Monday, November 2, 2026

COUNCIL GROVE REPUBLICAN

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

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Local Grain Prices

(Provided by Agri Trails Coop)

Corn $3.79
Milo.....$3.52
Soybeans $11.64
Wheat $5.78

Fishing Report

Council Grove Reservoir

Bass - White: Fair/Good along deep rock points and ledges on spinners and jigs; Catfish - Channel: Fair/Good near wind-blown flats and creek channel ledges on cut bait and worms; Crappie: Fair 10-20 feet deep on minnows and jigs near points, brush, and ledges; Saugeye: Fair near dam and gravel/rock points on jigs and worms.

Reservoir Lake Level

Normal elevation 1274.00
Current elevation 1274.34

THREE-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

Corps of Engineers Readings, Council Grove Reservoir

High and low temperatures for the weekend period ending this morning were Saturday 72 and 59; Sunday 64 and 58; and today 64 and 58, with the 8:00 am reading 64°.

There was .41 inch of rain

Tuesday: A 30% chance for rain, high near 63. Northwest wind 10-15 mph with gusts to 25 mph. Partly cloudy, low around 43.

Wednesday: Sunny, high near 63. West wind 5-10 mph. Mostly clear, low around 41.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, high near 62. Northwest wind 5-10 mph. Mostly clear, low around 39.

PEANUT BUTTER LOVERS' MONTH

TUESDAY FORECAST

High 63
Low 43

Braves advance in playoffs; Stewart sets school records

The Council Grove Braves survived a fourth-quarter comeback by the Norton Bluejays Friday night, October 30, securing a 48-40 victory in the opening round of the KSHSAA Class 2A State Football Playoffs. The win advances the Braves to the regional championship round.

Quarterback Luke Stewart also made school history, breaking two Council Grove single-season records. Stewart has accumulated 2,507 total yards, surpassing the previous record of 2,436 set in 2011 by current Braves head coach Derron Reddick. His 29 touchdowns responsible for also surpassed the previous mark of 28 established by Ace Monihen in 2024.

Entering the playoffs as the No. 9 seed in the western bracket, Council Grove traveled to face No. 8 Norton.

The Bluejays struck first with a 42-yard touchdown run, but Council Grove answered with a 6-yard touchdown pass from Stewart to Mason Samuels.

The Braves took control in the second quarter when Dillon McDiffett scored on a 5-yard run. Norton added a 30-yard field goal, but Stewart connected with Samuels for two more touchdowns, covering 18 and 28 yards, giving Council Grove a 27-10 halftime advantage.

Stewart extended the Braves' lead to 34-10 early in the third quarter with a 2-yard touchdown run. Norton responded with a 55-yard rushing touchdown and a 27-yard touchdown pass, followed by a two-point conversion, narrowing the margin to 34-24.

The Bluejays continued their comeback in the fourth quarter with an 87-yard touchdown pass and another two-point conversion, pulling within two points at 34-32.

Council Grove answered when Stewart scored on a 15-yard run. Bradley Doornbos followed with a 1-yard touchdown run, and Stewart connected with Samuels for a two-point conversion to give the Braves a 48-32 advantage.

Norton returned the ensuing kickoff 84 yards for a touchdown and converted another two-point attempt to cut the lead to 48-40. However, Council Grove recovered the onside kick and ran out the remaining clock

(See Braves advance, Page 2)

Car struck on pass. side

Eliab Portillo, 33, Manhattan, and Kayela Holle, 38, Manhattan, were southbound on K177 when Portillo began turning east on A Avenue in a 2019 Honda Civic. Holle, driving a 2021 Jeep Cherokee, could not stop in time and went to go around in the north lane when Portillo turned and struck Holle on the passenger side.

Both were wearing seatbelts. The accident occurred on October 7.

City Council to meet Tuesday

The Council Grove City Council will meet Tuesday, Nov. 3, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 205 N. Union St.

The consent agenda includes approval of minutes from the previous meeting, appropriations to consider, and corporate applications for licenses to sell cereal malt beverages from Short Stop #18 and Ray's Apple Market.

