

NEMAHA COUNTY STEP FOUNDATION

Fall grants announced for eight local projects

Submitted by Tory Jost
Executive Director

The Nemaha County STEP Foundation is continuing its 2026 theme, “Think Outside the Box,” with \$28,000 in fall grants to eight local projects. The grants were recommended by the Foundation’s grant review committee and approved by its board of directors. The grants will support schools, libraries, health care, and community organizations across Nemaha County, and help provide coats, clothing, and everyday essentials for children in need. “One of the things that stood out to me during this grant cycle was the wide variety of projects the STEP Foundation is helping fund, from a school greenhouse to a new library circulation desk,” said Tami Mars, chair of the STEP Foundation grant review committee.

Sabetha Community Hospital will receive \$2,250 from the General Endowment Fund for its AED Readiness Project. Placing AEDs in the hospital’s therapy departments will close a critical safety gap by keeping life-saving technology within reach. The project will strengthen patient safety and emergency preparedness, and provide peace of mind to the patients and families who rely on the hospital’s care.

Nemaha County Community Health Services will receive \$1,500 for its Little Nest Family Resource Bank. The grant will help expand its diaper bank to include hygiene and baby care supplies and will also keep diapers and wipes in stock. Funds will purchase items such as baby soap, lotion and diaper rash cream, along with postpartum supplies, soap, shampoo, and deodorant for parents. These items are frequently requested but are currently available only when donated. The grant includes \$750 from the General Endowment Fund and \$750 from the Chad Baker Memorial Fund.

In Wetmore, the Wetmore Public Library will receive \$2,000 from the General Endowment Fund for a new circulation desk. The wrap-around desk will replace the library’s outdated front desk and add built-in cabinets and drawers to ease a serious lack of storage. With new countertops and a lower section of the desk,

children will easily be able to see, making the library more welcoming for young readers.

In Bern, the Bern Community Support Foundation will receive \$7,250 for a fireworks firing system. The foundation sponsors a large fireworks display and fun run each Fourth of July that draws thousands of spectators from the surrounding area. This project will make the Bern Fourth of July Celebration safer for the community members who volunteer their time to produce the annual fireworks show. The General Endowment Fund awarded \$4,000, with an additional \$3,250 from the Hecht Family Fund.

Centralia Schools (Vermilion USD No. 380) will receive two separate grants of \$3,000 each from the General Endowment Fund. One will be used for a greenhouse project. The planned 18-foot by 30-foot structure will provide adequate space for class instruction, student workstations, and integrated growing systems, including hydroponic and Dutch bucket systems. The school is in need of an updated audiometer, and the other grant will be used to purchase one. An audiometer is a specialized electronic device used to measure hearing sensitivity and evaluate hearing loss. It produces pure tones or speech at various frequencies (pitches) and intensities (loudness) to determine the softest sounds a person can hear, often creating a chart called an audiogram to identify hearing issues.

The CNB Underprivileged Children Fund is helping local children with the everyday essentials that they need.

- The Kids Kloset will receive \$5,000 for clothing, shoes, toiletries, hygiene products and school supplies.

- Nemaha Central School will receive \$4,000 for coats, hats, gloves, backpacks and other items.

The STEP Foundation extends its gratitude to the donors who make these grants possible and congratulates all recipients. We are grateful to everyone who applied and thought outside the box this year. Grants are awarded twice each year, and the next grant deadline will be Jan. 15, 2027. The online grant application is available at www.nemahastep.org.

GOVERNING BODY

Brown County Commission

Submitted by Nicole Lee
County Clerk

The Board of Brown County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, Sept. 14, with the following members present: Chairman Lucas Heinen, Commissioner Richard Tesoriero and Commissioner William Pollock. Also present was Brown County Clerk Nicole Lee. County Counselor Austin Parker was present for a portion of the meeting. Chairman Heinen opened the meeting at 1 p.m. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a prayer led by Commissioner Heinen.

Department Reports

Emergency Management Coordinator Brandon Roberts updated the commission on the Request for Public Assistance Briefing meeting with state officials and FEMA representatives for the June 3-4 storms.

Treasurer Betty Spiker updated the commission on the previous tax foreclosure sale process. All deeds have been returned and are currently in the District Court Office awaiting Sheriff Merchant’s signature. Once signed, the deeds will be delivered to the Register of Deeds Office.

