• Council

Continued from Page 1

seconded, to approve special use permit 26-07 to 26-15. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

City Clerk Robinson presented council with the KDOT Supplemental Agreement No.1 for the fiscal year 2027 and fiscal year 2028 CCLIP projects. John C. moved, Heather seconded, to allow the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the Supplemental Agreement No 1 with KDOT for CCLIP project. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

John B. moved, Joyce seconded, to approve vouchers and payroll as presented. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

With no further business, Heather moved, John C. seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with 5 ayes. Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Special Meeting Held

A special meeting of the Mayor and Council was held December 30, 2025, 12:00 p.m. at City Hall. Mayor Vienna Janis presided. Council members present: John Cordill, Joyce Hake, Heather Hancock, and John Bisnette. Council not present: Collin Jones. Also present: Bruce Berkley, Brady Pound, Harry Colburn, and Miranda Robinson.

Mayor Janis called the special meeting to order for the purpose of conducting the Neighborhood Revitalization hearing and end of year business on behalf of the city to approve transfer requests, permits and licenses, and vouchers and payroll.

At 12:01 p.m. Mayor Vienna Janis opened the Neighborhood Revitalization hearing. No public comment was given either in writing or verbal. The hearing closed at 12:05 p.m. Heather moved, John C. seconded, to approve the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan as presented by Osborne County. Motion carried with 3 ayes. John C. moved, Joyce seconded, to approve Ordinance 1022 joining Osborne County Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. Motion carried with 3 ayes. Joyce moved, Heather seconded, to allow the mayor to sign the interlocal agreement for the Osborne County Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. Motion carried with 3 ayes.

Heather moved, John C. seconded, to approve contractor's licenses 26-16 to 26-24. Motion carried with 3 ayes.

John Bisnette entered the meeting.

John C. moved, John B. seconded, to approve special use permits 26-16 to 26-20. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

John C. moved, Joyce seconded, to approve the transfer request from the Downs Fire Department in the amount of $8,645.10 to the fire equipment reserve. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

Heather moved, John B. seconded, to approve the end of the year transfer from General to City Equipment Reserve in the amount of $5,000. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

John C. moved, Joyce seconded, to approve vouchers as presented. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

With no further business, John C. moved, Heather seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with 4 ayes. The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

• Workshop

Continued from Page 1

Food safety

Regulations on selling meat, eggs and poultry

Sales tax for vendors

Kansas Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program

SNAP/Double Up Food Bucks

KDA's weights and measures program will also offer free scale certification at the workshops for attendees.

Dates and locations for the Local Food Producer Workshops are as follows:

Friday, February 6 — Olathe: K-State Olathe

Saturday, February 7 — Hutchinson: Hutchinson Community College

Friday, February 20 — Holton: Jackson County Fairgrounds – NE Heritage Complex

Thursday, February 26 — Dodge City: Ford County Fair Building

Friday, February 27 — Oakley: Buffalo Bill Cultural Center

Friday, March 6 — Parsons: Southeast Research & Extension Center

Tuesday, March 10 — Beloit: Fort Hays Tech North Central

Registration for the workshops is now open and is $25 per participant. Registration and more information can be found at FromtheLandofKansas.com/FMworkshop, at K-State Research and Extension, ksre-learn.com/food-producer-workshops, or at local extension offices.

For more information, contact Robin Dolby, KDA's From the Land of Kansas marketing coordinator, at 785-564-6756 or fromthelandofkansas@ks.gov. The workshops are funded by the Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops, Kansas Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program, and sponsored by KSRE and KDA.

KDA is committed to providing an environment that enhances and encourages economic growth of the agriculture industry and the Kansas economy. The Kansas Ag Growth Strategy has identified training for small companies via workshops as a key growth outcome for the specialty crop sector. The Local Food Producer Workshops will provide education through partnerships to help make Kansas farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses more successful.

Commission approves tax roll corrrections

The Osborne County Commissioners met December 22, 2025. Those present: Rex Johnston, Craig Pottberg, Troy Schaefer and Heather Betzold, County Clerk.

Pottberg called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. in chambers.

Janel Burch, The Peoples Bank, met with commissioners to discuss the finance paperwork for the 2026 Western Star truck purchase. Pottberg made a motion to approve the 4.88% rate for 7 years with payments due on July 1st, Schaefer second. Motion carried. Terry Nichols, R&B, and Bobbi Jo Boxum, Treasurer, were present.

Pottberg made a motion to make December 26, 2025 a holiday for Osborne County, Schaefer second. Motion carried.

Terry Nichols, R&B, met with commissioners. He shared a citizen letter of appreciation for Naomi Hendrich, Discussion was also held on scraper repairs, snow routes and NCK sponsorship.

