

NEWS

O'Flannagan named state parks director

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks has named Conner O'Flannagan as the new State Parks Director.

O'Flannagan has been a key member of KDWP since 2019, serving in multiple leadership capacities, most recently as Region 3 Supervisor. He holds a master's degree in park, recreation, and tourism management from Clemson University and has extensive experience managing park operations, developing staff, and securing grant funding to enhance parks and outdoor recreation opportunities. He also serves on the board of directors for the Kansas Recreation and Park Association.

As State Parks Director, O'Flannagan will oversee the operations of Kansas' 29 state parks, which welcome more than 7 million visitors each year.

"I am eager to guide Kansas State Parks toward a future defined by sustainability, operational excellence, and enhanced public engagement," said O'Flannagan. "Our parks are treasured spaces, providing outdoor recreation and natural beauty for Kansans and visitors alike. I look forward to working with our tal-

ented team and stakeholders to ensure these spaces thrive for generations to come."

KDWP Secretary Christopher Kennedy expressed confidence in O'Flannagan's leadership and enthusiasm for the future of Kansas State Parks.

"Conner's deep understanding of park management, his ability to bring people together, and his dedication to sustainability and accessibility make him the right person to lead Kansas State Parks into the next chapter," said Kennedy. "His vision aligns with our commitment to preserving natural resources while enhancing outdoor experiences for the people of Kansas."

O'Flannagan succeeds Linda Lanterman, who led Kansas State Parks for more than 30 years. Her tenure was marked by accomplishments that included the creation of three new parks, the expansion of recreational opportunities, and securing funding that strengthened Kansas State Parks.

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Photo by Terry Reeling

School's out for summer

Terri Steinkamp, Beatrice, Nebr., celebrated the annual "end of the school year" ice cream treat with her grandkids, Vincent and Marissa Meyers, McLouth. They are the children of Eddie and Beth Meyers.

The group is sitting on the steps of the Country Corner Variety Store, Oskaloosa.

McLouth Public Library receives \$2,000 grant

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation announced the award of approximately \$65,000 in literacy grants to Kansas nonprofit organizations, libraries, and schools.

According to the DGLF, the funds are part of a record-setting, one-day donation in the Foundation's history of more than \$13.2 million to support adult, family, and

summer literacy programs in the 48 states in which Dollar General operates.

"For over 30 years, the Foundation has been investing in literacy and basic education programs in our hometown communities," shared Denine Torr, executive director of the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. "The grant announcement is a celebration of our unwavering commitment to student and teacher success. We are grateful to all the grant recipients for their commitment to advancing education and helping students thrive."

The McLouth Public Library was the recipient of \$2,000.

"We are absolutely thrilled to have received this grant from Dollar General! It will go a long way in supporting our community summer reading program here at the McLouth Public Library. With these funds, we will be adding a fantastic selection of new books for all age groups, ensuring there's something for everyone to enjoy," said Director Kim Hochard.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Oskaloosa Independent May 29, 2025)1t
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-03
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF OSKALOOSA, KANSAS, TEMPORARILY ALLOWING FOR CONSUMPTION OF CEREAL MALT BEVERAGES AND ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR AT A WINE AND BEER GARDEN AT 506 DELAWARE STREET, OSKALOOSA, KANSAS ON JUNE 19, 2025 AND JUNE 21, 2025.

WHEREAS, Oskaloosa City Code Section 3-701 permits the City Council, through passage of a Resolution, to create a special exception to the prohibition against public consumption of alcoholic liquor or cereal malt beverages upon the streets, alleys, roads or highways; or upon property owned by the State of Kansas, Jefferson County, and City of Oskaloosa; AND

WHEREAS, the Old Settler's Reunion Committee has asked the City if it would allow the public consumption of cereal malt beverages and alcoholic beverages at a wine and beer garden at 506 Delaware Street in the City of Oskaloosa beginning June 19, 2025 through JUNE 21, 2025, 4:00 P.M. until 11:59 P.M. each day; AND

