

Out-of-the-Past Photos



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Obituaries

MELVIN DUNN

Melvin Thomas Dunn, 90, formerly of Ozawkie and Burlingame, died Saturday, April 26, 2025, at Rest Well Home Plus Assisted Living in Oskaloosa.

He was born November 1, 1934, at home in Burlingame, KS, the son of Thomas A. and Thelma Alice Rice Dunn. He was raised by his grandparents, Clyde and Rose Rice, and was a 1952 graduate of Burlingame High School. After graduation, Melvin worked as a welder before joining the U.S. Army in 1957. He served until he was honorably discharged in 1960. He married Bertha Kovar in 1958 and they later divorced.



They had two children, Diana Dunn and Marci Dunn. He married Martha Manjeot January 29, 2002. Martha preceded him in death February 3, 2022.

Following his time in the US Army, Melvin worked in Germany for 15 years as a private contractor in the guided missile field. In 1979, Melvin started Dunn Knives, which he owned and operated until he sold the company in 2012.

Melvin and Martha loved going to nursing homes and ministering to the residents. They also enjoyed using their chainsaws and helping people cut down trees.

Melvin was a lifetime Christian, accepting Jesus into his heart at the tender age of six and believing whole heartedly the Lord was his Shepard. He most recently attended Seaman

Community Church in Topeka, KS.

He is survived by his children, Diana Dunn, Corpus Christi, TX, and Marci Dunn, Cheyenne, WY; and his stepchildren, Diana Zelinski, Topeka, KS, Becky Moore (Matt), Ozawkie, KS, and Debbie Bower (Rod), Franklin, NE. Melvin enjoyed spending time with his family, his eight grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral Services will be 2 p.m. Friday, May 9, 2025, at Seaman Community Church. Visitation will be from 1-2 p.m. before the service. Burial will follow at the Burlingame Cemetery in Burlingame, KS. Memorials are suggested to Jefferson County Friends of Hospice.

barnettfamilyfh.com
Paid obituary

ROBERT JOHNSTON

Robert E. "Jolly" Johnston, 74, of Valley Falls, KS, passed away Tuesday, April 28, 2025, at St. Francis Hospital in Topeka, KS. He was born March 12, 1951, in Topeka, KS, the son of William Franklin and Hazel Lorene (Bowden) Johnston.

Jolly graduated from Valley Falls High School. He served in the United States Army from 1971 – 1973.

He worked for Goodyear Tire Company and retired after 30+ years, and was a member of Local Union #307. He was a

lifelong farmer and stockman. Jolly enjoyed fishing and going to the casino. He enjoyed going on daily expeditions with his friend Dave.

Jolly married Donna Marie Boyce on May 29, 1986, in Oskaloosa, KS. She preceded him in death on February 7, 2019, after 32 years of marriage. He was also preceded in death by his parents, William and Hazel Johnston, and sister-in-law Gloria Johnston.

Survivors include his daughter, Megan Johnston of Valley Falls, KS; and two brothers, Calvin Johnston (Ly-

nette) of Meriden, KS, and Ron Johnston of Astoria, OR; many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Funeral services were May 2, 2025, at the Mercer Funeral Home in Valley Falls. Burial was in the Valley Falls Cemetery at a later date. Military Honors will be conducted by Graham Herbers VFW Post 3084. Memorials may be given to the VFW Post 3084 c/o Mercer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 270, Holton, KS 66436. To leave a special message for the family, please visit www.mercerfuneralhomes.com.

Paid obituary

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Valley Falls Vindicator May 8, 2025)1t

Notice Concerning Proposed Kansas Air Quality Class I Operating Permit Renewal

Notice is hereby given that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is soliciting comments regarding a proposed air quality operating permit. Kings Construction Company has applied for a Class I operating permit renewal in accordance with the provisions of K.A.R. 28-19-510 et al. The purpose of a Class I permit is to identify the sources and types of regulated air pollutants emitted from the facility; the emission limitations, standards and requirements applicable to each source; and the monitoring, record keeping and reporting requirements applicable to each source as of the effective date of permit issuance.

