



Wednesday,
March 25,
2026

CHASE COUNTY

Explore the Flint Hills



The Chase County Wrestling Club is pictured as their season started in late 2025. From left to right are back row: Nate Passmore, Brendan Harshman, John Barnes, Isaac Huber, Breck Schlup, Dave Budke, 3rd row: (standing kids) - Kord Wessel, Henry Harshman, Luke Harshman, Oakley Mayes, James Sidler, Blaze Passmore, Easton Budke, 2nd row: (kneeling) - Patrick Barnes, Dakari Payton, Wyatt Parriott, Lauren Harshman, Mayah Passmore, Annabella Harshman, Liam Lauer, Ander Benjamin, front row - Brock Wessel, John Butler, Aiden Capps, Caleb Harshman, Trigg Mendoza, Lenny Flesman, Clyde Schlup, Mabel Barrett, Jack Leitnaker, Puncher Parriott, Tess Passmore, Ellen Passmore, Wyatt Leitnaker.

Chase County Wrestling Club Built on history, continuity and growth

by Jan Sciacca

The Chase County Wrestling Club traces its roots back to approximately 1979, according to information provided by Ashia Passmore following conversations with longtime community members, including Mike Holder. At its inception, the club was led by then-grade school principal Don Grosse as head coach, with Holder and Randy Blackwell serving as assistant coaches.

The program experienced an interruption between 1985 and 1993, when the club was inactive for approximately eight years. Wrestling activities resumed in 1993 under the direction of Brian Budke, who coached until 1996 and later returned to lead the program again from 2006 through 2019. Budke continues to be involved today, coaching the club's freestyle and Greco wrestling program each spring, a component that was reintroduced in 2021.

Leadership of the club transitioned

again around 2022, when Brendan Harshman assumed the role of head coach. Since that time, participation numbers have increased, with the club reporting practices that have included as many as 40 wrestlers in recent seasons.

The Chase County Wrestling Club serves youth athletes beginning at approximately five years of age and operates as a developmental program that complements the wrestling opportunities offered through USD 284 at the junior high and high school levels. Wrestlers are able to compete in the club during the youth season, which generally runs from late November through mid-March. Older athletes transition into school programs during their respective seasons, with some returning to club competition afterward.

Practices are held in the wrestling room at Chase County High School, with the district allowing the club to utilize the facility. Coaching support is largely volunteer-based, consisting primarily of parents and community members, along with additional individuals who assist with instruction throughout the season.

Competition for the club includes tournaments across the region, with wrestlers traveling to events in communities such as Burlington, Manhattan, McPherson and the Wichita area. While many athletes compete locally, more advanced wrestlers have participated in larger competitions, including national-level events.

Additional coaches who have contributed to the program over the years include Roy Wessel, Clay Cooper, Merl Green, Jeff Harshman and Derick Budke. Passmore noted that there are likely others who have played a role in the club's history.

In terms of competitive milestones, Passmore indicated that no prior records are known of state champions from Chase County in youth wrestling. Based on available information, Dakari Payton became the first male state champion in 2026, while Lahna Passmore became the first female state champion in 2023.

Today, the Chase County Wrestling Club continues to function as a foundational program for young athletes in the county, introducing the sport at an early age while preparing participants for future competition at the junior high and high school levels. With sustained volunteer support, increased participation and continued involvement from experienced coaches, the program remains positioned for ongoing development in the years ahead.

Chase County Pre-K Screening

Chase County families with young children will have an opportunity to take part in a comprehensive Pre-K screening later this spring.

Screenings are scheduled for April 30, 2026, at Chase County Elementary School and will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The screening is designed to assess several key areas of early childhood development, including social-emotional skills, communication and speech, gross and fine motor skills, problem-solving abilities, personal-social development, and vision and hearing.

Parents or guardians planning to attend are asked to bring completed forms, a copy of the child's birth certificate, immunization records, and documentation of a recent well-child check.

Appointments are required. To schedule a screening, families may contact the Chase County Elementary School office at 620-273-6676 or email swigertv@usd284.org.

Strong City Opera House 125th anniversary itinerary

The Strong City Opera House will mark its 125th anniversary on April 18 and 19, 2026.

Constructed by Chase County residents and opened in 1901, the Opera House has served the community for generations as an auditorium, theater, event venue, and even a fire station. Restoration efforts began 25 years ago when local volunteers formed the Strong City Preservation Alliance (SCPA), leading fundraising efforts, securing grants, and building broad community support to preserve the historic structure.

