

NEWS

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Jason Jump at (620) 532-3151 or email jjump@atticaindependent.com

Ten Rules for Planting Trees This Spring

PRESS RELEASE

MANHATTAN - If you're planning to plant a tree in your yard this spring, there are some steps you can take to make sure your new landscape has its best chance of success.

Kansas State University horticulture expert Matt McKernan shares the following 10 rules for planting trees:

Select The Right Tree For The Site.

To avoid serious problems, choose trees that are adapted to your location. Consider whether the tree produces nuisance fruit or if there are disease-resistant varieties available. For example, there are a number of crabapple varieties that are resistant to apple scab and rust diseases.

Also consider the mature size of a tree to be sure you have enough room. Your local extension office and

garden center can make tree recommendations for your region.

Keep the tree well watered and in a shady location until planting.

When moving the tree, lift it by the root ball or pot and not by the trunk.

Before planting, remove all wires, labels, cords or anything else tied to the plant.

If left on, they may eventually girdle the branch to which they are attached.

Dig A Proper Hole.

Make the hole deep enough so the root flare (point where the trunk and roots meet) is visible when planted. Plant the tree on solid ground, not fill dirt. In other words, don't dig the hole too deep and then add soil back to the hole before placing the tree.

"This is the most important of all the rules," McKernan said. "You only get one

opportunity to plant a tree at the correct depth."

The width of the planting hole is very important. It should be three times the width of the root ball. Loosening the soil outside the hole so it is five times the diameter of the root ball will allow the tree to spread its roots faster.

Remove all containers from the root ball.

Cut away plastic and peat pots; roll burlap and wire baskets back into the hole, cutting as much of the excess away as possible. If you can remove the wire basket without disturbing the root ball, do it. If roots have been circling around in the container, cut them and fluff them out so they do not continue growing in a circle inside the hole, becoming girdling roots later.

Backfill the hole with the same soil that was removed.

Amendments such as peat moss likely do more

harm than good. Make sure the soil that goes back is loosened - no clods or clumps. Add water as you fill to ensure good root to soil contact and prevent air pockets. There is no need to fertilize at planting.

Minimize Pruning After Planting.

Foliage is necessary for manufacturing energy to support a healthy tree. Heavy pruning reduces the number of leaves and consequently the amount of energy generated. Corrective pruning can be done at planting to remove dead, damaged or diseased branches or branches that are rubbing against each other.

Water The Tree Thoroughly.

Water once a week for the first season if there is

See **TREES** / Page 4

NEWS BRIEFS

COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE

The Public Transportation Service assists all Harper County residents of any age to stay independent with accessible transportation to work, medical appointments, shopping, errands, Patterson Health Center and locations less than 70 miles. Hours of operation: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Equal access is provided to the public. Out of county rides need to be scheduled 24 hours in advance and the bus returns for Harper County by 3 p.m. at the latest. Call (620) 842-5104 for ride reservations and rates. First come, first served. Advance reservations are recommended.

ATTICA PRESCHOOL SCREENING TO BE HELD APRIL 17

There will be a preschool screening for the upcoming school year on Friday, April 17 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Anyone with a child who will be turning 3 before Sept. 1 is welcome and encouraged to attend. This is to determine the class for the upcoming school year. Please call Heather at the school to set up a time at (620) 254-7915 or email at heather.albers@scksec.com. If your child was not enrolled in preschool in the 2025-26 school year at Attica then you are required to attend.

HARPER COUNTY JAIL

March 23: Donna Ruth Danner, 63, theft of property or services, criminal trespassing and criminal damage to property, released March 23, bond N/A.

March 24: Diego Alejandro Coronado, 28, battery, released March 24, \$1,500 bond.

March 26: Siynatee Ranay McGraw, 27, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, transporting open container, DUI and failure to stop at accident, released March 27, \$5,000 bond.

March 27: Keith Alan Jones, 62, served 24 hours.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Attica Independent on Thursday, April 2, 2026) 1t

On Friday, April 3rd, 2026, updates to the Change of Value notice will be mailed. Typical increase due to market conditions is 3%. The 3% does not apply to remodels, new construction, or the sale of property. No monthly trend was applied. If you have any questions please contact the Appraiser's office at phone: 620-842-3718.

Service: All are welcome
Community Good Friday
Service
April 3rd @ 6:00 pm
Attica Christian Church

COMMITTEE

• From Page 1

Debra Foster told planning and zoning committee member Debra Blanchett she didn't feel as though Blanchett was working towards the best interest of county residents.

"Fosters is very urban," the chairwoman said. "Some of the comments Debra (Foster) was making toward Deborah Blanchett were inappropriate."

McCurley said Foster told Blanchett she thought she was looking out for her own best interests.

"That is not the point of a consultant," the chairwoman said. "A consultant is to help guide the process."

