

INSIDE:

Find the Good Ol' Days schedule, information about the parade marshal, melodrama and more on pages 10-12.



INSIDE:

Jeanie Hart shares a recipe that you can make your own. See page 4.



INSIDE:

The Drama Campers have been working on their production of "The Rainbow Fish." See page 4.

State teams!

Champs

Third place



Jason E. Silvers/Tribune photo

The Fort Scott High School Tiger baseball team and coaching staff pose for a photo following the team's 6-4 win over St. George/Rock Creek High School in the championship game of the Class 4A State Baseball Championship Friday night in Salina.

See more stories from the state tournaments on page 9.



Jason E. Silvers/Tribune photo

The Fort Scott High School Lady Tiger softball team and coaches pose for a photo following the Lady Tigers' 1-0 win over the Clearwater High School Indians in the third place game of the Class 4A State Softball Championship Friday afternoon in Salina. The Lady Tigers fell 2-0 to Eudora High School in the semifinals Friday, and finished their season with an overall record of 25-6.

City commissioners consider fireworks ordinance change

BY JASON E. SILVERS

The Fort Scott Tribune

An effort by one Fort Scott City Commissioner to shorten the window for shooting fireworks in the city failed by a 3-2 vote during the commission's May 20 meeting.

Commissioner Kathryn Salsbury said she researched policies of other cities and counties in the region, including Southeast Kansas and Missouri, and discussed shortening the window for discharging fireworks for the benefit of pets, veterans and other people with PTSD.

Following a discussion on the dates for sales compared to discharge, Salsbury's motion to adjust the city's ordinance to limit the discharge dates for fireworks to July 1-4 with possible provisions in the event of rain the prior weekend, failed with Salsbury and Commissioner Tracy Dancer voting in favor and Mayor Tim VanHoecke and Commissioners Dyllon Olson and Matthew Wells voting against.

Later, Salsbury said she was not sure if a provision could be added to allow discharge the prior weekend if July 2-4 occur on a Tuesday through Thursday.

"I appreciate that people love setting off fireworks," she said. "In my mind, it's more important to protect the mental well being of the people who have a problem with it and not make them spend a whole week-plus dealing with it. There's a difference between enjoying fireworks and being really traumatized by them."

Prior to the vote, Wells said one issue is the city's fireworks display does not take place until July 5, so there would need to be an exception.

"People are going to want to shoot off fireworks on July 5," he said.

VanHoecke asked if there was a second to the motion on the table, which would make the hours for discharge 7 a.m. to midnight on July 3-4, and until 10 p.m. July 1-2. After Dancer seconded the motion, Olson asked if the retail period for sale of fireworks would still be expanded.

"Citizens will be buying and setting off fireworks anyway," he said.

Commissioners received input from Fort Scott Police Chief Jason Pickert, who said the change would be "enforceable."

Commissioners later approved 4-1 a motion by Wells to accept an ordinance with a change on discharge dates to June 27 through July 5, with discharge allowed from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. June 27 through July 2, until 11:59 p.m. July 3-4 and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. July 5 to coincide with the city's fireworks display. Salsbury was the only no vote.

Earlier in the discussion, Salsbury said she recently talked about concerns she has heard for several years regarding people dealing with pets "being very agitated" with fireworks, as well as people with PTSD having issues.

"I was making sure that wasn't a myth, and it looks like according to sources I found through the VA, about 7% of veterans that have had combat issues with explosions have reported they have issues with fireworks," she said.

Salsbury said she wanted to look at closing the window for discharge, "not just for those reasons, but also working parents when it's hard to get kids to sleep. I don't want to be a party pooper, I just thought maybe the week-long-plus is a bit much. And we can scale this back like other towns."

Salsbury said the city of Pittsburg uses the same timeframe as Fort Scott, but is also a city of about 30,000 people. She suggested a three-day window that could even be the weekend prior to the holiday.

SEE FIREWORKS ON PAGE 2

Parking lot improvements nearly complete

BY TAMMY HELM

Tribune Managing Editor

The city of Fort Scott Public Works Department has been making improvements to a downtown public parking lot.

On Friday, Public Works Director Tom Coffman said improving the parking lot has been planned for several years. A gravel parking lot had been created after the demolition of the Stout Building in 2019. The improvement project began in the spring, but has faced some delays due to weather, but Coffman said he hopes it will be finished next week. In all, there will be 40 to 42 years of concrete poured and eight to 10 public parking spots with one-way traffic from 1st Street to National Avenue.

Concrete was also recently poured at a public parking lot located at Pine Street and North National Avenue. Coffman said the stop blocks and striping needs to be done to complete that project. Coffman said the five-year plan includes rehabilitating existing parking lots.

The next project will be major water line repair on Eddy Street between St. Mary's and 10th streets. Coffman said he is currently getting prices for asphalt to replace the bricks on the street. He hopes asphalt can be laid in September.



Tammy Helm/Tribune photo

City of Fort Scott Public Works crews are ready for another concrete pour at a city parking lot located at 1st Street and South National Avenue Friday morning.

WEATHER

Sunny, then becoming partly sunny during the afternoon, with a high near 84. West wind 5 to 10 mph.



TODAY'S INDEX

Calendar.....3

Classifieds8

Comics.....7

Community 4

Legals 8

Sports9

140TH YEAR

NO. 68

Records.....2

Religion5-6

© 2024 Rust Communications



Are you a Tribune subscriber?

Have you moved?

Please let us know your new mailing address!

620-223-2110