

THE ONAGA HERALD

ONAGA JOURNAL, Established May 9, 1878
ONAGA DEMOCRAT, Established October 1, 1885
ONAGA HERALD, Established April 1, 1890

ONAGA, POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY, KANSAS 66521
(USPS 408-500)

Thursday, July 9, 2026
Vol. 136, No. 15

Onaga Hosts Fourth Of July Celebration



Above: A group of Onaga youngsters completed their slide down the Firefighters huge tarp slide. The slide has turned into quite the attraction, the kids brought their swim suits and tubes to enjoy the slide.

Below: Local roper Tyler Herrman ropes a steer on Friday, July 3rd, during the Onaga Ranch Rodeo.



Photo by Alexis Herrman

On Friday, July 3rd, the City of Onaga hosted their annual Fourth Of July celebration in the park. The evening started with the Firefighters meal, which consisted of a delicious pulled pork meal with potato salad, beans, and chips. The kids all enjoyed the gigantic water slide down the hill. Where several of the youngsters brought their own inner tubes to take down the

hill. During that time the Onaga baseball teams were up above the hill taking on Wetmore. After everyone attended the barbecue they made there way over to the rodeo arena, where the Onaga Ranch Rodeo was taking place. The Rezac family put on the event with the help of several other community members. In first place for the evening was JC

Cattle Company, second place was Rezac Land and Livestock, and in third was Murray Ranch. Shortly after the rodeo, the evening started to turn towards darkness and to the annual fireworks show. The firefighters did not disappoint with their yearly show. There were all varieties of fireworks and several new varieties that the firefighters featured this

year, for the 250th year celebration. The weather held off just long enough for the firefighters to finish their grand finale and just in time for everyone to get their vehicles off of the hill before getting stuck. The evening was just another beautiful showing of why living in small town America, and specifically Onaga holds a special place in all of our hearts.

Administrative Executive To Become Full Time

Lily Hansen
The Times

At the request of Lisa Wright, Pottawatomie County Treasurer, commissions Monday agreed to transfer the part-time administrative executive position into a full-time one, although not unanimously.

"Our part time administrative executive is retiring," Wright said, adding the department learned of the retirement on Wednesday.

"If you've been in our office you've seen how busy it is," she continued.

Wright asked the commission if it would be possible to change the part-time 20 hours a week position into a full-time 40 hours a week position requiring an \$8,000 increase in budget.

Commissioners Terry Force, Gary Yenser, and Dee McKee approved while Merl Page and Bill Drew did not. The request passed with majority approval. The position is to be listed publicly in the coming weeks.

Public Works
Public Works Director Tim Eisenbarth updated the County Commission on the ongoing Culvert Lining project. Five sites were identified for the project and three bids were sent in. Subsurface Inc's bid of \$238,375 was chosen under "staff recommendation." All Commissioners approved.

Commission Updates
Commissioner Dee McKee reported a "busy week" with keeping up with an upcoming State legislative meeting as well as preparation for the 4th of July. Commissioner Merl Page had "kind of a quiet week" attending a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Belview Bridge, the open house meeting for Highway 24 in Wamego, and wished, "everybody a safe 4th." Commissioner Bill Drew echoed the same sentiment saying, "it's fairly quiet in my corner." He attended the Red, White, and Blue festival in Saint Mary's and wished everyone a "happy and safe 4th." Commissioner Gary Yenser attended the bridge ribbon cutting ceremony as well alongside an ATA bus meeting and KDOT meeting. Finally, Commissioner Terry Force attended the KDOT meeting, the ribbon cutting ceremony, Wheaton City Council meeting, and the Havensville parade.

The Pottawatomie County Commissioners were reminded Monday of the continuation of the Green Valley incorporation public hearing.

County administrators told the board that the continuation is set for 6:30-9:30 p.m., Thursday, July 9 at Crestview Church.

The hearing is part of

the effort of Green Valley residents to incorporate into a city within Pottawatomie County.

Awards presented
The Pottawatomie County Commissioners presented three county employees with service awards during the Monday morning meeting.

Jena Newman was awarded for five years served in the Public Works Department, Terry Voight and Jacob Walsh were recognized for five years service at the County Sheriff's Department.

The Commissioners thanked them for their hard work and dedication.

In addition to the service awards, Marie Dawes received the award for Employee of the Quarter.

"Marie has gone above and beyond," her recommendation said before completing her work behind the scenes in the Public Works Department.

Commissioners Updates-

Dee McKee reported a "busy week" with Fourth of July festivities and questions regarding the Green Valley development. She is hoping to work towards centralizing information regarding the County's projects.

Merl Page also attended Fourth of July festivities including Boomtown in Wamego. He said the fireworks were "remarkable" and thanked everyone involved. "The crowd appeared to be larger than normal," he said.

Bill Drew read from a letter from the Belvue Fire Chief thanking Pott County for donating a brush truck.

Gary Yenser reported a "pretty quiet" week, attending fireworks and answering calls.

Terry Force was in the parade in Wamego, received four letters about Data Centers from residents, and got one thank you note from a Cedar Creek Road resident.

Public Works Update
Tim Eisenbarth, Public Works Administrator, updated the Commissioners on several upcoming projects.

The Old Post Road and Lewis Wilson Road improvements received a bid from Ebert Construction for \$229,979. All Commissioners approved. According to Eisenbarth the construction should start around September and have a "fairly short construction timeline."

The St. Marys EMS Building project also received several bids. With staff recommendation, the Commissioners approved the Schultz Construction bid for \$320,250.