Treasurer Spiker requested a 10-minute executive session on non-elected personnel matters. The board agreed to recess into a 10-minute executive session for the purpose of discussing the

duties and performance of non-elected personnel, to protect the privacy interests of the employee. Spiker and Lee remained present. The meeting returned to regular session with no action taken following the executive session.

Superintendent Jerry Hisle was present to discuss the two week look-ahead form, FEMA documentation for reimbursements, road repairs and battery cost.

The commission was presented a KDOT Request to Exchange Federal Funds document for signature. Federal Funds to be exchanged are \$137,740.37. The board agreed to sign the Federal Exchange Fund document.

Also at the meeting:

The commissioners discussed the following topics: Noxious Weed chemical sales and Commission Pollock attending a KDOT meeting regarding the project on Highway 246.

County Counselor Parker discussed filing a petition with the District Court to have the impounded vehicles treated as surplus property for disposal, employee health insurance, EEOC dismissal notice, drafting an agreement for dispatch services between Brown County and the City of Hiawatha, identifying main haul roads and taxation of real property in Kansas.

The board approved the Sept. 8 meeting minutes with one correction.

The commission was presented with 2027 contracts for attorney services from Michael Riley, Judd Herbst and Elizabeth Olson. Tabled. No action taken.

The commissioners approved the Outside Agency Appropriation Request & Expenditure Report and accompanying letter for distribution to entities receiving appropriations from Brown County.

The commission was presented with results of the Brown County mid-year real estate appraisal/sales ratio study from Kansas Division of Property Valuation.

The Sept. 14 claims were approved as follows: General, \$46,761.15; Road and Bridge, \$53,979.86; Appraiser, \$132.10; Noxious Weed, \$5,884.82; Diversion, \$866.75; 911 SB50, \$108.08; ACC, \$2,516.94; JJCR, \$2,292.22; Services for Elderly, \$1,448.32; and Solid Waste, \$67,372.69. After Employee Benefits of \$97.95 were taken out, the total was \$181,264.98.

The commission discussed a letter received from Connie Ingwerson regarding drainage issues on personal property near the intersection of 300th Street and Kestrel Road.

Parker requested an attorney-client executive session. The commissioners recessed into a 10-minute executive session for the purpose of discussing potential legal liability with legal counsel, pursuant to the attorney-client

privilege exception. Parker and Lee remained. The meeting returned to regular session with no action taken following the executive session.

The board agreed to approve signing Application No. QR2136 for Qualification/Participation for the Brown County Neighborhood Revitalization Plan.

The next regular meeting was held Monday, Sept. 21. These minutes were not available at The Herald’s press time.

Work Session

The Brown County Commissioners convened at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, at the Bruning Barn for an informal work session with Chairman Heinen, Commissioner Tesoriero and Commissioner Pollock present, along with County Clerk Lee. Also present were county residents. Topics discussed included June disaster damage, FEMA reimbursements, use of local contractors, road maintenance plan, flock cameras, Historical Society, sharing resources with townships and school districts, possible bond issue for roads, Services for the Elderly services, NEKAAA future services, and ongoing discussions with representatives of affected entities regarding the possible Hiawatha RHID. No action was taken. The work session adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

GOVERNING BODY

Nemaha County Commission

Submitted by
Mary Kay Schulteians
County Clerk

The Board of Nemaha County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, Sept. 21, in the Commissioner’s Room of the Nemaha County Courthouse. The meeting was called to order with Chairman Ben Glace leading the flag salute. Present also were Commissioners Joe Dalinghaus and Jason Koch, County Counselor/County Administrator Austin Parker and County Clerk Mary Kay Schulteians recording the minutes.

Glace led those present in an opening prayer to begin the meeting.

The board approved the agenda for Sept. 21 as presented.

Chairman Glace called for Open Public Forum to begin at 9:13 a.m. No one came before the board to speak. Chairman Glace ended public forum at 9:18 a.m.

Department Reports

Road and Bridge/Solid Waste Supervisor Adam Kuckelman advised the board that:

- The bridge crew is working on a bridge in Harrison Township between sections 17 and 18.
- The truck drivers are hauling rock on Bancroft Road and Lillis Road.
- The truck drivers are going after salt and sand.

Noxious Weed Director Todd Swart came before the board to request the purchase of chemi-

cal at this time. Swart presented bids received from three different companies to commissioners. Following discussion, the board approved the purchase of Tordon from Nutrien at a cost of \$41.85 per gallon per Swart’s recommendation.