WHEREAS, the public consumption of alcohol within reasonable limits has been permitted at prior similar events held within the City; AND

WHEREAS, pursuant to City Code Section 3-701, a majority of the Council members have voted to pass this Resolution creating an exception to a portion of such prohibition.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Oskaloosa, Kansas:

THAT beginning Friday, JUNE 19, 2025 through Saturday, JUNE 21, 2025 from 4:00 P.M. until 11:59 P.M. each day, the public consumption of cereal malt beverages and alcoholic liquor shall be permitted at a wine and beer garden located at 506 Delaware Street, Oskaloosa, Kansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the allowance of consumption of cereal malt beverages and alcoholic liquor at 506 Delaware Street, Oskaloosa, Kansas is not intended to allow consumption within vehicles at any location within the City of Oskaloosa, Kansas.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL of Oskaloosa, Kansas on the 21st day of May, 2025.

APPROVED by the Mayor this 21st day of May, 2025.

John Norman, Mayor
ATTEST:
Patty A. Hamm, City Clerk

Races for mayor, council in Nortonville as filing deadline draws near

by Clarke Davis

As we wrapped things up for an early deadline last Friday, 16 additional people had filed for public office in Jefferson County. However, there are still 10 school board seats open among the six districts and eight council seats not spoken for among the eight cities.

Nortonville is the only city with races at this point with only a short time left to file. The filing deadline is noon Monday, June 2.

Dustin Roloff, 42, Nortonville, filed for mayor the afternoon of May 19 creating a race for that office. Incumbent mayor Raymond Brown filed for reelection April 28.

Nortonville voters will also see a contest for the two council seats up for election. Those who have filed are Jacob Abel, Jack Weishaar, Robert E. Hauk, Steven L. Noll, and Mitchell Ellerman. Neither incumbent council member, Steve Belveal or Lora Weishaar, has filed at this time.

City council slates remain unfilled in McLouth, Meriden, Ozawkie, Oskaloosa, and Winchester.

Incumbent mayors in Ozawkie and Valley Falls have filed for re-election and are still unopposed.

As of Friday all school districts had school board seats going begging from three candidates needed in Perry-Lecompton and two each in Valley Falls and Oskaloosa. Jefferson County North, Jefferson West, and McLouth each have one board position that no one has filed for. No contest in any district has developed.

In the improvement districts, only Lakewood Hills has three candidates for that board's two-year terms. Only one each has filed in Lakeside Village and Lakeshore Estates.

The two incumbent representatives to the Meadowlark Extension board have filed for re-election but there are a number of openings for the drainage district boards.

Following are the candidates who have filed since the last publication:

City offices—Dustin Roloff, 42, for mayor of Nortonville; Mitchell Ellerman, (age not available), Nortonville council; Thomas R. Holroyd, 71, Perry council; Brett Dallman (I), 37, Valley Falls council; Katherine J. Defilippis, 68, Winchester

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Oskaloosa Independent May 29, 2025)1t
ORDINANCE NO. 25-15-523

AN ORDINANCE FIXING SOLID WASTE RATES FOR THE CITY OF OSKALOOSA, KANSAS, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF OSKALOOSA, KANSAS:

SECTION 1. Section 15-523 of the Code of the City of Oskaloosa is hereby amended to read as follows:

SAME; FEE SCHEDULE. The fee for each residential unit of City solid waste collection service shall be \$15.00 per month, which includes the use of one poly cart. There is an additional charge of \$1.07 per household for the use of the city-wide recycling receptacles.

ADDITIONAL RATES; SERVICES:

1. Two (2) poly cart containers shall be provided to the City Hall at no cost.

2. A forty (40) yard dumpster shall be provided to the City free of charge for Old Settler's Reunion festival.

3. A \$5.00 per month, per barrel charge for barrels around downtown square.

4. A \$50.00 per month charge for a three (3) yard dumpster at the City Shop.

5. A \$50.00 per month charge for a three (3) yard dumpster at the City Pool.

6. Four (4) forty (40) yard dumpsters shall be provided for spring Cleanup at a rate of \$165 per dumpster plus current yearly tonnage.

