other settlers of the period and

may have a baby or a young

child with them. Headed west,

they will appear to be emerging

out from under an arch gener-

ally reminiscent of the Gateway

slightly larger, "historically ac-

curate" and "representative" of

the virtuous men and women

who so embodied the American

spirit as they endured "tremen-

dous hardship and struggle" to

achieve success through the

building of the homesteads,

farms, ranches, towns, and

cities that persist yet today

a picture in stone of "motion,

emotion, strength, resilience,

and faith," quoting further from

would greatly benefit the pub-

lic, beautify further an already

amazing place, and memorialize

the grit and determination of

the first settlers of Kansas dur-

ing the great and trying times of

1850s Western expansion, that

honors the ancestors who risked

life and limb to settle these vast

expanses, and build the civiliza-

into place, Garret will be tak-

ing a hammer, chisels, files

and rasps, and possibly even a

circular saw and a power drill

at times, to a block of marble

measuring 10 feet, 3 inches

high, 4 feet, 7 inches wide, and

3 feet, 8 inches deep to form

the youngish man and woman

and perhaps a little one, too.

The figures will appear above a

pedestal somewhere between 2

The big rock was excavat-

ed and cut by Colorado Stone

Quarries, which operates near

the Centennial State town of

Marble and has a stoneyard in

in person, and it is good: milky

white, with some black and gold

veining. It will provide an excel-

lent medium for this sculpture."

he would be striving to make

the monument "as realistic as

possible, as detailed as the stone

can handle," but "within reason"

given the fact that it will be con-

stantly exposed to the weather.

add "a flair of art deco" with a

slight surreal element reminis-

cent of Jefferson County's own

913.367.1111

Mike Baker, CLU, Agent

Cindy Baker, Agent

Mary Beth Griffin, CSR

112 North 6th

Atchison, Kansas 66002

MaryB@TaylorInsuranceKs.com

He also said he is likely to

Garret said in his letter that

"I have seen the stone itself,

the town of Delta.

feet and 2 feet, 6 inches tall.

Once it has been lowered

tion that we so enjoy today."

"This is a project that, I feel,

Those figures also will be

roughly 175 years later.

Garret's letter.

According to Garret, the figures will be life-size if not

Arch in St. Louis, Missouri.

NEWS

Statue at OJT to honor early settlers

by Rick Nichols

Garret Tufte of rural Oskaloosa is fully convinced there's a pair of adventurous pioneers inside a huge slab of rock with his name on it who are just waiting to be "discovered" as they explore the Kansas prairie looking for a good place to put down roots.

The concrete pad for Garret's envisioned monument in Oskaloosa celebrating the spirit of yesteryears' pioneers is ready to go, so now the licensed land surveyor and amateur sculptor is in the process of trying to raise the necessary funds that will allow him to finish the project by July of 2027 at the very latest and by July 4, 2026, America's semiquincentennial, if at all possible.

The concrete for the 7-by-7foot pad at Old Jefferson Town was poured several weeks ago, clearing the way for Garret, who lives just southwest of town, to tackle the next phase of the project, coming up with at least \$25,000 so that he can bring the big chunk of rock that, in time, will become "Settlers" to OJT.

In a letter Garret has sent to potential donors which included a topographical site plan, he called their attention to the location of the pad in relation to some of the buildings and objects that are an integral part of the 10-acre pioneer village.

"Please note the high order mathematical synchronicities aligned to existing structures," he wrote. "There is no better place on the grounds for this monument, and these alignments speak quite well of the importance and success of this

Tapping into his geometrical talents and leanings, Garret decided to position the center of the pad exactly 254 feet from both Wellman School and the Kilgour-Plum Grove Building to create an imaginary triangle measuring 254 feet by 254 feet by approximately 314 feet (remember, pi begins with 3.14) that is roughly four-tenths the size of the Great Pyramid in

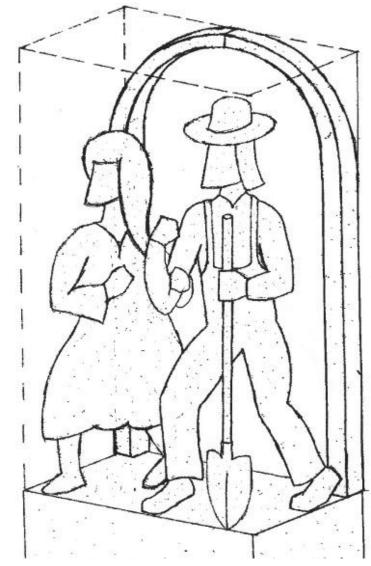
The northwest to southeast side of the triangle passes right down the middle of the foot bridge in front of the school, while the southwest to northeast side runs through the center of the bowstring bridge southwest of the Kilgour-Plum Grove Building.

The center of the pad also constitutes one of the three points of an imaginary equilateral triangle, the other two being the small concrete basin next to the windmill and the door on the east side of the bandstand. Each segment of this triangle is 100 feet long.

Finally, the imaginary line from the center of the pad to the front porch of the Nincehelser House spans a distance of 133 feet and is parallel to Walnut Street (i.e., US-59/K-16/K-92).

