

Looking Back...*By Marcia Labbe*

A look at the past through the pages of The Herald

1/14/2016 – 10 years ago
Winning the annual Onaga Grade School spelling bee was 7th grader Taylor Falk. First runner up was Halie Jeanneret, and second runner up was Eva Krohn.

The Onaga Football Alumni welcomed 38 players to their 2nd Annual Charity Poker Tournament this past Saturday. After a heads-up battle with Mark Elder that saw the chip lead change several times, Michael Berges came out on top. The event raised over \$3,000. Local students receiving scholarships from Kansas State University include Jesse Uhlman, Caleb Ahlquist, Chelsea Ahlquist, Mitchell Duer, Thomas Eisenbarth, Chelsey Figge, Taylor Fischer, Branson Kocher, Keyanna Kocher, Mychal Kolterman, Emily Roggenkamp, Allison Walker, George Walker, Erika Kufahl, Taylor Kufahl, and Ellen Revell.

Lydia Larimore returned home a week ago Wednesday after spending a week visiting Steve and Linda Larimore and family near Salem, Mo.

Donna Bryan couldn't stand sitting around the house all day so went out and cut over 100 little cedar trees.

1/11/2001 – 25 years ago
Fourth grader Madelyn McCormick came out on top of the heap in the Onaga Grade School Geography Bee. Runner-up was Adam Kufahl followed by Garret Kufahl.

Marvin and Lucille McGuire entertained New

Year's Eve at noon at Golden Acres. The last song played was Auld Lang Syne.
Mrs. Winona Oswalt spent Christmas Day with Mr. and Mrs. Ron Oswalt and family in Wamego.
Katrina Abitz was an overnight guest of Adde Graf.

Genevieve Rollins of Winchester and Patricia George were Wednesday afternoon callers of Mrs. Florence Ratcliff.

1/8/1976 – 50 years ago
Lester Brimer has announced sale of the Brimer Skelly Service Station in Onaga to Claude Weber of Havensville effective January 1, 1976. Mr. Brimer had operated the station for the past 33 years, 30 of them with Sinclair gas and oils. Until a few years ago, he had also operated the Brimer Truck Line in conjunction with the station.

Louis E. Brunkow has accepted disability retirement from the U.S. Postal Service effective January 2, 1976, after 20 years of dedicated service. Louie served 40 months in the U.S. Army during World War II, receiving the bronze star for heroism in combat in Germany. Before the postal service, Louis spent about 10 years as operator of service stations in Onaga, and about 18 years part time in insurance work.

Mr. Lester Falk announces the sale of Onaga Oil Company to his nephew, Kenneth Falk, effective January 1, 1976. The sale includes the business, the Conoco station in Onaga, and the bulk plant.

Mrs. Walter Bonjour was a Friday supper guest of Mr. and Mrs. David Miller and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Jay Schlegel and Jason of Phoenix, Ariz., Pat Keating of Manhattan, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schlegel were New Year's Day dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Keating and John.

1/12/1956 – 70 years ago
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Grim of Cheyenne, Wyo. spent the week end with the former's sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Handley.

J. C. Crum, son of Mrs. Blanche Crum, returned home Tuesday after serving three years with the Army Field Engineers, stationed at Anchorage, Alaska.

Louis H. Stegeman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis F. Stegeman of Wheaton, has enlisted in the U.S. Navy and has been sent to the Great Lakes Naval Training Center for nine weeks recruit training.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Graf will celebrate their silver wedding anniversary Sunday, January 15 with a basket dinner at the Legion hall.

Mrs. William Paulsen, Sr. is spending this week in Kansas City, Kansas with Mr. and Mrs. Don Hess and family.

We Appreciate Our Readers of The Herald!

Titus Legislative Preview

By Kenny Titus
The holidays are over, the kids are hopefully headed back to school, and ready or not, the 2026 legislative session starts on January 12th. For those of you who plan to visit the Capitol this year, please let me know in advance by email or by calling my office. I make it a priority to visit with constituents when they are in the Capitol or part of a group event, but I also travel home each evening and need your help to make sure I get everything on the calendar between children's practices and concerts. As always, please continue to reach out on the issues that matter to you. A short personal email explaining the impact of a bill is much more meaningful than sending a template email.

The Fiscal Situation
One of the key factors that shapes the course of legislation every year is the state budget. Family budgets are only getting tighter in the face of rising costs, so controlling state spending while protecting core services is my top priority.

