

Herald-Chronicle

Osage City's Smoke in the Spring is April 10-11

OSAGE CITY — The aroma of championship BBQ will fill the air in Osage City April 10-11. The 23rd annual Smoke in the Spring BBQ contest will kick off Friday, April 10, with more than 100 teams from 10 states and Canada.

Taste of Osage City

The public portion of the contest begins at 5 p.m. Friday, April 10, at Jones Park, with the Taste of Osage City, and goes until the food runs out.

There will be 15 teams cooking for the public, as well as a beer garden, operated by Ridge Iron Grill. All food and drinks must be purchased with BBQ bucks, which can be obtained 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 6-10 at Osage City Hall, 201 South Fifth Street, Osage City, and from 1 to 7 p.m. April 10 at the south concession windows of the community building.

"I have 15 teams vending this year, and many have vended for five or more years," Linton said. "The reason the teams like to vend at Smoke in the Spring is simply our public participation. Many of the teams use the money they raise by vending to pay for other competitions. Smoke in the Spring funds their BBQ season in many ways. No other contest comes close to the foot traffic we have!"

Local groups will also host fundraisers Friday night. Osage City sixth-graders, along with Amy Linton, will operate a BBQ Sauce and Rub Pop-Up Shop, and KB's Special-Tees, owned and operated by Kelli Bowin, will be set up selling BBQ apparel. Other groups that will be



Submitted

A total of 15 teams will participate in The Taste of Osage City community feed April 10, starting at 5 p.m.



Scan QR code for Smoke in the Spring schedule of events, map, sponsors, advertising, and more, or visit [Facebook.com/SmokelnTheSpring](https://www.facebook.com/SmokelnTheSpring).

selling items include the Osage City High School (OCHS) Band Booster Club, the Osage City Public Library, the Willing Workers 4-H Club, Osage City Youth Wrestling, and Robbie Noble's summer baseball team.

From 7 to 10 p.m. Friday, The Bash, a band based in Topeka, will provide live music in the Osage City Parks and Recreation building. At 9 p.m., the band will take a break, and event-goers are invited to enjoy a spectacular fireworks display, provided by Garrett's Fireworks, Osage City, and set off by Scott

Farmer and his pyro crew.

BBQ competition

There are 104 teams participating in the BBQ competition portion of Smoke in the Spring this year. Following Friday's festivities, teams will fire up their smokers as they prepare for Saturday's competition. Smoke in the Spring is a Kansas City Barbeque Society (KCBS) sanctioned state championship contest, and is an official qualifier for the Road to \$1 Million BBQ World Cup.

Certified BBQ judges from across the region will evaluate entries, rating each on taste, presentation, and tenderness, as teams compete for top honors in one of the Midwest's premier BBQ contests and over \$25,000 in total payouts. Additionally, the grand champion of Smoke in the Spring will move on to compete in the BBQ World Cup, the Road to \$1 Million, in Las Vegas in April 2027. This is the only competition in Kansas selected to be a qualifier for the BBQ World Cup.

"The BBQ community is very friendly and supportive to one another," Linton said. "They really enjoy cheering for their friends. However, as much fun as they have socializing, when Friday night rolls around, the competitiveness comes out, because every team at the contest has 'the best BBQ,' of course."

All contest awards will be awarded at 4 p.m. Saturday, on the south side of the community building.

"We're incredibly excited Smoke in the Spring was selected this year as an official qualifier for the BBQ World Cup & Expo coming to Vegas in 2027," Linton said. "As one of 40 contests worldwide, it's a great opportunity to showcase our event yet again and highlight us within the BBQ community"

For more information on Smoke in the Spring, visit [Facebook.com/SmokelnTheSpring](https://www.facebook.com/SmokelnTheSpring), or contact Corey Linton at rec@osagecity.com, or by calling (785) 528-4610 or (785) 806-8911.



22nd annual car show is April 11

OSAGE CITY — The 22nd annual Cruis'n and Cook'n Car Show in downtown Osage City is Saturday, April 11. Sponsored by the Twin Lakes Cruisers Car Club, the car show welcomes all makes and models, including cars, trucks, vans, classic, muscle, antiques, street rods, rat rods and motorcycles.

