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# Lady Cougars compete at CPL tourney

The Otis-Bison High School volleyball team had a busy weekend competing in the Central Prairie League tournament in Hoisington on Saturday, October 10. They defeated Chase 25-12, 25-7 and Ness City 25-20, 25-17 in pool play, and lost to Ellinwood 6-25, 13-25, and St. John 14-25, 20-25. They defeated La Crosse in the Consolation round 24-26, 25-19, 25-19 for fifth place in the tournament. The Lady Cougars are 13-18-2 for the season.

Otis-Bison traveled to St. John on Tuesday, October 6. They defeated Ness City 25-11, 25-23 and Kinsley 25-17, 25-11, and lost to St. John 21-25, 19-25.

"The girls played well and were led by our only senior, Lily Schwindt. Other team members that contributed to our success were Allie Smith, Shaelyn Richmeier, Brooklynn Roth, Caitlin Ficken, Rowyn Juno, Maryn Ochs-Lohrey, Tristin Pechanec, Taliyah Mitchell and Taylen Butler," said Coach Janelle Maier.

The Lady Cougars traveled to Ellinwood on Tuesday, October 13, to play Victoria and Ellinwood. This was the last game of the regular season. Regionals will be October 20.

# Otis-Bison Student of the Week




**Congratulations to our Otis-Bison Student of the Week, Henleigh Wegener, a fourth grader at Otis-Bison Elementary School. This award is sponsored by 93.5 Thunder, Jimmy John's, and Barton Community College. Henleigh was nominated for the award by her teacher, Mrs. Foust. "Henleigh always goes above and beyond to help others. For example, at the end of every school day she helps others get ready to dismiss and helps clean up and organize the classroom," said Mrs. Foust. "Her kindness and respect for others doesn't go unnoticed. Great job, Henleigh. I am so proud of you!" Other Otis-Bison students nominated for the award were Molly George, Harper Little, and Jenna Stos. Keep up the hard work Cougars!** (school courtesy photo)

# Otis-Bison defeats Southern Coffey County

The Otis-Bison Cougars delivered another dominant early-game performance on October 9, cruising to a 53-0 shutout victory over the Southern Coffey County Titans.

Otis-Bison built an insurmountable lead in the first half, scoring 33 points in the opening quarter and adding 20 more in the second quarter which ended the game at halftime. The Cougars' defense was stout throughout, holding Southern Coffey County to just 42 total yards while forcing two fumbles.

Aiden Ochs-Lohrey posted a remarkably efficient game on the ground, rushing for 157 yards and 4 touchdowns on just 4 carries—averaging 39.25 yards per attempt. His scoring runs covered 45, 14, 73, and 25 yards. Ochs-Lohrey has rushed for a total of 1,290 yards this season. Quarterback Maddox Firebaugh added to the offensive output, completing 3 of 4 passes for 80 yards and 2 touchdowns while adding 43 rushing yards and a touchdown on 3 carries. Receiver Kolten Cory was on the receiving end of all three completions, logging 80 receiving yards and 2 touchdowns, including a 44-yard scoring play. Dylan Richardson added a 1-yard touchdown run to round out the scoring.

Otis-Bison outgained the Titans 321 to 42 in total yards on 25 offensive plays. On defense, Ochs-Lohrey led the team with 14 total tackles (3 solo, 10 assisted) and a tackle for loss, while Dylan Richardson and Marcus Starr recorded a tackle for loss apiece. Ethan Maier and Cory each recovered a fumble to secure the Cougars' shutout. Travis Ross had 3 Special Teams tackles to push his tackle total to 7 (4 solo, 3 assisted). Other Cougars with tackles were Brooke Elsen with 2 tackles, 1 assist, and Brayden Vanpelt and Firebaugh with 1 assist each.

The Cougars are 5-1 for the season. Otis-Bison will play host to Chase on Friday, October 16. This will be Parents' Night for the Cougars.

# Cougars run at Sterling

The Otis-Bison cross-country team went to Sterling on Thursday, October 8, to compete.

OBHS freshman Jack Holman finished the 5K in sixth place with a time of 21:38, his personal record.

Colton Fyler ran the 2 mile in a time of 14:35.7, and Christian Funk ran the 2 mile in a time of 15:23.5, his personal record.

Cameron Ochs-Lohrey ran the 1 mile with a time of 6:53.8, and Lincoln Kelly with a time of 7:23.2. In the women's division, Clara Boeh finished the 1 mile in sixth place with a time of 7:02.9.

Otis-Bison will run Central Prairie League Tournament on Thursday, October 15 at Ness City, with Regionals on Saturday, October 24.

