Tuesday, November 3, 2026

COUNCIL GROVE REPUBLICAN

Volume 154 • Number 172

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
ONLINE EDITION:
www.councilgrove
republican.com

Briefly...

Marietta Rose will celebrate her 95th birthday Saturday, Nov. 7. Cards can be sent to her at 358 Lake Road, Council Grove, KS 66846.

- - -

Today is election day. The Morris County Clerk's office reports that at the end of voting on Monday, more than 680 people had already voted. The privilege to vote is one we cherish and don't take lightly.

Local Grain Prices

(Provided by Agri Trails Coop)

Corn $3.73
Milo.....$3.46
Soybeans $11.58
Wheat $5.69

Fishing Report

Council Grove Reservoir

Channel Catfish - Fair/Good; Saugeye - Fair; White Bass - Fair/Good; Crappie - Fair

Reservoir Lake Level

Normal elevation 1274.00
Current elevation 1274.65

THREE-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

Corps of Engineers Readings, Council Grove Reservoir

High and low temperatures for the 24-hour period ending this morning were 69 and 60, with the 8:00 am reading 61°.

There was .66 inch of rain

Wednesday: Partly sunny, high near 62. West wind gusts to 20 mph. Mostly clear, low around 42.

Thursday: A 40% chance for rain, mainly before noon with high near 59. Northwest wind 5-10 mph. Partly cloudy, low around 39.

Friday: Mostly sunny, high near 59. North wind around 5 mph. Partly cloudy, low around 38.

ELECTION DAY
November 3, 2026

WEDNESDAY FORECAST
High 62
Low 42

8 10499 02579 4

Friday, November 6

CG Area Foundation Match event begins

The Council Grove Area Foundation will kick off its 2026 Match Event on Friday, November 6, offering residents an opportunity to support local nonprofit organizations while increasing the impact of their donations through matching funds.

The event builds on a successful 2025 campaign in which 270 donors made 515 contributions, helping raise more than $306,000, including matching funds. "One of the things I appreciate most about my role with the Foundation is getting to see some of the work that happens behind the scenes," said Amy Honer, executive director of the Council Grove Area Foundation. "Our local organizations are made up of people who give so much of their time, energy, and heart to making our community better. Much of that work goes unnoticed, but the impact they have is incredible."

This year's campaign, themed "Love Where You Live, Give Where You Live," supports organizations serving Council Grove and Morris County in areas ranging from childcare and education to historic preservation, healthcare, recreation and community development.

The kickoff will take place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Territory Ballroom, 117-119 W. Main St., Council Grove. Representatives of participating organizations will be available to visit with donors, explain their programs and discuss how contributions benefit the community.

Community and economic development organizations participating include Alta Vista Core Community, Council Grove Community Center, Inc. (doing business as Bowers Community Center), DESTINATION : Council Grove, Greater Morris County Development Corporation (GMDC) and Live Well Morris County. These organizations focus on community improvement, economic opportunities and quality of life.

Children, youth and family programs are represented by Building Blocks Community Child Care, Inc., Council Grove Youth Football and Little Huskies Childcare Co. Contributions to these organizations support opportunities and services for area children and families.

History, arts and cultural preservation are represented by the Community Arts Council of Council Grove, Emmanuel Church Preservation Board, Friends of Kaw Heritage, Inc., Historic Preservation Corporation and Morris County Historical Society. Their work helps preserve the area's heritage, historic properties and cultural traditions while providing opportunities for community involvement.

Health, emergency services and community support organizations include Council Grove Fire/Rescue, Council Grove Senior Center, Friends Helping Friends, Morris County Hospital Foundation, Together With Veterans and Morris County, and the D.A.R.E. Program. These organizations provide services and assistance to residents of various ages and needs.

Education, recreation and other community organizations participating are Council Grove Public Library, Morris County Fairgrounds Improvement Fund, Riverwalk Improvement Fund, White Memorial Camp and White City United Methodist Church. Their activities contribute to educational opportunities, recreation and community involvement.

The matching funds are made possible through the Patterson Family Foundation Rural Community Foundation Match Program. Donations designated for participating organizations help those groups qualify for additional financial support, allowing contributions to have a greater impact.

Although the November 6 kickoff provides an opportunity to meet organization representatives and contribute in person, the giving period continues through Tuesday, December 1.

Donors may support one or more participating organizations, directing their contributions toward the programs and causes most important to them.

Donations can be mailed to Council Grove Area Foundation, PO BOX 137, Council Grove, KS 66846-0137.

Additional information about the Match Event is available through the Council Grove Area Foundation at www.cgksaf.org.

Dimes help finance George Turkovics' trip to Taiwan

For Council Grove resident George Turkovic, saving dimes has become a way to finance travel while connecting generations of his family to their past. On Tuesday, November 3, he and his son, Ben, will depart for Taiwan, a trip made possible by 15 years of collecting dimes.

The tradition of traveling to places connected to his family's history began with his grandfather, Ivan (John) Turkovic, who was born in 1895 in Turkovic Selo, Croatia, then part of Austria-Hungary. Facing limited opportunities in his homeland, Ivan immigrated to America alone in 1914, just weeks before World War I erupted in that region.



George Turkovic

In 1975, Ivan returned to his native village for the first time in 61 years, accompanied by his 18-year-old grandson, George. Ivan was 80 at the time. The experience had a lasting impact on George, inspiring his lifelong love of travel.

