

NEWS

BOCC . . .

(Continued from page 2)

electrical costs because of the panels and batteries. “We are exceeding what the predictions are,” he said. “I think we’re going to beat that (the projected savings over a period of 30 years).”

The GIS/IT director told Christy, Malm, and Walbridge that for the county, the break-even point on its investment in the panels and batteries would be reached in 11 to 12 years.

Schmeissner had high praise for the battery backup system. “Everything is doing exactly what it is supposed to be doing,” he said. “I don’t think it could be running much better.”

The GIS/IT director told the commissioners at one point that the desire to have access to “consistent power” in the wake of an electrical outage had motivated him to pursue the creation of a suitable battery backup system for the IT Building. Prior to the system’s debut, he related, he at times had the feeling that the power coming into the building was being supplied by “a third world country.”

Voting 3-0, the board approved the proposed issuance of a Special Event permit for a benefit ride involving all-terrain vehicles, Alyssa’s ATV Poker Run, and the waiving of the standard \$100 fee for the submission of the application for the permit.

Alyssa’s ATV Poker Run, which honors the life of the late Alyssa Hutchens, is scheduled for Saturday, June 14. Riders will be traveling roads in Jefferson and Leavenworth counties, but primarily the latter, during the event, which is set to unfold over a 12-hour period from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The application for the permit was brought forward for consideration by the commissioners by Metzger.

The case was SE2025-03.

After recessing the meeting to allow the commissioners to meet as the directors of the Jefferson County Land Bank, Christy, Malm, and Walbridge accepted a bid on a county-owned lot in the Indian Ridge subdivision but by consensus tabled further consideration of a bid on a county-owned lot in Lakeside Village.

The offer favorably received by the trio had been submitted by Samuel and Sara Oborny, 7685 Comanche Road, Meriden, who were ready to part with \$500 to get Lot 4 in Block C of Indian Ridge. They want the lot to enlarge the size of their yard.

Mrs. Oborny was on hand for the presentation of the offer to the commissioners.

The other offer came from Travis Logan, 9802 Main Street, Ozawkie, and was for Lot 451 in the Hickory Hills section of the improvement district. He is willing to hand over \$500 to acquire the lot. According to Metzger, Logan already owns two nearby lots.

The commissioners agreed to table Logan’s bid for the time being so that they could talk to him about it during a future board meeting. He wasn’t present for last week’s

meeting, which was recessed for approximately 10 minutes to accommodate the business of the Land Bank.

On a 2-1 vote, with Malm dissenting, the board passed Resolution 2025-010A, a resolution that basically amends Resolution 2025-010, which had been passed a week earlier.

Resolution 2025-010A authorizes the transfer of \$389,650 in 2024 money from various departments and funds to the Equipment Reserve Fund.

Resolution 2025-010A differed from Resolution 2025-010 by not including a proposed \$900,000 transfer from the Road and Bridge Fund.

Of the \$389,650 that is to be moved over to the Equipment Reserve Fund, \$329,000 will come from the General Fund and the balance, \$60,650, from the Auxiliary Services Fund.

To the funds that will be leaving the General Fund, the County Clerk’s Office will be contributing \$30,000, the County Treasurer’s Office \$60,000, the Courthouse General Fund \$105,000, the Community Development Office \$25,000, the Emergency Management Department \$25,000, the Geographic Information Systems/Information Technology Department \$35,000, Jefferson County District Court \$37,000, the Register of Deeds Office \$5,000, and the 911 Communications Fund \$7,000.

After voting “No,” Malm indicated that he hadn’t been given enough time to adequately review the figures in front of him.

Voting 3-0, the board passed Resolution 2025-017, clearing the way for \$900,000 in 2024 money to be transferred from the Road and Bridge Fund to the Special Machinery Fund.

Executive Sessions

At the request of Christy, the commissioners ultimately met privately with Ney for a total of 10 minutes so that they could

be given legal advice under the attorney-client privilege exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act. “Interagency issues” was identified as being the subject that was to be discussed. When the meeting reopened to the public, Christy announced that no binding action had been taken behind closed doors.

