October 5-11, 2025

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025** 

24 PAGES

**IT'S OUR 140TH YEAR!** 

\$2.00 PER ISSUE

#### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**



**BEST IN THE WORLD** Coffeyville native Richard

Yates vying to be one of Ferrari's top global mechanics.

See page B1

#### **BULLPUPS WIN**

Caney Valley Bullpups have no problems putting rival Cherryvale in the cellar.

See page B6

#### **DOODAH MARSHALS**

Barry and Lori Wesselowski to lead Neewollah DooDah Parade.

See page B1



#### **LEAGUE CHAMPS**

Jessica Zimmerman leads Field Kindley High School to SEK League golf title. See page B4

## **DELINQUENT TAXES**

The Delinquent Personal Property Tax List is published with this issue on pages A8-A11; explanation of the list is included on page A2 of this edition.



## **CLUBHOUSE HONOR**

Independence Gun Club designates clubhouse in honor of Wayne and Sharon Blaes.

See page A7

## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

SportsB4-B11	
Public notices A8-A11	
Classified adsB12	
ObituariesA2	
OpinionsA4-A5	
DatebookB5	
Subscription order A12	
Crossword puzzleB9	

humor of Will Rogers

The timeless

"Lead your life so you wouldn't be ashamed to sell the family parrot to the town gossip."



# U.S. 169 expansion could be in KDOT's future project mix

Four-lane expressway with rail overpasses given heavy consideration at regional KDOT's planning meeting

> BY ANDY TAYLOR chronicle@taylornews.org

Community and county leaders from Montgomery County have made their voices clear about possible expansion of U.S. 169 highway: it's time to expand.

Dozens of city and county leaders from southeast Kansas gathered in Pittsburg on Tuesday for the Kansas Department of Transportation's Regional Consultation Meeting. At that meeting, local leaders expressed their desires for highway improvements in their home cities and counties, hoping that enough support would cause KDOT's top brass and engineers to place those projects on a construction calendar.

State Rep. Doug Blex, R-Independence, was among the leaders who listened in at the consultation hearing and came away with new-found concern about U.S. 169 high-

He said KDOT leaders will give serious consideration to expanding the current U.S. 169 highway — from U.S. 400 south to Angola Road at the north edge of the Coffeyville Airport Industrial Park into a four-lane expressway. The project also would involve construction of overpasses over the three South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad crossings, including the two on the north and south sides of Cherryvale and the third near Liberty.

The total estimated cost for a four-lane expressway with rail overpasses: about

\$90 million. As a lesser-cost option, KDOT could consider adding passing lanes to the existing U.S. 169 footprint and forego the rail overpasses. That lesser-cost alternative would have an estimated price tag of about \$11 million, Blex said.

But, Blex said the general consensus from the meeting was that U.S. 169 should "go big" — meaning applying the necessary construction to handle heavier traffic counts while providing safety and fewer inconveniences to all motorists.

U.S. 169 has become among the most-traveled commercial routes in southeast Kansas, primarily due to the amount of semi-truck traffic that services several industries in eastern Montgomery County. The opening of the Bartlett Soybean Processing Plant south of Cherryvale has led to higher traffic numbers, and the continued expansion and upgrades at the Coffeyville Resources refinery complex will further require additional commercial traffic, he said. The Coffeyville refinery is among the midwestern United States' primary sources of gasoline, which means tanker trucks have to haul the liquid cargo from the refinery to literally hundreds of retail outlets in the midwestern states.

Compounding the current footprint of U.S. 169 highway are the three rail crossings, which are served by the South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad. Trains have to travel at reduced speeds in order to travel across those crossings. As a result, highway traffic backs up, which leads to congestion and inconveniences for all motorists.

With anticipated construction of overpasses over those crossings, motorists would no longer be impeded by the slower-moving trains,

See **US 169**, page **A3** 



U.S. Rep. Derek Schmidt gave comments at Saturday's dedication of the Liberty Tree at Riverside Park. The newly-planted oak tree is located on the eastcentral side of the park's train oval. ANDY TAYLOR

# The tree of liberty

Patriotism organizations join efforts to plant unique tree in Independence; tree recognizes Montgomery County's namesake

> BY ANDY TAYLOR chronicle@taylornews.org

INDEPENDENCE — As the United States focuses on its 250th anniversary in 2026, one local organization has literally planted the roots for a unique observa-

At a ceremony at the Riverside Park train oval on Saturday, the Esther Lowrey Chapter of the Daughters of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution formally dedicated a Liberty tree on the park grounds.