According to Garret's letter, \$25,000 will cover the cost of his labor and all of the materials he will need to fashion the monument from marble within the next couple of years. But if he is able to secure an additional \$50,000 in funding (\$75,000 altogether), he would be in a position where he could more fully devote his time and attention to the project and finish the monument by the Fourth of July next year when the United

Monte Moore



Sketch courtesy of Garret Tufte This is a rough sketch of the marble statue Garret Tufte would like to create at Old Jefferson Town in Oskaloosa. He told the paper recently that the man probably will be pointing at something in the distance with one of his hands and that the woman might be cradling a baby in her arms or leading a young child by the hand, unlike what you see here.

States will turn 250.

And depending on how much money comes in through contributions, Garret could conceivably hire someone to assist him with the work.

Anyone wishing to make a donation or with questions about the project is encouraged to call Garret at 785-231-9903.

Contributions in support of the project are tax deductible through the Jefferson County Historical Society, which owns and operates Old Jefferson Town and is a 501(c)(3) organi-

Contributions can be sent to the historical society at this address: 703 Walnut St., Oskaloosa, KS 66066. After a contribution has been made, JCHS Treasurer Clifford Burk can furnish the donor with a taxdeductible receipt.

To reach Clifford by phone, call 913-240-1995.

thinking about making a contribution to increase that contribution by five to 10% to boost the historical society's General Fund, which can be tapped as needed to provide for the maintenance of the buildings and grounds at Old Jefferson Town.

The historical society is partnering with Garret on the proj-

Any contribution above \$10,000 will qualify the donor for a bronze plaque with a short dedication of his or her choice on it, according to Garret's letter. The plaque will be attached to the monument once Garret has completed his work.

At the very least the statue Garret plans to carve out of a 31,350-pound block of marble will include two figures, a man and a woman, dressed in clothing typical of the attire worn by the Midwestern pioneers of the mid-1800s. This married Garret encourages anyone couple will be similar in age to



PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Oskaloosa Independent July 17, 2025)1t NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

> The governing body of Jefferson Township

Jefferson County will meet on August 12, 2025 at 6:50 p.m. at 104 3rd Street, Winchester for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at Jefferson County Clerk's Office and will be available at this hearing. BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2026 Expenditures and Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2026 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

	Prior Year Actual 2024		Current Year Estimate 2025		Proposed Budget 2026		
Fund	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	14,000	0,221	14,000	0.212	38,776	3,509	0.207
Debt Service	14,000	0,221	11,000	0,212	201770		
Library	11,400	0.760	10,000	0.674	10,000	8,604	0.509
Road	111100	0.700			,		
Special Road			-				
Noxious Weed					i		
Fire Protection							
. no i roteotion							
	-						
							
				_			
					-		
							
Special Machinery	25.400	0.001	24.000	0.886	48,776	12,113	0.716
Totals	25,400	0.981	24,000				
			Funds Suppor	ted by I ownsh	ip Only - Revenue	Neutral Rate**	0.667
		Funds Su		up and 3rd Cl	ass City - Revenue	Neutral Kate**	0.207
Less: Transfers	0		0		0	!	
Net Expenditure	25,400		24,000		48,776	!	
Total Tax Levied	13,790		12,739		XXXXXXXXXXXXX		
Total Assessed Valuation	16,049,837		16,635,150		16,912,115		
Township Assessed Valuation	Only				13,795,379		
		•				-	
Outstanding Indebtedness,							
Jan 1	2023		2024		2025		
G.O. Bonds	0	1	0]	0	1	
Other	0		0	1	0	1	
Lease Purchase Principal	0		0	1	0	1	
Total	0		0	1	0	1	
*Tax rates are expressed in n				i	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	4	
**Rovonue Neutral Rate as de		990					

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM REED

William Ralph "Bill" Reed, 86, of Winchester, died Monday, July 7, 2025, at home.

He was born October 6, 1938, at Turkey Creek,



KY, the son of William Homer and Dixie Louise Lockard Reed. He attended public schools in Turkey Creek and was a 1957 graduate of Belfry, KY, High

School.

Bill made a career in Air Craft maintenance in the U.S. Army and Army Reserves, serving a total of 30 years before retiring as an E8 MSgt in 1990. He served 13 years on active duty from 1958 to 1971, serving in Korea, Germany, and Vietnam. He is a member of David –Gibson American Legion Post No. 387, Winchester and Ozawkie American Legion Post No. 225, and Grahem-Herbers V.F.W. Post No. 3084 in Valley Falls, where he was a member of the military honors and color

Bill was a member and served as a deacon of Winchester Christian Church of Christ. He also served as a Winchester city councilman and as a school board member of JCN

USD No. 339.

