

NEWS

County 4-H news
Fairview 4-H Club

The Fairview 4-H Club met Sept. 27 at the Fairview 4-H building at 4 p.m.

The regular monthly meeting was called to order by President Erin Bolinger. The club recited the flag salute, 4-H Pledge and 4-H Motto.

Roll call of “favorite animal” was answered by 18 members. Song leaders Addison Bolinger, Carly Bolinger, Ellen Durand, Mason Klenklen, and Nolan Klenklen led the club in singing “Happy Birthday” to September Birthdays.

Secretary Cayla Delaet read last month’s minutes, and there was no correspondence.

Acting Treasurer Rae Stevens gave the club treasurer report. Reporter Lizzie Henry stated last month’s reporter’s report was sent in and published. Historian Ellen Durand told the club to continue taking and submitting photos for the year, and the Historian book is almost done for the year.

Fun fact: A program used in the past for Fairview 4-H was “parents’ night.” The members and parents would trade places, with parents filling the offices and giving talks and the kids giving leader reports. It was great fun to ask questions during a project talk at that meeting.

Morgan Seifert announced the council meeting would be Sept. 28 at 7 p.m.

Leader Marlene Seifert spoke about the Achievement Banquet Nov. 7, record book judging Oct. 12, officer training Oct. 4, fall project night Oct. 25, Farm Bureau dinner Oct. 10, open enrollment Oct 1, National 4-H week Oct. 4 through 10, and KYLF Nov. 21-22.

Leader Sherry Seifert recognized leader Jarred Henry for upkeep of the building grounds and roof. She also stated quotes on a new roof are needed. Katie Rhodelander will work on getting quotes.

For new business, Fairview voted to have the annual Halloween party at the Oct. meeting, purchase a raffle item for the 4-H carnival, and held elections of officers for the 2026 - 2027 4-H year.

New officers were chosen as follows: president, Erin Bolinger; vice president, Kody Bower; secretary, Cayla Delaet; treasurer, Eli Heston; reporter, Lizzie Henry; historians, Ellen Durand, Addison Bolinger, Rae Stevens and Rogan Stevens; song leaders, Carly Bolinger and Addison Bolinger; recreation leaders, Eli Heston, Noah Heston, Mason Klenklen, Nolan Klenklen and Killian Heck; council members, Kody Bower, Erin Bolinger, Morgan Seifert, Addison Bolinger, Carly Bolinger, and Greyson Correll; parliamentarians, Morgan Seifert, Greyson Correll, and Kody Bower.

Fairview’s next meeting will be held at 4 p.m. Sun., Oct. 18, at the Fairview 4-H Building.

– Lizzie Henry, reporter



Deadline for News & Ad Copy is Monday, at noon.

BOCC . . .

money in their Capital Outlay funds. The department heads indicated that they were willing to turn loose of the money.

“We’ve got to figure out how to make this (the shortfall) work,” the first-term commissioner said. “This (a post-budget hearing bump in the premiums) is not going to happen again. We aren’t going to be held hostage (by an insurance company). It’s ridiculous.”

He went on to promise the group that the board would be meeting several times next year to discuss health insurance and that the county would be considering the plans of other providers in addition to BCBS of Kansas.

“Hopefully, this (the shortfall) is a one-year problem,” said Ney, who maintains a health savings account through the county and vigorously plugged HSAs during the discussion, as did Metzger.

“I think it’s going to be in the county’s best interest to try to promote this (the HSA option),” the county attorney and county counselor remarked.

The Community Development director told Christy, Walbridge, and Jobbins that some of the departments hadn’t committed all of their eligible Capital Outlay funds and Equipment Reserve funds to help bridge the sizeable gap between the original budget and the approved budget and could conceivably be expected to chip in some money to help pay the county’s insurance bill for 2027.

As previously reported in the paper, the county was eventually able to whittle down a budget with a mill levy more than 14 mills above the revenue neutral rate to get to a budget with a mill levy that was less than three mills above the RNR.

According to Farrell, BCBS of Kansas has provided the county with dental insurance the past two years and was planning to boost its dental premiums by 7%. Metzger reacted to the news by telling the commissioners that the county hadn’t given its employees a chance to prepare for higher dental premiums.

