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Big storms sweep through county

State of emergency declared

OSAGE COUNTY — Residents of Osage County were impacted in the early morning hours of June 26, between 3 and 4 a.m., when high winds and rain blew through the county. While cleanup of debris from that storm continued, another severe thunderstorm rolled through the county, as well as surrounding areas, the evening of Friday, June 28, in which two EF-0 tornadoes were confirmed in county, and one EF-Unknown (reports and photos of a tornado but no damage) in Lyon County.

The National Weather Service issued a tornado warning 8:17 p.m. June 28 for west central Osage County and northeastern Lyon County, when trained weather spotters confirmed a tornado located five miles northwest of Reading, moving east at 15 mph.

Winds near 80 mph were reported, with winds in Lyndon reported at 82 mph. Damage included trees and power poles down or nearly down, fences broken, business signs and windows broken, and missing playground equipment and other items from yards.

The first tornado, confirmed approximately 30 minutes following reports of a tornado in northeast Lyon County, was reported on the ground at 8:39 p.m. in Barclay, with a path length of 1.24 miles and estimated peak winds of 70 mph. The second tornado was reported at 8:59 p.m. near Melvern Lake, with a path length of 0.35 miles and winds of 85 mph. Both tornadoes showed impressive rotation and caused considerable damage.

There were no reports of hail in Osage County, but 1.25-inch diameter hail was

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Submitted

Above, rotation of a supercell over Melvern Lake the evening of June 28 brought 80+ mph winds. Below, the Melvern Lake Marina and docks sustained damage in the storm.



OSAGE COUNTY COMMISSION

Bills, disaster status allowed

Catherine Faimon | Publisher

LYNDON — The Board of Osage County Commissioners got right to the business of approving a resolution proclaiming Osage County as a state of disaster emergency Monday morning, following three storms within the week that caused significant damage and widespread debris in their wake.

Greg McCurdy, Osage County Emergency Management director, requested the proclamation, which was approved by commissioners Heather Kuder, vice chair, and Jay Bailey. Commissioner Les Holman was unable to attend the meeting. Also present was Michelle Morris, county clerk. County counselors Josh Ney and Ryan Kriegshauser joined the meeting approximately 30 minutes in.

Commissioners met with Tricia Webb and Michelle Rooks, land development, who requested the Board

sign 12 completed Neighborhood Revitalization Program applications that have been approved. Webb noted there are a number of applications that did not qualify for the program for various reasons.

“We wanted you to know there are going to be people that are not happy,” Webb told the Board. She said some of the reasons applicants have been turned down are due to owing back taxes, improvements were not sufficient enough, structures being built prior to applications being submitted, and incomplete applications by some. Others “may just need to request an extension,” Webb said. She told the Board those applicants will be receiving a letter stating they were not approved, and can speak to commissioners if they believe an appeal is in order.

Osage County Treasurer Laura Hawkins provided

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BURLINGAME USD 454

Insurance proposal gets green light

BURLINGAME — A special meeting of the Burlingame USD 454 Board of Education was held June 26, where approval was given to accept the KICS insurance proposal of \$97,204 for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Board also approved the Mid-States School Equipment Co. Inc. bleacher bid of \$142,485 and

the Macro Air fan bid of \$28,008, as well as payment of warrants presented.

In addition, the Board approved the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) Safety Plan, the KASB board policy updates as presented, and the administrative recommendation to re-employ classified staff members for the 2024-2025 school year as presented.

Osage City's county fair begins July 10

OSAGE CITY — The Osage City Osage County Fair is July 10-13. In addition to the parade, carnival rides, vendor booths in the rec building and the Lions Club food stand at the community building, the fair will also feature a magic show, bingo, a band, a fireworks show and a demolition derby.

This year, the 4-H portion of the fair will be held July 24-27, and a full schedule of events will appear in the July 18 edition of The Osage County Herald-Chronicle.

The Lions Club food stand will open 6 a.m. daily, July 10-13, and will feature an all-you-can-eat breakfast 7 to 10 a.m. Saturday. The rec building will open 9 a.m. daily, where vendor booths will be set up, including the Atomic Alert display, sponsored by the City of Osage City and the Bank of Osage City. Carnival rides will run 6 to 10 p.m. daily, and the parade will be 6:30 p.m. Friday in the downtown business district.

The Patriotic Magic Show by Keith Leff will feature two time slots, 7 and 9 p.m., Thursday, July 11. Both

shows will be on the main stage near the community building, and are sponsored by Bailey & Sons Motor Co., Lyndon. Admission is free.

From 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, July 12, fairgoers are invited to play bingo, sponsored by the St. Patrick Altar Society, inside the community building. Also on Friday, the band Delta Haze will play from 8 to 10 p.m. on the main stage near the community building. Immediately following the band, the community fireworks display, sponsored by the Osage City Chamber of Commerce, will commence.

Saturday, July 13, the demolition derby will begin 7 p.m., west of the football field. The derby is sponsored by Pay Up Suckers Promotions and the Osage County Fair Association. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6 to 12, and children 5 and under are free. Pit passes are \$20.

See a complete schedule of events, along with advertisements from local businesses and individuals on Pages 10,11 and 12.

Colstroms are Mr. and Mrs. Osage City, Martin, Lickteig to lead parade

OSAGE CITY — Larry and Jeannine Colstrom will represent Osage City as the 2024 Mr. and Mrs. Osage City in the Osage City Osage County Fair Parade, to be held Friday, July 12.

Both grew up in the Osage City community, attending Osage Rural Elementary School and Osage City High School. Following high school, they both worked at Hallmark Cards for more than 30 years before retiring, while also being active in their church and the Osage City community.

Following retirement, Larry went into full-time farming, endeavoring in conservation practices of the land, using new farming techniques to maintain the soil and enhance productivity while reducing labor and costs. Jeannine became a professional seamstress, working for J. Higgins, LLC, from home, making Scottish kilts, which are distributed all over the United States. She also volunteers at ECAT and serves on the Osage County Senior Center Board.

The Colstroms are still active in their church and community, volunteering their time and talents. They are enjoying the rural lifestyle,



Submitted

Larry and Jeannine Colstrom were named this year's Mr. and Mrs. Osage City.

living west of Osage City, in the Rapp community where Larry grew up. They enjoy spending time with family and friends.

Parade marshals

Michelle Martin and Jessica Lickteig will serve as this year's parade marshals for the Osage City Osage County Fair Parade.

Martin has lived in Osage City since 1978. She graduated from Osage City High School with the Class of



Submitted

Osage City Elementary School secretaries Jessica Lickteig, left, and Michelle Martin, will serve as 2024 parade marshals for the Osage City Osage County Fair Parade.

1980. Martin and her husband, Rick, have two sons, Dylan (Katie), Osage City, and David, Lawrence, as well as three grandchildren, Khloe, Layne and Paislee.

Lickteig was born and raised in Osage City. She graduated from Osage City High School in 2006. She married Ryan Lickteig, Osage City, in 2009, and they have two daughters, Jordyn, who will be in eighth grade, and Taylor, who will be in sixth grade.

Both Martin and Lickteig work at the Osage City Elementary School. Martin has been a secretary for 26 years, and Lickteig has been an administrative assistant since 2016. They go above and beyond to help families who may be struggling financially or otherwise. They make sure every child at the school feels welcomed and loved, and ensure they have access to everything they need to be safe and successful.



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