Swart also spoke to the commissioners about the current sale of chemical to landowners in Nemaha County.

Kuckelman discussed the county’s 2027 budget for Recycling with the commissioners. To assist in maintenance and labor costs for recycling, he recommended that the county begin to charge a pickup fee on Recycling dumpsters throughout the county. Kuckelman also discussed the county’s 2027 budget for Solid Waste and Road and Bridge with the board as well.

Also at the meeting:

The board approved the minutes as amended from the Sept. 14 meeting.

Amber Bletscher with Saylor Insurance came before the board to present to the commission health insurance information that she has compiled and to discuss the county’s health insurance coverage for 2027 with the commissioners.

Appraiser Kerri Koch came before the board to request an executive session with the commission. The board held a 10-minute executive session to discuss the pay and performance of non-elected

personnel. Present for the executive session were the Board of Commissioners, Parker, K. Koch and HR Manager Mary Gatza. The commissioners agreed to extend the executive session for an additional five minutes. The meeting returned to open session with no action taken by the board following the executive session.

The board and Parker continued to go through the county’s proposed 2027 budget making changes where necessary.

HR Manager Gatza came before the board to speak to the commissioners about getting a credit card. The board approved obtaining a

credit card for Gatza, Emergency Preparedness Director Cody Boos and County Attorney Coleman Younger with a limit of \$1,000 per credit card.

The commission agreed to appoint Emergency Preparedness Director Boos to the Northeast Kansas Environmental Services Board of Directors. The commissioners signed the appointment letter as presented.

The next regularly scheduled meeting was held on Monday, Sept. 28. These minutes were not available at The Herald’s press time.

KANSAS JUDICIAL BRANCH

New attorneys to take state, federal oaths September 25

Submitted

Applicants who successfully passed the Kansas bar examination were sworn in as Kansas attorneys at 9:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 25, at the Topeka Performing Arts Center. New attorneys can choose to be sworn in during the ceremony Friday or at another time by a state or federal judge.

Chief Justice Eric Rosen will preside over the Supreme Court, and U.S. District Judge Toby

Crouse will represent the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas. Doug Shima, clerk of the Kansas appellate courts, will administer the state oath. Traci Anderson, a courtroom deputy from the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas, will administer the federal oath.

New local attorney eligible to be sworn in is Brown County, Nolan William Brey of Fairview.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Office of County Election Officer,
Nemaha County, Kansas
Notice of General Election
In compliance with K.S.A. 25-105, notice is hereby given that a General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. with the following candidates to appear on the ballot.

National and State Office
For UNITED STATES SENATE
Adam Hamilton, Stilwell, Democratic
Roger Marshall, St. John, Republican
David C Graham, Overland Park, Libertarian
For UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE, 2nd DISTRICT
Don Coover, Galesburg, Democratic
Derek Schmidt, Independence, Republican
John Hauer, Topeka, Libertarian
For GOVERNOR/LT. GOVERNOR
Cindy Holscher, Overland Park
and KC Ohaebosim, Wichita, Democratic
Ty Masterson, Andover
and Jeffrey Klemp, Lansing, Republican
For SECRETARY OF STATE
Jennifer Day, Overland Park, Democratic
Pat Proctor, Leavenworth, Republican
Scott E. Morgan, Lawrence, United Kansas
For ATTORNEY GENERAL
Chris Mann, Lawrence, Democratic
Kris Kobach, LeCompton, Republican
For STATE TREASURER
Juan C. Luengo, Olathe, Democratic
Steven Johnson, Assaria, Republican
Eric Lund, Paola, Libertarian
For COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE
Dinah Sykes, Lenexa, Democratic
Daniel Hawkins, Wichita, Republican
Ric Koehn, Cimarron, Libertarian
For STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 62nd DISTRICT
Sean M. Willcott, Holton, Republican
Jack E. Geiger, Robinson, Independent
For DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, 22nd DISTRICT, DIVISION 1
Laura Johnson-McNish, Troy, Republican
For DISTRICT MAGISTRATE JUDGE, 22nd