SECTION 2. The City Council has imposed this increased fee schedule to be assessed on billings from February 1, 2025 until this Ordinance is repealed or amended.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall take effective and be in full force from and after its passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR THIS 21st DAY OF MAY, 2025.

JOHN NORMAN, MAYOR
ATTEST:
PATTY A. HAMM, CITY CLERK

council; and Kevin Loy (I), 50, Valley Falls council.

School boards—Heather A. Coit (I), 47, McLouth, Pos. 6, USD 342; McKabe O'Neal (I), 41, Oskaloosa, Pos. 4, USD 341; Raymond Brown, 69, Nortonville, Pos. 4., USD 339.

Improvement districts—Lakewood Hills, William R. Hutting, 67; Jami Smith (I), 46, and Christopher Cain (I), 54; Lakeside Village, David G. Griffith (I), 71; Lakeshore Estates, Sharon Blankenship (I), 67.

Drainage districts—Grantville, Doug Ingenthron (I), 70; Muddy Creek, Andrew T. Winsor, 52.

All those interested in filing for elective office must do so at the County Clerk's office in the courthouse at Oskaloosa. There is a \$20 filing fee for all offices except the drainage districts, for which there is no fee, reports the Jefferson County Election Office.

Plea agreement reached with Murray-Crawshaw

A plea agreement was reached in state vs. Benz Rey Keyshawn Murray-Crawford in Jefferson County District Court May 8 with sentencing set for 11 a.m. June 12.

The case involved multiple charges stemming back to April 2023 when the defendant was first charged with domestic battery and had an Ozawkie address.

A second complaint with four counts was filed in June 2024 charging Murray-Crawford with criminal threat, criminal restraint, endangering a child, and deprivation of property, i.e. a vehicle.

A third arrest and complaint followed in December 2024 when he was charged with fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer and possession of a controlled substance. The defendant has a Kansas City, Mo., address listed on that complaint.

The court accepted his "no contest" pleas in the first and second cases of endangering a child and criminal threat.

The court dismissed counts 2 and 4 of criminal restraint and deprivation of property and it dismissed the charges in the third complaint, fleeing a police officer and possessing a controlled substance.

Judge Christopher Etzel ordered a pre-sentence investigation and was asked by the defense to change the defendant's "no contact" restrictions with the victim or victims to be modified to state "no violent contact." The judge said he would consider it.

Deadline for News & Ad Copy is Monday, before noon.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Oskaloosa Independent May 29, 2025)1t
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-04

A RESOLUTION IN THE CITY OF OSKALOOSA, KANSAS, PROVIDING FOR THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF CHEROKEE STREET FROM JEFFERSON STREET TO MADISON STREET TO PERMIT THE HOLDING OF A TOUCH-A-TRUCK EVENT.

WHEREAS, the City of Oskaloosa, Kansas has been asked to allow the holding of a Touch-A-Truck Event on Saturday, June 7, 2025; and

WHEREAS, this event will be held on Cherokee Street in Oskaloosa, Kansas, central and convenient location for participants; and

WHEREAS, the temporary closure of Cherokee Street from Jefferson Street to Madison Street in Oskaloosa, Kansas is necessary to permit the event to be held.

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council, City of Oskaloosa, Jefferson County, Kansas that Cherokee Street from Jefferson Street to Madison Street in Oskaloosa, Kansas will be closed to public traffic from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 7, 2025 for the purpose of conducting a Touch-A-Truck event.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL on this 21st day of June, 2025.

APPROVED BY the Mayor on this 21st day of June, 2025.

John Norman, Mayor
ATTEST:
Patty A. Hamm, City Clerk

THE OSKALOOSA INDEPENDENT

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