Strengthening Your Family's Budget
Kansans can best decide how to spend their own money. Taxpayers are not better off when the state redistributes their hard-earned money, and over the last three years I've worked to help you keep more of your money. Here's a look at all the tax cuts that have passed (many over the veto of the Governor) in the last three years:

- Eliminated state sales tax on food;
- Eliminated state income tax on all income less than approximately \$30,000;
- Eliminated state income tax on social security;
- Eliminated personal property tax on recreational vehicles such as ATVs and electric wheelchairs;
- Eliminated 1.5 mills of state property tax; and
- Increased the dependent care deduction.

Protecting Key Services
The first (and a fair question) to ask after so many tax cuts should be about state revenues and a responsible budget. Last year, thanks to a legislatively led budget process, we cut State General Fund (SGF) spending by 2% or about \$200 million. The first cut in five years. Even with those budget cuts, we still increased funding for roads, water, education, and Medicaid. Leadership has indicated we should expect another 2% cut this year.

Last fiscal year was the first full fiscal year without the sales tax on food and with the income tax reductions, but revenue still exceeded projections by \$240 million for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025. In the current fiscal year, we are already \$47 million (7.2%) above projections. Long-term projections are also stable. Projections show the SGF will still have about \$1.2 billion in it by FY 2030 and there will be an additional \$2 billion in the rainy-day fund. We are cutting taxes, cutting state spending, protecting core services, and giving your family more financial choices.

Big Issues in 2026
Impact of the 2026 Election

2026 promises to be an interesting electoral year and that will have an impact on business in the Statehouse. So far, the Speaker of the House is running for Insurance Commissioner, the President of the Senate is running for Governor, two house members are running for Secretary of State, and two other Senators are also running for Governor. The prevailing wisdom is that this will result in a quick session with attempts to limit the most controversial bills. As long as session is going on, these candidates are limited in the amount of time they can spend campaigning statewide and raising funds. It is hard to say how exactly this will impact the 2026 session, but it is certain that future electoral goals will impact motivations.

Congressional Redistricting
Many of you likely heard about the attempt to call a special session of the legislature to deal with congressional redistricting, driven mainly by national political concerns, and aimed at splitting up the 3rd District centered on Johnson County. No maps have been shared with legislators, and the House fell 10 signatures short of the number needed to call a special session. It is presumed any new maps would need 2/3rds approval in each chamber to override a veto by the Governor. If nothing changes, it appears unlikely there will be enough votes to pass new maps but expect the issue to come up early in the session.

Property Tax Relief
The biggest issue this year will likely end up being property tax relief. We failed to deliver meaningful relief last session, but progress was made as three different plans were circulated. I discussed all three at length last year, but as brief refresher, the proposed options include a cap on assessed valuation (taxable not appraised value) of property, limits on annual increases for municipal budgets combined with additional state funding for budgets below that limit, and establishment of a trust fund to be funded with money from the elimination of sales tax

(First published in The Onaga Herald, Thursday, January 8, 2026)

Legal Notice IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY, KANSAS CIVIL DEPARTMENT

CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC PLAINTIFF vs. CALEB MORTON, et al. Case No. PT-2025-CV-000032 Div. No. K.S.A. 60 TITLE TO REAL ESTATE INVOLVED DEFENDANTS NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE Under and by virtue of an Order of Sale issued by the Clerk of the District Court in and for the said County of Pottawatomie, in a certain cause in said Court Numbered PT-2025-CV-000032, wherein the parties above named were respectively plaintiff and defendant, and to me, the undersigned Sheriff of said County, directed, I will offer for sale at public auction and sell to the highest bidder for cash in hand at the front steps of the courthouse in the City of Westmoreland in said County, on February 5, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., of said day the following described real estate located in the County of Pottawatomie,

exemptions and used to end personal property tax on vehicles and then the state mill levy for public schools. I think some combination of all these ideas will create the most sustainable path forward, both for your wallet and politically. I am especially interested in the trust fund plan as a creative way to bring down costs.

New Stadium for the Kansas City Chiefs
Perhaps the biggest headline this year was the announcement that the Kansas City Chiefs are moving to Kansas. This was made possible by a special STAR Bond bill that was passed in 2024. I voted against that bill and having seen the "deal" that the Governor negotiated and that our legislative leadership rubber stamped, I am appalled at the \$1.8 billion dollar handout. This doesn't even include the additional money that will support the government owned stadium collected from sports gambling and the other economic development incentives and tax credits that will be handed out to the Chiefs. The Chiefs are worth \$6.2 billion and the Hunt family is worth nearly \$25 billion. Subsidizing billionaire sports teams is not the State's job.

