

# Flint Hills Optimist Club announces rosters for all-star games

The Flint Hills Optimist Club has announced the rosters for the 2026 Flint Hills Optimist Club Area High School All-Star basketball games, with several players from Osage County schools earning selections to the annual event.

Among those selected for the girls' all-star game are representatives from Osage City, Burlingame, Marais des Cygnes Valley (Mdcv) and Lyndon.

Playing for the Red team will be Osage City's Emory Speece, Mdcv's Akyra Traver, and Burlingame's McKenna McFarlane. Named to the Blue team are Lyndon's Allie Kneisler, Osage City's Jewelia Kitselman, and Mdcv's Gracen Stahl.

In the boys' all-star game, Lyndon's James Marcotte was selected to the Red team, while Osage City's Dylan Theel and Burlingame's Drake Skirvin will compete for the Blue team.

The 2026 Flint Hills Optimist Club Area High School All-Star basketball games will be held Saturday, March 28, at W. L. White

Auditorium in downtown Emporia. The girls' game will tip off at 6 p.m., and the boys' game will follow. There is an admission fee, with gates opening at 4:45 p.m.

## 2026 Flint Hills Optimist Club Area High School All-Star Rosters

### Girls' Red Team

| Player            | School       |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Harley Smith      | Emporia      |
| Emory Speece      | Osage City   |
| Akyra Traver      | MdCV         |
| Madelyn Wilson    | Chase County |
| Allison Konrade   | Lebo         |
| Caylin Luthi      | Madison      |
| Britta Mongeau    | Eureka       |
| Kayla Steinke     | Olpe         |
| Briaahna Pierce   | No. Heights  |
| McKenna McFarlane | Burlingame   |

### Girls' Blue Team

| Player         | School  |
|----------------|---------|
| Kinsley Hines  | Emporia |
| Allie Kneisler | Lyndon  |
| Lilly Skalsky  | Olpe    |
| Gracen Stahl   | MdCV    |
| Ally Peek      | Lebo    |
| Hannah Perrier | Eureka  |

**Jewelia Kitselman** Osage City  
 Madisyn Kraus Mission Valley  
 Hattie Burgio Burlington  
 Reese Michaelis Wabaunsee

### Boys' Red Team

| Player          | School         |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Jan Deters      | Mission Valley |
| Carter Falk     | Wabaunsee      |
| Kelton Bish     | No. Heights    |
| Keenan Renfrow  | Hartford       |
| James Marcotte  | Lyndon         |
| Ko'Rel Robinson | Olpe           |
| Octavian Dean   | Madison        |
| Guthrie Danford | Chase County   |
| Maddox Shively  | Emporia        |
| Rylan Crowell   | Emporia        |

### Boys' Blue Team

| Player            | School        |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Ezekiel Dowd      | West Franklin |
| Maddux Cheever    | Burlington    |
| Brayden Lienemann | Olpe          |
| Cole Frank        | Wabaunsee     |
| Wyatt Griffin     | Chase County  |
| Drake Skirvin     | Burlingame    |
| Blaise French     | Council Grove |
| Dylan Theel       | Osage City    |
| Chase Herrington  | Emporia       |
| Tanner Seidl      | Emporia       |

# Area wrestlers set for regional tournaments Saturday

Area high school boys' wrestling teams will compete in regional tournaments Saturday, Feb. 21, with state tournament berths on the line.

Burlingame and Osage City teams will compete in the Class 3-1A Regional Tournament at Rossville High School. Wrestlers advancing from regionals will qualify for the Class 3-1A State Wrestling Championships, scheduled for Feb. 27-28 at Fort Hays State University in Hays.

Santa Fe Trail will compete in the Class 4A

Regional Tournament at Holton High School on Feb. 21. Qualifiers from the regional tournament will advance to the Class 4A State Wrestling Championships, which will be held Feb. 27-28 at Tony's Pizza Events Center in Salina.

Regional tournaments determine individual state qualifiers, with wrestlers competing in their respective weight classes for a chance to advance to the final weekend of the Kansas high school wrestling season.

## Osage City Powerlifting



Submitted  
 Osage City senior Levi PUNCHES, left, placed first in squat and third overall in the 181lb weight class at the Lansing Powerlifting Meet Feb. 7. Sophomore Liam VAUGHN, right, finished first in squat, second in bench, third in clean, and second overall in the 220lb. weight class at the West Franklin Powerlifting Meet Saturday.

## USD 434

Continued from 1

opponent of closing the Scranton school," Thompson said. "We lack a clear, defined, long-term vision when we risk losing one community behind (Scranton). I suggest we reconsider our options and retain the resources we currently have."