Darren Booth, Theel Insurance, met with commissioners, Betzold, and Boxum to discuss the 6-month report. Osborne County has current saving of $42,007.61 on health insurance with Freedom Claims Insurance and high deductible with BCBS. Discussion was further had on self-insured vs full-insured.

Commissioners reviewed KCAMP ration loss check of $750; milo sale of $29802.63; October 30, 2025 High Plains Mental Health Board minutes, NCK Juvenile and Correction board minutes for June 12 and September 11, 2025.

Schaefer made a motion to ratify Rex Johnston as a KWORCC voting delegate for Osborne County, Pottberg second. Motion carried.

Schaefer made a motion to approve tax roll corrections, Johnston second. Motion carried.

Schaefer made a motion to approve checks & vouchers in the amount of $32,443.09, Johnston second. Motion carried.

Johnston made a motion to approve December 15, 2025 minutes and December 17, 2025 E-Waste minutes as presented, Schaefer second. Motion carried.

Commissioners further discussed budgets, bond issues, financials, and Stanfield Roofing Maintenance reports.

Pottberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m., Johnston second. Motion carried.

Post Rock Extension District

Jamie Rathbun, Family and Community Wellness Agent



Your Kid's First Phone

The Christmas holiday and come and gone, and if, like me, you have pre-teen at home, the #1 item on their wish list was likely their very own cell phone. Did their wish come true? It did at our home. My third child will be turning 13 this month, and in following with tradition of his older siblings, he now has his own cell phone.

I've been through this before and like to think that my husband and I set some pretty good ground rules for our teens and phones. It can be stressful giving your child access to the world at their fingertips, but it doesn't have to be. The Federal Communications Commission has some tips (some of which I am adding to kid #3's list of "new cell phone user" rules).

Don't Go Overboard

Kids will be kids, and they will likely break or lose whatever phone they get. The main purpose for getting them a phone is to stay connected. Focus on a device that keeps you connected and is capable of running an operating system that receives security updates. You might even consider a screen-free phone as your child's first device.

Do Your Homework

There is no shortage of "Best First Phones for Kids" list available via a simple web search. Do some online research, keeping your priorities in mind. Talk with other parents and compare notes.

Additional resources for first-phone decisions are available at the non-profit ConnectSafely.org. Check out their Family Tech webpage for the latest information.

Responsible Ownership

While shopping for the right phone, spend some time discussing protection – your child's and their device's.

Compile a list of phone numbers belonging to family members, friends, your child's school, and other contacts you can rely on. Share the list with your son or daughter and advise them not to answer their phone unless a call is from a known "safe" contact.

Explore your phone company's options for call blocking and teach your child about robocalls, robotexts, and spoofing scams.

Discuss scam warning signs such as voice recordings, or strangers asking for information. Advise against providing information to people you don't know or pushing buttons if prompted to do so. Tell them if they receive a robocall, they should simply hang up.

Consider rules about downloading apps, such as requiring parental permission.

Talk about when and where the phone can be used and look into settings or apps that manage screen-time.

Discuss how to protect your child's phone from theft and what to do if a phone is lost or stolen.

Consider purchasing a protective case for your phone model. Choose one with a drop-tested durable shell, and don't forget a screen protector to help avoid scratches and cracks.

Remind your kids that having their own cell phone is not only a privilege but a big responsibility. And let them know you're counting on them to be trustworthy and safe.

There comes a time when every parent must face the rite of passage that is their child's first cell phone. For kids, it is a time for accepting new responsibilities, adopting new safety habits, and learning new technologies.

NCK Raptors mountain bike team to hold first practice

The NCK Raptors Mountain Bike Team is preparing for their sixth season in getting more kids on bikes. The first practice will be held Sunday, January 11th, 2-4 p.m. at Palen Family Farms, 1031 180 Rd, Glen Elder, KS. The NCK Raptors team is open to boys and girls 5th to 12th grade from area schools and homeschool students in North Central Kansas, and is in the sixth year of the Interscholastic Kansas Cycling League. This coming season will be the first year fifth grade student athletes are welcome to participate.

Head coach, John McClure, commented, "We're excited for our sixth season for the NCK Raptors and getting more kids on bikes. We had an amazing fifth year with our team of student athletes and we're looking forward to growing our team once again!"

The NCK Raptors Mountain Bike Team, founded in 2020, is an official club in North Central Kansas and plans to hold practices starting in January for the spring event season. The team will compete in the Interscholastic Kansas Cycling League which provides programs to help students achieve both competitive and non-competitive cross-country mountain biking goals and comprises the easiest route for youth to get involved in the life-long sport of cycling.

For more information about joining the team or to join as a coach, visit www.facebook.com/NCK-RAPTORS or call head coach John McClure at 785-346-6156 or team director Doug Palen at 785-545-8505. For more information about the Kansas League, visit www.kansasmtb.org.

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Call 454-3514 to renew your subscription.

