



OST photo Candra Brooks  
Youth line up for the Osceola Fire Department's 'touch a truck' event at the 30th annual Osceola Fire Fair on Oct. 3.

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contributed photo  
Six veterans received Quilts of Valor on Oct. 2. In front are recipients Ray Halda, Harley Pippen, Rita DeLong, Darrell Wogan and Peggy McDole. Back row are American Legion Post #69 members John Sharp, Lester Smith, Les VanHeeswyk, Greg Silvers, and recipient Al Morter. Not pictured: Post #69 members Stephanie Rhoads and Sandy Eddy.

## Six awarded Quilts of Valor

Six residents of Southern Hills Specialty Care were awarded with quilts of valor at an award ceremony on Oct. 2. This six awarded were Rita DeLong, Ray Halda, Peggy McDole, Al Morter, Harley Pippen and Darrell Wogan. The quilts were sewn by Mary Ann Smith and Kathy Sharp, and presented by the Osceola American Legion Pence-Davis Post #69.

**DeLong**  
Rita DeLong was inducted into the United States Air Force in 1980 in Des Moines. She attended basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, and was stationed at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska. There, she received training in telecommunications, and had top-secret clearance.

DeLong's enlistment period ended in 1983, and she was discharged

with the rank of E1. She moved back to Osceola and worked at Miller Products.

**Halda**  
Ray Halda served in the United States Army from 1954 to 1957. He attended basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and was then sent to Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, for mechanics training. He served overseas in Vanbry, Germany for a year and a half as a wheel vehicle mechanic. Halda then transferred to Fort Riley, Kansas, where he performed maintenance on helicopters.

Halda was a Private First Class when he was discharged in 1957 at Fort Riley. He went on to work as a truck driver, which he did until retirement.

**McDole**  
Peggy McDole joined the United States Air Force on March 3, 1972, in Two Falls, South Da-

kota; she attended basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. McDole went to technical school training at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, where she trained as a medical assistant. There, McDole remembers helping patients who had malaria, and those who had been exposed to Agent Orange.

McDole received a medical discharge in 1976 in Topeka, Kansas. Her rank was that of Airman First Class.

In 1988, McDole moved to Clarke County where she worked as a medical assistant and dietary assistant at the nursing home.

**Morter**  
Al Morter served in the United States Air Force from Sept. 18, 1956, to Sept. 17, 1962. He was inducted at Fremont, Nebraska, and attended basic training in San An-

tonio, Texas at Lackland Air Force Base; training school was also completed at Lackland. Morter was assigned to the Greenland Air Force Base, working on Production Repair.

Upon his discharge, Morter was an Airman Second Class with the rank of E3. His civilian career was that of working in the appliance repair business.

**Pippen**  
Harley Pippen joined the United States Army in 1958, and completed basic training at Fort Carson, Colorado. There, he continued his training as a medical corpsman, and often drove an ambulance.

After two years at Fort Carson, Pippen was discharged with a rank of E5. Pippen returned home to Woodburn where he farmed with his father. He had two older brothers

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OST photo Roe Wittenauer  
Maddie Sweeney and Nash Bishop were crowned the 2024 Homecoming Queen and King at Thursday night's coronation, and were presented at Friday's Homecoming game against Clarinda. Claire Jacobsen and Conner Williams were crowned Princess and Prince. More photos from Homecoming parade and Boom Night appear on page 12.

## Osceola Water Works makes switch from chloramines to free chlorine

**Osceola Water Works**  
Starting on Monday, Oct. 7 and continuing to Nov. 7, Osceola Water Works (OWW) will make a temporary change in the disinfectant used in water treatment.

Osceola's annual switch from chloramines to free chlorine is a common practice in water treatment and OWW goes through the process every fall. Free chlorine is a stronger disinfectant than chloramine, but it cannot be used year-round be-

cause it creates byproducts that are regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency. The use of ammonia with chlorine - chloramines - reduces or eliminates these byproducts and helps OWW continue to provide clean and safe drinking water for all residents. This proactive cleansing step, ensures that OWW can maintain the best levels of disinfection throughout the water system and eliminate harmful bacteria in the water mains and pipes

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## Oct. 15, Nov. 5 Osceola City Council meeting dates to be moved

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The Osceola City Council approved 5-0 the rescheduling of two city council meetings at their Oct. 1 meeting.

The original meeting date that had been brought up for discussion prior was Nov. 5, which falls on Election Day. It had been proposed to move that meeting to Nov. 12.

However, as there are five Tuesdays in October, by moving the Nov. 5 meeting back a week, that would leave a four-week gap between the Oct. 15 meeting and Nov. 12.

City Administrator Ty Wheeler explained having that large of a gap between meetings would create difficulty from an administrative perspective.

He also added that by bumping back other Tuesdays, the meetings would start to run into upcoming holidays.

Mayor Thomas Kedley voiced his support for moving the Nov. 5 meeting to Nov. 12.

"We want people to not have their voting rights infringed [upon], and being able to see what's going on in public meetings," he said.

Councilman Dr. George Fotiadis made the motion

to change the two dates, and the motion was seconded by councilman Dan Hooper.

Council meetings will return to their regular schedule starting with the Nov. 19 meeting. A council work session will likely be planned for Oct. 29.

**Reservoir project**  
Clarke County Reservoir Commission (CCRC) project manager Dave Beck attended the meeting, and updated the council on the progress of the reservoir project.

Beck explained that the commission has most all of the necessary components pulled together for the reservoir plan, and

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## NRCS leaders show commitment and support at CCRC meeting

Clarke County  
Reservoir  
Commission

Top officials from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) were on hand at the Sept. 26 meeting of the Clarke County Reservoir Commission (CCRC) in a show of support for the project.

NRCS State Conservationist Jon Hubbert and Assistant State Conservationist Scott Cagle made the trip to Osceola for this month's meeting in a demonstration of their commitment to making this reservoir a reality. Currently, the Clarke County Reservoir is the only watershed project

they are working on and they have a team dedicated to ensuring the continued progress of the plan.

Hubbert and Cagle provided information, support, and strong encouragement to national NRCS officials in support of the CCRC who met with Congress this summer in order to secure additional federal funding necessary to complete the watershed plan-environmental impact statement. An additional \$700,000 in federal funding was secured to cover required work including endangered bat habitat surveys and wetland and stream mitigation actions.

"We understand the

severity of the water situation in Clarke County and here in Osceola," said Cagle. "The project is in good shape right now and we will continue to do whatever we can to keep the plan moving forward."

The first draft of the reservoir plan is well on its way to the National Water Management Center for review and approval, and should be delivered to the agency by mid-December. Following that review, the plan-EIS will go out for inter-agency and public review early in 2025. Then the plan will be ready for final approval and signature by the NRCS. At that point, NRCS should be

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