The Osage County Herald-Chronicle presents

# CROSSROADS

*As we travel life's journey, the places where paths meet and intersect mark choices that determine our destinations.*

*Everyone, sometime, arrives at the crossroads – where two roads meet, or where people meet – a community, or a point at which vital decisions must be made.*

*Osage County has a long history of being at, or along, the crossroads. In early days of its inhabitation, explorers followed streams to the headwaters of the Osage River; frontier camps were the first communities. Then, the Santa Fe Trail brought travelers through, while the Sac-Fox tribe congregated in the southern part of the county. The railroad and discovery of coal made the county a crossroads of the world, as immigrants from many countries arrived to make a life of digging shafts and hoisting tons. Towns formed as rails were laid, and critical decisions made – some good, some bad. Those towns lived or died, depending upon choices taken at the crossroads.*

*Present day Osage County remains an intersection of the people who live here. Working and living together in the county that is also our community, people choose which way to go toward success, good health, happiness.*

*If we look around, we see towns' efforts to improve infrastructure or add amenities to increase quality of life. We also see volunteers helping their communities and neighbors to arrive at a common destination.*

*This county also represents the destinations others head toward when they are at their crossroads. The Santa Fe Trail, rich history, Pomona and Melvern lakes, small town living, educational opportunities, business potential, and good neighbors attract people to this crossroads we call home.*

*No matter which fork in the road is taken, travelers in life eventually reach another intersection, another decision.*

*Regardless of which road you choose, if you end up in Osage County, we will meet you at the crossroads.*

## Honor Flights

A look at the meaningful work of Lyndon students for area veterans

**Page 18**

## Melvern Trail

Volunteers come together to create a new path

**Page 33**

## Relay For Life

Osage County chapter celebrates 10th year of fighting cancer

**Page 29**

## Back in Business

Burlingame storefronts open a year after downtown fire

**Page 14**

## Travelers

Lyndon graduate learns new attitude Down Under

**Page 21**

## Repurposing

County volunteers help keep recyclables out of the landfill

**Page 31**


## the 7 Wonders of Osage County

Arriving at the crossroads, explorers must choose their destination. Those who live in Osage County know where they are at, but they might not realize the county has many wondrous destinations.

A list of the Seven Wonders of the World, denoting unique places around the world, has existed for centuries, though undergoing changes several times. Last year, the Kansas Sampler Foundation asked Kansans to choose The 8 Wonders of Kansas.

Although Osage County does not have the Hanging Gardens of Babylon or the Great Pyramid of Giza, or Kansas' Cheyenne Bottoms or Greensburg's Big Well, there exists places that make our home unique, interesting – and wondrous.

*The Osage County Herald-Chronicle* has sought out these places by enlisting the county's sixth through eighth grade students to determine the Seven Wonders of Osage County.

Each middle school in the county was asked to pick seven wonders, or aspects of the county that are deemed unique. Responding to the challenge were Osage City, Burlingame, Lyndon, Melvern, Overbrook, and Carbondale middle schools.

The schools' administrators and teachers decided the method of selection, but the students themselves compiled the list. Upon receiving the list, the newspaper staff tallied the totals from all schools to determine a final "Top Seven" list.

Officially, or as official as such a list can be, the Seven Wonders of Osage County are: The county's two Corps of Engineers reservoirs, Pomona and Melvern; the Santa Fe Trail; Burlingame's brick thoroughfare, Santa Fe Avenue; the Osage City Depot; the Osage County Courthouse; the county's mostly buried coal mines; and Mineral Springs, north of Carbondale, once used for its health benefits.

Wonders that did not make the top seven, but are worthy of attention are: Rapp Schoolhouse; Dragoon Creek; the old bombing range near Osage City; long forgotten missile bases; and Melvern's arched railroad bridge.

The challenge proved Osage County students are certainly aware of the uniqueness of their home. These special places are worth getting to know more about, and we hope through the pages of Crossroads, you, too, will further appreciate what makes our home special.

Featured on the following pages of Crossroads are the Seven Wonders of Osage County.

Hopefully, when readers arrive at a crossroads, they will agree that Osage County is blessed with wonders and seek them out when choosing a destination.

*The Osage County Herald-Chronicle expresses appreciation to the students, teachers and principals of the schools that participated in this project. Also to be recognized for their assistance in researching the Seven Wonders are Jean Timm, at the Osage County Historical Society, Corinne Dubois, who allowed access to her personal archives, the city of Burlingame staff, and the city of Carbondale staff. A wondrous thank you is extended to all.*

## Courthouse

**Page 2**

## Bricks

**Page 3**

## Depot

**Page 4**

## Trail

**Page 6**

## Lakes

**Page 9**

## Spring

**Page 11**

## Mines

**Page 12**