The celebration will begin Saturday, April 18, with a ticketed fundraising gala featuring a catered dinner, live entertainment, and a 3-D presentation highlighting the building's architectural plans. Events continue Sunday, April 19, with Family Day activities including contests, games, and a free picnic in the park. A full schedule of events follows:

Saturday, April 18, 2026 – 125th Anniversary Fundraising Gala

\$125 per person or \$1,000 per table (8 tickets)

5 p.m. – Happy Hour (cash bar)

6 p.m. – Catered dinner by Smokin O's BBQ, featuring a beef tenderloin carving station

7 p.m. – "Kick-off to Completion"

Unveiling of the Opera House renovation presented by Prairie Built (Corey Thomas) and Strata Archi-

ecture (Julie Cawby)

7:30 p.m. – Patsy Cline Tribute

Presented by Kim Coslett & The Patsy Cline Tribute Band

All Saturday events will take place at the historic Strong City Opera House, 501 N. Cottonwood St. Tickets may be purchased by contacting SCPA President Kay Lauer at kay_lauer@hotmail.com or 620-794-4452.

Sunday, April 19, 2026 – 125th Anniversary Family Day

10 a.m. – "Fire on the Prairie" church service at the Opera House, officiated by Pat Larkin

12 p.m. – Picnic at Grandma Betty Park (506 N. Cottonwood St.), with hot dogs, chips, and water provided

1 p.m. – Ceremonial anniversary cake cutting and performance by the Chase County Jr./Sr. High School Band

1:30 p.m. – Awards presentation for school contest winners

Sunday activities (excluding the worship service) will be held at Grandma Betty Park, weather permitting. The day will also include children's games, Opera House tours, and horseshoes for adults.

For additional information or to purchase tickets for Saturday's gala, contact Kay Lauer at kay_lauer@hotmail.com or 620-794-4452, or Marilyn McComber at 620-220-0166.

Bulldogs baseball team sports 9 returning lettermen

The Chase County Bulldogs baseball team enters the 2026 season with a mix of experienced leadership and developing young talent, setting the stage for what could be a competitive spring. Head coach Brent Monihen, assisted by Colton Potts and supported by team manager Maddex Beyer, will guide a roster that combines returning contributors with an influx of underclassmen.

Monihen points to a strong returning nucleus as the foundation for the team's expectations. Returning lettermen include Wyatt Griffin, Hudson Doty, Caleb Dexter, Noah Green, Clark Miller, Brant Potter, Carter Mann, Rex Griffin, and Dominic Barrett. In addition, Zach Campbell earned a provisional letter, and a solid group of freshmen is expected to contribute early.

"With these returning lettermen, along with Zach Campbell who received a provisional letter, and a strong core of freshmen, we have high expectations for the upcoming season," Monihen said. "This group has set a goal of making it to State, and with their skill set, we believe that's within reach and that we can compete for a State Title."

The Bulldogs' roster reflects that balance of experience and youth. Seniors include Caleb Dexter, Hudson Doty, and Wyatt Griffin. Juniors are Noah Green, Clark Miller, and Brant Potter. Sophomores include Dominic Barrett, Zachary Campbell, Rex Griffin, and Carter Mann. Freshmen rounding out the roster are Elliott Coltrane, Owen Dexter, Tate Gibb, Vincent Hodges, and Emmett Wilson.

With Monihen leading the pro-

gram, Potts assisting in player development and game preparation, and Beyer supporting the day-to-day operations of the team, the Bulldogs appear well-positioned to build on their experience. The combination of upperclassmen leadership and a developing freshman class will be key as Chase County pursues its goal of reaching—and competing at—the state level.

Schedule:

March 26 - 4 p.m., at Council Grove

March 31 - 4 p.m., at Herington.

April 2 - 4 p.m., Home vs Wabaunsee

April 7 - 4 p.m., at Marais Des Cygnes Valley

April 9 - 4 p.m. at Lyndon

April 14 - 4 p.m., Home vs Northern Heights

April 16 - 4 p.m., Home vs Mission Valley

April 20 - 4 p.m., Home vs Sedgwick

April 24 - 4 p.m., Home vs Osage City

April 28 - 4 p.m., Home vs Southern Lyon County

April 30 - 4 p.m., at West Franklin

May 4 - 4 p.m., Home vs Lebo

May 13, 15 - Quarterfinals

May 18, 19, 21 - Regionals

May 28, 29 - State

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620-767-5123

cgnws@cgtelco.net

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Seasonal Mowing – Chase County
The Chase County Board of County Commissioners is accepting sealed bids for seasonal mowing services for county properties for the 2026 mowing season: including the Chase County Courthouse, the connection trail between Strong City & CWF and small yards at 201 N Walnut.

The contractor shall provide all labor, equipment, and materials necessary to perform mowing and trimming of designated county properties as directed.

Bid Information

•Contract period: Approximately April through October 2026

•Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Seasonal Mowing Bid."

•Bids will be accepted until 9am March 31st, 2026.

