

OBITUARIES

DAWN R. CASTORENA

Dawn R. Castorena, 59, of Independence, Kansas, left this world on December 10, 2025. She was born on March 29, 1966, and spent her life in Independence, where she lovingly raised her family, worked diligently, and built countless meaningful friendships.

Dawn worked as a supervisor at Catalytic and took great pride in her work. She was known for her spunky, outspoken personality, her kindness, and her big heart. She loved being outdoors, whether camping, fishing, gardening, or caring for her animals — and found joy in the simple pleasures of life. Dawn was a longtime member of both the VFW and the American Legion, where she cherished community and lifelong friendships.

Family was the heart of Dawn’s life. She is survived by her loving husband, Patrick Clark; her children, Nathan Clark, Donlie Keath (Karlie), Jessica Cooley (Gordon), and Daphanie Scott (Michael); her brothers, James Mil-lar (Shari) and John Teehee (Angela); her sisters, Kar-en Oliver (Bryan) and Jennifer Collier (Donny); and her beloved grandchildren, Haily, Annie, Calliope, Micala, Jerry II, Jesse, Jedidiah, Dorothy, Josiah, Jabel, Abigail, Noah, Esmae, Carrie, Serenide, and Haylie, who brought her endless joy.

She was preceded in death by her father, Fred Royce and her mother Norma Teehee; her sisters, Cherie Barnes and Elizabeth Ann Valade (Joseph); and her daughter, Carrisa Castorena.

Though her absence will be deeply felt, the love, laugh-ter, and cherished memories she shared with family and friends will live on in the hearts of all who knew her.

Visitation will be held on Monday, December 15, 2025, from 5:00–7:00 p.m. at Webb & Rodrick Chapel, with family present to greet friends. Graveside services will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Peru Cemetery. Family and friends are invited to come together to celebrate Dawn’s life, share memories, and honor the remarkable woman she was.

To leave a special message for the family visit www.webbrodrickchapel.com



Castorena

CITY–COUNTY

THEFT

Sept. 24- IPD Officers were dispatched to the 400 Block of West Main Street for a
Oct. 27- IPD Officers responded to a call of theft in the 100 Block of South Peter Pan Road. After investigating, Tatianna Robinson, 19 of Independence, was cited into municipal court on charges of theft.
Oct. 30- IPD Officers were dispatched to G&W Foods, located in the 400 Block of West Myrtle Street, for a report of past theft.

TRAFFIC

Sept. 24- IPD Officers were dispatched to the 1000 Block of North 13th Street for a hit-and-run. After investigating, Officers determined the accident was due to the suspect allegedly fleeing after being bat-tered by her son.
Oct. 29- IPD Officers were dispatched to the inter-section of East Poplar and 1st Streets for a non-in-jury accident involving two vehicles.
Oct. 30- IPD Officers conducted a traffic stop which resulted in the arrest of Steven Hilyard, 28, for driving while suspended.

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

Sept. 20- IPD Officers were dispatched to the 200 Block of West Laurel Street for a report of a domes-tic disturbance.

FIRE/EMS

Medical Emergency, 8:05 am Thursday, Cement St.
Medical Emergency, 8:32 am Thursday, 4200 CR 2500
Medical Emergency, 9:23 am Thursday, S. 17th St.
Transfer, 12:01 pm Thursday, Indy ER to JPH
Slip or Fall, 1:52 pm Thursday, Taylor Road
Transfer, 2:13 pm Thursday, Indy ER to Parsons
Medical Emergency, 3:02 pm Thursday, N. 2nd St.
Medical Call, 4:24 pm Thursday, W. Main St.
Medical Emergency, 8:30 pm Thursday, N. 15th
Medical Call, 9:40 pm Thursday, High School

HAPPENINGS

OPEN ARMS DINER

The Open Arms Diner will be serving goulash in to-go only meals Tuesday, December 16, 2025, begin-ning at 5:00 p.m. The center will be closed December 23 and 30 for the holidays, but it will reopen Tuesday, January 6.

LET’S DANCE WITH JOE HARRIS

(Formerly known as the 55 and Better Dance) Let’s Dance with Joe Harris will be held in Independence has been cancelled Friday, December 19. The dance will more than likely be shutting down due to winter weather coming in, so please look for updates.

