

News

County tax sale this week at Oskaloosa

The large courtroom on the second floor of the Jefferson County Courthouse in Oskaloosa will be the scene later today (this Thursday) of a county-organized sale involving tax-delinquent properties that can be had by any eligible bidder who is willing to outbid all of the other eligible bidders he or she is up against, assuming there are some, of course.

The sale is set to commence at 10 a.m. and will be preceded by the necessary registration of the bidders. That will get underway at 9.

County Treasurer Douglas Bond told the paper May 13 in an email that for a prospective bidder to be eligible to participate in the sale, he or she can't have any unpaid property taxes.

Bond said preregistration forms are available in his office, which is located on the first floor of the courthouse. He also said that because the form will be notarized, a prospective bidder will need to show up with his or her driver's license or some other form of identification.

Close to 190 properties will be up for grabs during the sale. These properties include lots in all three of the improvement districts, Lake Shore Estates, Lakewood Hills, and Lakeside Village.

A lengthy legal notice that included detailed information about all of the properties to be auctioned off was published in the April 17, April 24, and May 1 issues of The Oskaloosa Independent, the official county newspaper.



Photo by Holly Allen

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A snapshot of 2025

Students and staff of Valley Falls High School take their annual school photo during an awards assembly May 12 featuring 86-year-old math teacher John Oakleaf, who recently resigned from the district. The photo was taken to not only honor Mr. Oakleaf's time with the district, but to also recognize him for the many years he has spent as a math educator. Graduating seniors are pictured in the foreground behind Mr. Oakleaf, followed by juniors, then sophomores, and freshmen, with faculty at the perimeter.

4-H to honor state project winners June 5

by Pat Melgares
K-State Extension news
 The Kansas 4-H Youth Development program will roll out the red – or, rather, the green – carpet June 5 to honor more than three dozen youth for excellence in their respective project areas.
 The 2025 Emerald Circle Banquet will take place at the K-State Alumni Center in Manhattan from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The annual banquet is Kansas 4-H's premier event to honor youth who have advanced through county and regional competitions to become state 4-H project winners.
 "Some of these kids spend many years working toward the goal of winning a state award," said Amy Collins, state 4-H program coordinator. "Winning a state award is quite an honor."
 Frank Tracz, K-State professor and director of bands, will give the keynote talk on leadership and keys to preparing for college and a future career.
 Collins said there are 45 project areas offered by 4-H in Kansas. This year, state awards are being given in 38 categories. Youth ages 14-18

are eligible to apply for state awards, she said.
 "I think many kids have this goal in mind as they enter high school, so they begin working toward mastering a project," Collins said. "Some take advantage of specialized learning opportunities, such as camps on coding, veterinary science, robotics or livestock judging, and other areas. Some get an opportunity to attend national events."
 "The more learning that takes place and that they participate in, the more leadership and citizenship becomes evident in their project."
 One byproduct, Collins notes, is that the older youth who are pursuing additional learning often share that knowledge with younger 4-H members. One of the gratifying moments, she says, is when a young 4-H member develops a 'spark' or passion for a project, a key mantra of 4-H.
 State project award winners in each category are eligible to attend the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, which takes place in November. The National 4-H Congress provides an opportunity for youth to participate in educational, service and recreational activities, and hear from several nationally recognized speakers.
 The list of this year's state project award winners will be released during this year's Emerald Circle banquet. More information about opportunities available through 4-H is available online at kansas4-h.org.

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