Kings Construction Company, 205 Walnut, PO Box 188, Oskaloosa, Kansas 66066, owns and operates a highway and street construction facility that operates a portable air curtain incinerator located at 10241 59 Highway, Oskaloosa, Jefferson County, Kansas 66066.

A copy of the proposed permit, permit application, all supporting documentation, and all information relied upon during the permit application review process are available for public review during normal business hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the KDHE, Bureau of Air (BOA), 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 310, Topeka, KS 66612-1366 and at the Northeast District Office, 800 W. 24th Street, Lawrence, Kansas 66046. To obtain or review the proposed permit and supporting documentation, contact Angela Bryson, (785) 296-3589, at the central office of the KDHE or Byron Dotson (785) 330-8611 at the Northeast District Office. The standard departmental cost will be assessed for any copies requested. The proposed permit, accompanied with supporting information, is available, free of charge, at the KDHE BOA Public Notice website, <https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/413/Public-Notices>.

Please direct written comments or questions regarding the proposed permit to Angela Bryson, KDHE, BOA, 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 310, Topeka, KS 66612-1366. In order to be considered in formulating a final permit decision, written comments must be received no later than noon on Monday, June 9, 2025.

A person may request a public hearing be held on the proposed permit. The request for a public hearing shall be in writing and set forth the basis for the request. The written request must be submitted to Angela Bryson, KDHE BOA, 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 310, Topeka, KS 66612-1366, no later than noon on Monday, June 9, 2025 in order for the Secretary of Health and Environment to consider the request.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has a 45-day review period, which will start concurrently with the public comment period, within which to object to the proposed permit. If the USEPA has not objected in writing to the issuance of the permit within the 45-day review period, any person may petition the administrator of the USEPA to review the permit. The 60-day public petition period will directly follow the USEPA 45-day review period.

Any such petition shall be based only on objections to the permit that were raised with reasonable specificity during the public comment period provided for in this notice, unless the petitioner demonstrates that it was impracticable to raise such objections within such period, or unless the grounds for such objection arose after such period. Contact Ward Burns, USEPA, Region 7, Air Permitting and Standards Branch, 11201 Renner Boulevard, Lenexa, Kansas 66219, (913) 551-7960, to determine when the 45-day USEPA review period ends and the 60-day petition period commences.

The preceding notice refers to the air permit for Kings Construction Company located at 10241 59 Highway, Oskaloosa, Jefferson County, Kansas 66066. If you want more information or you have other questions, please contact the KDHE Non-Discrimination coordinator and call 785-296-5156 or send an email to: KDHE.Non-Discrimination@ks.gov.

[El aviso anterior se refiere al permiso de aire para Kings Construction Company ubicado en 10241 59 Highway, Oskaloosa, Jefferson County, Kansas 66066.. Si desea obtener más información en español o tiene otras preguntas, por favor, comuníquese con el Coordinador de No Discriminación de KDHE y llame al 785-296-5156 o envíe un correo electrónico a: KDHE.Non-Discrimination@ks.gov.]

Janet Stanek, Secretary
Kansas Department of Health and Environment

County. . .

(Continued from page 1)

because of the Department of Revenue's requirement that each printer be outfitted with three trays, the one the printer comes with and two others.

In other business during the board's weekly meeting, the governing body accepted the apparent low bid on replacing the deteriorating floor in the building housing the Auxiliary Services Office at the county shop just east of Oskaloosa.

That bid was supplied by Midwest Flooring, Perry, and was in the amount of \$5,048.53.

Midwest Flooring's bid was one of three bids Public Works Director Ben Dunn was able to secure from area businesses. The other two were submitted by Seifert's Flooring Inc., rural Tonganoxie, and Murray's Flooring LLC, Topeka.

Seifert's Flooring priced the job at \$5,123.60, while Murray's Flooring wanted \$8,008.39 for the work that would be involved.

There are three offices and two hallways in the Auxiliary Services Office.

Domann told Christy and Walbridge that the funds needed for the project could be found in his department's budget for the year.

The board voted to spend \$18,868.75 to obtain an extended warranty for the John Deere motor grader the county decided to hang on to, rather than trade in, several months ago.

The warranty from EPG Global LLC, Dover, Del., will essentially buy the Road and Bridge Department an additional 24 months or 2,000 hours of "used" coverage on the machine, a 672G, for its powertrain and hydraulics system.