WALL STREET ROUNDUP



Dow Index	48,469.10	- 234.91 0.48% ▼
S&P 500 Index	6,827.28	- 73.72 1.07% ▼
NASDAQ Index	23,218.06	- 375.80 1.59% ▼
Last updated on 12-12-25 at 1:18 p.m. CST Source: CNN		

LOTTERY



TOPEKA, KAN. - These Kansas lotteries were drawn earlier this week.

Super Kansas Cash.....Jackpot: \$260,000
Mega Millions.....Jackpot: \$70 million
Powerball.....Jackpot: \$1 billion

• City Commission

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- package authority and industrial signage projects
- Special Use Sales Tax Fund for additional receipts received and transferred to appropriate funds.
 - Special Highway Fund for additional receipts received and transferred to the Street Capital Fund.
 - Sanitation Fund for additional expenditures arising from personnel, contractual and supply-related expenses, as well as the lease purchase of a new sanitation truck.
 - Special Park and Recreation Fund for unexpected pool pump repair projects over the summer.
 - Debt Service Fund for the payoff and final fi-

WEATHER



Normal for today48 (high) and 27 (low)
Records76 (1998) and -1 (1917)
Sunrise Sunday 7:27 | sets 5:07
Sunrise Monday 7:28 | sets 5:08
Sunrise Tuesday 7:28 | sets 5:08
Lake Info for Friday (visit www.swt-wc.usace.army.mil and click on Daily Report for Today’s info):
Elk City Lake level..... 796.74 feet | outflow 157 CFS
Big Hill Lake level..... 857.17 feet | outflow 0 CFS

FORECAST FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Sunny, with a high near 45 degrees. Light easterly winds, switching to the north northeast around 5 to 10 mph in the morning. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 15 degrees. North northeast winds 9 to 13 mph, with gusts as high as 22 mph.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 27 degrees. North northeast wind 5 to 9 mph, becoming light and variable in the afternoon.

Sunday Night: Mostly starlit, with a low around 19.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 44 degrees.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low near 31.

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We might see bullet holes in a window or door
But we don’t want to see anything more.

We don’t see lifeless bodies lying on the floor
children identified by clothes they wore.

Innocent victims experience terror and horror
Police and medical examiners see the gore.

Loved ones feel pain and loss to their core
What we see, AR-15’s selling in the store.

Written by Robert Greenwood Jr for Sandy Hook Promise
Ad Paid for by Robert Greenwood Jr

REPORTER OBITUARY POLICY

The *Independence Daily Reporter* publishes death notices at no charge. A death notice includes name, age, date of death, and service information.
Anything more than a standard notice will be priced at \$85 without a photo and \$95 with a photo (up to 500 words).

Please submit all obituaries to
obits@indydailyreporter.com

The deadline to be included in the Tuesday through Saturday publications is 11:00 AM the day before publication. Any obituaries or notices received after the above deadlines will be published the next available publication day

nancing of Temporary Notes SR 2023-1 to Series 2025-A Pipeline Project Bonds and Issuance of Series 2025-B for the Public Works Facility.

When Commissioner Tim Emert asked simply “Why?,” Schwenker answered that these amend-ments were needed simply because the amounts in these sections were getting too close to going over budget, making sure that the city does not over-spend.

Assistant City Manager David Cowan opened the next Public Hearing regarding the condemnation of the Arco Building. As it was previously reported, in May 2023, Daniel Regan of Tulsa, contacted City Staff to inform them that he had bought the aging, vacant building. At the time, he had stated that he would be addressing ongoing concerns due to un-authorized access into the property. City Staff met with the owner, who at that time requested an ad-journment of the hearing to develop a compre-hensive plan for the building.

Since that time, the Arco Building has been placed on the State Historical Register and on the National Historic Registry. While windows are con-tinuously being boarded up to keep vagrants from the premises, no work has been done as of present day. Cowan stated that he had a conversation with the owner just a few weeks ago. At that time Regan stated that he is working on finishing up a 59-unit project in Tulsa that has been delayed due to in-frastructure issues. He told Cowan that he hopes to begin work on the design and numerous appli-cations this fall. According to his current schedule, design and permitting work will be completed in 2026, with construction anticipated to begin in ei-ther 2026 or 2027. Cowan asked the Commission-ers to approve another adjournment of the public hearing until June 11. He also noted that there was some other outside interest in the project, but did not elaborate further.

While keeping such an important landmark is important, the continuing saga the Arco Building has created is wearing thin with a few of the Com-missioners. Vice Mayor Dean Hayes was somewhat reluctant to go ahead with the motion, noting “We can’t kick this down the road forever.”