Walbridge told his fellow commissioners at one point that he would support a health insurance plan the county could afford and that would have the least impact on employees’ pocketbooks.

The board ultimately decided to let employees have three options for their deductible, \$1,000, \$1,500 and \$3,500, \$3,500 being the only option by which a health savings account can be established or maintained, to contribute \$1,750 to any employee’s employee-only plan, to contribute \$3,500 to any employee’s family plan, em-

Letter policy

Signed letters expressing opinions are always welcome but those opposing a candidate or an issue at the polls will not be accepted for the Oct. 29 issue because this will be the non-response week for the Nov. 5 election.

(Continued from page 1)

ployee/spouse plan or employee/child plan, and to match half of the deductible for a health savings account.

The decision was a unanimous one.

In other business, Bond reported that 68 tax-delinquent properties were sold during the county tax sale the previous Thursday and that 40 of them were purchased by the county. He said the county shelled out \$13,200 for the properties it bought.

According to the county treasurer, the tax sale brought in \$79,550 altogether.

Bond told the commissioners that a few property owners paid their back taxes at the “last minute,” which kept their properties away from the proverbial auction block.

Bond also reported that county investments earned a total of \$229,064.85 during the third quarter.

Bond further reported that his office had received a thank-you note from the Winchester Public Library for the \$1,000 it got from the county in early August.

As previously reported in the paper, the county treasurer handed out eight \$1,000 checks, seven of which went to the public libraries in Winchester, Oskaloosa, Valley Falls, McLouth, Meriden, Nortonville, and Perry. The remaining \$1,000 covered the cost of a firefighter camp for high school students.

The money came from the county’s Special Parks and Recreation Fund.

In response to a question asked by Walbridge, who apparently was concerned about the availability of county funds in 2026, Bond said Certificate of Deposit “E” would mature in October. He said this CD was held by Denison State Bank in Meriden.

Using the large screen in the room, Metzger made the commissioners aware of Resimplifi, Columbia, S.C., a company that pulls together the listings for all of the commercial properties in a given area that are for sale so that prospective buyers know they exist and don’t have to go looking for them on multiple websites.

Metzger told Christy, Walbridge, and Jobbins that while he hadn’t personally met with a representative of Resimplifi, he said he had been informed that the company uses 8,000 different sources in assembling the listings that can be viewed on its website. He also spoke favorably of the finished product. “I can see a value for this,” he remarked.

Metzger pointed out to the commissioners that for a prospective buyer to be able to purchase a property, he or she has to know that the property is for sale. “This (Resimplifi’s website) would kind of solve these kind of connection issues between the buyer and the seller,” he observed.

According to the Community Development director, access to Resimplifi’s website would cost the county \$5,000 a year at the most.

In response to a question from Jobbins, Metzger said the county wouldn’t be expected to pay any sort of a commission tied to the sale of a property if it was already subscribing to Resimplifi.

Walbridge asked the Community Development director to gather more information about the company and then make it available to the board. The request prompted Christy to say, “I’d like to try it (the service).”

The following statement appears on the company’s website: “Resimplifi combines AI-assisted sourcing with direct human verification to keep commercial real estate listing data current, complete, and ready for integration.”

Voting 3-0, the board authorized Christy to sign on its behalf a Quit Claim deed transferring nine lots in Lake Shore Estates, Lakewood Hills, and Lakeside Village from the county to the Jefferson County Land Bank.

The lots are Lots 15, 16, 17 and 18 in Block Y of Lake Shore Estates, Lots 484, 485 and 486 in Unit II of Lakewood Hills, and Lots 6 and 179 in the Park Woods section of Lakeside Village.

The deed was brought forward by Metzger.

On separate 3-0 votes, the board OK’d travel requests that had been submitted by Heston and Agnew.

Heston will be heading to Emporia next week for a Fidlur Technologies Software User Group meeting, and Agnew will be going to Wichita in late October for a Foundations of Public Health class.

Heston’s meeting will play out over a three-day period, while Agnew’s class will last two days.

Finally, it was the consensus of the board that it wouldn’t be meeting Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday of the following week, meaning its next meeting is set to take place this coming Monday, Oct. 19, at 1 p.m.

The commissioners didn’t assemble this past Monday because the courthouse was closed to the public in observance of Columbus Day, which was an in-service day for county employees.