"Used" coverage will cover up to 50 percent of the value of the machine, according to an email Domann got from Jeremy Geiger with Murphy Tractor & Equipment Co., Topeka, the dealership that arranged the warranty.

Domann reported that Donlinger and Sons Construction Co. Inc., Wichita, had begun demolishing the bridge along McCall Drive north of Oskaloosa a week earlier and had completed the work in anticipation of building a replacement bridge. He said the new bridge would be 120 feet long, twice as long as the bridge that had been there. "Everything's going as planned," he commented.

According to the Public Works director, the construction site will be "out of commission" for three months.

Domann told Christy and Walbridge that he had worked out an arrangement with Donlinger and Sons Construction Co. whereby the county will get 1,000 cubic yards of dirt at no charge from the company, which reportedly is willing to deliver the dirt. The dirt will be coming from the construction site, which, according to him, will be the scene of a fair amount of excavation work as crews create the space needed for the construction of the longer bridge.

It was the consensus of the board that further consideration of the possible submission of an application for a Safe Streets and Roads for All grant be tabled for a week to give Commissioner Richard Malm a chance to share his thoughts on the matter before a decision is made.

Christy and Walbridge arrived at a consensus after they had heard from Brandy Sutherland with Blue Valley Consultants LLC, Riley. She told the duo that the Oskaloosa City Council and the McLouth City Council have voted in favor of participating in the grant under the county's "umbrella," so to speak, and that the City of Meriden is supportive of the application, but that she was still waiting to hear from the City of Ozawkie, the City of Winchester and the City of Perry.

The City of Valley Falls and the City of Nortonville reportedly have already gotten SS4A grants and have completed the plans associated with these grants.

According to Sutherland, the county is up against a June

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2 deadline to apply for a Safe Streets and Roads for All grant.

As previously reported in the paper, the Federal Highway Administration will provide 80 percent of the money for a grant, and Kansas Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds will account for 95 percent of the 20 percent local match, leaving it up to a county and possibly one or more of its cities to supply the rest.

Sutherland is of the feeling that a \$1 million grant would be appropriate for Jefferson County.

At the request of Emergency Manager Keith Jeffers, the board passed Resolution 2025-016, a resolution encompassing a "Proclamation of a State of Local Disaster Emergency for Jefferson County."

The action was taken after Jeffers had made Christy and Walbridge aware of the weather forecast for northeast Kansas for that evening and the next three days. According to him, the National Weather Service was predicting for that evening the possibility of supercells developing, wind gusts of 60 to 70 miles per hour, and baseball-size hail, and for the next three days, "more heavy rain."

He said the NWS had identified the time period from 7 to 11 p.m. as being the "highest risk window" for severe weather.

The resolution said the board "finds that certain conditions caused, or eminently threaten to cause widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property in disaster proportion" in Jefferson County.

The resolution was scheduled to expire in seven days unless the board renewed it this past Monday or terminated it before then.

Pre-vote, Jeffers called the proposed passage of the resolution "a pre-emptive move."

In response to an inquiry from the board, Bond said the next sale of tax-delinquent properties by the county would take place May 29, and he confirmed that the sale would include a certain piece of property that reportedly has a communications tower on it.

That property, which the county apparently has an interest in, is located along 62nd Street, east of US-59.

After recessing the meeting to allow the commissioners to meet as the directors of the Jefferson County Land Bank, through separate votes, Christy and Walbridge favorably received four offers on seven county-owned lots, including one that represented the best offer on two lots in Meriden.

James Trainor and Diane Davis, 200 E. Water, Meriden, outbid Marc Woods and Laci Heller, 115 Cottonwood Court, Ozawkie, for the two lots in Meriden, Lots 3 and 5 in Block 4 of the Original Town.

Trainor and Davis were willing to part with \$5,400 altogether, \$2,700 per lot, to gain control of the lots. They plan to erect a garage there.

Heller and Woods were ready to shell out a total of \$5,200, \$2,600 per lot, to get the lots. They had been hoping to build a single-family dwelling or a duplex there.

Steven Seifert of Overbrook ended up with Lots 485, 486 and 489 in the Hickory Hills section of Lakeside Village. He was up to handing over \$500, the minimum acceptable bid, for each of the lots, for a grand total of \$1,500.

