



THE SABETHA HERALD



WEEKLY RECIPE
Almond Maple Twist
FUN&GAMES 12



SHS BASKETBALL
Season ends in sub-state
semifinal at Silver Lake
SPORTS&RECREATION 9

SINCE 1876

WEDNESDAY
11

MAR
2026

SABETHA CITY COMMISSION

Annual car show scheduled on Main Street

JULIE SHAFER

The Sabetha City Commission met at 6 p.m. Monday, March 9, at Sabetha City Hall. Present for the meeting were Mayor Cody Bletscher, Commissioners Nick Aberle, Austin Wasinger and Trevin Edelman, City Administrator Nick Rizzio, Assistant City Administrator Bill Shroyer, and City Clerk Steve Compo. Commissioner Jason Enneking was absent. Guests in attendance were Marcus Gonzalez, Jeremy Bestwick, Alexis Schroeder, Dakota Bechtelheimer, Heather Bestwick, Josh Bechtelheimer, Gary Elliott, Steve Shafer, Logan Ploeger and Isaac Schmid.

TWISTER'S CAR SHOW

Marcus Gonzalez, the president of the Northeast Kansas Auto Enthusiasts (NEKAE), came to request approval for the use of a space and a proposed date of Saturday, June 13. Due to the expected growth, Gonzalez asked about moving the event from the Library Park to Main Street this year. The proposed layout would allow cars to back into parking spaces along the blocks, potentially increasing the number of vehicles that could be accommodated. Semis could be lined up near Water's Hardware.

"So we would like to do Saturday, June 13th," Gonzalez said. "And then we're expecting between 10 to 20 percent growth on the car show. Last year, if I remember correctly, we had about 127 cars, and then we had 27 semis. So, we're looking at approximately 150 cars, and then an additional 30 or 40 semis this year... We would like to just throw it out there; see how it goes on Main Street from Sixth to Eleventh Streets."

The car show is planned for noon to 3 p.m., though many registrants typically begin arriving around 8 a.m. Gonzalez said streets would not necessarily need to be closed that early, as vehicles could be parked gradually.

"We have some stuff to do on our end," Gonzalez said. "We have to work on classes, and we're going to try to park them per class in their sections, so it's going to be a little bit more organized than last year."

Gonzalez said they would like to work with downtown businesses and local vendors for food instead of bringing in outside food trucks so businesses such as Downtown Coffee, Buzz Café, Sidelines and Gene's Corner can benefit from the added visitors.

"So we would like to work with the businesses and not get vendors... And let the businesses downtown make money while they can during the car show, 'cause I think it'd be a good day for them," Gonzalez said.

The commissioners approved the date of June 13 on Main Street for the annual Twisters Car Show.

CITY PROJECTS UPDATE

City Administrator Rizzio gave an update to the commissioners on the city projects.

City Hall: Preparations are underway at City Hall for a cement pad that will support a new generator expected to arrive this week.

Electrical Department: Rizzio met with NorthWind TS on March 3 to discuss SCADA systems for the wastewater, water and electric departments as potential local support for reading at the plants.

General Services: Rizzio also met with Schwab Eaton regarding plans and schematics for the wastewater treatment plant upgrade and discussed potential street, sidewalk and infrastructure projects. Staff will begin working on engineering plans, grant applications and financial planning to pursue funding for those projects.

Fire: Rizzio said minor updates are underway at the fire station, including painting and improved lighting.

Chief Elliot talked about some future improvements to the fire station. He is exploring an addition on the north side of the existing building, which would extend about 30 feet along the length of the structure. A contractor from Hiawatha is expected to review the project plans in the coming weeks.

He said the department is working to improve its ISO rating, which affects local insurance rates.

The department is also discussing future equipment needs, including the possibility of a new tanker truck with support from the rural fire board. In addition, they are pursuing grant opportunities to help fund upgrades and improvements.

Also at the meeting:

The commissioners approved the meeting minutes from Monday, Feb. 23.

The commissioners also approved authorizing the City of Sabetha to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Sabetha Hospital to provide non-potable water during emergency situations as needed.