Roger Davis then approached the podium and quoted enrollment statistics and the possible loss of enrollment if the school was closed. He went on to suggest that the closure of the Scranton facility would alienate the community from other towns in the district. "We pay taxes, too," Davis said. "We should have a say in what the school district does when it comes to the loss of opportunity for the families of our community. Schools, in general, are the lifeblood of a community, and this would be a devastating blow to Scranton. I would also like to point out that this building is not yet paid off. We (the patrons of the district and the residents of Scranton) still have another year to pay the loans taken out to build and maintain this facility. Closing the Scranton Attendance Center makes no sense to me."

More speakers, in opposition to the school closure, approached the podium and addressed the board. These latter speakers highlighted the social and personal oppressions that would result if the attendance center was to shut its doors. It became obvious that most of the people at the public hearing adamantly opposed the closing of the school, as no member of the gallery spoke in favor of the proposed closing.

"I believe I have a great administration and an equally great school board," District Superintendent Faith Flory said when asked by members of the audience for a reply to the public comments posed by the community speakers. "I will lean on them, and likewise trust their judgement and assistance when making decisions for the future of our district."

"We are not going to vote on this right now," Black said, when asked if there would be an immediate vote on the fate of the Scranton Attendance Center. "It is an agenda item on the regular school board meeting to be held after the closure of this public hearing, and we will address the possibility of a vote during the regular meeting."

Several comments ensued in rebuttal of Black's statement about the possibility of a vote so soon after receiving the insight of the public during the hearing. Such comments begged to withhold a definitive vote in lieu of further research and community considerations.

"I assure you there has been a ton of research done on this issue," board member Kylie Hastings said, when it was insinuated that decisions to close the school had been made in haste.

The last member of the audience to formally speak to the board was Scranton Mayor Brian Lester. Unfortunately, he did not speak from the podium, and his comments were muted by poor acoustics. In general, he insisted that the Scranton City Council had remained uninformed about the specifics of the proposed closure of the attendance center.

During the regular meeting, District Clerk Amy Hill said, "The Masonic Lodge of Carbondale generously donated

\$3,000 to USD 434." The gift was spread evenly through the district attendance centers housing grades K-12. Hill did not expound on the expected usage of the gifted allotment.

The meeting moved forward with district principals from all four attendance centers regaling the members of the board with notable happenings within their respective schools. Each principal identified students within their facilities anointed as "Charger of the Month," which are given to deserving students in recognition of their positive character and overall school spirit. These honorable appointments can be found on the district website.

"I do want to point out that community involvement within the high school has most certainly been on the rise," Santa Fe Trail Principal Kyle

Ellis said. "I am very pleased, and I want to thank everyone involved with the public support we have been witnessing during these winter months."

A final executive session was requested and granted. The session was called to discuss individual student matters, which are reasonably not allocated for public discussion.

(Published in The Osage County Herald-Chronicle Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026.)

## ANNUAL REPORT OF OLIVET TOWNSHIP OSAGE COUNTY, KANSAS

The undersigned treasurer and trustee of OLIVET Township, submit the following report for the year ending December 31, 20 25.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

| Fund*      | Cash Balance Jan. 1 ** | Total Receipts | Total Expenditures | Cash Balance Dec. 31 | Unpaid Bills Dec. 31 |
|------------|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| General    | \$ 138.72              | \$14,448.65    | \$14,637.43        | - 0 -                | - 0 -                |
| ROAD       | \$1178.46              | \$123,714.34   | \$124,892.80       | - 0 -                | - 0 -                |
| NOX-WEED   | \$66.05                | \$6,100.88     | \$6,166.93         | - 0 -                | - 0 -                |
| Machinery  | \$190,538.89           | \$8,132.28     | - 0 -              | \$198,671.14         | - 0 -                |
| Fema       | \$45,798.1             | \$67,863.53    | \$5618.63          | \$108,042.89         | - 0 -                |
| 317th Road | \$35,954.97            | \$100,000.00   | \$135,944.97       | - 0 -                | - 0 -                |

\* Detailed fund pages are available at the county clerk's office.

\*\* Includes all money the township has including checking account savings and investments.

I certify that this financial report is a correct summary of all money received and expended as well as all unpaid bills for the township during the year ending December 31, 20 25.

Date: 1-20-26

Brian Glen Allison  
 Township Treasurer

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**

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**Puzzle on Page 10**

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The Osage County  
**Herald-Chronicle**  
 527 Market Street

Osage City Parks & Recreation

## Activity Schedule

**SMOKE IN THE SPRING**  
 April 10-11, 2026  
 Jones Park, Osage City, KS

**SMOKE IN THE SPRING** Like our Smoke in the Spring Facebook Page!!

VISIT OCPR ONLINE  
 www.osagecity.com or on Facebook  
 Click City Departments, then Parks & Recreation.  
 Program information, printable sign-up forms, schedules and more!

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