



Wednesday,
September 16,
2026

CHASE COUNTY

Explore the Flint Hills

County adopts 2027 budget, moves forward on Coyne Creek Road vacation

The Chase County Commission adopted its 2027 budget, voted to exceed the revenue-neutral rate and moved forward with the process of possibly vacating a portion of Coyne Creek Road during its Monday, Sept. 14 meeting.

Commissioners Tony Hazelton, Gene Line and Matt Miller were present, along with County Clerk Connie Pretzer. Chase County resident Mark Gibbons attended a portion of the meeting.

The meeting opened with the county's revenue-neutral-rate and budget hearing. Commissioners voted 3-0 to exceed the county's revenue-neutral rate of 60.557 mills and approved Resolution No. 2026-09.

The commission then unanimously adopted the 2027 Chase County budget. The budget provides expenditure authority of \$15,024,307 and lists \$5,204,695 in 2026 ad valorem tax.

Commissioners also unanimously adopted the 2027 budget for Chase County Fire District No. 1 before closing the hearing and returning to the regular commission meeting.

Under general business, commissioners approved Sept. 14 warrants totaling \$326,898.03 and minutes from the Aug. 31 meeting.

The commission also completed its participation in a Kansas sign-on letter supporting the America the Beautiful Act, S. 1547. Commissioners had previously agreed to support the letter, which was to be forwarded to U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran's office.

Much of the remaining discussion centered on a proposed vacation of a portion of Coyne Creek Road.

Commissioners said adjacent landowners had raised concerns about people traveling to the area to drink and party. They also discussed the limited use of the road section and noted that alternate access is available.

Commissioner Miller said he generally is reluctant to vacate county roads because it can be difficult to restore a roadway once it has been vacated. However, commissioners indicated this particular section appeared to be used primarily by nearby landowners and that alternate routes were available.

County Attorney Brian Henderson had previously been asked to determine the legal procedure required for a road vacation. Commissioners directed that the process move forward so the necessary steps can be completed before any final action is taken.

The discussion concerned the north-south section of Coyne Creek Road. The commission did not formally vacate the road Monday.

Commissioners also discussed the courthouse Christmas lights, which have sustained considerable damage. Rather than replacing numerous glass bulbs, the county is considering LED lighting that could be more durable.

Later in the meeting, the commission entered a 15-minute executive session concerning non-elected personnel.

The next regular commission meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 30. Additional meetings are scheduled for Oct. 12 at 9 a.m. and a community meeting at 7 p.m., on Oct. 21 at the Cedar Point Fire Station.



New scoreboards are now in place at the Chase County Junior-Senior High School gymnasium and Ron Mayo Field, replacing equipment that had served the district for years. USD 284 thanked the Pendergraft Foundation and The Kaltenbacher Charitable Trust for providing the funding for the project, which required no school district funds. The gym scoreboards were more than 35 years old, with replacement parts no longer available, and the upgrade also accommodates new KSHSAA shot clock requirements beginning with the 2026-27 season. The approximately 15-year-old football scoreboard was still functional but needed repairs and repainting, and the district was able to include its replacement with the gymnasium project. Using the same brand and technology at both locations also gives the district compatible backup controllers if problems arise. The older scoreboards, also pictured, show the contrast between the previous equipment and the newly installed technology.

Captain Jay Whitney's to be honored for 28-plus years

A retirement party honoring Captain Jay Whitney and more than 28 years of public service will be held Friday, Sept. 25, at the Cottonwood Falls Community Building.

The celebration will begin at 6 p.m. at the community building in Swope Park, 1715 210 Road, Cottonwood Falls. A meal will be provided.



Whitney's career in law enforcement has included extensive work in detention operations. He first began working in Chase County law enforcement in 1988 and later managed a detention facility in Lyon County before returning to Chase County.

As captain, Whitney has overseen the daily operations of the Chase County detention center, including a facility that has operated near capacity for much of the past year. In a February interview with the Council Grove Republican, Whitney said the center could comfortably house approximately 140 detainees and, with authorization, increase to an emergency capacity in the 160 range. The population generally fluctuated between 125 and 150 county and federal detainees. Whitney also emphasized the importance of how those housed at the locally operated and staffed facility are treated.

"We treat people like people," Whitney said at the time, explaining that detainees receive regular meals, bedding and access to medical and mental health care regardless of the circumstances that brought them to the facility.

Whitney said locally operated detention facilities can provide flexibility and responsiveness that may be more difficult in larger operations. He also credited the staff culture and community involvement with helping maintain a respectful environment.

The Sept. 25 gathering will give family, friends, co-workers and community members an opportunity to recognize Whitney's years of public service and wish him well in retirement.

To share Studebaker's history at event Saturday

Larry Tholen, a member of the Wichita Studebaker Club, will share history about the 1932 Rockne "65" 4 door Sedan Studebaker on Saturday at 2 p.m., at 303 Broadway Street, Cottonwood Falls. It is on display at the Chase County Historical Society and Museum.