Following public comments, the council will hear a Fire Department report from Tyson Stevenson and Steve Crichton.

City Administrator's reports will include the Katy Depot, downtown parking stalls and a Safe Routes to School Request for Qualifications (RFQ).

Under business, the council will consider approval of a 50/50 grant, a recreation sign and a quote from Bolton Chrysler Dodge for a dump/brine truck.

The meeting will conclude with comments from the governing body and adjournment.

Picolet wraps up cross country career

Jadyn Picolet wrapped up his career on Saturday, running at the 3A State Cross Country meet. This was Picolet's fourth time qualifying for the state meet.

In a deep 3A field, Picolet had to try to put himself in a position to compete early. He found himself in a spot with a group of competitors fighting for places in the 30s early in the race, and was still in that range at the mile mark.

After the mile mark there was separation from the medal contenders. Picolet continued to fight for a spot in the 35-40 range until the last hill with 800 meters to go. Picolet crossed the line in 17:51, in 46th place to close his storied cross-country career at Council Grove High School.

Coach Joshua Grant said, "Jadyn competed hard today. He knew it was going to be a difficult challenge to compete for a chance at a medal, and he left it all out on the course. I know he is disappointed with his time and place, but we couldn't be more proud of him. He leaves our program as one of the all-time great runners in the history of CGXC. A four-time state qualifier. He has represented CGXC at the highest level of his entire career. We had a lot of fun cheering him on and celebrating him today. He has had one of the greatest careers in CG history and will go down as a CGXC legend."

Kinley wins week 8 Pigskin Pick 'Em

Dave Kinley, of Council Grove, claimed first place in Week 8 of the Council Grove Republican Pigskin Pick 'Em Contest, correctly predicting an impressive 16 of 18 games. Kinley will receive a $25 gift certificate redeemable at any of the contest sponsors.

Kelly Hickman and Stephanie Boyce tied for second place, each correctly selecting 14 winners.

The week's football action included several close contests and three overtime games, providing plenty of challenges for contestants.

In NFL action, the Green Bay Packers defeated the Carolina Panthers 27-19, while the Buffalo Bills topped the Baltimore Ravens 36-19. The Cincinnati Bengals edged the

(See Kinley wins week 8, Page 2)

USD 417 sets Nov. 4, hearing on proposed PHES closure

The USD 417 Board of Education will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, November 4, at 6 p.m., regarding the proposed closure of Prairie Heights Elementary School. The hearing will take place in the auditorium of Council Grove Junior-Senior High School, 129 Hockaday St., (enter through the south commons doors).

The meeting will begin with a presentation outlining the proposed closure, followed by an open forum for parents, district patrons and other interested individuals.

Those wishing to address the board must sign up at the hearing and will receive a speaker number. Each speaker will be limited to three minutes to allow as many people as possible an opportunity to be heard.

According to the agenda, board members will listen to comments but will not respond to questions or engage in discussions, although they may ask for clarification.

Speakers are asked to keep their remarks respectful and focused on the proposed closure, its potential impacts or related board policies. Personal comments about district employees or students are prohibited, and speakers must respect individuals' privacy rights.

No vote or final decision regarding the proposed closure is listed on the hearing agenda.

Bulldogs defeat Solomon, play Sumner County next

The Chase County Bulldogs dominated Solomon, 56-6, Thursday, October 29, advancing to the second round of the state football playoffs behind a powerful rushing attack and strong defensive performance.

The Bulldogs scored 32 points in the first quarter and added 24 in the second, building a 56-0 lead before Solomon scored its only touchdown. Chase County finished with 342 yards of total offense, including 316 rushing yards, while holding Solomon to 144 total yards.

Austin Andersen led the Bulldogs with 170 rushing yards and five touchdowns on just seven carries. His scoring runs covered 1, 3, 35, 67 and 51 yards.

Knox Harshman added 70 yards on six carries, including a 46-yard touchdown run. Vincent Hodges contributed 35 rushing yards and completed a 26-yard touchdown pass to Maddex Beyer, who also rushed for 33 yards.

