

COUNCIL GROVE REPUBLICAN

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



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...

Council Grove City Hall will be closed on Monday October 12, 2026 for Columbus Day.

The Council Grove Blood Drive will be held Monday, October 12, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Council Grove Christian Church, 106 East Main St. Type O- and O+ are especially needed. Appointments preferred. Walk-ins welcome. For more information, please call/text/email: Stacy Zeigler, Morris County Hospital Foundation, 620-767-6811, ext. 148, or szeigler@mrcohosp.com.

Local Grain Prices

(Provided by Agri Trails Coop)

Corn	\$4.29
Milo	\$4.02
Soybeans	\$12.39
Wheat	\$6.70

Reservoir Lake Level

Normal elevation	1274.00
Current elevation	1277.25

THREE-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

Corps of Engineers Readings, Council Grove Reservoir

High and low
temperatures for the
24-hour period
ending this morning were
87 and 55, with the
8:00 am reading 60°.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 86. South wind 5-15 mph with gusts to 20 mph. Clear, with a low around 63.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 85. South wind gusts to 20 mph. Clear, with a low around 61.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 86. South wind 5-15 mph with gusts to 20 mph. Mostly clear, with a low around 67.



FRIDAY
FORECAST
High 86
Low 63



Celebrating National Newspaper Week

Embracing Local Journalism *for a Better Future*

Rooted in community, committed to truth

By Patrick Wood

This week, newspapers across the country pause to mark National Newspaper Week. The theme this year is simple but it carries weight: rooted in community, committed to truth. Those six words describe what we have tried to do since the first issue of our first paper rolled off the press, and they describe what local journalism has always asked of the people who practice it.

A tree only grows as tall as its roots allow. The same is true of a newspaper. Ours are sunk into the towns we cover, into the school board meetings, the high school football games, the obituaries that name three generations of a family in a single paragraph, the small business openings that never make it onto a national news feed. We are not visitors passing through a community to file a story and move on. We live here. Our children go to the same schools we

write about. We worship in the same churches, shop at the same hardware stores, and wait in the same lines at the post office as the readers who pick up our papers every week.

That kind of rootedness comes with a responsibility, and it is the second half of this year's theme. A community paper earns its place at the kitchen table by telling the truth, even when the truth is inconvenient, even when it concerns a neighbor, a friend, or a local official we have known for years. Community journalism without honesty is just gossip with a masthead. The trust a reader places in a local paper is built one accurate story at a time, and it can be lost just as quickly by one story that cuts corners.

It is worth asking why independent, community owned newspapers matter so much right now. Local news has been squeezed from every direction. Larger chains have con-

solidated newsrooms and stripped them down to a fraction of their former size. National platforms have learned to extract value from local content without returning much of anything to the communities that produced it. In the middle of all that pressure, the small weekly paper covering a county board meeting or a Friday night game still does something no algorithm can replicate. It shows up. It asks the second question. It writes down what happened so that a town has a record of itself, written by people who actually live there.

National Newspaper Week gives us a chance to say that out loud. It is a reminder to our readers that the newspaper sitting on their porch or arriving in their inbox is not an abstraction. It comes from real people who care enough about this place to keep doing the unglamorous work of attending meetings, checking facts,

and writing the first draft of local history every single week.

It is also a reminder to those of us in the business. We do not get to claim deep roots in a community while playing loose with the truth, and we do not get to claim a commitment to truth while ignoring the place we are supposed to serve. The two halves of this year's theme depend on each other. A paper rooted in community without a commitment to truth becomes a cheerleader. A paper committed to truth without roots in community becomes just another outside voice shouting into the noise.

The newspapers that will still matter ten years from now are the ones that hold both halves together. That has always been our aim, and it remains our aim this week and every week after it.

Patrick Wood, CEO
Multi Media Channels

MC Comm. questions appearance at Herington data center meeting

As the Council Grove Republican's readership has expanded in recent years, so has its coverage area. With subscribers throughout western Morris County and eastern Dickinson County, as well as newspapers available at three Herington newsstands, developments in Herington increasingly affect the communities we serve.

One such development is the possibility of a large data center being located in the Herington area, potentially extending into Morris County.

The Republican covered the September Herington City Commission meeting online and intended to do the same following Tuesday night's meeting, Oct. 6, when a land developer and data center representative were expected to report on potential sites identified during the preceding 30 days.

However, Herington City Commission meetings fall on the same evenings as Council Grove City Council meetings. The Republican learned Wednesday that recordings of Herington's meetings are not immediately available following the live broadcast and may take several days to be posted.

Meanwhile, statements made Wednesday by two Morris County commissioners, along with a Facebook post by resident Amy Guymon, have raised questions about Commissioner Jim Barber's appearance at the Herington meeting.

According to Guymon, who attended the meeting and captured photos of the commissioner, Barber wore his Morris County commissioner shirt, identified himself as a county commissioner during public comment and encouraged Herington officials to support the proposed data center. She reported that Barber also pointed out that Morris County has no zoning regulations and indicated the project would face no opposition from him. Guymon stated that Barber subsequently sat beside the land developer during the meeting.

