



GOVERNMENT

Commissioner's Desk



By Duane Morris
Ottawa County Commissioner
District #3

Please remember this is NOT an official documentation of the minutes, it is meant to be an informative synopsis of County Commissioner activities from my perspective. If you want more information on a subject I mention here I encourage you to read the full minutes of the meetings elsewhere in the newspaper or online at www.ottawacounty.org

First and foremost as you read this Christmas Day will be upon us. I sincerely hope as you gather with family and friends the joyous occasion over 2,000 years ago will be remembered as God gave the ultimate gift to mankind as a baby who would ultimately die on a cross for the sins of man.

Next I need to make a correction from last week about our 28th Judicial District

Nominating Committee appointment. It was discovered the position couldn't be filled by an attorney. Kathy Luthi has stepped up to fill the appointment. Thank you Kathy for your willingness to serve! Thanks to Jason Parks for offering also, even though it didn't work out this time.

Doug Plummer of the Ottawa County Service Corporation began our meeting on December 15th. Hediscussed insurance on the carnival rides. They are checking several options, but a limited number of insurance companies offer specialized insurance for amusement rides.

Karl Leech and Tony Swetson of Ottawa County EMS discussed Mobile Integrated Health. Basically our EMS personnel are coordinating with a person's primary care doctor for in home health checks. This is a valuable service to those with limited mobility or homebound to receive assistance. Currently the program is operating under a grant and no tax payer money is used.

Sheriff Thornton explained more about the FLOCK security camera system and a grant he has applied for. The cameras would be at certain locations within our county and would enable our officers to search a wider network throughout Kansas to identify

vehicles and much more.

Chris Smith, Road and Bridge Administrator, discussed Ute road and improvements that need to be made and he opened bids from bridge inspection companies. BG Bridge inspection company was the low bidder at a bit over \$50,000 to inspect all bridges in the county. This will keep us in compliance with state requirements.

All department heads presented end of the year updates.

There was a discussion about 2025 longevity payments to employees. It was decided to pay out longevity the same as previous years since it was planned when department heads built their budgets. Due to uncertainty in 2026 department heads were urged to tell employees to not count on a longevity bonus in 2026. We will just have to see what develops in the new year.

Wheels are in motion for a sale of properties with delinquent taxes. JoDee Copple, Treasurer, is working with our county attorney and a firm from Wichita who specializes in this type of sales. We have come along ways from the days of the Sheriff standing on the courthouse steps auctioning off these parcels!

We wish you a Happy New Year and the best for 2026!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you!

Lincoln County is hiring!

Public Works Director

This position supervises personnel in the construction, maintenance and repair of county roads and bridges as well as oversees operations at the Lincoln County Transfer Station and Noxious Weed Department.

Responsibilities include investigating complaints regarding roads and bridges; assisting with public inquiries regarding the landfill operations; inspecting weed growth and identifying need for control; and overseeing equipment maintenance.

- High school diploma or GED is required
- Must have a valid class "A" CDL license or be willing to acquire one.

Health Administrator

This position is responsible for planning, organizing, and directing the community health-nursing program, coordinating and networking with other organizations and services, and developing and interpreting policies and procedures while maintaining acceptable standards. This employee also performs direct nursing services.

- Must be a graduate of an accredited Nursing School with three years experience in professional nursing and knowledge of public health nursing.
- A Bachelor's degree in Nursing or Management Administration is preferred but not required.
- This employee must have a current license to practice as a Registered Nurse in the State of Kansas, certification in CPR, and a valid Kansas Driver's License.

Lincoln County offers competitive wages and an excellent benefit package.

Application, job description, and complete benefit information is available

by contacting:

Lincoln County Human Resources, 216 E Lincoln Ave, Lincoln, KS 67455

785-524-5232; Email: lchr@lincolncoks.gov

Applications will be accepted until positions are filled.

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Solomon Valley 4-H Club

The Solomon Valley 4-H Club held its December meeting on December 7th. Roll call was answered by "What is your favorite thing about Christmas?" It was answered by 25 members and 2 leaders. Reports were shared with the club.

Two new members were welcomed to the club. Leaders gave awards from the 24-25 4-H year. The club talked about the success of the concession stands at the Rec basketball games. They also discussed the Angel Tree project and the Gaga Ball Pit at MGS.

One member had a December birthday and Andrew led the club in a game. The club celebrated with a cookie exchange. The next meeting will be January 4th at 7:00pm at the Ottawa County Courthouse.

KS Couples Spoil Each Other

With Christmas shopping in full swing and holiday wish lists growing by the minute, one relationship study suggests that Kansas couples are the most likely to splurge on their partner!

Researchers from Executive Matchmakers surveyed Americans and gave each state a "Spoil Score" based on seven behaviors, including how often they buy surprise gifts, plan special outings, and put in extra effort to make their partner feel appreciated.

KS ranks #1 in the country with a score of 74.7/100

Kansas has the highest percentage of people who say "I love you" to their partners often, with nearly 90% saying it at least once a day.

Over 60% say spoiling their partner is extremely important.

88% of residents report regularly buying gifts for their partner, not even including holidays.

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(First published in The Minneapolis Messenger on December 25, 2025)

IN THE TWENTY-EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT, OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS
PROBATE DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF)
JOYCE LOUISE SHOEMAKER, DECEASED) Case No. OT-2025-PR-000029
Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Gwyn L. Schuler, a daughter and one of the heirs of Joyce Louise Shoemaker, deceased, requesting:

Descent be determined of the following described real estate situated in Ottawa County, Kansas:

The West Half of the Southwest Quarter (W½SW¼) of Section Thirty-two (32), Township Eleven (11) South, Range Three (3) West of the Sixth (6th) Principal Meridian, Ottawa County, Kansas; LESS All that part of the Southwest quarter of Section 32, Township 11 South, Range 3 West of the 6th P.M., Ottawa County, Kansas, lying North and West of the centerline of Battle Creek;

and of all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by Decedent at the time of death. And that such property and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by the Decedent at the time of death be assigned pursuant to the laws of intestate succession.

You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before January 20, 2026 at 10:00 am in the city of Minneapolis in Ottawa County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

Gwyn L. Schuler, Petitioner

SUBMITTED BY:

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Ottawa County General Public
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HOURS: Monday - Friday 8 A.M. to 5 p.m. | (785) 392 - 2822

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