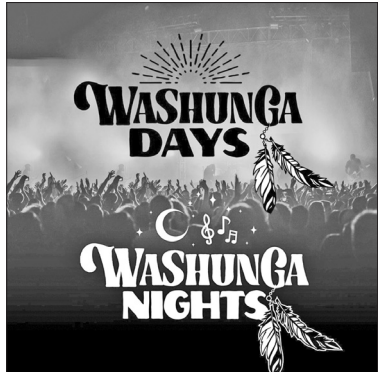


# COUNCIL GROVE REPUBLICAN

*A Daily Newspaper on the Santa Fe Trail in Council Grove, Kansas Since 1872*



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## Briefly...

The Council Grove High School Class of 1965 will be gathering at the Young Guest House at 1 p.m., Saturday, June 28. Anyone wishing to visit with the class are welcome to join them.

## History Shorts...

(Submitted by Ken McClintock)

In 1858, James H. Holmes and his wife, Julia Archibald Holmes, joined a party heading to the Rocky Mountains to search for gold, passing through Council Grove. Within sight of Pike's Peak, James and Julia decided to climb it, and they succeeded, making her the first white woman to stand at the summit of Pike's Peak.

## Reservoir Lake Level

Normal elevation .....1274.00

Current elevation .....1280.78

## THREE-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

**Corps of Engineers Readings,  
Council Grove Reservoir**

**High and low  
temperatures for the  
weekend period  
ending this morning were  
Saturday 83 and 62;  
Sunday 80 and 53; and  
today 84 and 59, with the  
8:00 am reading 66°.**

**Tuesday:** A 40% chance for rain. Partly sunny, high near 88. South wind gusts. A 70% chance for rain, low around 67.

**Wednesday:** A 30% chance for rain. Mostly sunny, high around 84. Mostly clear, low around 63.

**Thursday:** Sunny, high near 88. Calm wind becoming south. Mostly clear, low around 70. South wind gusts.



**TUESDAY  
FORECAST  
High 88  
Low 67**



**PERFORMING THE FINAL 'GRAND FINALE' - The Kansas City Symphony performed Saturday, June 14 in a pasture just northeast of Strong City as part of the Symphony in the Flint Hills' "Grande Finale." Except for 2019 due to weather and 2020 due to COVID, the event has happened every June since 2006.**

Photo by Amy DeVault / Flint Hills Media Project

## Symphony in the Flint Hills ends signature event on a high note

By Kass Lewis

**Flint Hills Media Project**

Tucked between two hills within a vast prairie there came a soft rumble. Not a stampede, nor a herd. Turning away from a burning orange and pink sky, there the origin of the sound was found.

The sold out crowd of the Symphony in the Flint Hills.

Nearly 8,000 people gathered Saturday on the Evans Family Ranch just east of Strong City to experience the Symphony in the Flint Hills — the final one, according to event organizers.

Following a last-minute cancellation due to weather damage in 2019, another cancellation due to COVID-19 in 2020 and a cut-short version due to severe weather in 2022, the crowds had been a little smaller in recent years. But for what the organization called its Grand Finale, the struggle wasn't selling tickets, it was buying one.

## Ribbon cutting to celebrate Sacred Red Rock Project

Kaw Nation and the Iñ'zhúje'waxóbe / Sacred Red Rock Project Leadership Team will host a ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, June 21, 2025, at Allegawaho Memorial Heritage Park. The event marks the completion of construction and recent improvements at the historic site.

The public is invited to attend the ceremony, which will begin at 2 p.m. at Allegawaho Memorial Heritage Park, located on S. 525 Road near Council Grove. Light refreshments will be served following the event.

The celebration will highlight the progress made in preserving and enhancing the park, which holds cultural and spiritual significance to the Kaw Nation. The project, known as Iñ'zhúje'waxóbe or Sacred Red Rock, reflects the community's dedication to honoring its ancestral heritage.

For more information, contact the Sacred Red Rock Project Team at [sacredredrock@ku.edu](mailto:sacredredrock@ku.edu).

Tim Keane, a volunteer from Manhattan, Kansas who guided prairie walks Saturday, looked back on the 2022 event when a storm came through during the event. Keane had won the Kansas Cowboy Poetry contest that year and was set to perform in the story circle after the concert, but due to the severe weather cutting the event short, the story circle was cancelled.

"My wife decided that we would just gather up everybody around us," Keane said. "And I stood up in the back of my truck and did cowboy poetry while we waited for the storm to come in."

This was Keane's first year as a volunteer, and he was guiding event attendees through prairie walks, pointing out various plants, rocks and some animals. His knowledge of the land came from being a landscape architecture professor at Kansas State University for 37 years.

"It's a perfect landscape to teach about landscape ecology," Keane said. "To know all of the intricacies of prairies. So you try and share them with students, and how you

(See Ends on high note, Page 2)

## Classic rides return for 2025 Washunga Days Car Show

Gear up for a showcase of chrome, curves, and horsepower at the 2025 Washunga Days Car, Truck & Bike Show, taking place on Saturday, June 21, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Council Grove Junior/Senior High School, 129 Hockaday Street.

Vehicle registration runs from 8 to 10 a.m., followed by judging from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Trophies and awards will be announced at 3 p.m. A \$20 registration fee applies.

The first 75 entries will receive dash plaques and goodie bags, and hourly door prizes will keep things exciting throughout the day.

Proceeds from the event benefit two meaningful causes: the Wounded Warrior Project and the American Heart Association.

For more information, contact Sherrie Griggs at (785) 479-2165.