•Bids will be opened during a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

Submission Location:

Chase County Clerk
300 Pearl Street
Cottonwood Falls, KS 66845

The County reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive informalities in the bidding process.

For additional information, contact the Chase County Clerk's Office at 620-273-6423.

(First published in the Council Grove Republican March 11, 2026; subsequently on March 18, 2026 and March 25, 2026)

CHASE COUNTY SHERIFF REPORT

March 16

EMS responded to Strong City for a medical call; Deputy responded to Elmdale for an abandoned vehicle.

March 17

Deputy responded to 240th rd for a car v deer; Deputy responded to Strong City for an abandoned vehicle; EMS responded to Strong City for a medical call, transferred to Newmans.

March 18

Deputy responded to Strong City for a motorist assist, vehicle was unattended; EMS responded to Cottonwood Falls for a medical call, transferred to Newmans; Deputy responded to CS/LY county line to assist a pedestrian to CS/Marion co line; Deputy responded to Elmdale for a motorist assist; EMS responded to the jail, transferred two employees to Newmans.

March 20

Deputies responded to District Court for security; Deputy, Strong City, and Cottonwood fire responded to Burdick for a structure fire; Deputy responded to Cedar Point for a flock hit on stolen plate.

March 21

Deputy conducted a traffic stop for DUI; Deputies responded to Strong City for a domestic call. Deputy responded to Strong City for a motorist assist; Deputy responded to Cedar Point for property damage.

Chase County General Public Transportation



CHASE COUNTY SENIOR CENTER

Senior Center News ~ March 27 - April 3, 2026

By Jessica Kelly

Friday, March 27th is World Cheese Day. We'll have several different cheeses and probably some crackers for your taste testing pleasure, for everyone eating in. Jene Burenheide will be taking blood pressures from 11 a.m. until noon and of course, we'll play BINGO after lunch. Sunday, the 29th is Palm Sunday. That means we are a week away from Easter. We'll pass out a Birthday crossword puzzle before lunch on Monday, March 30th. We'll also enjoy music by Kathleen Lane and Nancy Brock before and after lunch. Thanks, ladies! We'll celebrate all the March birthdays with our monthly Birthday Party on Tuesday, March 31st! This means that we'll have a Birthday Party word search for everyone to do before lunch, and we hope you can stay to play Wheel-of-Fortune afterward! You may even win a prize and you're sure to have a good time! Wednesday, April 1st is April Fools Day! Be careful who you trust. It's also, 'Fun At Work Day'. Without all of you, we wouldn't be having fun! We'll pass out an Easter word search and welcome in the Wednesday Afternoon Bridge Club after lunch. Thursday, April 2nd is our annual Easter Dinner. We sure hope you plan to join us. We will enjoy another Popcorn Day and Natl. Caramel Day! Yum. We'll pass out an Easter Bible trivia page before lunch, and if you love Daffodils, be sure to stop in as we'll have plenty out to celebrate Daffodil Fest. The Senior Center will be CLOSED on Friday, April 3rd for Good Friday. Have a Happy Easter and we'll hope to see you all on Monday!

To make your reservations for dine in, carryout, or delivery, please call 620-273-8511 any time BEFORE 9:30 a.m., or better yet, get on our regular meal list. Then you will only have to let us know if you are NOT going to eat.

VOLUNTEERING! Are you interested in volunteering? We are always looking for extra volunteers, and we have several ways that you can help! Our volunteers help in our kitchen, set tables, serve in the dining room and ride along with our drivers to deliver meals. You can be a regular volunteer on a schedule or if you'd like, we can call only when we need someone to fill in. Volunteers truly do keep our operation running smoothly, and our volunteers are incredibly special to us! We appreciate each one of you! Most volunteers come to the center around 10 a.m. and leave shortly after 1 p.m., AND we have a FUN TIME! It is around 3 hours each week, and you can let us know which day works best for you. If interested or if you would like information about what this entails, please call the center 620-273-8511 or stop by. We love to visit!

OUT-MEALS! Please remember that you can always get out-meals! Meals are available to pick up or can be delivered within our meal delivery area.

Please come see us, we would love to see your SMILE!!

Try Our Senior Menu!

Fellowship Meals menus for next week have been announced by the Chase County Senior Citizens Center. Tea, coffee, milk and a bread product will be served with each meal. The menu is subject to change.

Monday – Cheesy ham and potato soup, marinated veggies, corn bread, pineapple chunks.

Tuesday – Pork chop, sweet potato casserole, winter blend veggies, hot roll, flurly fruit salad.

Wednesday – BBQ meatballs, roasted potatoes, succotash, hot roll, cranberry apple salad.

Thursday – Easter dinner: Ham loaf, baked sweet potato, green bean casserole, hot roll, cherry crisp.

Friday – Closed