The Rush County NEWS

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La Crosse
"Barbed Wire Capital Of The World"

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The Otis Lions Club Community Turkey Dinner was held Sunday, November 15, sponsored by the Otis Lions Club and Trinity Lutheran Church and held in the church basement. Doris Straub, Otis Lions Club, thanked everyone who helped prepare the main dishes and everyone else who brought sides. Many attended and enjoyed the delicious feast, including two long-time community residents of Otis, Lois Wagner and LaWanna Krestine, pictured above. (courtesy photo)

Thanksgiving closings announced

The Rush County Courthouse offices, including Noxious Weed and Road and Bridge, will be closed on Thursday, November 26, and Friday, November 27, due to the Thanksgiving holiday. The Rush County News will also be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 26-27.

2026 Giving Tuesday returns

Golden Belt Community Foundation is partnering with more than 130 local organizations and funds for the 13th year – collectively raising significant donations that have provided much needed support. Visit the Giving Tuesday website, www.goldenbeltcf.org and learn about the local organizations participating. There are three ways to give this year: on-line at the website; in-person at the Golden Belt Community Foundation office from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays at 1307 Williams St., Great Bend, Kansas; or by mail GBCF, P.O. Box 1911, Great Bend, KS 67530. There are no bank drop-off locations this year.

Old-Fashioned Christmas arrives Friday

The Rush County Historical Society and Kansas Barbed Wire Museum will once again be hosting the 15th annual Old-Fashioned Christmas on Friday, November 27, from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the museum complex, West 1st Street, La Crosse.

Visitors can browse the Historical Museum in the 19th Century Timken Depot, the Post Rock Museum, the Nekoma Bank Museum, the Pleasant Point School Museum and Kansas Barbed Wire Museum. Visitors can enjoy warm apple cider, homemade cookies, popcorn, and roasted marshmallows over an open fire.

There will also be children's events in the one-room school.

Santa Claus will arrive at 5:30 on the firetruck and hand out candy sacks to the kids in front of the bank museum. Children are asked to bring their letters to Santa so he can take them back to the North Pole personally. He will then send them to the Rush County News for publication in December. Afterwards, the letters will be given to the Historical Society where they will be placed in the archives and be available to be read for years to come.

For kids of all ages, La Crosse Fire District #4 will be serving hot dogs and hot chocolate.

All events are free and open to the public. For more information, visit the Rush County Historical Society on Facebook, on the web at rushcounty.org/RCHS or call 785-222-2808.



The Rush County Historical Museum, the former Timken Depot, is decorated and waiting to welcome people to the Old-Fashioned Christmas celebration from 5-8 p.m. on Friday, November 27. (courtesy photo)

Special meeting to be held

A special meeting will be held at the La Crosse City Commission meeting room on Wednesday, December 2, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. The subject of the meeting is to discuss the USD 395 public hearing for closing the school building located at 511 Elm, La Crosse. The USD 395 public hearing will be held at 7 p.m. at 400 Washington, La Crosse.

Santa Paws returns

Landmark National Bank in La Crosse is hosting its 9th Annual Operation Santa Paws donation drive from December 1 through December 20. Community members are invited to help support shelter animals by donating pet food, cat litter, toys, leashes, collars, treats, blankets, and other pet-related items. Donations may be dropped off at Landmark National Bank or at the La Crosse Grade School Pre-K room. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps provide comfort, care, and essential supplies to animals in need as they wait to find their forever homes.

Santa Claus is coming to Rush County

Santa will be making various visits in Rush County before Christmas.

OTIS

A Christmas gathering will be held in downtown Otis on Saturday, December 5.

A craft fair will be held at The Tumbleweed from 9 a.m. to noon. Contact Shelly DeWald, 620-786-4881 for a booth. A soup lunch will be served for a free-will donation from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Tumbleweed. Kids' games and Bingo will be played at The Tumbleweed at 1 p.m. Santa will arrive at 2 p.m. The event is sponsored by Otis Lions Club, Otis Beautification Committee, and The Tumbleweed. The Otis Go-Getters 4-H Club will host a petting zoo and non-perishable food drive from 12:30-2 p.m. at the gathering.

RUSH CENTER

Santa Claus will make a stop in Rush Center at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 12. He will be at the Walnut Valley Senior Center, 220 Washington. Children of all ages are invited to attend.