Bill married Kathleen "June" Coppinger on June 21, 1966, at Leavenworth. She survives of the home. He is also survived by two daughters, Melissa (Scott Davis) Reed, Winchester, and Wendy Reed, Lawrence; one brother, Carl A. Reed, Ypsilanti, MI; three sisters, Frances Berkley, Sue Ryan, and Maxine Dilldine, all of Columbus, OH; four grandchildren, Jaimie Reed (Matt) Hales, Jill Reed (Jared) Decker, Holly Reed (Ben) Franks, and Dameon Reed; and 10 great-grandchildren, Braden Bagby, Tinley Bagby, Delaney June Decker, Jaxin McDaniel, Gabriel Mc-Daniel, Quinnleigh Jeppeson, Alan Franks, Sean Reed, Sage

Reed, and Skyler Reed. Bill was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Jim Reed; three brothers, Alfred Reed, Darrell Reed, and James Reed; and two sisters, Ruth Farley and Hester Maynard.

Funeral services were July 14, 2025, at Barnett Family Funeral Home, Oskaloosa. Burial with military honors followed at the Winchester-Wise Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to Jefferson County Friends of Hospice or to F.W. Huston Medical Center. barnettfamilyfh.com

Paid obituary

He was a daredevil in his

vounger years, breaking hors-

es and racing motorcycles.

He was a lifelong motorcycle

enthusiast and avid gun col-

sisters, Cindy (Jamie) Stan-

sell, Lecompton, KS, and Nor-

rice (Tom) Myrick, El Paso, TX.

by his parents; infant son,

Joshua; and brother, Richard.

Memorial contributions may

be made to St. Jude Children's

Paid obituary

Network.

He is survived by his two

He was preceded in death

No services are planned.

EDWARD ROBERSON

Edward Kyle (Eddie) Roberson, 71, of Ozawkie, KS, died on June 6, 2025, at Lawrence Memorial Hospital.

He was born September 26, 1953, in Lynchburg, VA, the son of William Kyle Jr. and Peggy Dobyns Roberson. The family moved to Kansas in 1954. He was a graduate of Perry High School.

He co-owned Flatlands Motorcycle Shop as a mechanic. He later worked at Harley-Davidson. He worked for Hamm Quarries until he was disabled on the job.

BETTY NEWELL

Betty L. Newell, 85, of Oskaloosa, died Sunday, July 13, 2025, at F.W. Huston Medical Center in Winchester.

Services arrangements are pending at Barnett Family Funeral Home in Oskaloosa. Burial will be at Pleasant View Cemetery, Oskaloosa. Please watch our website at barnettfamilyfh.com

Paid obituary



See **OJT** Page 5

The hometown service

ATCHISON OFFICE OSKALOOSA OFFICE EFFINGHAM OFFICE

785.863.2631

Dave Taylor, Owner/Agent

Terry Taylor, Chief Financial Office

Brooks Shuler Agent

8998 Hwy 59

Oskaloosa, Kansas 66066

Dave@TaylorInsuranceKs.com

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Driver blacks out, pickup goes airborne in ditch

Joseph Sheley, 43, Winchester, was southbound on Ferguson Road when his 1995 Mazda pickup went into the right ditch.

According to the Jefferson County Sheriff's deputy who investigated the accident, the car continued in a southerly direction and took a small hill at a high enough rate of speed to go airborne for 20 to 30 feet. It continued south before coming to a stop. The officer found the driver

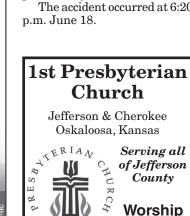
walking on the side of the road after the accident. He told the officer that he had blacked out and did not know what hap The report stated that "al-

cohol ingestion was not over the limit at the time of the ac-

A Jefferson County ambulance transported Sheley to Stormont-Vail Hospital in Topeka for injuries.

The accident occurred at 6:20 p.m. June 18.

10 a.m.



PUBLIC NOTICE

913.833.4180

Brooks Shuler, Agent

Steve Caplinger, Agent

Liz Todd, CSR

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Effingham, Kansas 66023

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(Published in The Oskaloosa Independent July 17, 2025)1t

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of Meadowlark Extension District #7 Jefferson County

will meet on August 7, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at 100 East Washington Street, Oskaloosa KS for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to be levied.

Detailed budget information is avaiable at Director's Office, 1615 Branch Street, Seneca KS and will be available at this hearing.

SUPPORTING COUNTIES

BUDGET SUMMARY Proposed Budget 2026 Expenditures and Amount of Current Year Estimate for 2025 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2026 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation

	Prior Year Actu	Prior Year Actual 2024		Current Year Estimate for 2025		Proposed Budget Year for 2026		
FUND	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*	
General	1,265,301	1.429	1,713,248	1,382	2,669,669	917,597	1,323	
Debt Service								
Totals	1,265,301	1.429	1,713,248	1.382		917,597	1,32	
					Revenue	Neutral Rate**	1.33	
Less: Transfers	0	1	0		0			
Net Expenditures	1,265,301	Į.	1,713,248	[//	2,669,669			
Total Tax Levied	927,329		925,549		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX			
Assessed Valuation:	649,139,706	L	669,756,410	ļ	693,508,470			
Outstanding Indebtedness,	,							
Jan 1,	2023	- 12	2024	8	2025			
G.O. Bonds	0	1	0		0			
Revenue Bonds	0		0	i l	0			
Other	0		0		0			
Lease Pur. Princ.	0	1	0		0			