Page A-03 October 21, 2026.qxp_Layout 1 10/20/26 2:14 PM Page 1

From Our ARCHIVES

By Linda Kenyon

10 Years Ago

October 26, 2016

The Otis-Bison High School Lady Cougars won the 1A Division II Sub-State Tournament in Wilson on Saturday, and will go on to the State Tournament at Fort Hays State University on October 28. Team members include Alix Schneider, Caitlin Schilowsky, Taylor Regan, Cayla Steinert, Allie Pakkebier, Laken Vondracek, Hannah Tanger, Kailyn Loucks, Kaleigh Maier, Mollie Schneider, Sidney Schneider, Maddie Wiltse, Cora Anderson, Lacey Mitchell, Cristen Trapp, Kaylin Knaple and Ashtyn Butler.

The La Crosse High School Lady Leopards volleyball team took first place at Sub-State for the fourth year in a row on Saturday at Stockton. The team will now head to Fort Hays State University to compete in the KSHSAA Class 1A DI State Championship on Friday. Team members include Emma Garcia, Kacee Klozenbucher, Addie Kershner, Taylor Morgan, Erica Gilbert, Olivia Baus, Abbey Oborny, Sierra Burk, Lexi Anderson, MaKenzie Braun and Emma Rues.

25 Years Ago

October 25, 2001

The Rush County Annual 4-H Achievement Night and Awards was recently held to recognize all of those who participated in the 4-H programs in Rush County in some form or another. Key Award winners were Jessica Bittel and Matt Miller. The Kansas Global Conference Trips were awarded Amanda Schlegel and Julie Woods, the Denver Educational Trip was given to Rebekah Cale, Scott Keener and Hayley Wells. Scholarship winners were Jessica Bittel, Dorothy Leidig, Susan Oborny, Derrick Schlegel and Sheena Wells. Wells also received the Gold Watch Award. Dorothy Leidig was presented with the award of Citizen Washington Focus Trip to Washington DC.

Otis-Bison High School students were inducted into the Aerie Chapter of the National Honor Society. Inductees are Hope Stieben, Patrick Riese, Martin Brack, Kyle Bahr and Holly Campbell. Other members are Lisa Axman, Matt Miller, Kyle Hesed, Margaret Kaus, Emily Humphrey, Chelsea Frieb, Evan Besperat, Cale Yost, Bobbi Urban, Rachel Hetzke and Theresa Kraisinger.

50 Years Ago

October 21, 1976

Ervin "Tex" Kober and Stickney Distribution Inc. employees Leon Steiner and Bud Johnson load a Coors truck with aluminum beverage cans and bottles he has collected. For over 16 years Tex has been doing his part for ecology, by touring the area on his famous bike which is equipped to haul the many containers. The Coors truck stops once every 3 weeks at the Kober residence to pick up the cans and bottles. They smash the cans and put the bottles in cases. Johnson stated that normally they pay everyone in cash but due to the large volume picked up from Tex he usually gets a check. The community should be proud of this man for the clean-up work he performs as well as collecting these items for recycling.

State 4-H project winners for 1976 have been announced. Among the winners was a Rush County 4-Her, Christie Conard, Timken. Christie, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Conard, Timken, received recognition for having the best dog care and training project in the state. Her award for the achievement is a radio provided by Ralston Purina. Christie has participated in the dog project for the past 8 years. In those 8 years she has received trophies in showmanship and obedience classes of competition and 3 purple ribbons in State Fair Competition.

