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Lady Indians and Lady Trojans win sub-state



Flinda Long/Contributor

The Osage City Lady Indians punched their ticket to the KSHSAA Class 3A Basketball Championship with a 62-43 win over Burlington Saturday. See pages 10 and 12 for more information.



Lisa Reeser/Contributor

The Marais des Cygnes Valley Lady Trojans earned their way to the KSHSAA Class 1A DII Basketball Championship with a 67-44 win over Elyria Christian Saturday. See pages 11 and 12 for more information.

More than a century of memories for Osage City woman turning 110

It had been a long, cold winter in Vassar, but on March 23, 1916, it was a balmy 53 degrees, and there was excitement in the Dickerhoof home, located where Pomona Lake is now located. That day, John and Lula Belle Dickerhoof welcomed a little red-haired baby girl, Elizabeth "Lizzie" Mae, to their family, which already included four boys, Jim, Ira, George and Harry, and three girls, Helen, Nellie and Sarah. Later, the family would welcome a ninth child, Johnnie.

Lots of work was required to provide this family of 11 with housing and provisions. They had none of the things we take for granted now - utilities, electricity, running water, an indoor bathroom, a telephone, a car, internet or a TV - but they survived, because they had lots of love, and they worked hard to take care of each other. Family was important to all of them, and that bond continued for a lifetime. Even as adults, the "children" came home every Sunday to gather for a meal at Grandma's. Lula Belle often made a roaster full of fried chicken for them, and, of course, the fixin's - mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables, homemade bread and pie.

John hauled water to the house in a wooden barrel that was loaded on a horse-drawn wagon. The well was down a hill, about a half mile from the house, near a stream. It was a hund-dug well, and shallow - about 20 feet deep. When they needed water at the house, John would hand pump the barrel full, and haul it to the house. Imagine how much laundry Lula Belle had for her large family, and all of it



Courtesy of the Ramshaw Family

Elizabeth Ramshaw turns 110 March 23.

was done in a wringer washer or on a washboard, and then hung on the clothesline to dry - in both summer and winter weather.

Lizzie and her siblings rarely had new clothes, but instead wore hand-me-downs. The girls' dresses were made of the cloth that had been used for flour sacks. Even their blankets were handmade quilts.

The children all attended a one-room rural school known as Farmersville Grade School. It was heated by a big, round coal stove. The teacher was responsible for teaching all eight grades of the school, as well as for getting the stove going each morning, so the school would be warm when the kids arrived. The Dickerhoof children walked to and from school (uphill



Courtesy of the Ramshaw Family

Lizzie as a baby.

both ways - just kidding!), except when the weather was bad, and then their dad would harness the horse and take them in the wagon, while they covered themselves with blankets to keep warm. Once, when the weather was bad and the kids were putting blankets on in the wagon, it spooked the horse, and he ran off. It was at Farmersville Grade School that Elizabeth graduated eighth grade.

Lizzie's paternal grandfather lived with the family for several years. He and his little curly-haired, red-headed granddaughter, Lizzie, were good buddies. He nicknamed her "Ditty," and they did a lot of gardening together. Grandpa also hunted rabbit and squirrel to help

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Spring break is March 16-20

All school districts within Osage County will observe spring break next week, March 16-20, where no classes will be held. Students attending a Kansas Board of Regents state university will also be on spring break next week, includ-

ing those at Kansas State, KU, Emporia State, Wichita State, Pittsburg State and Fort Hays State. Other area colleges observing spring break next week include Washburn University, Washburn Tech and Flint Hills Tech.

Burlingame City Council Council approves mower repair, construction contract

BURLINGAME — The Burlingame City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting Feb. 17, where council members approved the purchase of a pump for the motor on the Tiger Side mower, in the amount of \$2,627.92, to come out of the Street Fund/Equipment Repair line item 01045304, and also approved Mayor Michelle Mullinix to execute a construction contract in the amount of \$30,000 with Jayhawk Demolition for CDBG Project 25 CR 001 at 105 East Santa Fe Avenue, contingent on CDBG and City Attorney approval.

Included in correspondence to the council was a MIH grant for County-wide Homes update,

no-cost project opportunity from Leading Cities, and a letter from Help House.

It was decided to table the proposed ordinance for the fence and alcohol consumption for The Den, as well as the amendments to the UTV/ATV ordinance, until the next meeting.

Councilman Jim Strohm advised the committee to review the bids with Carla Sloop later in the week, regarding her request for utilities, to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Strohm also advised the council that the cost to purchase the lamp-posts for City Hall would be \$3,800 - \$1,300 each

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Osage County Commission

Commissioners address energy concerns, library funding issue

LYNDON — The Osage County Commission met in Lyndon March 3, with Commissioners Brandon Smith and Heather Kuder present in person, and Commissioner Les Holman participating by phone. Also attending were Osage County Counselor Joshua Ney and County Clerk Michelle Morris.

Several issues drew extended discussion during the meeting, including public concerns about energy development, library funding delays, land-use policy related to data centers, and ongoing administrative matters.

During the public comment period, residents raised concerns about transparency

and the county's approach to potential energy-related development projects.

One resident questioned meetings held in executive session with companies exploring potential projects in the county, raising concerns about confidentiality agreements and non-disclosure agreements. Commissioners explained that discussions with businesses in early exploratory stages may involve confidentiality agreements because companies often want to protect proprietary information and avoid revealing potential projects before they are viable.

Commissioners said that any project moving beyond explor-

atory discussions would still be required to go through the county's standard planning, zoning and regulatory processes before any approval could occur. They also emphasized that the county's zoning regulations and previously adopted moratoria control what types of energy development may be considered.

County officials noted that the commission had previously issued a statement clarifying what types of energy production proposals the county would consider discussing. They said the statement was intended to provide guidance to economic development staff and potential companies,

while still requiring projects to comply with existing zoning regulations.

Representatives of the county's libraries also appeared before the commission to discuss concerns about the status of Osage County's budget submission to the state.

Library officials said they had received communication from the state indicating that the county had not submitted its budget documents, which are required by state statute to be filed by Dec. 31. Without that submission, the libraries could temporarily lose eligibility for state library grants and the Northeast Kansas Library System's (NEKLS) funding.

The NEKLS distributes property tax revenue collected countywide to support the five libraries in Osage County.

County Clerk Morris told the commission the required budget documents had already been submitted previously and were resent again to the state the day before the meeting. She said the state confirmed receipt, and that the issue should be resolved once the submission is processed.

Library representatives said the delay could affect upcoming funding distributions if not corrected quickly, noting the first distribution is typically

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