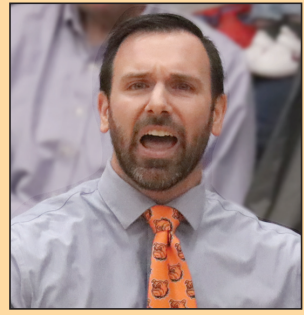


INSIDE THIS ISSUE



COACH OF THE YEAR
Successful campaign delivers honor for Indy High School head girls' basketball coach.
See page B6

DONATION GIVEN
Carson Masonic Lodge in Elk City gives \$1,500 donation to Elk City Rural Fire Department.
See page A6



SALES TAXES
City of Coffeyville proposes renewal of one-half percent sales tax; however, revenue for CRMC will be reduced.
See page A3

POTTY PROBLEMS
Coffeyville City Commission approves first reading of ordinance to prohibit public urination, defecation.
See page A3



READY FOR ACTION
Area high school baseball, softball teams ready to begin 2026 season.
See stories in B Section

WANT TO SUBSCRIBE?
See subscription offer on page A12 of this issue!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Sports.....B1-B9
- Public notices.....A8
- Classified ads.....A10-A11
- Obituaries.....A2
- Opinions.....A4-A5
- Datebook.....A11
- Subscription order.....A12
- Crossword puzzle.....B9

The timeless humor of Will Rogers

“But a politician is just like a pickpocket; it’s almost impossible to get one to reform.”
- March 25, 1923



County board to consider countywide zoning policy

BY ANDY TAYLOR
chronicle@taylornews.org

COFFEYVILLE — Hoping to get ahead of the sprawling growth of data centers, solar farms, wind farms, and battery storage centers across the nation, Montgomery County commissioners on Monday took the first step toward regulating land use through countywide zoning.

Commissioners agreed in principle to have county manager Jonathan Booe issue requests for proposals, or RFPs, from community development firms that specialize in the area of zoning and land use management.

The commissioners are expected to render a formal vote on issuing those RFPs at next Monday’s commission meeting.

Once those RFPs are collected in several weeks, a community development firm will be signed and contracted to assist the commission in developing a set of countywide zoning regulations. It will take multiple months for a development firm to work on a countywide plan, propose and study it with community input, and then implement it as a formal policy, said county administrator Jonathan Booe.

The issue of countywide zoning has been debated off and on by current and past county commissions for multiple years, but the issue has never been gained more attention than today — due to the escalating prospects of major industries locating in Montgomery County. Because Montgomery County currently does not have any countywide zoning regulations for commercial or industrial areas in the rural areas, any private business or industry (such as wind farms, telecommunications towers, data center, livestock feed lot, battery storage center, bitcoin production plant, or solar energy farm) can locate within Montgomery County with only an agreement between the com-

Zoning issues come to forefront due to rise of big industries

• see ZONING, page A12



Independence High School horticulture students (left to right) Kaylie Flenar, Morgan McLennon and Madilynn Horning kept their hands firmly entrenched in potting soil while preparing plants for the horticulture program’s upcoming Spring Plant Sale on April 11-12. ANDY TAYLOR / MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHRONICLE

Blossoms and blooms

All fingers are in the dirt as IHS students prepare for Spring Plant Sale in April

BY ANDY TAYLOR
chronicle@taylornews.org

INDEPENDENCE — Spring officially began last week, but the season has been fully awake and active for multiple months inside the Independence High School FFA horticulture program’s greenhouse.

The optimum growing conditions inside the heated greenhouse have made the thousands of plants blossom and flourish in anticipation of the FFA chapter’s annual Spring Plant Sale, which will be held on April 11 and 12.

And, for those Independence FFA students who are enrolled in the horticulture classes, they also are gaining wisdom and experience as young green thumbs . . . and entrepreneurial business owners.

Cara Devlin, IHS agriculture teacher and co-FFA advisor, said the horticulture project is one of four career and technical education, or CTE, pathways offered through the agriculture program.

After students complete one year of Introduction to Agriculture and wish to study plant science, they can enroll in one of several horticulture classes.

Those classes not only require students to have classroom time but also hands-on experience in raising plants in the greenhouse.

• see GREENHOUSE, page A12



Rows of bedding plants await growth as they sit ready for purchase at the Independence High School FFA program’s Spring Plant Sale. ANDY TAYLOR / MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHRONICLE

Netflix to stream ‘Little House’ series in July

Season one to focus on Ingalls family’s brief years in Montgomery County

BY ANDY TAYLOR
chronicle@taylornews.org

The story of the Ingalls family establishing their homestead in rural Montgomery County in the late 1860s will soon get a global airing with the release of a “Little House on the Prairie” series on Netflix beginning July 9.

Netflix announced the release date of the highly-anticipated “Little House on the Prairie” series, as well as the streaming network’s decision to proceed with a second full season of the series before season one has even aired.

Locally, fans and followers of the “Little House on the Prairie” will likely see an uptick in tourism traffic at the Little House on the Prairie Museum, which is located on U.S. 75 highway between Independence and Caney, during the 2026 season. The museum will open its doors to tourists beginning next Wednesday, April 1.

Why would there be an increase in interest in the Kansas version of the “Little House on the Prairie” journey?

The Netflix series has been considered a “reboot” from the television series of the same name that aired on NBC during the 1970s and 1980s. However, unlike the NBC series that



Netflix’s lone teaser thus far of the “Little House on the Prairie” series has been this still image that was released on Netflix’s social media platforms last week. It shows the characters portraying the Ingalls family as they roll through the roughened Kansas landscape in the late 1860s. PHOTO BY NETFLIX

focused on the Ingalls’ life in Walnut Grove, Minn., the Netflix version will spend season one in Kansas. The series will focus on the struggles and challenges confronting the Ingalls

family in what is now Rutland Township in Montgomery County from 1869 to 1871.

Those stories of a pioneer family establishing a crude existence on

the Kansas landscape were retold through the writings of Laura Ingalls Wilder in her “Little House on the Prairie” children’s books. Although Wilder published the first of those books in the 1930s, they gained universal fandom in the 1970s when NBC released its television series that was loosely adapted to Wilder’s books.

Netflix describes its upcoming series: “Part hopeful family drama, part epic survival tale, and part origin story of the American West, this

LHOP Museum to open for 2026 season

The Little House on the Prairie Museum in Montgomery County will officially open its doors for the 2026 tourism season next Wednesday, April 1. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday through Saturday. The museum is located at 2507 CR 3000, southwest of Independence.

• see LHOP, page A12