The commissioners also approved the following burn dates: March 14 to May 1.

The commissioners decided to table Charter Ordinance No. 22, which would change the City Commission meetings from two meetings each month to only one regular meeting a month. They will revisit the subject next month.

Wasinger and Aberle expressed hesitation about making the change immediately due to several ongoing transitions. They noted that any change would require a 60-day public notice period before taking effect.

"I know that's where we want to get, but I have a little hesitation doing it right now, just because of so many changes, a new administrator, Bill's [Shroyer] gonna be taking off before too long, a lot of things moving right now," Wasinger said. "I mean, I'd almost feel better pushing it back a few months and reevaluate it."

Aberle agreed, saying, "Austin's point makes sense to me."

The next regular city commission meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Monday, March 23, at Sabetha City Hall.

PART ONE: SABETHA HISTORY CENTER

Local history to be brought to life as long-time dream becomes a reality



The Sabetha History Center is located at 715 Main Street in Sabetha.

Heather Stewart | Herald

HEATHER STEWART

What started out as a dream of preserving local history and innovation is finally coming to fruition.

THE DREAM

Local Sabetha resident Shana Aberle — daughter of Steve and RoseAnn Knoblock — said her parents had the initial idea for creating a space to highlight Sabetha's roots and its early settlers.

"My parents, Steve and RoseAnn Knoblock, had dreamed of opening a museum in Sabetha to highlight local history and innovation. It's something they've dreamed about for a long time," Shana said.

The Knoblocks recruited their daughters, Shana and Tasha Schurter, to help make their dream a reality.

"They brought us [Shana and Tasha] into the planning process and then reached out to other interested community members to

join," Shana said.

With initial plans underway, the Knoblocks purchased the former Wenger Conference Center located at 715 Main Street in Sabetha, just east of Sabetha City Hall, in May of 2024.

THE DREAM TEAM

In June 2024, the group assembled a board of directors.

The board of directors includes Jim Johnson, Steve Knoblock, Sheryl Plattner, Tasha Schurter, Dennis Stones, Bart White and Shana Aberle.

Now that the project has a dedicated board, the group decided to come up with a name that would set them apart from other museums.

"The facility is officially named the Sabetha History Center," Shana said. "We wanted the name to reflect something a little different than a typical museum."

Shana said the creation of a history

➤HISTORY.5

FLU UPDATE

Flu slowing, doctors monitor measles

JULIE SHAFER

Respiratory illnesses are still lingering in the community as winter transitions into spring, though local health providers say cases of flu and COVID-19 have slowed since our last update in January.

"Respiratory illness seems to be at a slow smolder since our last conversation," said Dr. Natalie Frye.

Dr. Frye said RSV cases are still being seen in the clinic, COVID-19 and influenza cases have decreased but continue to appear weekly, while Influenza A has been particularly tough on patients this season.

"Flu A seems to have hit a lot harder this year," Dr. Frye said. "Likely from being the new strain."

She explained that the severity may be linked to the emergence of a new strain. Patients are often experiencing prolonged illness with fever, body aches, cough and congestion, and some are developing secondary infections such as ear infections or pneumonia following the initial viral infection.

Croup is also a concern right now. According to Dr. Frye, Croup is a viral infection that causes a distinctive bark or seal-like cough and breathing difficulty in young children and is typically treated with steroids.

As warmer weather approaches, Dr. Frye said respiratory viruses generally begin to decline.

"As we move into warmer weather, these viruses slowly fade as people are outside more, resulting in less exposure," Dr. Frye said. "However, COVID tends to have a resurgence usually in the summer/fall time



period."

MEASLES

In addition to respiratory illnesses, Dr. Frye addressed recent concerns about measles after cases were reported in the Kansas City area.

"Measles, as you are probably aware, is present in Kansas City. This is the first time since 2018," Dr. Frye said.

She said the situation raises some concern for healthcare providers because local residents do commonly travel to the Kansas City area.

According to the most recent data available from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), vaccination rates in Kansas are about 90 percent, while Nemaha County is around 95 percent based on 2023-24 data.