Pervis and Janice Ewer, 9254 Valley View Drive, Ozawkie, came away with Lot 15 in Block W of Lake Shore Estates. Their bid was for an even \$500.

Thomas and Patricia Tripp, 8057 Westshore Court, Meriden, locked up Lot 37 in Block M of Lake Ridge Estates. They, too, had a bid right at \$500.

The recess to accommodate the business of the Land Bank lasted about 25 minutes.

The presentation of the bids was handled by Community Development Director Stephan Metzger and was preceded by a brief overview of land use patterns in Jefferson County. According to him, based on survey results, residents of the county are in favor of the preservation of land classified as agricultural

and the county's rural nature, and they think their property taxes are too high.

Metzger reported that he would be presenting a land use proposal to the Planning Commission that evening and said he would have more feedback for the board to consider in two weeks.

With Metzger still present, County Counselor-designate Jonathan Ehrlich told Christy and Walbridge that the County Attorney's Office was working with the Community Development director to see to it that alleged violations of the county's zoning regulations are prosecuted in Jefferson County District Court.

Resolution 2025-015, a resolution reappointing County Appraiser Janet Allen to a four-year term in office, was OK'd by the board.

On separate votes, the board also passed four resolutions authorizing the transfer of 2024 county funds, Resolution 2025-010, Resolution 2025-011, Resolution 2025-013 and Resolution 2025-014.

Resolution 2025-010 clears the way for the county to withdraw a total of \$1,289,650 from various funds and departments and add it to the Equipment Reserve Fund. Of that amount, \$329,000 will come from the General Fund, \$900,000 from the Road and Bridge Department, and \$60,650 from Auxiliary Services.

The General Fund's contribution to the Equipment Reserve Fund will consist of \$30,000 from the County Clerk's Office, \$60,000 from the County Treasurer's Office, \$105,000 from the Courthouse General Fund, \$25,000 from the Community Development Office, \$25,000 from the Emergency Management Department, \$35,000 from the Geographic Information Systems/Information Technology Department, \$37,000 from Jefferson County District Court, \$5,000 from the Register of Deeds Office, and \$7,000 from the 911 Communications Fund.

Resolution 2025-011 will let the county move a total of \$245,675 from various funds and departments to the Capital Improvement Fund. Of that amount, \$15,000 will come from the Ambulance Fund, \$150,000 from the Law Enforcement Fund, \$60,675 from Auxiliary Services, and \$20,000 from the County Clerk's Office.

Resolution 2025-013 will allow the county to pull \$100,000 from the Ambulance Fund and put the money in the Ambulance Capital Outlay Fund.

Resolution 2025-014 will enable the county to take \$60,675 from Auxiliary Services and give it to the Noxious Weed Capital Outlay Fund.

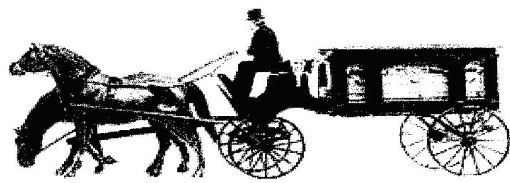
The board approved the proposed issuance of a cereal malt beverage license for 2025 to Grantville C Store LLC, 3522 US-24 Highway, Grantville, and authorized Christy to sign the necessary paperwork on behalf of the governing body. The move was necessitated by the recent sale of the convenience store, which had been known as Joe's Kwik Mart.

The board voted to table for the time being further consideration of the budget request for 2026 that had come in from Cottonwood Inc., Lawrence. Cottonwood, which provides services to adults with disabilities, is asking the county to back the agency's work with \$75,000 next year.

The board OK'd the proposed issuance of a new county credit card to Bond and authorized Christy to sign the necessary paperwork on behalf of the governing body.

Executive Session

At the request of Chris Schmeissner, the county's Geographic Information Systems/Information Technology director, the commissioners met privately with him for 10 minutes for the stated purpose of discussing personnel matters relating to non-elected personnel. "Employee recruitment and transition" was identified as being the subject that was to be discussed. When the meeting reopened to the public, Christy announced that no binding action had been taken behind closed doors.



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