Morris County Commissioners Dave Fox and Wayne Kohler said Wednesday they had no knowledge of Barber's plans to attend the meeting or speak about the data center.

In a Facebook post Wednesday, Fox stated, "First and foremost ...Commissioner Barber had no right, permission, or authority to represent Morris County in any matter concerning a data center at the Herington City Council meeting last night. The commission has had several informal discussions about them, but no entity has contacted or approached us."

Fox also expressed his personal reservations about such a development. "Anyone who knows me and what I'm about, with my outdoor and naturalist lifestyle, should know that I will be very hard pressed in welcoming that kind of industry to (See Questions appearance, Page 3)

MC Commission: 12 county inmates housed in five counties

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners 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

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve minutes from the September 22, 2026, Commission Meeting. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve payroll as presented; in the total amount of \$112,504.06. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$57,052.78. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General: \$15,224.35
Road & Bridge: \$2,435.66
Reappraisal: \$939.90
Noxious Weed: \$157.01
Ambulance: \$449.83
Solid Waste: \$144.96
Morris County 911: \$46.07
Capital Improvement: \$10,000.00
Equipment Reserve: \$27,655.00

Scott Coover, County Sheriff, was unable to attend the meeting. A brief verbal report via telephone was provided. The county currently has 12 inmates in custody; 3 are housed here in Morris County, 4 in Wabaunsee County, 2 in Chase County, 1 in Dickinson County and 2 in Osage County.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to seek bids for the roof replacement of the Morris County Health Department. Sealed bids are to be opened on Tuesday, October 20th at 11:00 a.m. in the Morris County Commissioner's Meeting Room. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to seek bids for the courthouse snow removal for the 2026 winter season. Sealed bids are to be opened on Tuesday, October 20th at 10:00 a.m. in the Morris County Commissioner's Meeting Room. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the Letter of Commitment in Support of the Live Well Morris County Coalition's application to the Blue Cross Blue Shield Pathways to a Healthy Kansas Community Grant. Motion carried.

Shelly Lauth gave the following public works report for the week of September 21st – 25th:

Road & Bridge:
Slough Creek Quarry road rock was hauled to J Ave. from 3100-3200, F Ave. from 900-1000 and 400 Rd. from AA-AB

Creek gravel was placed on DD Ave. from 850-1000

Surface asphalt patching was done on BB Ave. from 3100-3200; bad spots were dug out and relayed

Box culvert was removed on H Ave. between 800-Hwy 177; prep work was done for the new concrete box

Entrance culverts were repaired on Dunlap Rd. between X-Y and 1000 Rd. between T-U



Elementary Teacher:
Myah Frick
CGES 2nd-grade Teacher



Secondary Teacher:
Tracie Schroeder
CGJSHS Science Teacher

USD 417 selects Teachers of the Year for 2028 State Honors

Two Council Grove educators have been recognized by USD 417 as its Teachers of the Year and will represent the district in the 2028 Kansas Teacher of the Year competition.

Tracie Schroeder, a science teacher at Council Grove Junior-Senior High School, was selected as the district's Secondary Teacher of the Year, while Myah Frick, a second-grade teacher at Council Grove Elementary School, received the Elementary Teacher of the Year honor.

Although the recognition was announced in October 2026, both educators are nominees for the 2028 Kansas Teacher of the Year, a designation that may seem unusually far into the future.

USD 417 Superintendent Tyson

Eslinger explained that the 2027 Kansas Teacher of the Year was just named in September, and the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) is already accepting nominations for the next award cycle.

The 2027 state honor went to Brandy Lane, a seventh-grade English language arts teacher from Goddard USD 265, who was announced as the winner Sept. 19, 2026.

For the 2028 competition, applications opened Sept. 4, 2026, and must be submitted by Nov. 6. Following an evaluation process, regional semifinalists and finalists will be recognized in April 2027. The statewide winner will be announced Sept. 18, 2027, during the Kansas Teacher of the Year awards banquet in Wichita.

The program allows each Kansas school district to nominate one elementary and one secondary classroom teacher. Candidates advance through local, regional and state selection processes, with eight regional (See Teachers of the Year, Page 2)



Undefeated Braves face ranked Southeast of Saline

The undefeated Council Grove Braves will face another tough challenge Friday, October 9, when they travel to Southeast of Saline for a matchup between two ranked Class 2A football teams. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Council Grove enters the Week 6 contest with a 5-0 record and a No. 2 ranking in Class 2A, while Southeast of Saline is ranked No. 8 with a 4-1 record.

Both teams are coming off victories in Week 5. The Braves defeated Marysville 46-41 in a high-scoring contest, while the Trojans earned a 22-14 victory over Wichita Collegiate.

Council Grove has averaged 53 points and 368 yards of offense per game, compared to Southeast of Saline's 13.4 points and 170 yards. The Braves average 235 passing yards (See Undefeated Braves, Page 3)