75 Years Ago

October 25, 1951

H.E. "Hap" Weigand, whose story is featured in this month's "Saga" magazine, quit flying in 1934. He had a nightmare experience of a lifetime in 1930 while flying between Oakley and Scott City. It occurred in a humdrum matter. He had just flown two passengers in a town between Oakley and Scott, and was continuing on his way to his destination. Then it happened. Weigand snapped a routine glance at his oil pressure, gas gauge and all the rest of the instruments when he noticed something on the floor of the plane. It was a rattle snake, coiled at his feet. Hap reacted violently and lost complete control of the plane when he jerked his feet off the rudders and threw his hands up in the air. As he tried to crush the thing with his heel, the snake struck again and again, but fortunately Weigand was wearing boots and the fangs didn't penetrate. Then the animal slithered up his side and tried to climb out of the plane. "I realized then I had nothing to lose, so I tried to grab the thing and throw it out." The snake struck and this time sank his fangs in Weigand's hand. On the second try he was able to throw it out of the plane which by this time had lost altitude and was dangerously out of control. Weigand landed at a farm home between Scott City and Oakley where he received emergency first aid and then flew on to Oakley where he took medical treatment.

Hunters cost W.J. Laughlin a new window glass Friday afternoon. A nearly spent bullet hit the center of a 24x28 inch glass in the Laughlin home one-half mile north and four miles west of La Crosse. The flattened .22 caliber bullet dropped back on the window sill after putting a hole about three inches in diameter in the window. No one was home at the time of the mishap.

100 Years Ago

The La Crosse Republican
October 28, 1926

Mrs. Fred Foos, 21, and Marie Clark, 5, of La Crosse, and Clarence Gilbert, 18, of McCracken, were killed and eight others injured as the result of an automobile collision at the corner near the W.J. Laughlin home, five miles west of La Crosse late last Friday afternoon. The wreck occurred when the Hudson coach owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Brown of McCracken, crashed into the Ford touring car at the highway intersection. In the Hudson were five young men: Elvin Showalter, Howard Brown, Leslie Brown, Samuel Lovitt and Clarence Gilbert, all of the McCracken H.S. football team. In the Ford were Mrs. Foos, Mrs. M.L. Clark, Mrs. Archie Wilson Jr., Marguarite and Marie Clark, and the baby son of Mr. and Mrs. Foos. The ladies and children were returning home from La Crosse, where they had gotten the girls who attend school here. As they were crossing the Bee Line Highway the Hudson coach, coming from the east, struck the Ford touring car squarely in the middle. The Hudson was traveling at a high rate of speed. The Ford was knocked into the ditch, and the Hudson turned over, just how many times no one knows. The boys in the car said they did not see the car until it was too late. It was a terrible crash. People of both cars were thrown in all directions. Gilbert was killed outright and Mrs. Foos and little Marie Clark were so seriously injured they died within a few hours, and all of the others were cut, bruised and injured. It was the most serious auto crash this county has ever experienced and the results have shocked and cast a gloom over the entire county. It brings to every automobile driver in the most forceful manner, the fact that care, presence of mind and common sense must be used in the handling of cars.

One of the prettiest weddings of the season was solemnized at the Lutheran church, Wednesday, October 20th at 2 o'clock, when Miss Augusta Mausolf was united in marriage to Mr. Fred Tammen. The double-ring ceremony was performed by Rev. L. Kostbahn. Miss Hilda Tammen, sister of the groom, and Mr. Elmer Mausolf, brother of the bride, led the procession. Next came Miss Edna Rothgarn, of Great Bend, cousin of the bride, and Mr. Louis Tammen, brother of the groom. After Fred Tammen and his bride return from their wedding trip to Nebraska, they will be at home on the groom's farm, south-west of Albert.

125 Years Ago

The La Crosse Republican
October 25, 1901

With the exception of a few small patches, the seeding is finished for this season. The growing wheat looks nice; the acreage is larger than ever before. The conditions are nearly the same as they were in '91. The largest crop in our history followed, so we hope it will be in 1902.

The Semple Drug Company's gasoline burner, which heats the hot drink machine sprung a leak Saturday, letting the gasoline flow on the marble on which it rested, and then it caught fire. A great blaze was the result, which was at once extinguished by dashing ammonia upon the flames.

-Rush County Commission Minutes-

COMMISSIONERS MINUTES Tuesday, October 13, 2026, 9:00 a.m. Vice-Chairman Richard T. Luft and member Leslie Rogers were present. Commissioner Mitchell Blackburn was unable to attend. Commissioner Rogers moved to approve the October 5, 2026, minutes as presented. Commissioner Luft seconded the motion. Vice chair called for discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

The payroll register was reviewed and signed by the board.