At the request of Christy, the commissioners met privately with Ney and Deputy County Clerk Erica Schultz for 10 minutes for the stated purpose of discussing personnel matters relating to non-elected personnel. An “interagency issue” was identified as being the subject that was to be discussed. Afterward, Christy announced that no binding action was taken.

At the request of Christy, the commissioners met privately with Ney for five minutes for the stated purpose of discussing personnel matters relating to non-elected personnel. A “non-elected personnel issue” was identified as being the subject that was to be discussed. Afterward, Christy announced that no binding action was taken.

At the request of Christy, the commissioners ultimately met privately with Ney and County Clerk Julie Dunkle for a total of 15 minutes for the stated purpose of discussing personnel matters relating to non-elected personnel. “Interagency issues” was identified as being the subject that was to be discussed. Afterward, Christy announced that no binding action was taken.

At the request of Metzger, the commissioners met privately with him and Ney for five minutes so that the client group could be given legal advice under the attorney-client privilege exception to KOMA. “Land acquisition” was identified as being the subject that was to be discussed. Afterward, Christy announced that no binding action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 2:58.

Reflections on Shop Kansas Farms’ 5th birthday

by Rick McNary
Local Food
Systems Analyst

It was five years ago on April 28 that I launched the Shop Kansas Farms Facebook group after my wife told me the meat counter was empty at the grocery store, a result of supply chain interruptions due to COVID-19.

We had just dined on beef we purchased from a local farm, and I knew they, along with other farmers and ranchers I had met while writing their stories for Kansas Living magazine, had more to sell. As I created the Facebook group, the purpose was, “To connect you to the wonderful farm and ranch families of Kansas so you can purchase the food they raise.”

More than 5,000 people joined in the first 24 hours and it was a wild-west, social media rodeo. In the first week, more than 50,000 members joined, many discovering for the first time they could purchase food straight from the farm down the road.

However, the keyboard warriors started attacking farmers, each other, the government, politicians and a few came after me. I felt like a little kid seeing a plug in a dam and wondering what would happen if I pulled it. I pulled it, the dam burst and suddenly I was drowning in a social media flood.

Rescued from the river Meagan Cramer and Nancy Brown of Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) came to my rescue. I had been writing for Meagan for five years for Kansas Living magazine and had told her I was starting Shop Kansas Farms so, as she watched it go crazy, asked if I needed help. Oh my, did I need help!

Shop Kansas Farms does not exist today without Meagan Cramer and Nancy Brown. They put the infrastructure in place to make sure people behaved and created helpful guides for consumers. Soon, Olivia Fletcher joined and those three terrific people are the reason SKF still thrives.

One of the most challenging aspects has been to keep it civil. Although some have argued they can say whatever they want



BROUGHT TO YOU BY KANSAS FARM BUREAU

because of freedom of speech, I say, “Think of it like this: I created this site so it’s like a house I built. If you come into my house and start trashing me, insulting my children, kicking my dog and disparaging my wife, I will ask you to leave. You are not free to be hateful here. You want to be hateful? Go start your own site.” Staying true to our mission

There has been a temptation to “mission creep” by allowing farmers to sell things other than food such as equipment, feed, crafts they make, or live animals. We also have consumers asking, “Does anyone out here have a rabbit we can come pet?” Our site is about buying food from Kansas farms.

Farmers, ranchers and growers have grown their businesses

Behind the scenes of SKF, we had a lot of decisions about what was allowed on our site and our motto was to prosper and protect farmers. My greatest joy is when a farmer tells me they made a lot of money because of Shop Kansas Farms.

We provide easier access to find local food

We have learned that farmers are great at growing food, and we’re here to help them market and advertise. We help make it easy for consumers to find them.

Currently, we have nearly 170,000 members in the Facebook group and that number grows each week. That would be like filling Arrowhead stadium twice with consumers wanting to purchase from farmers. Not only do we have the SKF Facebook group, but we also have a website that is like an online shopping mall so people can find farmers near them. We don’t

sell the farmer’s products, but we give them a space, for free, where people can easily find them.

People have fallen in love with farmers and ranchers

I began to fall in love with Kansas farmers and ranchers when I began writing about them in 2015. I often had conversations with Meagan about ways in which I could help people fall in love with them like I have. Their values of family, faith, community, hard work, hope and producing the food we eat are the threads that ties the fabric of our state together. Agriculture is the No. 1 business in Kansas by contributing \$57 billion to our economy and the best thing, they feed us.