Executive Session

At the request of Metzger, the commissioners met privately with him for five minutes for the stated purpose of holding a preliminary discussion relating to the possible acquisition of real property. Bond and Ney were invited to remain in the room for the closed-door conversation and did. When the meeting reopened to the public, Christy announced that no binding action had been taken behind closed doors.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.



OBITUARIES

SHIRLEY SACKSCHEWSKY

Shirley Beth Noble Metzger Sackschewsky, 91, died peacefully on September 23, 2026, in

Wichita, Kansas.



Shirley was born June 25, 1935, in Rock Creek, Kansas, to Levi Noble and Rachael Ruth (Hurt) Noble. She married Carl Glen

Metzger on April 5, 1953, in Liberty, Missouri. Together, they raised five sons and were married 36 years until Carl’s passing on March 10, 1990. On May 31, 1991, Shirley married her devoted husband of more than 35 years, Rev. Marvin Lowell Sackschewsky.

Shirley valued education and obtained her degree from Fort Hays State University and her master’s degree in education from the University of Kansas. She taught elementary education in Independence, Kansas, and Great Bend, Kansas, for more than 25 years. Shirley was passionate about teaching and building relationships with each student who graced her classroom, and she cherished her relationships with fellow educators and school personnel. She was a longtime member of the First Presbyterian Church in Great Bend, Kansas. An avid reader, she was often found with a book in her hand. Her greatest joy was spending time with her sons and grandchildren.

Survivors include Shirley’s husband, Rev. Marvin Lowell Sackschewsky; sons, Alan Metzger (Emily) of Wichita, Kansas, Martin Metzger of Independence, Kansas, Paul

Metzger (Tara) of Coffeyville, Kansas, Russell Metzger (Elizabeth) of Montrose, Colorado, and James Metzger of Coffeyville, Kansas; stepson, Paul Sackschewsky (Leslie), Lodi, California; 17 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Shirley was preceded in death by her father, Levi; mother, Ruth; stepfather, Walter W. Boyd; late husband, Dr. Carl Metzger; brother, Warren Noble (Jean); sisters and their spouses, Thelma Ruth Carpenter (Neal), Anna Cooper (Edward), Donna Ward (Carl); stepbrothers and their spouses, Elmer Boyd (Marquita), Homer Boyd (Gerry), and Thomas Boyd (Rosemary); daughter-in-law, Amanda Howard Metzger; and two grandchildren.

A celebration of life followed by visitation will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, Great Bend, Kansas, on October 28, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. with Pastor Jim Hawthorne presiding. A celebration of life luncheon and visitation will also be held in Oskaloosa, Kansas, on October 29, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Colonial Acres with a graveside service following at 1:30 p.m. at the Oskaloosa Pleasant View Cemetery with Pastor Emily Elliott presiding. Memorials may be made to the Great Bend First Presbyterian Church, in care of Bryant Funeral Home, 1425 Patton Rd., Great Bend, KS 67530.

Condolences may be sent and notice viewed at www.bryantfh.net.

Paid obituary

JANETTE TORBORG

Janette Ann (Ridler) Torborg, 89, of Tonganoxie, KS; formerly of Paynesville, MN; Ros- eville, MN; New Brighton, MN; Colorado Springs, CO; Shoreview, MN; Burlington, KS; and Perry, KS, passed away Wednesday, Oc-

tober 7, 2026, at Vintage Park/ Homestead of Tonganoxie, KS.

Janette was born September 14, 1937, in Osakis, MN, the daughter of Joseph and Louise (Housen) Ridler. She was a 1955 graduate of Paynesville High School, Paynesville, MN. A homemaker and mother, Janette also worked as a book- keeper for many years while living in Colorado Springs and Shoreview before retiring.

She was a current member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Tonganoxie, KS.

Janette married Robert “Bob” Bernard Torborg on January 19, 1957, in Paynesville,

MN. He preceded her in death on September 10, 2023.

Survivors include a son, Michael (Kim) Torborg, Clarks- ville, TN; two daughters, Carey (Scott) Henry, Oskaloosa, KS, and Mary Jo Brunhaver, Gilbert, AZ; two sisters, Mary Beth Hyland, St. Bonifacius, MN, and Kathy (Jim) Vigliaturo, Kansas City, MO; eight grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by a brother, Daniel Ridler; and a son-in-law, Steve Brunhaver.

