

From Our ARCHIVES

By Linda Kenyon

10 Years Ago

September 21, 2016

The Otis-Bison Cougars celebrated Homecoming on Friday, September 16, by losing a hard-fought football game against the Central Plains Oilers 28-40. Crowning of Homecoming royalty took place before the game with Cody Kaler, son of Charles and Kathleen Kaler of Bison, and Caitlin Schilowsky, daughter of Paul and Sheila Schilowsky of Great Bend, named king and queen. Other royalty included senior attendants Alix Schneider and Brad Lightfoot; junior attendants Lacey Mitchell and Trent Bitter; sophomore attendants Kaylin Knaple and Ben Welsh; and freshmen attendants Cristen Trapp and Hunter Mitchell. Flower girl was Rowyn Juno and crown bearer was Dylan Richardson. Grand marshal for the parade was Sandi Dutt and her husband, Greg. Sandi was the coach of the 1986 volleyball team that took first place in the state.

The 1986 OBHS volleyball team was honored during halftime of the Homecoming football game for being the only sports team in Otis-Bison history to take first at state. This is the 30th anniversary of that team. Former coach Sandi Dutt attended, as well as former teammates Janelle Juno Maier, Amy Lichter Rocha, Stacey Lichter Ward, Jan Frieb, Stephanie Dyer Royer, Peggy Collins Bahr and Malanie Dyer Urban.

25 Years Ago

September 20, 2001

It has been just over a week since the horrifying terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington D.C., and overwhelming support from coast to coast is still building. County schools have held assemblies in mourning of those who were killed and showed their unwavering loyalty to their country. Clubs, organizations and businesses are taking donations, and encouraging people to give blood. Churches throughout Rush County have also been holding services to pray for our country and the victims of the attack and their families. "God Bless America" and "We Will Endure" have become the mottos of the county, as well as the nation.

Leonard E. Kerbs was honored posthumously by the High Banks Hall of Fame Inc., and National Midget Auto Racing Museum of Belleville, Kansas on August 1, when he was inducted into the Hall of Fame at the third annual induction ceremonies. His daughter, Betty Kerbs Abel of Otis accompanied by her daughter Rhonda Priem and grandson Bill was present to receive his award.

50 Years Ago

September 16, 1976

Howard Pullen, an International 4-H Youth Exchangee from England has spent the last two weeks in Rush County. His host family for the two weeks has been Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Vesecky, Timken. While in the county, Pullen has presented talks about his heritage to groups, visited many historic sites and toured farming operations.

John Kinderknecht, 6 of Liebenenthal, was struck as he ran into the path of an auto which was driven by Mildred M. Carlile of Fowler, Kansas, Saturday, September 11, at 7:10 p.m. on Highway 183 in Liebenenthal. Kinderknecht was admitted to St. Anthony's Hospital and was treated for a broken arm. Damage to the 1974 Ford car was slight. The accident was investigated by the Kansas Highway Patrol.

Wheat planting time is fast approaching and the line at the seed cleaning establishments throughout the county will verify this. For the past few weeks, wheat farmers have been bringing their seed wheat in to have it cleaned and treated and from some reports, planting has already started for a few and will start shortly

for the others.

75 Years Ago

September 20, 1951

Much of the population of Rush county moved to the Kansas State fair at Hutchinson this week. Otis and La Crosse high school bands played at the fair Tuesday and the schools were closed for the day to give all students a chance to attend. County agricultural officials also attended. While some Rush county persons went to Hutchinson to visit and enjoy themselves, others combined business with pleasure. Four-H members took high awards with their entries. At least one countian entered in the open class walked away with one of the top honors. He is Leslie Brannan, who won third place in a strong field of 19 entries, with his Polled Hereford bull, summer yearling class. Brannan has entered the bull in a number of livestock shows. Last year the animal took third in the National Polled Hereford show in Kansas City. He plans to enter it into the national show to be held at Louisville, Kentucky, in November of this year.

Four Rush county men will be inducted into the Army at Kansas City, Mo., September 28. The men will leave Ness City next Thursday for the induction center. Names of the Rush countians; Alvin J. Dreher, La Crosse; Ray E. Steinmetz, Nekoma; Leo F. Kuhn, Pfeifer; Theodore Sandstrom, Bison.

100 Years Ago

The La Crosse Republican

September 23, 1926

Auto wrecks have been rather frequent the past week. Saturday evening, Clint Long and C.R.E. Nordling met at the bridge near the Sanford place west of Rush Center. The cars were badly damaged and Mr. Long was pinned beneath his. Mr. Nordling rescued him. Neither were serious hurt, but Mr. Nordling is suffering from reopened old wounds received in a tractor accident some time ago. The same evening, Harve Renner and a Scheuerman boy collided near the Rudicel place. The cars were considerably worse for the accident, but no one was hurt. Sunday evening as Rev. Hayes and family were driving to Nekoma for the evening service, a Ness City car bumped them, throwing their car into the ditch. None of them were injured except minor bruises, altho Wesley the baby was thrown from the car almost to the adjoining field. The Ness City man stopped and rendered aid and Rev. Hayes was able to get his car home without help, altho one wheel was badly mashed. For a series of accidents they were certainly lucky ones as no one was seriously hurt.