DISTRICT, POSITION 3
Scott Anson, Sabetha, Republican
For MEMBER, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 1
Jennifer Lloyd, Ozawkie, Democratic
Amy Cawvey, Lansing, Republican
Nemaha County Offices
For COUNTY COMMISSIONER, 1st DISTRICT
Edwin F Steinlage, Sabetha, Republican
Township Offices
BERWICK
For Township Clerk
Marcus Baumgartner, Sabetha, Republican
CAPIOMA
For Township Clerk
Nicholas Montgomery, Sabetha, Republican
CENTER
For Township Clerk
Clinton Meyer, Seneca, Republican
CLEAR CREEK
For Township Clerk
Kevin Palic, Baileyville, Republican
GILMAN
For Township Clerk
Andrew R. Evans, Seneca, Republican
GRANADA
For Township Clerk
Brian Tangeman, Wetmore, Republican
HARRISON
For Township Clerk
Luke Sourk, Goff, Republican
HOME
For Township Clerk
Anthony Deters, Centralia, Republican
ILLINOIS
For Township Clerk
Gregory T Niehues, Corning, Republican
MARION
For Township Clerk
Blake Ronnebaum, Baileyville, Republican
MITCHELL
For Township Clerk
Dennis Rottinghaus, Seneca, Republican
NEMAHA
For Township Clerk

Clint J Tegtmeier, Bern, Republican
NEUCHATEL
For Township Clerk
Robert Mars, Vermillion, Republican
REILLY
For Township Clerk
Robert Steinlage, Goff, Republican
ROCK CREEK
For Township Clerk
Clark Strahm, Sabetha, Republican
WASHINGTON
For Township Clerk
Erwin Kaster, Bern, Republican
Judicial Ballot Questions
Supreme Court Justice
Shall Eric S. Rosen, Topeka, Position No. 4, be retained in office?
Yes No
Shall Larkin E. Walsh, Leawood, Position No. 6, be retained in office?
Yes No
Court of Appeals Judge
Shall Lesley Ann Isherwood, Wichita, Position No. 2, be retained in office?
Yes No
Shall Amy Fellows Cline, Wichita, Position No. 3, be retained in office?
Yes No
Shall Kim R. Schroeder, Hugoton, Position No. 5, be retained in office?
Yes No
Shall Lori Ann Bolton Fleming, Weir, Position No. 7, be retained in office?
Yes No
Shall Jacy Hurst, Lawrence, Position No. 13, be retained in office?
Yes No
There will also be a Constitutional Amendment question and two USD 380 Bond questions on the ballot.
Pursuant to the foregoing, I hereby give notice that the above-named candidates and propositions may be voted upon at the following voting places:
• Bern Community Building, 416 Main, Bern, KS: Gilman Township (Oneida City), Nemaha Township,

Washington Township (Bern City)
• Centralia Area Community Building, 106 John Riggs Ave, Centralia, KS: Centralia-Home, Centralia-Illinois, Home Township, Neuchatel Township
• Corning Community Building, 6221 5th Street, Corning, KS: Illinois Township (Corning City), Red Vermillion Township
• Goff Community Center, 1723 State Hwy 9, Goff, KS: Harrison-Goff (Goff City), Harrison-Kelly, Reilly Township
• HCC Western Center, 313 Nemaha, Baileyville, KS: Center Township, Clear Creek Township, Marion Township
• Nemaha County Community Building, 1500 Community Dr., Seneca, KS: Adams Township, Mitchell Township, Richmond Township, Seneca City – Ward 1, Seneca City – Ward 2, Seneca City – Ward 3
• Sabetha City Hall, 805 Main, Sabetha, KS: Berwick Township, Capioma Township, Rock Creek Township, Sabetha City – Ward 1, Sabetha City – Ward 2, Sabetha City – Ward 3, Sabetha City – Ward 4
• Wetmore Americana Legion, 329 2nd Street, Wetmore, KS: Granada Township, Wetmore Township (Wetmore City)
The voting places are handicap accessible and assistance is provided if requested.
Advance voter ballots are available by contacting the election office by phone, by mail, in person or through the Nemaha County Website at www.nmcooks.us for an application. The last day for sending ballots from the office is Tuesday, October 27th. Advance voter ballots may be voted in the election office until 12:00 noon on Monday, November 2nd. Ballots for Sick or Disabled voters may be applied for until 7:00 p.m. on election day. All advance voter ballots must be returned to the election office by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3rd or postmarked by November 3rd and received in office by November 6th.
In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 25th day of September, 2026.
Mary Kay Schulteians
Election Officer
Nemaha County, Kansas