In 2011, George continued the family tradition by taking his son, Ben, to the same Croatian village. With limited financial resources, he had developed the habit of saving dimes to help pay for overseas travel. He considered quarters too valuable to set aside, while pennies and nickels accumulated too slowly. His collection of dimes financed their trip to Croatia.

Now, 15 years later, those dimes are helping fund another journey into the family's history.

George was born in Taiwan in 1956 while his father, a career U.S. Air Force officer, was stationed there. His family left when he was just six months old, and he has never returned.

Having turned 70 this year, George decided it was time to revisit his birthplace, again accompanied by Ben. During their visit, they hope to locate traces of the former U.S. Air Force Tainan Air Base, which closed many years ago.

To finance the journey, George

(See Dimes help finance, Page 2)

CGJSHS blood drive collects 19 units

Council Grove Junior/Senior High School held its fall blood drive on October 30, collecting 19 units of blood in four hours to help support area hospitals and medical facilities.

The event was organized in cooperation with the Community Blood Center (CBC), USD 417 Health Services Director Dana Reddick, Mrs. Coover and members of HOSA-Future Health Professionals.

"I'm so proud of our students for coming together for such an important cause," said Reddick. "This blood drive not only helps save lives but also teaches our students the value of community service and the impact they can have."

HOSA student volunteers helped promote the event, recruit donors and assist during the blood drive. Volunteers included Desiree Bachura, Cian Bullock, Lupita Gonzalez, Alexis Johnson, Camila Mascote, Haylee Nielsen, Sydney Stormont, Abby Swaner and Taegan Wilkens.

A total of 21 students and staff registered to donate, including seven first-time donors.

Registered donors included Bryce Azbell*, Cian Bullock, Matthew Calmes, Harmony Egbert, Jill Day, Izzabella Edwards*, Kendra Elsen, Brittany Fox, Andrew Johnson*, Bella Keating*, Ty King, Anita Mahanay, Laramie Mayer, Amanda McDonald, Haylee Nielsen, Dana Reddick, Hannah Seymour, Layla Smith*, Emily Teter, Danica Thomsen* and Hayleigh Yowell*. *Denotes first-time donor.

The school conducts two blood drives each school year, providing

(See CGJSHS blood drive, Page 2)

Powell, Schweger resign as USD 417 board members

Two members of the USD 417 Board of Education, Terry Powell and Travis Schweger, have submitted their resignations, leaving two vacancies on the seven-member board.

Superintendent Tyson Eslinger confirmed both resignations and said the board will formally accept them at its next regularly scheduled meeting, scheduled for 6 p.m. on Tuesday, November 17.

"The next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting is when the board will officially accept their resignations and then discuss next steps for handling the two open positions," Eslinger said.

He explained that the board will determine when to begin accepting letters of interest, conduct interviews and potentially appoint individuals to fill the vacancies.

Powell, who has served on the board for 18 years, addressed his resignation in a Facebook post, emphasizing that his decision was not related to any current district issues or disagreements.

"Being on the local school board was never about me. I have always tried to focus every decision with the phrase 'what is best for kids,'" Powell wrote.

He said he was proud of the board's accomplishments during his tenure and believes the district is in a good position moving forward.

"I resigned because I felt like the BOE was in a good place. I support all of the work that is currently being

(See Board members resign, Page 2)

PHES to host Veterans Day program Nov. 10

Prairie Heights Elementary School, in Alta Vista, will continue its long-standing tradition of honoring those who have served our nation during its Annual Veterans Day Program on Tuesday, November 10, at 7 p.m. in the school gymnasium.

The ceremony will officially begin with the presenting and posting of the flag by the Dwight American Legion Post 289. For decades, Prairie Heights has brought students, staff, and community members together to pay tribute to local veterans and active-duty military personnel through

(See Veterans Day program, Page 2)



USD 417 District Spotlight

By Tyson Eslinger
Superintendent of Schools

District Spotlight: Navigating Demographic Realities, State Policy, and the Future of USD 417

As we transition into late fall, our school calendar remains as vibrant as ever. Our fall student-athletes and activity groups are wrapping up memorable seasons, while rehearsals for winter music programs and plays and preparations for winter sports are already under way across our campuses. The dedication of our students, coaches, sponsors, and families during these busy weeks is a reminder of what makes USD 417 such a special community.

Behind the scenes of these daily activities, our Board of Education has been engaged in serious, deliberate discussions about the long-term future of our district. Because school operations do not happen in a vacuum, understanding the decisions facing our local board requires a clear look at both our local demographic numbers and the state policy landscape that governs how public schools are funded.

The Demographic Reality: Smaller Cohorts and Funding Shifts

Across Kansas, districts are confronting sustained declines in birth rates. In USD 417, this trend is reflected directly in our class sizes. Currently, our graduating senior classes typically range between 55 and 65 students, whereas our incoming kindergarten classes are averaging between the mid-30s and low-40s.

Even with families moving into our district over time, the net result is an ongoing cohort reduction of roughly 20 to 25 students per grade span. Under the Kansas school finance formula combining base state aid with student need weightings each student generates an average of approximately $10,000 in opera-

(See District Spotlight, Page 2)





Volunteer student leaders from HOSA-Future Health Professionals helped organize the recent Council Grove Junior/Senior High School Fall student blood drive. Pictured during the event were: Haylee Nielsen (left) both donor and volunteer with HOSA; and (right photo L to R) Sydney Stormont and Taegan Wilkens, volunteers with HOSA, and Hayleigh Yowell, donor.