

COUNCIL GROVE REPUBLICAN

A Daily Newspaper on the Santa Fe Trail in Council Grove, Kansas Since 1872



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Briefly...

There is a CG City Lake committee meeting at 2 p.m. on Friday, September 25, at the south city lake boat ramp. There will be a park naming review.

Local Grain Prices
(Provided by Agri Trails Coop)

Corn	\$4.60
Milo.....	\$4.40
Soybeans	\$12.54
Wheat	\$7.03

Reservoir Lake Level

Normal elevation	1274.00
Current elevation	1274.02

THREE-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

**Corps of Engineers Readings,
Council Grove Reservoir**

**High and low
temperatures for the
24-hour period
ending this morning were
72 and 58, with the
8:00 am reading 58°.**

Friday: Showers and thunderstorms before 10 am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 78. South wind 5 to 10 mph. A chance of storms after 1 am, with a low around 66.
Saturday: Showers likely before 1 pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 79. South wind 5 to 10 mph. A chance of rain before 1 am, with a low around 65.
Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 79. Calm wind becoming northeast around 5 mph. A partly cloudy night, with a low around 64.



**FRIDAY
FORECAST
High 78
Low 66**



BRAVETTES -- The Council Grove High School Bravettes for the 2026-27 season are (L to R): Neenah Hestermann, Marlie Hayes, Claudia Simecka, Peyton Ryff, Madison Forge, Mazie Hayes, Quinley Sowers, Betsy Doornbos, Tenley Wilkens, Lucy Palmquist and Capri Gant. The Bravettes are coached by Keeley Reddick.

MC Commission: Community building flooring on hold due to moisture

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, September 15, 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: Jon Sawyer and Billy Kryger-Pastor Berean Baptist Church. Jamie Johnson, Public Health Director, gave a report on the health department. The following services were provided in the month of August: Immunizations Given: 35 Immunizations Laboratory Testing (Strep): 2 Strep Tests Total Encounters (Contact with People): 314 People Served/Assisted In-Home Services: 125 Encounters with 16 Clients Jamie attended the Regional PHEP Meeting on August 27th. The health department continues back-to-school vaccine clinics. Bike Safety Day with the CGES 3rd grade class was held on September 11th. Work continues with the Live Well Morris County Coalition; they are preparing to apply for the BCBS Pathways Grant. The “Bucks for Buckles” event will be done at CGHS this week. Preparations are being made for upcoming annual Influenza Vaccine Clinics. “Walk and Roll to

School Day” will be held on October 7th. Discussion was held regarding the need for childcare in the county. Timothy Myers with Anthem Concrete Coatings visited with the commissioners regarding the Community Building Flooring Project. Derek Schrader, Michelle Poole, and John Poole were also present. Discussion was held regarding excess moisture that is coming up through the concrete floor. The flooring project will not be completed until the moisture issue can be resolved. It was suggested to add drainage tiles along the south and west ends of the building. The item was tabled and will be discussed further. The public hearing for amending the Morris County Neighborhood Revitalization Plan was held. Nick Jones, City of Council Grove Administrator, Chuck Scott, GMDC Director and Ryan Michaelis, County Appraiser, were present at the hearing. The proposed amendment to the plan adds language that “Rebates will only apply to the first \$300,000.00 of appraised valuation increase.” Nick Jones and Chuck Scott expressed concerns that introducing a valuation cap on rebates could deter incoming industrial development and compromise the county’s competitive edge in marketing to prospective businesses. The item was tabled. Two sealed bids were received for the sale of excess county property

located at 1550 Dunlap Rd., Council Grove, and are as follows:
Bidder: Adams Lumber Co, Inc., Amount: \$10,150.00
Bidder: Lawrence Greenwood & Diana Irvine, Amount: \$8,100.00
Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to accept the bid from Adams Lumber Co, Inc. for the property located at 1550 Dunlap Rd., in the amount of \$10,150.00. The property will be conveyed by Quit Claim Deed. Motion carried.
Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to publish the Notice of Hearing to Amend the Morris County Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, October 6th, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. in the Morris County Commissioner’s Meeting Room. Motion carried.
Sealed bids were opened for the OS-58 (575 Rd. over tributary of Big John Creek) and the OS-5 (F Ave. over Lairds Creek) Bridge Projects. Those present for the bid opening were Shelly Lauth, Brett Wright, Chad McCullough and Luke Boyden with Kaw Valley Engineering, and Duane Jackson with Ebert Construction. The bids received were as follows:
Reece Construction \$1,292,431.50
Ebert Construction \$1,336,797.88
L&M Contractors \$1,554,135.00
Bridges Inc. \$1,637,434.24
The bids will be reviewed by Kaw Valley Engineering and provide the commissioners with a final report. No action was taken.
(See Commissioners, Page 2)

Northern Heights moves from 2A to 1A

Northern Heights will move from Class 2A to Class 1A for the 2026-27 school year, according to classification figures released Wednesday by the Kansas State High School Activities Association.
KSHSAA compiled enrollment figures for 349 member schools, with 14 schools changing classifications from the previous year.
Class 1A will include 112 schools with enrollment figures ranging from 16 to 102 students. Northern Heights, which competed in Class 2A during the 2025-26 school year, is one of three schools moving from 2A to 1A. Rawlins County and Udall will also make the move.