TIMKEN

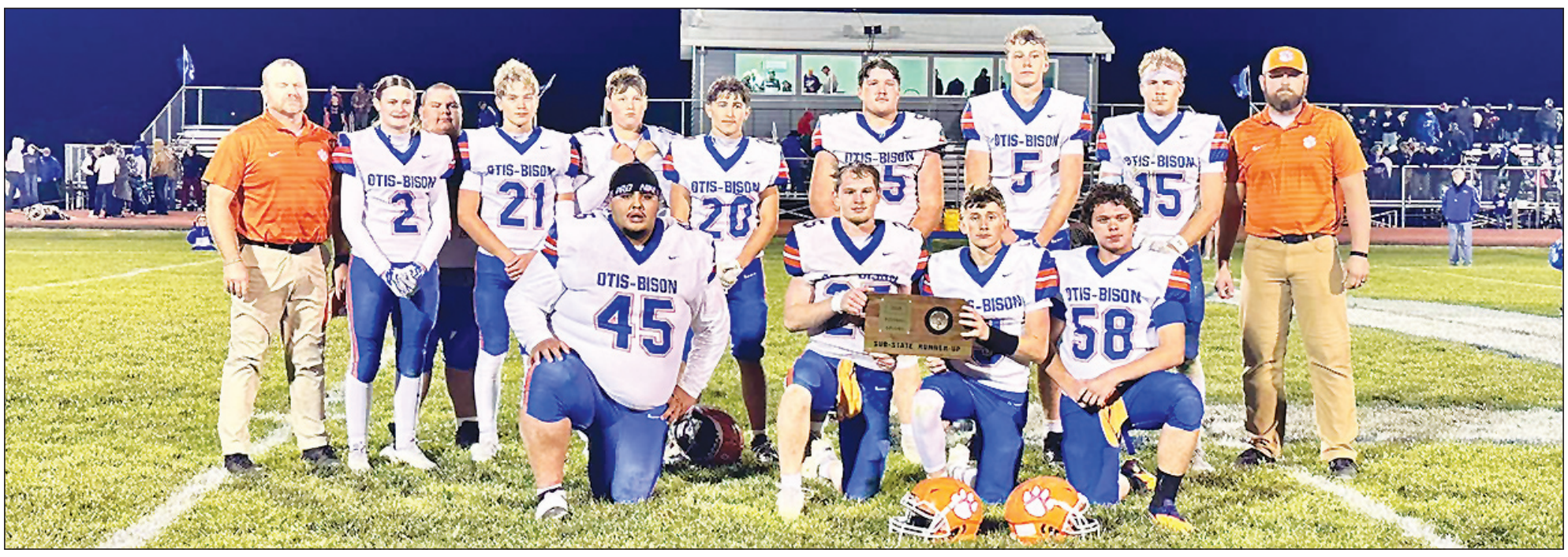
Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus will be visiting Timken to give treats to children at the Timken Fire Station on December 12 at 11:00 a.m.

McCRACKEN

Santa is coming to McCracken at 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 12, in front of the Fire Department building on Main Street in McCracken. The event is sponsored by the McCracken Fire Department.

BISON

Bison's Christmas party will be on Saturday, December 12, at the Bison Community Building. A meal will be served at 4 p.m., with the Rec Commission providing the main dish. The community is asked to bring salads and desserts. Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive at 5 p.m. to pass out presents, candy gift bags and for photos. A Christmas story will be read, Christmas carols sung and the children will light the Christmas tree. Free will donations will be taken for the Bison Rec Commission and non-perishable items to help set up a local food bank.



The Otis-Bison High School football team completes their season as Sub-State Runner Up with a 20-57 loss to Tescott on Friday, November 20. The Cougars ended their season with a 10-2 record. (courtesy photo)



The ProArt Christmas Cantata will be held Sunday, December 6. It will be performed at 2 p.m. at the McCracken Methodist Church, 307 1st Street, McCracken, and at 4:30 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, 304 Columbia, La Crosse. Refreshments will be served following the performances. Sally Jacobs is the director and Linda Seymour is the accompanist with the assistance of page turner Carol Bales Speer. Choir members (not listed in order) are Valerie Anderson, Ann Baus, Mark Baus, Charlotte Biays, Norma Brauer, Micayla Brewington, John Cornwell, Joyce Cornwell, Ruth Crawshaw, Lois Fox-Feikel, Maureen Georg, Carl Herrman, Rick Holopirek, Carole Jecha, Richard Karst, Cindy Ladd, Morgan Lewis, Ryan Lewis, Laura Luft, Richard Luft, Duane Meitl, Nancy Meitl, Jody Morgan, Marcia Ochs, LeRoy Penka, Cherokee Proffitt, Shelley Oelkers, Susan Rebel, Don Reinhardt, Carolyn Renz, Lana Scheuerman, John Speer, Karla Vandivier and Hannah Ulrich. (photo by Linda Kenyon)