"Anything below 95 percent is concerning for possibility of community spread of the virus. This is what we call herd immunity," Dr. Frye said. "This is especially important for anyone that cannot get vaccinated such as undergoing chemotherapy or immune



alternating medications."

Dr. Frye emphasized that measles can be much more serious than many people realize.

"Measles is unfortunately not simply a rash, and the downward effects can alter the immune system for years, or even end someone's life from Pneumonia or brain inflammation," Dr. Frye said.

At this time, KDHE has not changed the recommended vaccination timeline since measles has not been identified in Nemaha County or surrounding areas.

"Vaccination is still the best protection," Dr. Frye said. "If you are concerned about your child's risk, I would recommend speaking with your provider to determine if early vaccination is indicated."

Simple precautions — as stated back in January — can still help limit the spread of illness. Regular handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, staying home when sick, and keeping vaccinations up to date remain some of the best ways to protect both individuals and the community.

FOLLOW US:



WWW.SABETHAHERALD.COM

Email sabethaherald@sabethaherald.com

Volume 150 | Issue 10
1 Section - 12 Pages



\$1

local&area

KANSAS SILVER HAired LEGISLATURE

Transportation guide to help seniors get to the polls

Submitted

The Kansas Silver Haired Legislature (KSHL) has released a new, nonpartisan resource to help communities remove one of the most common barriers to senior voting: transportation.

The guide, Creating a Voting Transportation Program, provides step-by-step guidance for cities, counties, Area Agencies on Aging, and community organizations to develop local ride programs that help seniors get to the polls during early voting and on Election Day.

Transportation challenges — especially in rural and underserved areas — can prevent older Kansans from participating fully in elections. The new toolkit outlines practical solutions that can be adapted to communities of any size.

“Transportation should never be the reason a senior cannot vote,” said Leroy Burton, Speaker of the Kansas Silver Haired Legislature. “This guide gives communities a simple roadmap to partner locally and remove that barrier.”

KSHL identifies voting access as a 2026 priority, alongside senior transportation, property tax relief, and preservation of Medicaid and food assistance programs. The organization advocates for policies that ensure older Kansans can remain engaged, independent and active in their communities.

The guide is free and designed to be implemented locally through partnerships among civic groups, faith communities, senior centers, transit providers, and local governments. Link to the guide is <https://www.kansas-shl.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Voting-Transportation-Program-2026-2.pdf>.

Why this matters locally: In communities across Kansas, limited transportation options — especially for seniors who no longer drive — can mean missed opportunities to vote. Programs like coordinated rides, volunteer driver networks and partnerships with transit providers can dramatically increase turnout while strengthening community connections.

SABETHA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Coperion selected as ‘Business of the Month’



The Sabetha Chamber of Commerce “Business of the Month” for March is Coperion. Pictured are (L-R) Hunter Haynie, Josh Burger, Glen Arnold, Dwight Edelman, John Tangeman, David Rieschick, Cody Nieman, Matt Lowdermilk and Derek Deters. Submitted

HISTORY: Dimensional Innovations is helping to design the space for the Sabetha History Center

HISTORY.1

center is important because it shows how Sabetha thrived during difficult times.

“Establishing a history center in Sabetha is important so that both present and future generations can discover the stories of local farmers, manufacturers, and business owners whose determination and innovation contributed to the town’s success even as other communities struggled,” Shana said.

Shana said that hand-picking these board members was pivotal for the Sabetha History Center.

“These board members are enthusiastic about Sabetha and have collected local historical items and memorabilia, which we used extensively with help from other residents,” Shana said.

ENVISIONING THE SPACE

Later in the summer of 2024, the board of directors started working with Dimensional Innovations in Kansas City to design the space.

Shana said that the inspiration for the entire project was very personal.

“The inspiration behind this project was to share how my grandfather Lou Wenger and his brother, Joe, overcame the challenges of the Depression to eventually found Wenger Manufacturing, a company that inspired local business growth,” Shana said. “We also recognized the importance of capturing Sabetha’s distinctive history and highlighting the stories of its early pioneers.”