A letter of resignation was received from Louise Swartz from the Alexander city council.

One abatement to the Treasurer's Tax Roll was reviewed by the board.

Anita Shephard, Zoning Administrator, met with the board and presented a building permit from Williams Communications Inc. for a storage building. Commissioner Luft moved to approve the building permit for Williams Communications Inc. as presented. Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion. Vice chair called for discussion. There was no discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

The road and bridge weekly report was presented for review. They graded in all townships; magnets were utilized in Banner and Center; hauled sand in Fairview, Hampton, Lone Star, Pioneer and Pleasantdale; hauled dirt in Big Timber, shale in Union, crushed concrete in Brookdale and millings/dirt in Alexander township. Chip sealing was done in Lone Star; ditch work was done in Pioneer and a washout repaired in Garfield township. Mowing was done in Banner, Big Timber, Center, Fairview, Garfield, Hampton and Illinois and signs repaired or replaced in Alexander township. The mechanics did routine maintenance on county equipment. Ditch work continues on Ave L by Otis.

A letter of support for Sunflower Diversified Services was reviewed by the board. Commissioner Rogers moved to sign the letter of support. Commissioner Luft seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence was reviewed.

Dotti Schuckman, EP director, met with the board and presented her letter of resignation as the Emergency Preparedness director effective January 1, 2027. Ms. Schuckman stated she will have a Local Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting towards the end of October. The board thanked Ms. Schuckman for her service to the county.

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

There being no other business before the board, Commissioner Luft moved to adjourn at 11:15 a.m. and to meet again in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, October 19, 2026. Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved this 19th day of October 2026.

ATTEST: Tacy A. Keener, County Clerk **Richard T. Luft, Vice-Chairman**

-Otis City Council Minutes-

The City of Otis Budget Hearing was held Seeptember 9, 2026. Mayor Landers called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

There was a moment of silence, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Jenny Landers and council members Luke Pechanec, Mike Sharkey, and Seth Hoopingarner were present.

Employees present were Lori Firebaugh and Shelly DeWald

The Budget for 2027 was presented and discussed. Luke made a motion to approve the proposed budget for 2027 as presented, and Mike seconded. 3-0. Motion carried. The budget was passed around for signatures.

Luke moved to adjourn the Budget Hearing, and Seth seconded. 3-0. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

The Otis City Council meeting was held September 9, 2026, following the Budget Hearing. Council members Mike Sharkey, Luke Pechanec, Seth Hoopingarner, Jody Beckham, and Mayor Landers were present. Absent was Taylor Sharkey. Employees present were Shelly DeWald and Lori Firebaugh.

Mayor Landers called the meeting to order at 6:46 p.m.

Mike made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2026, meeting for publication. Luke seconded. 2-0-1. Motion carried with Seth abstaining.

Mike made a motion to approve the bills. Luke seconded. 3-0. Motion carried.

The water reports were gone over.

Shelly went over the treasurer's report.

City Clerk's Report: Our bond payment will come out on the 25th of this month.

Correspondence: Propane contract, Code enforcement email.

Old Business: RWD#3 contract update – After discussion, Luke made a motion to keep the 2020 date on the contract, propose a rate increase due to the rising costs of chemicals and supplies, and invite them to the next meeting. Mike seconded the motion. 3-0. Motion carried. Library Grant update – The council reviewed and discussed the order of several supplies for the library. Storm Shelters update – In the works. Minimum Housing Code & Water Meter Resolution – Mike made the motion to table the discussion until the next meeting. Luke seconded. 3-0. Motion carried. Meeting Procedures Resolution – Mike made the motion to table the discussion until the next meeting. Seth seconded. 3-0. Motion carried.

New Business: Thier Electric quote – The council discussed the quote for the bus radios located on the City's south tower that are used by the schools. After discussion, the council decided to give the quote to the school board.

Jody came in at 7:44 pm.