Latimer Church group plans chili feed, cowboy poetry

The Latimer Lutheran Church Preservation Society will host a Chili Feed Fundraiser Saturday, Oct. 3, at the historic church, 106 Main St. in Latimer, with an evening of food, fellowship and cowboy poetry. The chili feed will begin at 5 p.m. and will feature chili, cinnamon rolls, pies and beverages. A quilt and barn quilt raffle will also be held. Following the meal, Kansas cowboy poet Ron Wilson will present a program beginning at 6:30 p.m.



Ron Wilson
Wilson is a cowboy poet from the historic Lazy T Ranch near Manhattan and has earned recognition throughout Kansas and beyond for his original western poetry. Former Kansas Gov. Bill Graves proclaimed Wilson a “Poet Lariat” — intentionally spelled “Lariat,” rather than laureate. Wilson chairs the annual Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest and hosts the monthly online video program “Cattle Trails Showcase.” He also appears in the weekly Facebook Live segment “Live at the Lazy T Ranch” and produces the biweekly newspaper column “Cowboy Up.” He is the only cowboy poet to have presented a cowboy poem at a Kansas governor’s inauguration. Wilson also serves as a spokesman for the National Day of the Cowboy organization and as an ambassador for the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum in Fort Worth, Texas. He has been inducted into the Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame, received the Lifetime Achievement (See Latimer Church, Page 2)

Facebook 201 workshop set for October 15

Small business owners looking to strengthen their social media presence are invited to attend “Facebook 201: Next Level Social Media Strategies for Small Businesses” on Thursday, Oct. 15, at Dry Creek Post Stays & Events in Cottonwood Falls. The program will begin at 6 p.m. at 325 Broadway. The workshop will focus on practical strategies businesses can use to improve their Facebook presence, including content strategy, understanding insights, increasing reach, creating stories and making smarter use of artificial intelligence. The session will also cover current social media practices and what is working now. The program is being presented by the Chase County Chamber of Commerce, Network Kansas and Ad Astra Directive.

From The Dale Linn Collection

Who was R. C. Durland?
Editor’s note: The articles below are written exactly as they were written in 1936 and 1945. The new funeral home building that is referenced below did not come to fruition. The Durland-Block Funeral home operated out of 231 W Main until it was moved into a home and later known as Block Funeral Home. A thank you is extended to Dale Linn for sharing these articles from his historical collection.
From the June 9, 1936, Council Grove Republican
DURLAND RETIRES FROM HARDWARE
BUILT UP SUBSTANTIAL BUSINESS OVER A QUARTER CENTURY
Sells Interest to Lauren Rumsey — Will Erect A Modern Funeral Home For Durland & Block.
With the retirement of R. C. Durland, veteran hardwareman, one of the oldest business firms in Council Grove passed into new hands yesterday when Lauren Rumsey became senior partner of Rumsey & White.
The active and managing head of the firm is retiring exactly 27 years and two months to a day, from the time he engaged in the business which he has built up through more than a quarter of a century to one of the most substantial and most attractive stores in central Kansas. Only a year or two ago Mr. Durland remodeled the interior of the hardware, installing handsome modern fixtures as attractive and convenient as most metropolitan hardware’s boast. On the customer’s books today are many names which have remained loyal and regular patrons of the firm during the entire 27 years of Mr. Durland’s management.
The new active partner, Lauren Rumsey, is taking over an established business with carefully selected lines which Durland-White has been a quarter century in acquiring. Lauren has been with the store for 11 years and is a competent, indus-

trious and hard working young man who will carry on the same policies established by the retiring member.
Mr. Durland came to Council Grove as agent for the Katy in 1899. In 1907, he left that railroad to take over the management of a short line mining railroad at Santa Barbara, Old Mexico. He likes to recall that he purchased wood weekly from Pancho Villa, later revolutionary leader in the southern republic. Villa made headquarters at Parral, Mexico, close to the gold and silver mines for which the little railroad handled ore. Mr. Durland is familiar with the very spot where Villa was killed at the end of his career. It was after his Mexican service, that the hardware store here was purchased.
From the September 21, 1945, Council Grove Republican
PLANTED KATY PARK
Local Man Hauled Trees on Hand-car Forty Years Ago.
The Katy grove which Council Grove has offered to convert into a tiny park could logically be renamed Durland Park when equipped and lighted.
R. C. Durland, formerly Katy agent, planted the elm trees which now comprise the park. He recalls that he helped bring them on a hand-car from where part of the Sharpe orchards now stand.
The idea for the park was obtained on a trip to the Buffalo Exposition about 1904. The Katy agent saw so many landscaped plots around other railway stations that he concluded similar treatment would improve the cowlot just west of the local station. After the trees were planted by a section crew, Durland invested his own money in a wire fence around the plot to keep out wandering cows. If the Katy agrees to trim shrubbery and fill one low spot in the grove, the trees which were planted 40 years ago will have benches scattered around their trunks and the little triangular park lighted with electricity for the use of First ward patrons.



PURPOSEFULL WITH RESPECT -- Student McKenna Lamb (left) and staff Cindy Zimmerman received the PurposeFull with Respect Award at Prairie Heights Elementary School in Alta Vista in recognition of their example of purposeful and respectful behavior.