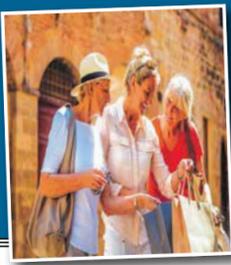


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Panthers score early and often to cruise past the Ottawa Cyclones | Page B1



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THE MIAMI COUNTY REPUBLIC

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 30, 2020
Vol. 155 No. 9

\$1.00

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Rental regulatory proposal pushed back several months



DOUG CARDER / STAFF PHOTO

Osawatomie City Manager Mike Scanlon tells the audience at a public meeting Wednesday, Sept. 23, that cleaning up the community, including rental properties, is at the top of the city's list of improvement projects.

BY DOUG CARDER
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OSAWATOMIE — City Manager Mike Scanlon said he wanted community feedback about a proposal to implement a landlord licensing and rental property inspections plan.

During a public meeting Wednesday, Sept. 16, at City Auditorium that was primarily attended by landlords, Scanlon said cleaning up the community is at the top of the city's list of goals.

Scanlon said he was willing to waive city fees assessed by the proposed

licensing and inspection program, push the initiative six to nine months down the road into 2021 and establish a landlord committee — as long as landlords were willing to work with the city to achieve the No. 1 goal of cleaning up the community.

"I care about doing No. 1. How we get there, I don't care," Scanlon said in a follow-up interview. "If you (landlords) can help us get No. 1 without having to be charged, I'm all for it."

Scanlon showed the audience a slide of the numerous steps the city must take to enforce just one code

violation — including a trip to court under the worst case scenario.

"If we can clean up the properties, it's less time we have to do code enforcement," Scanlon said. "Anything that does that is worth more than the fees."

Scanlon said the two public meetings the city hosted about the rental property proposal seemed to universally confirm that landlords agree cleaning up the city is important.

"When you actually show people how long it takes to do code enforcement for just one violation — you realize

that just doing code enforcement, we'll never get there," Scanlon said of reaching the No. 1 goal. "But if we can get the landlords engaged in helping improve their properties, if we can cut down the violations by half — oh my gosh, that's like money in the bank to us. And it makes the value of things go up."

Scanlon said not only has the city staff, community and City Council identified the problem — clean up the community, especially unkept rental properties

RENTAL/Page A2

Big Gator Tools to represent Kansas at White House event

BY DOUG CARDER
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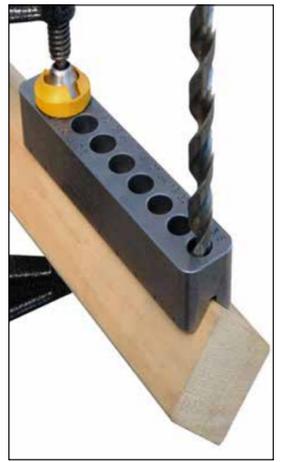
LOUISBURG — A Louisburg company will participate in the fourth annual Made in America Product Showcase on Monday, Oct. 5, at the White House.

Big Gator Tools, located on Metcalf Road in Louisburg, will represent Kansas as businesses from each of the 50 states have been invited to display their American-made products at the White House in Washington, D.C.

Big Gator Tools, a division of Rooney Manufacturing Co. LLC, plans to showcase its Drill and Tap Guides during the showcase event, which is being hosted by President Donald Trump.

Big Gator Tools, an innovative producer of hand tools, namely drill and tap guides, is a family-owned and operated business, according to a news release.

The showcase highlights products and encourages other companies to manufacture their products in the United States, according to the release. Accompanying President Trump at this event will be Vice President Mike Pence, members of



BIG GATOR TOOLS

Big Gator Tools of Louisburg has been invited to represent Kansas at the Made in America Product Showcase on Monday, Oct. 5, at the White House.

the Administration and White House Staff, the release said.

"We are so honored to be chosen for this event at the White House," said company founder and owner Bruce Rooney who will be attending the event. "Big Gator Tools believes product quality is what customers are pursuing."

"Our tools need to be tough and durable, and the 100 percent USA-made hardened steel allows for

EVENT/Page A2

City approves overhaul of treatment plant

BY DOUG CARDER
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OSAWATOMIE — The 22-year-old Osawatomie wastewater treatment facility will undergo repairs and improvements to bring it back into regulatory compliance.

The Osawatomie City Council on Thursday, Sept. 24, authorized a \$468,000 agreement with BG Consultants for engineering services for the project which City Manager Mike Scanlon called a "wastewater treatment plant overhaul."

The engineering estimate for the total cost of the project is \$2.96 million.

A resolution adopted by the City Council states the plant has fallen out of compliance with its NPDES permit.

The NPDES permit program, created in 1972 by the federal Clean Water Act, helps address water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into water sources — in this case, the Marais des Cygnes River.

The total construction cost is estimated to be \$2.38 million. When engineering services and fees for items like grant administration and temporary financing are factored in, the projected overall cost is \$2.96 million.

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Paola Free Library makes modifications to keep serving patrons during pandemic

BY BRIAN MCCAULEY
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PAOLA — With a smile and a wave, Paola Free Library Director Emily Burgdorf greets regular patron Bob Ayres as he takes a seat at one of the library's computers.

It's a scene that's happened countless other times at the library, but everything is just a little bit different during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ayres is wearing a mask, the computer next to him is off limits due to social distancing protocol, and the library is far from bustling with activity because there is a limit of 10 patrons at any given time.

"The library is not closed, we're still open" Burgdorf said.

Like many other public places, the library closed its doors mid-March when the pandemic started to spread in the United States, and library officials got to work mapping out a plan moving forward. Finding ways to keep serving the public

'We're still open'



BRIAN MCCAULEY / STAFF PHOTO

Paola resident Bob Ayres uses a computer at the Paola Free Library. The library has taken several precautions during the COVID-19 pandemic, including limiting the amount of people inside the building at any time, requiring patrons to schedule appointments and implementing social distancing and mask protocols.

was the top priority.

Only digital resources were available until May 18, when curbside pickup services began for material checkout, as well as printing, copying and faxing.

Starting June 11, the library began allowing patrons to make reservations to be inside the library. Patrons are guaranteed at least 45 minutes of computer, copier, fax or study room use.

Beginning Aug. 14, the library also began offering 30-minute browsing appointments.

Burgdorf said the library staff realizes that internet is extremely important during the pandemic, so four Sprint hotspots are also available for checkout, and the library's WI-FI is available without a password and

LIBRARY/Page A2



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