Shana said that during the project’s early stages, they visited a few Kansas Museums to help them visualize their space.

“Our visits to Kansas museums such as the Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum and the Hansen Museum inspired us to create an engaging space for visitors of all ages,” Shana said.

Shana said that the group “wasn’t sure how to bring their ideas to life,” but working with

Dimensional Innovations helped them create an interactive, technology-driven space for hands-on learning within the curated exhibits.

“It’s been just 169 years since the area’s first settlers arrived, but innovation has always played a key role here in Sabetha, something we want to celebrate,” Shana said.

“From Sam Murdock launching a nurses’ training program, to local farmers creating the Nemaha Co-operative Creamery Association or Sabetha High School students fighting hunger in Mozambique by sending fortified rice through Grains For Hope, this will be a place where visitors can experience the legacy of these creative problem-solvers firsthand.”

Shana said they are seeking volunteers for when the space opens and to contact them if you are interested in helping out.

Editor’s Note: This is part one of a three-part series, which will explore the planning and execution behind the Sabetha History Center, which is set to open at the end of May 2026.

We’re there when it matters most

RCIS shares a dedicated team approach and crop insurance expertise with our agents. Just a few of the many reasons why your RCIS agent is well positioned to provide the service you deserve.

1313 S US Old Highway 75 | Sabetha, Kansas | 785-284-3435
211 North Street | Seneca, Kansas | 785-336-3540

RCIS is a registered trademark of Zurich American Insurance Company.
RCIC is an equal opportunity provider. ©Rural Community Insurance Company. All rights reserved.

EXTRA! EXTRA!

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

If you have a digital subscription, visit SabethaHerald.com to check out our Digital Extra for content you may have missed!

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Please cut along this line and return with payment.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE: _____

PHONE #: _____

EMAIL: _____

LOCAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

- ☐ Printed Newspaper ONLY: \$65.00
- ☐ Printed Newspaper & Digital: \$80.00
- ☐ Digital All Access ONLY: \$40.00

OUT-OF-STATE SUBSCRIPTIONS

- ☐ Printed Newspaper ONLY: \$75.00
- ☐ Printed Newspaper & Digital: \$90.00
- ☐ Digital All Access ONLY: \$40.00

Please mark your selection and be sure your address is complete and correct.

MAIL TO:
The Sabetha Herald,
P.O. Box 208
Sabetha, KS 66534

Bath Remodel

Safety. Style. Stress-Free Installation.

CALL NOW 1.844.597.2892

SPECIAL OFFER

Waiving All Installation Costs!

Add'l terms apply. Offer subject to change and vary by dealer. Expires 12/27/26.

ARE YOU PAYING TOO MUCH FOR YOUR MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT POLICY?

At Saylor Insurance, we can change your Medicare Supplement policy to a new company at any time, as long as you can qualify!

WHY PAY MORE IF YOU DO NOT HAVE TO?

Contact Jan Steinlage at the Sabetha office or Mindy Sudbeck at the Seneca office and let them help you with finding a lower cost option that you may qualify for.

Jan Steinlage
1313 S. Old US Hwy 75
Sabetha, KS 66534
785-284-3435
FAX: 785-284-2134

Mindy Sudbeck
211 North St.
Seneca, KS 66538
785-336-3540
FAX: 785-336-2239

KEEP YOUR BUSINESS LOCAL BY GOING WITH A “TRUSTED CHOICE” AGENT WHO HAS EXPERIENCE, WILL BE THERE FOR YOU, AND WILL DO WHAT IS BEST FOR YOU!

LET US GUIDE YOU THROUGH THE MEDICARE MAZE!

SAYLOR INSURANCE
Leading Your Present, Protecting Your Future

www.saylorinsurance.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS! WE NEED YOUR HELP!

- Sunflower State Spelling Bee – Salina, KS
• March 21, 2026
- Kansas State Battle of the Books – Emporia, KS
• May 8, 2026
- Kansas Civic Games – Topeka, KS
• October 29

Contact the Kansas Press Association today to learn more about these exciting volunteer opportunities

785-271-5304

www.kspress.com