Our plans to make access easier for consumers to purchase from and prosper farmers

In addition to our Facebook group and website, we’ve added a new tool to make access easier through our Harvest Hub model. We have launched the Border Queen Harvest Hub in Caldwell, thanks to a grant from the Patterson Family Foundation and we’re launching the Sedgwick County Harvest Hub, thanks to a grant from the Kansas Health Foundation. A Harvest Hub is a community-based approach that creates economic opportunities for farms and ranches by establishing both a digital hub (website) and a physical system of production, processing and distribution of local food that can be purchased by local, regional and national consumers. Our goal is to make more people fall in love with Kansas farmers, ranchers and growers, which will in turn, grow their respective businesses.

Mother-Daughter
Potluck Banquet
Sat., May 17 6 p.m.

Oskaloosa United Methodist
Church Fellowship Hall

Table service and
drinks provided.

ALL women are
welcome.

We’ll celebrate women,
moms, daughters with
laughter & fun.



50-1tc

Winchester to
hold blood drive

The Community Blood Center is holding a blood drive May 15.

The event, taking place at the Winchester Community Center located at 411 Spruce Street, will be held from 1 to 6 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, contact Nelda Bodenheimer at 913-306-4311 or njbodenheimer@gmail.com.

Jegacy Mutual
Brenda Isenberg
Agent/Owner
(785) 863-3400
Brenda@jegacymutualins.com

DeDee Skaggs
ASSURED TITLE
of Northeast Kansas
610 Liberty St., Oskaloosa, KS
785-863-2224

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Oskaloosa Independent May 1, 8, and 15, 2025)3t

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF JEFFERSON COUNTY,
KANSAS
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF)
THE ESTATE OF)
WESLEY A. WASSON,)
Deceased.)

Case No. JF-2025-PR-000016
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The State of Kansas to All
Persons Concerned:

You are notified that on April 10, 2025, a petition was filed in this Court by Kayla Collins, an heir of Wesley A. Wasson, deceased, praying for the appointment of Kayla Collins as administrator to serve without bond.

All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the estate within four months from the date of the first publication of this notice, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

/s/ Kayla Collins
Kayla Collins, Petitioner
PREPARED BY:
/s/ Kelly G. Jurgensen
Kelly G. Jurgensen,
KS Bar No. 21412
SAGE LAW, LLP
12980 Metcalf Avenue,
Suite 500
Overland Park, Kansas 66213
Telephone: (913) 341-7800
Fax: (913) 341-7804
kjurgensen@sage.law

Filings . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Drainage districts

Stonehouse —
Kaw-Delaware —
Kaw Half Breed —
Grantville —
Muddy Creek — Dennis E. Stanwix,

Cards of Thanks

Davis-Gibson American Legion Post No. 387 wants to thank everyone who came to our chili bar auction in Wichester to help us raise money for a cement sidewalk up to our Veterans Memorial. Thanks to the Valley Falls VFW Post No. 3084 for coming and donating. We have almost made enough to start.

Thanks again.

50-40-1tc

Hometown healthcare
happens in McLouth.

Since 2007, LMH Health Primary Care has served McLouth with convenient, quality healthcare.

As your partner for lifelong health, we care for your whole family—all ages. When more specialized care is needed, LMH Health has a network of physicians to provide personal, expert care in your own backyard.

Call 913-796-6116 to schedule an appointment.

Melissa Norris, APRN
Nurse Practitioner

LMH Health
Primary Care

313 S. Union Street, McLouth
lmh.org/mclouth

44-cow-tfc

mahindra ROXOR OFFROAD

FOR A LIMITED TIME
0% FOR 48 MONTHS
OR
UP TO +\$3000 CASH BACK*
AND NO PAY FOR 90 DAYS!
ON SELECT MODELS

Two Convenient Locations
Heinen Repair Service, Inc. 13424 Edwards Rd, Valley Falls 785-945-6711 | Heinenope.com
Heinen Outdoor Power Equipment 1795 E 1500th Rd, Lawrence 785-424-6400 | Heinenope.com
*With approved credit. While supply lasts. See dealer for details