Many will point to the successful Kansas Speedway as a good model, but that is owned privately by NASCAR and pays property taxes. Since the Chiefs are getting a government owned stadium, it will be property tax exempt and that lease will someday be used against the state just like was done to Missouri this go around whenever the stadium needs improvements. I think there is a real risk that the STAR Bond district will never be allowed to expire so as to keep pouring money from taxpayers directly into the Chiefs pockets. Parts of this deal will need to be implemented through legislation this year and I will work to protect future generations from the burden that is being created.

Student Pages Welcome
If you have a student interested in paging this year, please send me an email or call my office after January 12th to get scheduled. Students are

Continued On Page 6

State of Kansas, to wit: ALL OF LOT SIX (6) EXCEPTING THEREFROM THAT PART THEREOF DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 6, AND RUNNING THENCE IN A NORTHWESTERLY DIRECTION ALONG THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 6 TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 6; THENCE IN A NORTHEASTERLY DIRECTION ALONG THE NORTHWESTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 6 A DISTANCE OF 6 FEET; AND THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY IN A STRAIGHT LINE TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; ALL IN TIMBER CREEK EAST, PHASE 1, A SUBDIVISION SITUATE IN POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY, KANSAS. Commonly known as 2011 Timber Creek Drive, Manhattan, Kansas 66502 This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Doug Adams SHERIFF OF POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY, KANSAS LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP Attorneys for Plaintiff 6811 Shawnee Mission Parkway - Suite 309 Overland Park, KS 66202 (913) 831-3000 Fax No. (913) 831-3320 Our File No. 25-014488 41-3C

Area Business & Professional Directory

**Family Eye Care**
Dr. Ryan Kueker
Optometrist
Dr. Troy Junemann
Optometrist
EYE GLASSES • CONTACT LENSES
• SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNTS •
• EMERGENCY TREATMENT •
ONAGA • 889-4387
310 LEONARD
WAMEGO • 456-2236
631 LINCOLN

WANKLYN OIL, INC
For Gasoline, Diesel & Propane Service You Can Count On Us!
New & Used Tanks for Sale or Lease
Jerrodd Wanklyn
1-800-794-2019

The Computer Doctors
“We Make House Calls”
907 W. 4th—Holton, KS
785-364-9300

BERG REPAIR
14200 Godlove Rd, Westmoreland, KS
785-457-3534
Vermeer Hay Equipment
Zetor Tractors - Hydraulic hose
New & Used Sales & Service

Bugs Be Gone LLC
ONAGA, KS 66521
Licensed and Insured Pest Control Service
(785) 889-4138 or Toll Free: 1-866-846-8284

ANIMAL HEALTH CLINIC
Deanna Fairbanks, D.V.M.
220 South Leonard Street Onaga, Kansas
Phones: 785-889-4246
Res.: 785-889-7148
Monday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Tues. thru Fri. 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sat. By Appointment

**With Christ there's plenty of HOPE to go around!**
We're your neighbors...
St. Luke Lutheran Church
129 Railroad Street; Wheaton, Kansas
(785) 396-4411
stlukewheaton.com

DR. MIKE MICHEL
Dentist
3033 SW Villa West Dr. Topeka, KS 66614
Phone: (785) 783-6316
Topeka, Kansas 66614

SBS INSURANCE AGENCY
211 Leonard Street Onaga
“All Kinds of Insurance & Bonds”
785-889-4221
Jeff Hutfles, manager

**Onaga COUNTRY MARKET**
120 Prospect -Onaga, KS
785-889-0181
Complete Grocery & Deli
OPEN: Monday thru Saturday 7:00 am to 7:00 pm
Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

**FORCE LAND SURVEYING**
342 Main Street Wheaton, KS
Terry Force
785-396-4480
tforce@bluevalley.net

ONAGA AG & AUTO REPAIR
Onaga, Kansas 66521
Husqvarna Chain Saws
Husqvarna Riding Mowers
NAPA Auto Parts
- SALES & SERVICE -
110 East Third
785-889-4841

Reese & Novelty, P.A.
Certified Public Accountants
Ben Schoenberger, CPA
307 Leonard Street - Onaga, KS
785-889-4660

Spaces In the Directory Available at \$4.50 per inch. Call 785-844-9120 or email oherald@bluevalley.net