise land in Kansas to control and eradicate all weeds declared noxious by legislative action. The weeds declared noxious are: field bindweed, musk thistle, sericea lespedeza, Johnson grass, bur ragweed, Canada thistle, leafy spurge, hoary cress, quack grass, Russian knapweed, kudzu and pignut. Notice is hereby given pursuant to the Kansas Noxious Weed Law to every person who owns or supervises land in Cloud County that noxious weeds growing or found on such land shall be controlled and eradicated. Control is defined as preventing the production of viable seed and the vegetative spread of the plant.

Failure to observe this notice may result in the County:

1. Serving a legal notice requiring control of the noxious weeds within a minimum of five days. Failure to control the noxious weeds within the time period allowed may result in the county treating the noxious weeds at the landowner's expense and placing a lien on the property if the bill is not paid within 30 days or,
2. Filing Criminal charges for non compliance. Conviction for non compliance may result in a fine of \$100 per day of non compliance with a maximum fine of \$1500.

The public is also hereby notified that it is a violation of the Kansas Noxious Weed Law to barter, sell or give away infested nursery stock of livestock feed unless the feed is fed on the farm where grown or sold to a commercial processor that will destroy the viability of the noxious weed seed. Custom harvesting machines must be labeled with a label provided by the Kansas Dept. of Agriculture and must be free of all weed seed and litter when entering the state and when leaving a field infested with noxious weeds. Additional information may be obtained from the Cloud County Noxious Weed Department or by contacting the Kansas Dept. of Agriculture, 1320 Research Park Drive, Manhattan, KS 66502

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Coffee Connection




15th May 2026
7:30AM-8:30AM
at Me & Ma's Bakery
(Location rotates each month)



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