The tree, which is of the oak variety, signifies the "tree of liberty" that became a rallying point in Boston, Mass., prior and during the American Revolution. That ancient elm tree in Boston became a symbol of the colonists' resistance against British rule, especially when British troops axed the tree down.

Even after the tree was felled, its location in Boston and its memorable image became a cause that helped lead to the colonists' independence over the British monarchy.



Dressed in colonial attire at Saturday's ceremony was John Schwarz, past president of the Kansas Society of Sons of the American Revolution.

So, 250 years after U.S. independence was declared, Liberty trees continue to

See LIBERTY TREE, page A3

## Missouri driver now charged with first-degree murder



Mayberry . . . accused of leading a high-speed chase that led to the death of a Coffeyville teenager, injury to another

BY ANDY TAYLOR chronicle@taylornews.org

INDEPENDENCE — Bond has been increased to \$500,000 for a Missouri woman who has been charged with first-degree murder in the vehicular death of a Coffeyville

Last Thursday morning, Tenisiha D. Mayberry, age 38, of Blue Springs, Mo., appeared for her second informal appearance in Montgomery County District Court this week. At Thursday's hearing, Mayberry learned that a charge of first-degree murder has been added to her list of suspected crimes.

Mayberry is charged with first-degree murder in the death of Serafina O'Connell, age 15, of Coffeyville. A high-speed chase that began in Owasso, Okla., last Friday afternoon ended when Mayberry's vehicle

slammed into a vehicle carrying O'Connell and her older sister, Maia O'Connell, age 17, of Coffeyville at the intersection of 8th and Patterson Boulevard in Coffeyville. Serafina O'Connell died of her injuries on Tuesday in a Tulsa medical center.

When Mayberry had her initial informal appearance in court on Monday, her initial bond was set at \$100,000.

However, because the conditions of her case changed with the death of O'Connell on Tuesday, the county attorney's office recommended that her bond be increased to \$1 million.

Judge Dan Reynolds questioned assistant county attorney Stephanie Plaschka for the merits of recommending Mayberry's bond to \$1 million.

Plaschka said she took into consideration

Mayberry's previous criminal history, plus the severity of her suspected crimes, which now includes a major felony. If convicted of first-degree murder, Mayberry could face a

minimum of 25 years in prison. Reynolds compromised on the amount, settling for \$500,000 instead of the \$1 mil-

lion that the county attorney recommended,. The judge, who is the final authority on bond amounts, told Mayberry that her increase in bond was a serious matter.

"Now that an off-grid felony has been filed, for lack of a better word, stakes have risen," Reynolds told Mayberry about his decision to increase her bond.

Mayberry indicated she plans to hire her own attorney to represent her. She will reappear in the Montgomery County District

See MAYBERRY, page A3

## Cherryvale Cemetery Crawl to have two performances

CHERRYVALE — Listen to four Cherryvale citizens, born in the 1850s-1900s, reflect on their lives at the 6th Annual Cemetery Crawl at Cherryvale's Fairview Cemetery on Saturday, Oct. 11.

At the cemetery crawl, re-enactors will portray the lives of people from Cherryvale's history who buried at Fairview Cemetery. You will meet Dale Hileman, Cherryvale insurance salesman and band leader; J.F. Kring, grocery store owner; Jack Reeves, a talented football player; and Thelma Martin, a centurion doll maker.

Serving as the historical character re-enactors are Rita Mendoza, Jack Ellison,

Sam Atherton and Andy Tay-There will be two shows: 3

p.m. and 5 p.m. Cost will be \$5 per person or \$10 for a family. Tickets may be purchased at the cemetery before each event. This event serves as a major fundraiser for the Cherryvale Historical Museum.

A moderate amount of walking will be required on gravel surfaces or uneven ground. Parking attendants will assist you with parking. Bring a chair, to sit while you enjoy the show. Attendees are asked to be respectful of the cemetery grounds and other visitors.

In the event of rain or

cold weather the event will be moved to the Cherryvale Historical Museum at 322 East Main. Show times will remain the same. Check the museum's Facebook page for updates or schedule chang-(https://facebook.com/ The Cherryvale Historical Museum).