Jody made a motion to remove the Minimum Housing Code & Water meter Resolution from the table and bring it back for discussion. Seth seconded the motion. 4-0. Motion carried.

The council discussed the Minimum Housing Code Resolution, noting that there are several houses being occupied without running water or sewer service. After reviewing the resolution, Luke made a motion to send the resolution to the City's attorney for review and guidance. Seth seconded the motion. 4-0. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be held on October 14, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Jody moved to adjourn. Mike seconded. 4-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:27 p.m.

Law enforcement activity

Rush County Sheriff Mark Knowles reported law enforcement activity for October 11 through October 17.

There were 5 civil process papers served and 7 complaints of cattle out.

There was 1 arrest during the week.

On October 11, motorist assist in the 200 block of West 8th Street in La Crosse, investigation of a 911 accidental dial in La Crosse, request to check on a person in the 2800 block of K-4, investigation of driving complaints in the 300 block of East 3rd Street in La Crosse and the 200 block of West 1st Street in La Crosse, request to check a vehicle in the 2600 block of K-4.

On October 12, investigation of a burglary not in progress in the 100 block of West 3rd Street in Bison, citizen assists for VIN inspections in the 2800 block of Avenue V and La Crosse, investigation of a driving complaint on U.S. 183 in Liebenthal, conducted a welfare check in the 1200 block of CR 230 in Rush Center, investigation of harassment in the 500 block of Main Street in La Crosse.

On October 13, prisoner transport from Finney County Jail for court purposes, removed a traffic hazard from the roadway in the 1400 block of U.S. 183, investigation of driving complaints in the 2600 block of U.S. 183 and on K-4 in La Crosse, outside agency assist with EMS for a fall victim in the 100 block of North Main Street in Rush Center, citizen assist for a VIN inspection in La Crosse, conducted a check area in the 300 block of Main Street in La Crosse, conducted traffic control for a citizen assist on CR 310.

On October 14, outside agency assist with EMS for a medical emergency in the 600 block of Locust Street in La Crosse, investigation of shots fired in the 3900 block of Avenue W leading to an arrest for driving under the influence and other charges, investigation of a driving complaint on U.S.183, requests to check vehicles on CR 330 and the 3100 block of K-96, outside agency assist with Ness County for a 911 transfer, citizen assist for information from a previous call, citizen assist with a vehicle lockout in the 100 block of North Main Street in Rush Center, investigation of an animal at large in the 1500 block of Avenue G, removed a traffic hazard from the roadway in the 3700 block of K-4, assisted a motorist on Main Street in La Crosse, investigation of harassment in the 3300 block of CR 400.

On October 15, citizen assist with a vehicle lockout in the 900 block of Main Street in La Crosse, outside agency assist with Court Services in the 400 block of West 5th Street in La Crosse, investigation of thefts in the 100 block of West 3rd Street in Bison and the 1700 block of Post Rock Drive in La Crosse, outside agency assist with EMS for a medical emergency in the 100 block of Main Street in Liebenthal, citizen assist for two VIN inspections in La Crosse, conducted a welfare check in the 2100 block of CR 395, assisted motorists on Main Street in La Crosse and CR 330, outside agency assist with the City of La Crosse for a water main break in the 300 block of East 10th Street in La Crosse.

On October 16, conducted a funeral escort on K-4 by Bison, investigation of a 911 accidental dial in the 200 block of East Walnut Drive in Bison, assisted a motorist in the intersection of 5th Street and Columbia Street in La Crosse, 2 citizen assists for VIN inspections in La Crosse, investigation of animal abuse in the 700 block of Main Street in La Crosse, investigation of a scam brought into the Sheriff's Office, citizen assist with a lockout in the 1000 block of Washington Street in La Crosse.

On October 17, investigation of a driving complaint on U.S.183, assisted a motorist in the 2800 block of K-183, outside agency assist with EMS for a medical emergency in the 100 block of West 11th Street in La Crosse, outside agency assist with EMS and La Crosse Fire for a sick person in the 200 block of East 11th Street in La Crosse.

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.