

COUNCIL GROVE

154

Years

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Contact Us

CALL (620) 767-5123

FAX (620) 767-5124

EMAIL

cgnews@cgtelco.net

or MAIL

Council Grove Republican

302 W. Main St.

Council Grove, KS 66846

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www.councilgrove

republican.com

Briefly...

Beginning September 23rd, 2026, H Avenue from Highway 177 to 800 Road will be closed for a box culvert replacement. The road closure is anticipated to last for approximately 2 weeks.

Obituaries...Page 2

Local Grain Prices

(Provided by Agri Trails Coop)

Corn	\$4.67
Milo	\$4.47
Soybeans	\$12.56
Wheat	\$7.21

Reservoir Lake Level

Normal elevation1274.00

Current elevation1274.33

THREE-DAY

WEATHER

FORECAST

Corps of Engineers Readings,

Council Grove Reservoir

High and low

temperatures for the

weekend period

ending this morning were

Saturday 93 and 73;

Sunday 95 and 67; and

today 74 and 64, with the

8:00 am reading 64°.

There was 1.11" rain

Tuesday:

Gradually becoming sunny, high 70.

NE wind around 5 mph.

Partly cloudy, low 51.

Wednesday:

Mostly sunny, high 72.

East wind around 5 mph.

Partly cloudy, low 53.

Thursday:

A 40% chance for rain.

Mostly cloudy, high 72.

Southeast wind around 5 mph.

Mostly cloudy, low 58.

National

Farm

Safety & Health

Week

September 21-25, 2026

TUESDAY

FORECAST

High 70

Low 51



CGHS HOMECOMING KING AND QUEEN -- Ruling at the 2026 Fall Homecoming were King Luke Stewart and Queen Riley Forge. (Photo: Amber Weeks)

MC exceeds RNR - mill rate 74.566, up from 73.008; purchases 8 electronic poll pads

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, September 8th, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners Jim Barber, David Fox and Wayne Kohler were present. Bill Kassebaum, County Counselor, and Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk, were present.

Others present: Billy Kryger- Pastor Berean Baptist Church

A department head meeting was held in the courthouse downstairs meeting room. Those present were Commissioner Barber, Commissioner Fox, Commissioner Kohler, Billy Kryger, Bill Kassebaum, Chelsey Schmidt, Ryan Michaelis, Corrine Blosser, Scott Coover, Kelsey Sharr, Shelly Lauth, Brett Wright, Brett Samuels, Caleb Chaney and Elisha Bacon. Each department reported on its office(s). Discussion was held regarding holding an employee in-service on Columbus Day, Monday, October 12th, 2026.

David Owen, Morris County EMS Director, gave a report on Morris County EMS and presented the following statistics for the month of August:

Ambulance calls: 64

Transfers from MCH to other hospitals: 15

Total number of runs: 79

North County (Station 2): 15

South County (Station 1): 64

Year to date total runs: 589

EMS staff conducted football and sports injury training with Jenn Cook. Staff also completed Certified Emergency Vehicle Operator Training which included ambulance driver training, a written test and a driving test.

Commissioner Fox discussed the Republican and Democratic Party Chairpersons regarding their respec-

tive advocacy agendas. He expressed concern over the lack of attention given to the current commissioner candidate, noting his disappointment that neither party had addressed instances of a county commissioner candidate running in a district where they do not genuinely reside.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to recess the commission meeting to conduct the 2027 Revenue Neutral Rate and Budget Hearing. Motion carried.

The commission meeting was recessed at 11:00 a.m.

Chairman Barber called the Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing to order.

Those present were Commissioner Barber, Commissioner Fox, Commissioner Kohler, Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk, Bill Kassebaum, County Counselor, Ryan Michaelis, County Appraiser and Brian Brown.

Those present were given the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments regarding the proposed 2027 County Budget; open discussion was held.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-11, to levy a property tax rate exceeding the revenue neutral rate. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to adjourn the Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing and call to order the Budget Hearing. Motion carried.

The Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing was adjourned.

Chairman Barber called the 2027 Budget Hearing to order.

Further open discussion was held regarding the proposed 2027 budget.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the 2027 Morris County Budget, as published. Motion carried.



The Council Grove Braves exhibited discipline, confidence and execution Friday night, beating the West Franklin Falcons 66-0. Amber Weeks captured this look of determination in the team's captains earlier in the night. Pictured left to right are: Bradley Doornbos, Luke Stewart, David McDiffet and Reid Buttrely. Full article on page 4.

Proposal could reach Morris County Herington explores large scale data center possibility

Presenters seek no city funding for feasibility work; mayor asks for 30-day update

by Jan Sciacca

A proposal to explore development of a large-scale data center in the Herington area could have implications for Morris County, although the concept remains in its earliest stages and no property has been selected.

Gordan Schultz Applications Systems Analyst and Colby Monnington Realtor and Real Estate Broker presented the idea to the Herington City Commission during its Sept. 1 meeting, proposing that the community investigate whether it has the land, electrical capacity, fiber connectivity, water and wastewater infrastructure needed to compete for a hyperscale data center.

The discussion came during a meeting already dominated by concerns over Herington's 2027 budget and property tax levy. Monnington said one reason the concept warranted study was the potential for billions of dollars in private investment and an expanded tax base that could help support streets, utilities, public safety and other community needs.

The presenters were careful to distinguish the proposal from an actual data-center project.

They said they were not asking the city to approve a data center, select a property, commit to large infrastructure improvements or provide taxpayer money for the feasibility work. Monnington told commissioners that the initial research into possible sites, utilities, transmission lines and fiber availability would not cost the city. Schultz later reiterated that they were not asking the city for money and said they expected to be compensated by an eventual end user if a project develops.

A hyperscale data center is a large campus housing computer servers used for services such as cloud computing, artificial intelligence, banking, streaming and other digital applications. Monnington said a project could require approximately 300 to 800 acres and potentially hundreds of megawatts of electricity.

Three general search areas were identified: west and northwest of Herington; northeast of the city around the U.S. 77 and U.S. 56 corridors; and the Herington Regional Airport and former airfield area.

The areas were described only as broad search zones. No specific parcels have been selected, no land-

(See *Explores data center*, Page 3)

UPDATE:

American Discovery 250 relay arrival

The American Discovery 250 Relay will make its way into Council Grove Monday, Sept. 21, with local residents invited to welcome the relay and take part in activities before it continues its journey Tuesday morning.

The relay is expected to arrive in Council Grove from the west at approximately 3 p.m. Monday. Community members are invited to join organizers for a talk on the lawn of the Last Chance Store at approximately 3:30 p.m., presented by Roxanne Wooden of the Kaw Mission and Last Chance Store State Historic Site.

The relay will resume Tuesday, Sept. 22, with community members invited to gather at 7 a.m. behind Council Grove High School to help send it off. Council Grove community leaders will carry the relay baton out of town.

The Kansas Horse Council is then expected to take over the baton at Allegawaho Memorial Heritage Park at approximately 8:30 a.m. as the relay continues its journey.

Organizers emphasized that all announced times are subject to change.



Prairie Heights Elementary School 4th graders participated and enjoyed Thursday's Twin Lakes Water Festival held at Canning Creek Campground. (Photo is courtesy PHES)