An elevator company at Burdette seems to have gone on the rocks financially, a number of Alexanderites seem to have checks for grain, which seem hard to realize much money on them. We hope it will come out all right, but it is always much safer to trade and do business at the home town.

125 Years Ago

The La Crosse Republican

September 20, 1901

Jack Hooper of Illinois township was fined 10 dollars and costs in Justice Hallock's court this week for interfering while Marshal Purcell was endeavoring to lodge one Wm. Hambleton in the city jail a week ago last night for drunkenness. The case was a jury trial; the first jury failing to agree. A second jury found a verdict of guilty as charged. In the row at the jail Hambleton struck Deputy Sheriff Flax in the face. We understand the case has been appealed to the district court. Fine and costs amount to about \$100.

The turkey crop is very poor this year but still smaller is the grasshopper crop. There are not enough to fatten the few turkeys we have.

-Rush County Commission Minutes-

COMMISSIONERS MINUTES Tuesday, September 8, 2026, 9:00 a.m. Chairman Mitchell Blackburn, Vice-Chairman Richard T. Luft and member Les Rogers were present. Commissioner Rogers moved to approve the August 31, 2026 minutes as presented. Commissioner Luft seconded the motion. Chair called for discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

The accounts payable checks, register and warrants were reviewed and signed by the board.

At 9:03 a.m., Commissioner Blackburn moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes with County Clerk Keener regarding an HR issue. Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting returned to open session at 9:08 a.m.

Debi Wherry, Register of Deeds, met with the board. At 9:09 a.m., Commissioner Rogers moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes with Ms. Wherry and County Clerk Keener regarding non-elected personnel with the Register of Deeds office. Commissioner Luft seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting returned to open session at 9:14 a.m. At 9:14 a.m., Commissioner Rogers moved to extend the executive session an additional 5 minutes. Commissioner Luft seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting returned to open session at 9:19 a.m.

Anita Shephard, Zoning Administrator, met with the board and presented a resolution granting a Conditional Use Permit. Commissioner Blackburn moved to approve Resolution 2026-08 granting Kimley-Horn a Conditional Use Permit for a fiber optic communication facility. Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion. Chair called for discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Mark Knowles met with the board to discuss the pay scale for the communication specialists in his department. He currently has 6 full-time and 1 part-time specialists.

County Attorney Tony Rues met with the board to discuss various county matters.

The 2nd Quarter Commissioners proceedings were reviewed by the board.

The road and bridge weekly report was presented for review. They graded in Alexander, Banner, Belle Prairie, Big Timber, Brookdale, Center, Fairview, Garfield, Hampton, Illinois, Lone Star, Pioneer, Pleasantdale and Union townships. They hauled sand in Pioneer and Union and removed trees in Pioneer township. Mowing was done in Alexander, Banner, Belle Prairie, Big Timber, Center, Fairview, Garfield, Illinois, Lone Star, Pioneer, Pleasantdale and Union and signs repaired or replaced in Banner, Big Timber, Brookdale, Center, Pioneer, Pleasantdale and Union townships. The mechanics did routine maintenance on county equipment. Commissioner Blackburn reported a culvert issue on Ave I west of CR 330 and a culvert issue was reported to County Clerk Keener on CR 240 north of Ave D. These concerns will be given to the Road and Bridge department.

Correspondence was reviewed.

There being no other business before the board, Commissioner Blackburn moved to adjourn at 10:36 a.m. and to meet again in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, September 14, 2026. Commissioner Luft seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved this 14th day of September, 2026.

ATTEST: Tacy A. Keener, County Clerk

Mitchell Blackburn, Chairman

-City of La Crosse Commission Minutes-

The regular meeting of the La Crosse City Commission was held on August 19, 2026 at 5:15 p.m. Present were Mayor Alan Sramek, Commissioner Bill Schroter, Commissioner Kim Peach, City Manager Lyle Hammerschmidt, Ruth Schroter and James Heifner.

Mayor Sramek motioned to open the 2027 Budget Hearing at 5:17 p.m. Commissioner Peach seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Mayor Sramek motioned to approve the 2027 Budget, Commissioner Peach seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Mayor Sramek motioned to close the hearing at 5:20 p.m. Commissioner Peach seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Mayor Sramek motioned to open the regular meeting at 5:20 p.m. Commissioner Schroter seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Schroter motioned to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2026 meeting, Commissioner Peach seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

No Public comments.

September meeting dates: 9th and 23rd.

Commissioner Schroter motioned to pay the bills, Commissioner Peach seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Joe Proffitt did not come to meeting as requested at the August 5, 2026 meeting. Will discuss further.