# -USD 403 holds board meeting-

**The Otis-Bison U.S.D. No. 403 Board of Education Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing was called to order on September 14, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. by President Bernard Juno. At the roll call Bernard Juno, Phillip Funk, Lance Hoopingarner, Dustin Smith and Amanda Wiltse were present. Robert Mitchell was absent. Also attending were Superintendent Karen Maier and Clerk Ann Kenyon.**

**No patrons were present. The board reviewed the Revenue Neutral Rate Publication. Motion was then made to approve Resolution #2027-12 – Revenue Neutral Rate Intent Resolution by Phillip Funk and seconded by Amanda Wiltse. Roll Call Vote was taken: Bernard Juno - Yes, Phillip Funk - Yes, Lance Hoopingarner - Yes, Dustin Smith - Yes and Amanda Wiltse – Yes. Robert Mitchell was not present. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Motion was made by Phillip Funk and seconded by Lance Hoopingarner to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing adjourned at 7:08 p.m.**

**The Otis-Bison U.S.D. No. 403 Board of Education Budget Hearing was called to order on September 14, 2026, at 7:15 p.m. by President Bernard Juno. At the roll call Bernard Juno, Phillip Funk, Lance Hoopingarner, Dustin Smith and Amanda Wiltse were present. Robert Mitchell was absent. Also attending were Superintendent Karen Maier and Clerk Ann Kenyon.**

**Mrs. Maier reviewed the Budget Publication with the board.**

**Motion was made by Phillip Funk and seconded by Amada Wiltse to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. Budget Hearing adjourned at 7:25 p.m.**

**The Otis-Bison U.S.D. No. 403 Board of Education Regular Meeting was called to order on September 14, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. by President Bernard Juno. At the roll call Bernard Juno, Phillip Funk, Lance Hoopingarner, Dustin Smith and Amanda Wiltse were present. Robert Mitchell was absent. Also attending were Superintendent Karen Maier, Assistant Principal Marc Cowles and Clerk Ann Kenyon.**

**Motion was made by Phillip Funk and seconded by Lance Hoopingarner to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Superintendent Report: Working on meeting our Title I requirements, our At-Risk Accountability Plan and establishing cohorts for our At-Risk Funding. Framework in underway and materials have been ordered for our scoreboard sponsors' signage. Gave an update on the AptaFund software. Auditors will be on site September 23 and possibly 24 to do our financial audit. Hoping to partner with La Crosse to bring in a speaker for teens regarding social media use.**

**Building Report: Assistant Principal Cowles reported the new cell phone policy is going well with minimal violations. Count day is September 21. STUCO will attend the KSHSAA Regional Conference in Hays on September 29. Provided fall High School athletic participation counts.**

**Principal's Report: Assistant Principal Starr shared that 4th grade students attended Ag Day on September 9. Benchmark Testing for Math and Reading started this week. Cougar Buddies will meet on September 14 to decorate posters for Homecoming. Every high school student signed up to take part in Cougar Buddies this year! Discussed High Five Friday's and the Board expressed interest in taking part one Friday.**

**Board Member Report: Survey committee met and should be ready to send something out to staff soon.**

**Motion made by Phillip Funk and seconded by Amanda Wiltse to approve the consent agenda items consisting of August 10, 2026 regular meeting minutes, accounts payable, activity and petty cash funds. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Mrs. Maier reviewed the building needs and assessments as well as state assessments with the Board**

**Motion was made by Phillip Funk and seconded by Dustin Smith to approve LOB Resolution #2027-13 authorizing the Local Option Percentage to be 33% for the 2026-27 school year. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Motion was made by Lance Hoopingarner and seconded by Phillip Funk to approve the 2026-27 budget as published. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Motion was made by Phillip Funk and seconded by Amanda Wiltse to appoint Dustin Smith as our representative to the KASB Delegate Assembly for the 2026-27 Convention. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Motion was made by Phillip Funk and seconded by Dustin Smith to appoint Lance Hoopingarner as our alternate representative to the KASB Delegate Assembly for the 2026-27 Convention. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Motion was made by Phillip Funk and seconded by Dustin Smith to move the October board meeting to Wednesday, October 7, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Phillip Funk moved to adjourn. Dustin Smith seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried 5-0.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted:**

**Bernard Juno, Board President** **Ann Kenyon, Clerk**

## Otis-Bison Unified School District No. 403
## -- WEEKLY ACTIVITY CALENDAR --

**OCTOBER 18-24, 2026**

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | HS Scholars Bowl Begins | OBHS Regional Volleyball TBD | | | HS FB at Pawnee Heights | HS CC Regionals at Tribune<br>HS Sub-State Volleyball TBD |

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# OTIS-BISON HIGH SCHOOL
# OTIS-BISON JUNIOR HIGH
# 2026
# FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE

*(ALL DATES/TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)*

### HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE
Game Time 7 p.m.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Fri. Aug. 28** | **Jamboree (6 p.m.)** | **Otis** |
| Fri. Sept. 4 | Centre | Lost Springs |
| **Fr. Sept. 11** | **Palco** | **Otis** |
| **Fri. Sept. 18** | **Logan HOMECOMING** | **Otis** |
| Fri. Sept. 25 | Tescott | Tescott |
| Fri. Oct. 2 | Western Plains | Ransom |
| **Sat. Oct. 9** | **Southern Coffey County** | **Otis** |
| **Fri. Oct. 16** | **Chase PARENTS NIGHT** | **Otis** |
| Fri. Oct. 23 | Pawnee Heights | Rozel |
| Thurs. Oct. 29 | Bracket Game | |
| Fri. Nov. 6 | Regional | |
| Fri. Nov. 13 | Sectional | |
| Fri. Nov. 20 | Sub-State | |
| Sat. Nov. 28 | State | |

### HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tues. Aug. 25 | Volleyball Jamboree | @ Spearville | 5:00 |
| Sat. Aug. 29 | Norton Tournament | @ Norton | 9:00 |
| Tues. Sept. 1 | Stafford/Cunningham | @ Stafford | 4:00 |
| Thurs. Sept. 3 | Macksville/LaCrosse | @ Macksville | 4:00 |
| **Sat. Sept. 12** | **OB / LaCrosse Tournament** | **@ OB/LHS** | **9:00** |
| Tues. Sept. 15 | Ness / Quinter | @ Ness City | 4:00 |
| **Mon. Sept. 21** | **Dighton** | **@ Otis** | **4:00** |
| **Tues Sept. 22** | **Macksville/LaCrosse PARENTS NIGHT** | **@ Otis** | **4:00** |
| Sat. Sept. 26 | Hoisington Tournament | @ Hoisington | 9:00 |
| Tues. Sept. 29 | Cent. Plains/Chase | @ Chase | 4:00 |
| Tues. Oct. 6 | Ness City/Kinsley/St. John | @ St. John | 4:00 |
| Sat. Oct. 10 | CPL Tournament | @ Hoisington | 9:00 |
| Tues. Oct. 13 | Victoria/Ellinwood | @ Ellinwood | 4:00 |
| Oct. 20 | Regionals | | |
| Sat. Oct. 24 | Sub-State | | |
| Oct. 29 / 30 | State | | |

### HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sat. Sept. 5 | TMP - Marian | Hays | 9:00 a.m. |
| Sat. Sept. 12 | Pratt-Skyline | Pratt | 9:30 a.m. |
| Thurs. Sept. 17 | St. John Invitational | Stafford | 9:00 a.m. |
| Thurs. Sept. 24 | Larned | Larned | 4:00 p.m. |
| Thurs. Oct. 1 | Ness City | Ness City | 4:00 p.m. |
| Thurs. Oct. 8 | Sterling | Sterling | 3:30 p.m. |
| Thurs. Oct. 15 | CPL | Ness City | 4:00 p.m. |
| Sat. Oct. 24 | Regionals | Sat. Oct. 31 | State |

### JUNIOR HIGH FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Thurs. Sept. 3 | Central Plains | La Crosse | 6:30 p.m. |
| Thurs. Sept. 10 | St. John | St. John | 6:30 p.m. |
| Thurs. Sept. 19 | Ellinwood | La Crosse | 6:30 p.m. |
| Thurs. Sept. 24 | Macksville | Macksville | 6:30 p.m. |
| Thurs. Oct. 1 | Victoria | Victoria | 6:30 p.m. |
| Thurs. Oct. 8 | Ness City | Ness City | 6:30 p.m. |
| Thurs. Oct. 15 | Kinsley | La Crosse | 6:30 p.m. |

### JUNIOR HIGH VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mon. Sept. 8 | Victoria/St. John | Victoria | 4:00 p.m. |
| Sat. Sept. 12 | Western Plains Tournament | Bazine | 9:00 a.m. |
| **Mon. Sept. 14** | **Kinsley/Ness City** | **Otis** | **4:00 p.m.** |
| Mon. Sept. 21 | Natoma | Natoma | 4:00 p.m. |
| Mon. Sept. 28 | Hoisington/Ellinwood | Hoisington | 4:30 p.m. |
| Sat. Oct. 3 | JV Tournament | Kinsley | 9:00 a.m. |
| **Mon. Oct. 5** | **Macksville/La Crosse PARENTS NIGHT** | **Otis** | **4:00 p.m.** |
| Mon. Oct. 12 | Central Plains/Chase | Bushton | 4:00 p.m. |
| Sat. Oct. 18 | CPL Tournament | Victoria | 9:00 a.m. |

The Following Boosters Support The Students Of U.S.D. 403
In All Their Academic and Athletic Endeavors

| | | |
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| Rush County News LA CROSSE | | Triple E Enterprises LA CROSSE |