Grain Markets

Tuesday, Tues. Jan. 6

Midway Co-op

Wheat	$4.28
Milo	$3.04
Corn	$3.54
Soybeans	$9.34

Scoular Grain Co.

Wheat	$4.49
Milo	$3.29
Corn	$3.79
Soybeans	$9.55

Senior Citizen Menu

Monday Jan. 12:
Smothered chicken, mahed potatoes, green beans, bread, tropical fruit.

Tuesday, Jan. 13:
Lasagna, Italian blend vegetaables, bread, pears.

Wednesday, Jan. 14:
White chicken chili, winter blend vegetables, creackers, applesauce, cookie.

Thursday, Jan. 15:
Baked chicken, scalloped potatoes, bread, birthday cake with frosting, pineapple.

Friday, Jan. 16:
Little Smokies, macaroni and cheese, mixed vegetables, strawberries and bananas.

Legal Notice

(Published in the *Downs News & Times* on Jan. 8, 2026)

ORDINANCE NO. 1022 SUMMARY

On December 30, 2025, the City of Downs, Kansas adopted Ordinance No 1022 regarding the adoption of and participation in the Osborne County Neighborhood Revitalization Program effective January 1, 2026. A complete copy of this ordinance is available at: WWW.DownsKS.net or at city hall at 715 Railroad Avenue, Downs, Kansas.

This summary certified by Bruce Berkley, City Attorney.

ATTEST: Miranda Robinson,
City Clerk

DOWNS COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

THE SOURCE FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CITY, SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES

Emergency • Fire • Ambulance: Dial 911

UPDATES?
Email the Downs News downsnews@ruraltel.net

Sheriff's Department: Daytime & Night call 785-346-2001
Osborne County Memorial Hospital: 785-346-2121
Mitchell County Hospital Health Systems: 785-738-2266
Downs City Office: City Office - 454-6622. City Shop - 454-3721
Downs City Superintendent: Brady Pound - 454-3721 (shop)
Animal Control: 454-6622 **Code Enforcement Officer:** Harry Colburn - 454-6622
Downs Fire Department: Joel Hardy, Fire Chief.
Tornado Warning: Constant whistle for 3 minutes. All clear is one solid blast.

City of Downs: Vienna Janis, Mayor. Council: John Bisnette, John Cordill, Collin Jones, Joyce Hake, Heather Hancock. City Council meets at City Hall on the first and third Monday of each month at 5:30pm. Kenneth Lee, Municipal Judge. Municipal court meets at City Hall on the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm.
Downs Carnegie Library: 504 Morgan, 454-3821. Hours: Mon & Wed 1-7pm; Tues & Thurs 1-5pm; Friday & Saturday 11am-5pm. Sherry Knouf, Librarian. Library board meets 2nd Monday at 7 pm. Email: downslibrary@ruraltel.net
Chamber of Commerce: President, Mandy Burda. Meets first Wednesday of each month

USD #272: Jesse Janssen, Supt. Phone 785-781-4328 Lakeside Jr/Sr High School: 454-3332 Jeremy Long, Principal; Lakeside Elementary: 781-4911 Kayla Hamilton, Principal
Downs Senior Citizens, Inc.: 514 Morgan, 454-6228.

Dispatch Christian Reformed Church: 2 miles east and 6 miles north of Downs 785-454-6608 or 785-454-3715. Will Brouwers, Pastor. Sunday Worship 9:30am. Online Service on Facebook - "Dispatch Christian Reformed Church, Dispatch KS"

Downs United Methodist Church: 1000 N. Morgan. 785-454-3327. William "Stacy" Ellsworth, Pastor. Worship 9am; Sunday School 10am. For more information or for live stream link, please go to downsumc.churchtrac.com

First Christian Church: 1015 Morgan. 785-454-3438. Hunter Spencer, Pastor. Bible Study Wednesday 6:30pm; Sunday School 9:30am; Sunday Service 10:30am.

Rose Valley Church: 2 miles west and 3 miles north of Downs, 785-454-3418. Wyatt Davis, Pastor, 620-804-2912. Sunday Worship 9:30am; Sunday School 10:30am; Wednesday Bible Study 7:30pm. Online Service on Facebook - "Rose Valley Church"

St. Mary's Catholic Church: 1312 Prentiss Street. Father Daryl Olmstead, Pastor. Mass Schedule: Sunday 10:30am. St. Mary's Altar Society meets second Monday, Mary Lynn Renken, President. K of C meets the fourth Monday, Doug Baetz - Grand Knight.

Zion Lutheran Church: 1019 Blunt Street. 785-454-3733. Rev. Sherman Stenson, Pastor. Worship Service 9am; Sunday School & Bible Study 10am (starting in September); Wednesday Study at 7pm. Online Service on Facebook - "Zion Lutheran Church"

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