City Manager's report: City wide cleanup will be October 9 to October 19. Blue dump truck is down again and being fixed. CAT generator issue was checked and is fine. Main Street bids for painting parking lines. Signs on 5th and Washington. Little bucket truck problems. Similar city water issue. New customers water lines, discussed the options. Requested to get a tree trimmer attachment for \$6,100.00 and was approved to order.

Mayor Sramek motioned going into Executive Session at 6:03 p.m. for fifteen minutes, with the City Manager to discuss non-elected personnel. Commissioner Schroter seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Peach motioned to go into Executive Session at 6:18 p.m. for fifteen minutes, with the City Manager to discuss non-elected personnel. Mayor Sramek seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Executive session ended at 6:33 p.m.

Mayor Sramek motioned to end the meeting at 6:38 p.m. Commissioner Peach seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Law enforcement activity

Rush County Sheriff Mark Knowles reported law enforcement activity for September 6 through September 12.

There were 2 civil process papers served and 6 complaints of cattle out.

There were 3 arrests during the week.

On September 6, conducted a vehicle check in the 3800 block of K-4, citizen assist for a VIN inspection in the 3800 block of K-96, investigation of suspicious activity in the 200 block of East Osborne Avenue in Alexander, citizen assist for lifting assistance in the 900 block of Oak Street in La Crosse, outside agency assist with EMS for breathing problems in the 900 block of Oak Street in La Crosse.

On September 7, investigation of an injury vehicle accident ending in arrest for driving under the influence in the 2000 block of CR 300, investigation of an animal neglect complaint in the 700 block of West 9th Street in La Crosse, outside agency assist with EMS for breathing problems in the 1000 block of Hargrave in La Crosse, investigation of a 911 accidental dial in the 2200 block of Avenue Y, investigation of criminal trespass in the 200 block of West 8th Street in La Crosse, assisted in a civil matter in the 100 block of East Fisher Avenue in Otis, investigation of a welfare check in the 1500 block of Main Street in La Crosse.

On September 8, prisoner transport from Finney County Jail for court purposes, prisoner transport from Barton County Jail for court purposes, investigation of an animal complaint in the 700 block of West 9th Street in La Crosse, investigation of theft in the 600 block of Maple Street in La Crosse, completed a booking for court purposes at the Sheriff's Office, outside agency assist with Court Services for a citizen assist, request to check a vehicle in the 3500 block of K-4, outside agency assist with EMS for a fall victim in the 100 block of West 5th Street in Liebenenthal, citizen assists for two VIN inspections in La Crosse, conducted area checks in the intersection of Main and 3rd Street in La Crosse and the 700 block of West 9th Street in La Crosse, investigation of a 911 accidental dial in the 700 block of Main Street in La Crosse, completed a booking for court purposes at the Sheriff's Office, investigation of an animal neglect complaint in the 300 block of East Williams Avenue in Alexander, citizen assist for information regarding a civil matter.

On September 9, citizen assist with a lock-out in the 800 block of Maple Street, outside agency assist with EMS and Liebenenthal Fire for a fall victim in the 100 block of West 5th Street in Liebenenthal, investigation of 911 accidental dials in the 100 block of North Elm Street in Rush Center and in the 600 block of Locust Street in La Crosse, assisted a motorist in the 2800 block of K-4, citizen assist for a VIN inspection in La Crosse, citizen assist for information, investigation of a driving complaint on K-96, investigation of an animal at large complaint in the 600 block of Pine Street in La Crosse, investigation of missing cattle in the 3000 block of Avenue B.

On September 10, investigation of a non-injury vehicle/deer accident in the 2700 block of CR 390, assisted in a civil matter in the 1200 block of Lincoln Street in La Crosse, investigation of a non-injury vehicle accident in the 1100 block of CR 270, investigation of a driving complaint on K-96.

On September 11, investigation of a non-injury vehicle/cow accident in the 2100 block of Avenue D, investigation of a single vehicle rollover accident in the 1900 block of CR 320, citizen assists in the 400 block of Washington Street in La Crosse and with found items in the 500 block of West 8th Street in La Crosse, investigation of a parking complaint in the 500 block of West Locust Avenue in McCracken, investigation of a commercial alarm in the 800 block of Main Street in La Crosse, investigation of driving complaints in the 3200 block of K-96 and in the 2900 block of US 183, citizen assist for information.

On September 12, conducted a welfare check in the 2500 block of Avenue X, investigation of a 911 accidental dial in the 3800 block of Avenue Y, request to check subject in the 2300 block of K-96, investigation of a burglary not in progress in the 200 block of North Main Street in Otis.

Anyone noticing anything out of the ordinary occurring in the county is encouraged to contact the Rush County Sheriff's Office, 785-222-2578 or if it is an emergency call 911. You can also follow us on Facebook at Rush County Sheriff's Office. Also check out our new app on Google Play and in the App Store on your mobile device, by downloading Sheriff Connect. Once you are in the app, search for Rush County Sheriff's Office. This app will connect you to get notifications in case of an emergency, plus it provides many other resources.