The car show kicks off at 8 a.m., with registration continuing until 11 a.m. at Branine Chevrolet. An awards presentation will take place at 2:30 p.m. Additional activities downtown include shopping, food and drink vendors, and a craft show at the

Osage County Senior Center. In addition, event-goers can take a picture of their classic vehicles in front of the historic Gilday White Eagle Gas Station, located on the corner of Fifth and Holliday streets.

Registration fee is \$20 prior to April 10, and \$25 the day of the car show. Each additional entry is \$10. The first 50 people to pre-register will receive a Cruis'n and Cook'n tote bag.

For more information on the car show, contact Richard Swarts at (785) 249-5451, Dustin Hokanson at (785) 220-2777, or Jeanette Swarts at jdre-swarts@gmail.com.

Deadline for candidates to file for county positions is June 1

Elections are right around the corner. The deadline for candidates to file is noon Monday, June 1.

A general election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 3. If necessary, a primary election will be held Tuesday, Aug. 4.

Positions listed on this year's ballot will include township clerks for Agency, Arvonia, Barclay, Burlingame, Dagoon, Elk, Fairfax, Grant, Michigan Valley, Vassar, Lincoln, Melvern, Olivet, North Ridgeway, South Ridgeway, Scranton, Superior, and Valley Brook; commissioner first district; Republican precinct committeeman and committeewoman, and Democratic precinct

committeeman and committeewoman for Agency, Arvonia, Barclay, North Burlingame, South Burlingame, Dagoon, Elk, Fairfax, Grant, Michigan Valley, Vassar, Lincoln, Melvern, Olivet, North Ridgeway, South Ridgeway, Scranton, Superior, North Valley Brook, South Valley Brook, and Osage City wards 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Candidates must file at the county clerk's office, 717 Topeka Ave., Lyndon. Call (785) 828-4812 with any questions.

As of Monday, no candidates have filed yet.

There are no school board or city positions on this year's ballot.

Osage County W-2 corrections delayed

County cites payroll processor, contract change

LYNDON — Corrected W-2 forms for Osage County employees remain outstanding more than two months after errors were identified, with county officials pointing to delays by a third-party payroll processor and broader payroll issues.

Employees were first notified Jan. 14 that their W-2 forms contained inaccuracies. The county submitted corrected information to its payroll

provider, ADP, on Feb. 6 and was told revised forms would be issued within six to eight weeks. As of late March, those corrected forms have not been distributed.

County Clerk Michelle Morris said the county completed an internal review and has followed all IRS-required procedures. Documentation from the clerk's office shows repeated contact with ADP from late January through March 24, including calls, emails, and support requests, seeking status updates

and resolution.

ADP representatives confirmed receipt of the corrections, but did not provide a firm timeline for completion. In recent contacts, company representatives indicated they had the necessary information but were still reviewing the cause of the delay.

The county relies on ADP to process payroll, generate W-2s, and issue corrected forms, meaning the county cannot independently finalize the documents.

The delay comes amid

ongoing payroll concerns in Osage County. In recent months, employees and officials have raised issues involving payroll, benefits, and financial management. Those issues have contributed to changes in how the county is handling payroll services, including the decision not to renew its contract with ADP.

As the April tax filing deadline approaches, employees remain without corrected W-2s, leaving the issue unresolved and creating uncertainty for filing accurate returns.

Willing Workers 4-H Club hosts annual Easter egg hunt



Submitted

Children gathered in Osage City for the Willing Workers 4-H Club's annual Easter egg hunt, where the Osage County Sheriff's Office and Osage City Police Department escorted the Easter Bunny to the event, to hand out golden eggs and take photos with the children.

Osage County Commission Lack of quorum delays meeting

LYNDON — The Osage County Commission was unable to convene its regular meeting March 24, after failing to reach a quorum at the scheduled start time.

Commissioner Heather Kuder was present, along with Osage County Counselor Joshua Ney and County Clerk Michelle Morris. Commissioner Brandon Smith was absent as expected, and Commissioner Les Holman was also not in attendance after indicating he had an emergency and could not participate. Without at least two commissioners present, the

meeting could not be officially called to order.

During the delay, county officials discussed how to handle time-sensitive business, particularly approval of bills that could not be postponed. Morris noted a workers' compensation premium payment due before April 1 that required commission action to avoid reporting issues with the state. Options considered included scheduling a special meeting later in the week, potentially during daytime hours, or coordinating a brief meeting

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