McCurley told everyone at Monday's meeting that if the "majority of the committee members" are wanting to restrict these types of energy

projects from coming to Harper County, Fosters and Associates needs to represent that viewpoint not their own.

Pennycuff said he realizes the process has been going on for more than a year now, but he also said those that are participating in these discussions don't know about that.

"What happened prior to us starting this process three months ago or a little bit before from that survey from the fair, prior to that they didn't realize it had been going on for that long," he said.

District 3 Commissioner Darrin Struble said there are landowners that are waiting to make decisions based on what comes out of this process. He said his biggest concern was that he wanted Harper County to have some protections when it comes to

the June 1 deadline.

McCurley said Foster and Associates, of Wichita, need to be asked at the next meeting if they are going to draft resolutions for other areas of concerns and not just address solar farms.

"I'm starting to get a little frustrated myself," Struble said.

District 1 Commissioners Brian Waldschmidt said there needs to be meetings on a more frequent basis until these concerns are ironed out.

Pennycuff also reminded commissioners that Foster and Associates was only commissioned for a certain number of meetings.

The county's appraiser said the consultant provided a "preliminary resolution" for solar farms at the March 24 meeting, which he said caused some heartburn for some on the steering com-

mittee members. He said he thought some of those frustrations stemmed from a number of the steering committee members wanting to recommend not allowing solar farms into the county after being more supportive of the idea originally.

Pennycuff said the process has been difficult from the consultant's standpoint due to "wishy-washy" views that have been expressed. He said last Tuesday's meeting was to look at some tweaks to the resolution.

He told commissioners there will be a final resolution on April 21 for the planning and zoning committee to sign off on. At that point, a public hearing will be held to allow county residents an opportunity to give feedback on the decision that was made. After the public hearing, the resolution will then go to the commissioners.

ATTORNEY

• From Page 1

in rural areas. I am looking forward to primarily focusing on just a few."

There is no statutory requirement for residency within the county for one to serve as a county attorney. Ritcha noted there are multiple instances of people serving as county attorneys for more than one county. He said that is primarily

because of a lack of attorneys in rural areas.

Ritcha noted that, from the time he has started practicing law, Harper County has been "my second professional home."

"I spend a significant amount of time working in the county and for people from Harper County," Ritcha said. "I've developed great relationships there. I feel enthusiastically duty-bound to provide quality representation and stability in the Harper County Attorney's Office."

ROOF

• From Page 1

Landwehr roofing to complete the repair job using a "synthetic roof tile," which is "lighter, stronger, and more easily obtainable," according to the Feb. 6 commission minutes. The

synthetic roof tiles increased the cost of the project by \$29,000.

Teel said while the courthouse is a state historic site, the project did not need approval from the Kansas Historical Society. The building and grounds director said KHS was made aware of the project, but because it was a roof

replacement the repairs did not need approval.

Mobilization began on March 11, and the project is expected to be completed April 8, although Teel said high wind days and potential rain in the near future could potentially delay the project.

The Attica Independent
Independent and Unbiased Journal of the Truth in Attica and Harper County

(USPS #546-000) CONTACT US
Phone: (620) 532-3151

Jason and Stephanie Jump OWNERS
Jason Jump PUBLISHER/EDITOR
jjump@atticaindependent.com

Published by: M3 Publishing, LLC
140 N. Main Street / Kingman, KS 67068

Advertising: Jason Jump
jjump@atticaindependent.com
Advertising deadlines are Tuesdays by 5 p.m.

Subscription PRICES
Harper County - \$45 tax incl.
All Others - \$50

ONLINE SUBSCRIPTION PRICES
1-Year - \$49.95 / 6 Mos. - \$29.95
1-Year All Access - \$69.95
Subscribe or renew subscriptions online at atticaindependent.com

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Attica Independent, PO Box 413, Attica, KS 67009-0413 email: jjump@atticaindependent.com

Attica's Biannual Clean-Up Days

(paid for by the City of Attica in cooperation with EZDisposal & Trantham Trash for the citizens in an effort to beautify Attica)

The City of Attica will begin hosting their Dumpster Days twice per year now; once in April and once in September. Exact dates will vary. This is for ATTICA RESIDENTS ONLY. The City Crew will drive each alley to collect your unwanted items. The City Crew will not be able to go into your home, garage, or shed; you must have the items ready for them. If you are putting your discarded items by the curb, they will need to be in between the sidewalk and the utility pole.

* APRIL 11, Saturday thru APRIL 19, Sunday * (9 full days)

Time to purge some junk and be proud of where you live. Here is a list that the City Crew CANNOT take: household trash, hazardous material, tires, paint (opened or unopened gallon cans and/or spray cans), batteries, shingles and sheetrock

Are your tires worn out?



Come see our great selection of tires today!

You don't have to be a member to buy!

Anthony Farmers Cooperative

518 W. Main
Anthony, KS
620.842.3703

Locations In:
Anthony • Harper • Attica
Sharon • Duquoin
Shook • Spring