

Commissioners questioned on taxes, valuations

BY CYNTHIA SCHEER
Managing editor

Four members of the public came into the Board of County Commissioners meeting on Monday during the annual budget hearing. They asked a variety of ques-

tions, including questions related to the county's mill levy and how property values are figured. The public was invited to Monday's meeting for the hearing to exceed the revenue neutral rate as well as

the budget hearing. The purpose of Monday's hearing was to answer "objections of taxpayers related to the proposed use of all funds," according to the notice published in the Aug. 14 edition of the Washington County

News. But shortly after members of the public were allowed to voice their questions and concerns, anger and frustration took over the discussion. Commissioner Raleigh Ordoyne handed out a sheet of

paper that showed the county's mill levies since 2010 to show the group how the commissioners have been cutting the county's portion of the mill levy each year through 2024.

See **TAXES** on 3A

LOCAL MILL LEVIES OVER TIME

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	15yr dif	10yr dif	5yr dif
Mill levy from Washington County																			
	80.083	81.066	81.006	81.063	81.692	81.020	78.538	74.973	72.716	70.732	68.505	65.947	58.019	54.918	52.784	44.168	-36.915	-36.852	-24.337
Mill levy from school districts with local taxing authority																			
USD 108 Washington County, USD 223 Barnes-Hanover-Linn, USD 224 Clifton-Clyde, USD 364 Marysville, USD 109 Republic County, USD 498 Valley Heights																			
108	50.855	52.633	54.089	51.240	52.868	53.005	58.047	55.669	55.625	51.291	46.249	46.501	44.364	49.185	48.554	50.629	-0.226	-2.376	+4.38
223	55.750	55.715	55.470	55.421	54.099	47.004	47.573	49.104	49.253	45.692	45.861	44.290	43.734	43.139	44.399	44.358	-11.392	-2.646	-1.503
224	40.791	40.101	40.213	40.252	41.727	41.602	40.356	44.235	44.243	44.242	44.234	44.231	44.209	44.197	44.963	44.922	+4.131	+3.32	+0.688
364	48.223	47.448	51.130	47.878	49.509	47.495	47.217	55.381	57.391	58.904	58.699	58.927	59.734	58.973	58.946	59.581	+11.348	+12.086	+0.882
109	46.441	47.447	47.185	47.177	51.180	47.806	49.727	47.378	47.375	56.360	55.253	54.653	55.224	55.486	56.487	59.271	+12.829	+11.465	+4.018
498	58.117	58.264	58.424	58.511	58.467	51.440	55.474	53.977	55.137	55.284	52.445	52.354	42.328	46.876	45.937	50.642	-7.475	-0.798	-1.803

This table shows the past 15 years of mill levies used by Washington County and local school districts for taxing purposes. In Kansas, the mill levy is the tax rate applied to a property's assessed valuation, expressed in mills (one mill equals \$1 of tax per \$1,000 of assessed value). The 2025 mill levies are currently being finalized by the various taxing entities through budget hearings announced in public notices in the Washington County News. Data compiled by Dan Thalmann, WCN, from information from the County Clerk's office.



Tucker Huband, a Washington County High School senior this year, has been bowling on the open circuit over the last year, culminating in his participation in the Junior Gold Championship in Wisconsin last month.



Tucker Huband bowling on the next level

BY DAN THALMANN
Publisher

Washington County High School senior Tucker Huband took the sport of bowling to the next level this summer. Tucker has been part of the Tigers' bowling team since his freshman year, placing 14th at state his sophomore and junior years, but after some encouragement from his WCHS coach John Metz, Tucker has also been competing in open

tournaments around the Midwest. Last fall, Tucker attended his first Kansas City Open tournament in Olathe and that experience turned into a series of competitions that saw him place well. In October, he earned a Division Two Championship and earned a KCO Black Championship Jacket at a tournament in Gladstone, Mo. In his third KCO tournament in November in Lawrence, he moved to

Division 1 (all-scratch division, no handicaps, averages at 200 or above) and his high scoring game qualified him to attend the 2025 National Junior Gold Championship. As he prepared for that, he continued to participate in KCO tournaments in the Kansas City area and a Youth Scratch Masters tournament in Wichita, among many other events. Junior Gold is a national championship at

a higher level of competition. The July tournament was in and around the Green Bay, Wisc., area, using several different bowling alleys. A total of 1,341 bowlers competed with Tucker in the U18 division. There were four rounds of four games each. He didn't attain the scores he wanted and was not able to make the cut of the top 192 bowlers, but had a great experience.

See **HUBAND** on 4A

Summer comes to a close with three area community festivals

Palmer Labor Day

BY CYNTHIA SCHEER
Managing editor

The annual Palmer Labor Day celebration will bring four days of entertainment to the area this weekend. There will be a variety of food, games, entertainment and shopping available in Palmer during the event.

Palmer Labor Day officially begins on Friday, Aug. 29, with

a "Let's Glow Palmer" bike ride at 9 p.m. in downtown Palmer.

On Saturday, Aug. 30, the day begins with a community bike ride at 7 a.m. at the Palmer Café. The softball tournament begins at 9 a.m. at the Palmer Hill. The gun show begins at 9 a.m. at the Palmer Community Building.

See **PALMER** 3A

Pony Express Festival

BY CYNTHIA SCHEER
Managing editor

The 39th annual Pony Express Festival is this Sunday, Aug. 31, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hollenberg Station near Hanover.

The event is scheduled to feature old-time demonstrations

from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Those demonstrations include rope making, wagon rides, blacksmithing, flint napping, zither, cowboy songs, station keeper with historical interpreting, marble maker, baskets, Civil War, and many more.

See **PX FEST** 5A

Clyde Watermelon Festival

BY CYNTHIA SCHEER
Managing editor

The 126th annual Clyde Watermelon Festival is this weekend. The four-day event officially runs Friday, Aug. 29, through Monday, Sept. 1.

The pre-festival includes a downtown window decorating contest and a medalion hunt.

The event begins on Friday morning

with a Chris Cakes pancake breakfast from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Randolph-Decker Public Library. There will also be airbrush tattoos for the kids during the same time frame.

The Watermelon Festival Kids Clue Pursuit begins at 11 a.m., and the Clyde Community Museum is open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

See **CLYDE** 5A

20th anniversary of Treasure Hunt

BY CYNTHIA SCHEER
Managing editor

The annual Highway 36 Treasure Hunt will celebrate its 20th anniversary this year. The dates for this year's event are Thursday-Saturday, Sept. 18-20. Garage sales, yard sales, antique sales and more will take place across Washington County that weekend.

To be included on the Washington County Treasure Hunt map, contact Ryan Kern by Sept. 12. Send a description of sale

and address to rkern@washingtoncountyks.gov or call 785-325-2116.

Local maps and sale listings are the key to making the most of the Treasure Hunt. Beginning Sept. 1, local coordinators will have detailed maps available online at www.ushwy36.com. These maps show every participating sale in each county, along with tips on where to eat, shop, and stay along the way.

Printed maps will be available in most communities beginning the week of the Treasure Hunt.

The Treasure Hunt was launched in the fall of 2005 by US Highway 36 Association board members and antique dealers Paul Kallman, Jim Erickson, and Jane Ann Carlgren. It was an idea to link towns along a 400-mile stretch of U.S. Highway 36 with a shared weekend of antique, estate, and garage sales. From just eight towns in its first year, the Treasure Hunt has grown into an event spanning 13 counties and more than 30 towns across Kansas.

Kindergarten aspirations - B SECTION



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