Refreshments will be served.

Faith MC to hold Christmas garage sale during CC Days

Faith Methodist Church in Cottonwood Falls will take part in this weekend's Chase County Days activities by hosting an "Everything Christmas Garage Sale" on Saturday, Sept. 19.

The sale will be held from 8:30 a.m. to noon in the church basement at Faith Methodist Church, 17 Oak St., Cottonwood Falls.

The event will offer an opportunity for shoppers to get an early start on holiday decorating by purchasing "new to you" Christmas decorations and other seasonal items.

Proceeds from the sale will be used to purchase items for shoeboxes prepared for Franklin Graham's Operation Christmas Child ministry, which distributes gift-filled shoeboxes to children around the world.

Those wishing to donate Christmas items for the sale may call 620-794-6011 or 620-343-5299.

Weather update for Chase County Days this weekend

Chase County Days is almost here, with a full Saturday of activities planned in Cottonwood Falls and a golf tournament scheduled for Sunday, weather permitting.

After weeks of planning, organizers are reminding area residents that Chase County Days takes place this weekend, Sept. 19-20, offering activities for all ages and an opportunity to spend the day in Cottonwood Falls.

Saturday's festivities will include vendors from 1 to 5 p.m. Vendors may set up rain or shine, depending upon each vendor's decision, giving visitors an opportunity to shop and support area small businesses.

The evening will bring the celebration to the heart of downtown with a street dance from 5 to 9 p.m. in front of the historic Chase County Courthouse. The band is scheduled to perform, but the street dance will

be weather permitting.

With Kansas weather always capable of changing plans, organizers said a final decision about whether the band can perform may not be possible until the day of the event.

Chase County Days will continue Sunday with the scheduled golf tournament, which remains on the calendar at this time. The tournament also will be weather permitting. If conditions interfere Sunday, organizers may consider a rain delay rather than immediately canceling the tournament.

Whether coming to shop, enjoy Saturday's activities, spend the evening downtown or hit the golf course Sunday, Chase County Days offers another reason to make the trip to Cottonwood Falls this weekend.

Visitors are encouraged to keep an eye on weather updates as the weekend approaches.



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CHASE COUNTY SENIOR CENTER

Senior Center News ~ September 18 through September 25, 2026

By Jessica Kelly

We'd like to wish the US Airforce a Happy Birthday on Friday, September 18th. We'll have Rice Krispies for everyone that eats in to celebrate Rice Krispie Day. Jene Burenheide will be taking blood pressures from 11 a.m. until noon and after lunch is BINGO! You won't want to miss all the fun. Monday, September 21st is Natl. String Cheese Day. We'll pass some out with lunch for those that eat at the center. We will be passing out a Flower Power word search and enjoy music by Kathleen Lane in the morning and Nancy Brock right after lunch. Thanks gals. The Senior Center will be "CLOSED" on Tuesday, September 22nd, so we can all attend the Senior Fair in Salina. The Area Agency has closed all sites in the 18-county area, so that their staff and anyone who wants to attend can do so. We'll also celebrate the very 1st Day of Fall! Wednesday, September 23rd, if it's cool enough, wear your favorite sweatshirt for Favorite Sweatshirt Day. You know the camera will be out. We'll have some checker boards out for Checkers Day and take pictures of those that play! We will pass out a fall Fun page and welcome in the Wednesday Afternoon Bridge Club after lunch. Thursday, September 24th is Fedora Hat Day and Special Cane Day. Wear your hats and bring your canes and we'll take pictures! We'll be passing out a Grocery Store wordsearch and Linda Koch will be playing her HARP during and after lunch. Thank you so much Linda. Friday, September 25th is Natl. Daughter's Day. Invite yours to lunch if she lives close and make it a day! We'll pass out a Things Around the House word search and Jene Burenheide will again take blood pressures from 11 a.m. until noon. Thank you, Jene. And you know, after lunch we'll be playing BINGO! You won't want to miss the fun. Remember...your ticket to play is to eat lunch with us. So, get your name in the pot and come have some fun.

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!

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 – Salisbury steak, mashers with gravy, peas, hot roll, apple crisp.

Tuesday --- Closed for Senior Fair

Wednesday – Autumn apple pork loin, scalloped potatoes, broccoli/cauliflower, buttered beets, hot roll, orange fluff salad.

Thursday – Tuna noodle casserole, corn, carrots, hot roll, fluffy fruit.

Friday – Oven fried chicken, mashers with gravy, spinach cheese bake, hot roll, strawberry shortcake.

The Chase County Historical Society & Museum

Invites you to join us!

In celebration of the Permanently Donated!

1932 Rockne "65" 4 Door Sedan Studebaker

Saturday, Sept. 19, 2026 • 2 p.m.

303 Broadway Street, Cottonwood Falls, Kansas 66845

Speaker: Larry Tholen, from the Wichita Studebaker Club

will share history about the vintage 1932 Rockne "65" 4 Door Sedan at 2 p.m.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

Refreshments will be served