Again, Cowan spoke on behalf of the last item up for public hearing, the possible condemnation of the home located at 620 West Chestnut Street. He shared that City Staff had conducted an exterior inspection of the property and all trash and debris had been removed, as ordered. Hardboard had been installed along the exterior foundation, sealing the masonry wall, but Staff was unable to verify if re-pairs to the foundation had been completed. The management company in control of the property, JOYCO, indicated that the building inspector had inspected the work, but that information proved to be false. He had been on-site for unrelated work and had observed the foundation repairs had been made, but no inspection had been requested at that time. Cowan had been in contact with the manager of the office and work is continuing. The company asked City Staff to adjourn the public hearing until February to allow for the completion of repairs and subsequent inspections needed. The hearing was adjourned until February 26, 2026.

Items for Commission Action

The following items were approved by the Com-missioners:

- Setting the date of February 26, 2026 for a public hearing to consider condemnation of 1020 West Chestnut Street as dangerous and unsafe. The property has been reported to City Staff due to con-dition of the structure and numerous environmen-tal issues. The property has not had city utilities since 2012.
- Setting the date of February 26, 2026 for a public hearing to consider condemnation of 917 West Sycamore Street. City Staff has observed both structures on the property are in significant disre-pair and have not had city utilities since 2015.
- Setting the date of February 26, 2026 for a pub-lic hearing to consider condemnation of 208 South

Earl Street. Again, both structures are in disrepair and pose safety hazards. The property has not had city utilities since 2016.

- Setting the date of February 26, 2026 for a pub-lic hearing to consider condemnation of 417 North 2nd Street. City Staff has noted the structures are in disrepair and reported animals within the house.
- Setting the date of February 26, 2026 for a pub-lic hearing to consider condemnation of 1104 West Chestnut Street. Property here has been previous-ly reported to the City due to the condition of the primary structure and environmental issues. No city utilities have been used on the property since 2020.
- Setting the date of February 26, 2026 for a public hearing to consider condemnation of 908 East Maple Street. No city utilities have been used on the property since 2005.
- Setting the date of February 26, 2026 for a public hearing to consider condemnation of the Girl Scout Little House, located at 500 North Park Boulevard. Cowan spoke at length about this pub-lic hearing, stating that the owner of the property is not interested in keeping the property, that he had been urged to buy it by friends and commu-nity members. Since it is in the flood plain, the structure would have to be moved in order to be-gin remodeling. Cowan mentioned that the cost of such a venture would be extreme. He did note that the owner said if anyone is interested in saving the Little House, they should begin doing so before the public hearing.
- Setting the date of February 26, 2026 for a public hearing to consider condemnation of 1018 East Birch Street. The property had been reported to City Staff due to the condition of the primary structure, possible squatters and environmental issues.
- Setting the date of February 26, 2026 for a pub-lic hearing to consider condemnation of 518 North 9th Street. The property has not received city uti-lities since 2022. Both structures on the property are in significant disrepair.
- Setting the date of February 26, 2026 for a pub-lic hearing to consider condemnation of 720 West Maple Street. City Staff reported that there have not been City utilities on the property since 1998. Cowan noted that City Staff had been informed of this property before, noting the condition of the primary structure, possible squatter activity and environmental issues.
- Setting the date of February 26, 2026 for a pub-lic hearing to consider condemnation of 112 West Oak Street. Home owner Neil Erbe was on hand for this meeting, stating that he is currently work-ing on selling the property and does not feel that its condition warranted having a condemnation hearing. He plans on fixing up the small amount of work that needs to be done and then listing it for sale.
- Setting the date of February 26, 2026 for a pub-lic hearing to consider condemnation of 1028 West Chestnut Street. The home at the address was in bad condition, possibly occupied by squatters and numerous environmental issues that needed to be addressed.
- Setting the date of March 12, 2026 for a public hearing to consider condemnation of the property located at 521 West Laurel Street. Cowan shared that, while there have been numerous complaints regarding the condition of both the primary struc-ture and garage, the owner will begin work on the property to bring it up to code.
- Awarding the contract for engineering design of runway pavement rehabilitation at the Indepen-dence Municipal Airport. This project will consist of milling and overpayment of Runway 4/22, with repair of some additional areas if funding is avail-able. The contract is for \$199,300. A large sum of that, 95%, will be covered by the FAA, leaving the net cost to the City of \$9,965.
- Cancellation of the Special December 17 meet-ing and the December 18 Regular Meeting.