A Memorial Mass of Chris- tian Burial will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, October 31, 2026, at Sacred heart Catholic Church, Tonganoxie, KS. The Rosary will be recited at 9:30 a.m. the Saturday before Mass at the church.

Memorials are suggested to Sacred Heart Church Building Fund. Barnett Family Funeral Home of Oskaloosa, KS, is as- sisting the family.

barnettfamilyfh.com

Paid obituary

ODDS AND ENDS

• Washburn University has announced the students in its summer 2026 graduating class. These students completed their courses for certificates, associate, bachelor’s, master’s, and doctorate degrees — 280 total from Washburn University, Washburn University School of Law, and Washburn Institute of Technology.

Those students given the opportunity to participate in either spring or fall 2026 commencement ceremonies from Jefferson County are Makinley Daniels, Elijah Gould, and Kinlee Wolfe, McLouth; Kali Henry, Meriden; Emma Herring and Isabelle Villines, Ozawkie; and Aubri McKenzie and Zyler Peak, Oskaloosa.

THE OSKALOOSA INDEPENDENT

Business Card Directory

05-26-26



BOYD'S
Heating & A/C
Our Customers Matter
Boyd'sHeatingAndAir.com
785.231.8350

05-16c



Mike's Lock Service
Mike Smith, Locksmith
22 years of Professional Service
Lock Repair & Replacement
Automotive Locks & Keys
785-764-7173 • Call or Text • Oskaloosa, KS

18-16c



KINGS CONSTRUCTION
Earth Moving, Ponds, Terraces, Waterways,
Brush Clearing, Tiling, & Tile Terraces
DAN KING • KENT KING
Minorities and Females encouraged to
apply. An Equal Opportunity Employer
785-863-2534 • Oskaloosa, KS

13-16c



Lance Rymmer
HANDYMAN SERVICE
lancerymmer@yahoo.com
Call or text 913.709.2199

42-11p



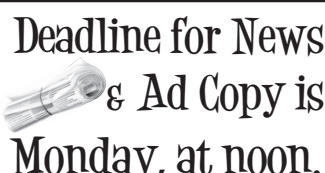
Barnett Family Funeral Home
Jefferson County Crematory
Pre-need arrangements, burials,
cremations and monument services
1220 Walnut • PO Box 602
Oskaloosa, Kansas 66066
PH: (785)863-2020 • Fax: (785)863-2008

18-16c



MCM MIDWEST CONCRETE
MATERIALS, INC.
Ready Mix Concrete & Aggregates
Plants in Perry and Atchison
888-244-2082 or 785-843-1688

18-16c



Deadline for News
& Ad Copy is
Monday, at noon.



THE COMPUTER DOCTORS
“We make
house calls.”
907 W 4th
Holton, KS 66436
785-364-9300

12-16c



FARMER
EXCAVATING, INC.
OSKALOOSA, KS 785-863-2404
Excavation, ponds, trucking, landscap-
ing, snow removal, all types of dirt work.
<http://www.farmerexc.com>

14-16c

Call 785-863-2520 or
e-mail [independent@
jeffcountynews.com](mailto:independent@jeffcountynews.com)
to put your ad in The
Oskaloosa Independent
Business Card
Directory.



Oskaloosa Day Spa
LAST OF THE BEAUTIFUL
Patty Rymmer, Aesthetician
913.709.2763
Facials • Chemical Peels
Dermaplaning
Acne Treatments
Microblading

06-16c

Kramer Agency, Inc.
*An Independent Property and Casualty
Insurance Agency for Northeast Kansas*
**Homeowners
Farm • Auto
Commercial**
www.kramerins.com
106 Main St. • Ozawkie, Kansas
Next to the Post Office
785-876-2493 office

04-16c

Model Year End Clearance





Two Convenient Locations

Heinen Repair Service, Inc.
13424 Edwards Rd, Valley Falls
785-945-6711 | Heinenope.com

Heinen Outdoor Power Equipment
1795 E 1500th Rd, Lawrence
785-424-6400 | Heinenope.com

02-12-16c