Chase County's defense limited Solomon to 73 rushing yards and forced three turnovers. Drew Barrett recorded an interception, while Hodges and Beyer each recovered a fumble. Clark Miller contributed a sack, and Blake Potter recorded three tackles and four assists.

Head coach Derick Budke praised his team's continued improvement, particularly along the offensive line.

"Another big rushing night for the Bulldogs," Budke said. "Austin Andersen and Vincent Hodges continue to rack up yardage."

Budke noted that the Bulldogs ran just 26 offensive plays, excluding

(See Bulldogs football, Page 2)

Pink Gravel fund partners with Morris County Hospital

The Pink Gravel Fund has partnered with the Morris County Hospital Foundation to help cover the cost of mammograms not covered by insurance, expanding its efforts to assist breast cancer patients and survivors.

Amy Oleen-Naaf, owner and founder of Pink Gravel, LLC, of Dwight, announced that the fund will assist patients referred by Morris County Hospital providers who do not qualify for coverage through the Kansas Early Detection Works program or other insurance. Requests will be submitted through the hospital.

PINK GRAVEL

The Pink Gravel Fund has contributed an initial $2,500 to the hospital foundation and will also help purchase items for patient care packages, including head coverings for those who request them.

Oleen-Naaf said the partnership has been a goal since she established the fund. She credited staff members at Morris County Hospital and the Emporia Community Foundation with helping make it possible.

The fund grew out of her personal experience with breast cancer. Diagnosed on October 31, 2019, Oleen-Naaf underwent surgery, chemotherapy and radiation and is now cancer-free. She and her husband, Jon Naaf, established the Pink Gravel Fund in October 2021.

The fund provides year-round

(See Pink Gravel partners, Page 2)

Veteran's lunch at WC Senior Center Nov. 10

The Rolling Prairie Senior Center will have a veteran's lunch on November 10 at noon. Veterans eat free and spouses over the age of 60 are $4 each. Please contact the center at 785-349-2813 by November 3, to make a reservation.

PUBLISHER'S PUNDITS



By Jan Kendall Sciacca
Owner/ Publisher
Council Grove Republican

We're Better Than This!

I seldom use exclamation marks in newspaper writing, but the current political climate, both nationally and here at home, warrants one.

We're better than this!

We live in a community where people have traditionally pulled together, helped their neighbors and taken pride in what we have accomplished. Yet, somewhere along the way, political disagreements have become personal battles, and social media has provided a platform where courtesy and respect are too often forgotten.

Consider what is happening around us.

Council Grove is facing an effort to recall its duly elected mayor. We have all experienced elections that didn't turn out the way we hoped. I was raised to believe that once the votes were counted, we should give those elected an opportunity to succeed. Their success should be our community's success.

That doesn't mean agreeing with every decision or abandoning our right to question elected officials. A recall is a lawful process, and accountability is an important part of representative government. But there is a difference between disagreeing with someone's decisions and making the disagreement personal.

Recently, a Morris County commissioner attended a meeting in Herington concerning a proposed data center to learn what was being discussed and whether it might affect his district. His attendance drew criticism from some residents. I welcome an elected official taking the initiative to learn more about an issue that could affect the county.

Our USD 417 Board of Education

(See Publisher's Pundits, Page 2)

PHES announces Halloween winners

Prairie Heights Elementary School recently announced the winners of its Halloween Poster Contest, recognizing students in kindergarten through sixth grade for their artwork.

Kindergarten: first place, Campbell Jones; second, Noah Gladbach; third, Qwynzleigh Brott. First grade: first place, Ford Spyker; second, Wynsten Brott. Second grade: girst place, Hank Womack; second, Dane Smith; third, Ally Weaver; honorable mention, Clovar Underwood. Third grade: first place, Lucas Weaver; second, Victoria Torres; third, Rylie Liddick. Fourth grade: first place, Mill Brunkow; second, Claire Prince; third, Camille Macy. Fifth grade: first place, Bristol Harris; second, Noval Womack; third, Lily Jones; honorable mention, Mary Glessner. Sixth grade: first place, Beatty Mayer; second, Lacee Robidou; third, Kaydan Collins; honorable mentions, Stephen Prince and Averi Odell.