**IRRESPONSIBLE LOGGING PROCEDURES . . . have caused headaches for the road and bridge workers in the Morris County Public Works Department. Note: the saw-cut walnut limb that was left behind, only to become part of the problem downstream after our recent rains.**

## Washunga Days lunch at Methodist Church

The Women in Faith group of the Council Grove Dunlap United Methodist Church will hold a Washunga Days luncheon in Fellowship Hall at 21 N. Mission on Saturday, June 21. Serving will begin at 11 a.m. and end at 1 p.m.

The meal includes a pulled pork sandwich, chips, baked beans, veggies and a monster cookie. Tea and water will be served.

The cost for an adult meal is \$12. The children's meal (veggies excluded) is \$8. Meals are available for carry out or you can dine in the air-conditioned hall.

## CG City Council to meet June 17

The Council Grove City Council will meet at 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at City Hall.

The meeting will open with a call to order, Pledge of Allegiance and invocation. A public comment period will follow.

The consent agenda will be considered, which contains minutes of the last meeting and appropriations in the amount of \$132,950.17.

Under old business, there will be City Lake discussion.

In new business, the council will hear from USD 417 Superintendent Tyson Eslinger about a new recommended traffic pattern for Council Grove Elementary School, the Morris County History will discuss the Post Office Oak, Zoey Bond will give an update on Washunga Days, James McCormack will be recommended for appointment to Volunteer Firefighter and there will be discussion of a Downtown 50/50 grant.

## Free Community Night kicks off Washunga Days Festival

The Washunga Days Festival will kick off with its fourth annual FREE Community Night on Thursday, June 19, and everyone is invited—no wristband required for entry!

First introduced in 2022, Community Night was created in response to local requests to bring back the spirit of the original Washunga block party. Now a cherished tradition, it offers a relaxed and welcoming start to the festival weekend.

## Parade, wi-fi and restroom details for Washunga Days

The 2025 Washunga Days Parade, one of the longest-running and largest in the area, will take place at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 21. A highlight of the festival weekend, the parade brings together clubs, businesses, families, and organizations from across the region to celebrate community spirit.

Online registration forms are online and participants are encouraged to register their float, group, or vehicle in advance. It's not too late to enter, with the entry fee now \$20. Pre-registration is required for entries to be eligible for judging.

Cash prizes will be awarded in several categories, including Band Float, Church Float, Club or Organization Float, Commercial Float, Family or Personal Float, Youth Club or Organization Group, Adult Club or Organization Group, Car or Truck Vehicle, and Antique Tractor Vehicle.

Parade entry forms can be com-

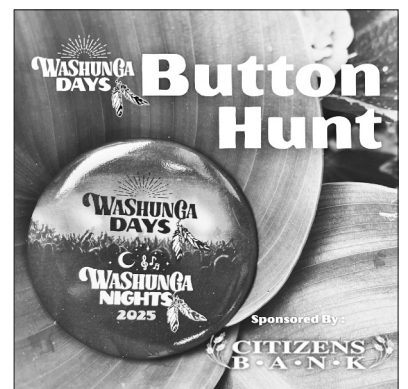
## The Washunga Days Hidden Button Hunt Returns

One of the most beloved Washunga Days traditions returns in 2025—the Hidden Button Hunt begins today, Monday, June 16. This fun-filled scavenger hunt invites participants to follow daily clues to locate a special button hidden somewhere within the community. To join the hunt, participants must have a 2025 Washunga Days wristband. However, members of the Washunga Days Committee, staff of the Council Grove Republican and the City of Council Grove CVB, as well as their immediate family members, are not eligible to participate.

The Hidden Button will be located within a three-mile radius of Council Grove, always on public property. It will never be placed on private land, and participants are reminded not to enter private property under any circumstances. The button is not buried, and there is no need to dig, climb, or cause any destruction. Respect for property and public spaces is essential.

Clues to the button's location will be released each weekday beginning today in the Council Grove Republican and on the Washunga Days Facebook page. The hunt will continue until the button is found and officially turned in. Once found, the button must be delivered in person to the Destination: Council Grove office, located at 512 East Main Street. The finder must bring their 2025 Washunga Days wristband with them to claim the prize.

The Washunga Days Committee will make a public announcement on Facebook once the button has been located. All decisions made by the committee are final. The Hidden Button Hunt is a crowd favorite each year, bringing friends and families together for a bit of friendly competition, fresh air, and the excitement of the chase. Happy hunting!



**CLUE #1:**

**Where waters converge, beneath a watchful eye, And nature's bounty meets a storied sky. A landmark town, with tales of journeys old, Holds our first step, if its secrets unfold.**

This year's festivities will run from 5 to 8 p.m. and include live music by Konza Swamp, kids' activities and face painting, a variety of food trucks, and the always-popular Council Grove Rotary Beer Garden.

Each year, the Washunga Days Committee works hard to make sure the children's area is full of fun and excitement—and 2025 is no exception. This year's attractions will include:

(See Community night, Page 2)

## Parade, wi-fi and restroom details for Washunga Days

pleted online or picked up in person at the KATY Depot, located at 512 E. Main Street, or the Council Grove Republican office at 302 W. Main Street. What better way to make this year memorable than to participate in the 2025 Washunga Days Parade.

There are public restrooms in the Bowers Center, 325 W. Main St. The facility, which is locked at night, will be open extended hours for this week's Friday and Saturday Washunga activities. The center will open at 7 a.m. and will close at 10 p.m.

(See Details for WSD, Page 2)

## Strikes deer on K-4

On June 6, Jordan Maddox, 32, White City, was northbound on K4 Highway when a deer entered the road from the east ditch. He was unable to avoid striking the deer, causing front-end damage.

Maddox removed the 2011 Ford Ranger from the scene. No injuries were reported and he was wearing a seatbelt.

