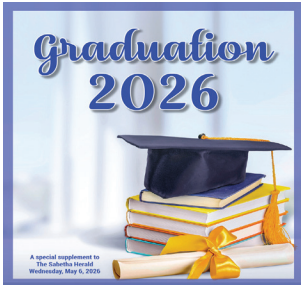




THE SABETHA HERALD



WEEKLY RECIPE
Orange Julius
FUN&GAMES 12B



GRADUATION
Section C

SINCE 1876
WEDNESDAY
6
MAY
2026

GRADUATION

Students to graduate this weekend

HERALD REPORT

Sabetha seniors will say farewell to high school as they graduate at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 9.

There are 49 seniors at Sabetha High School. Sabetha's Class of 2026 selected the white rose as the class flower, and navy and silver as the class colors. The motto for the class is, "You can fail at

what you don't want, so you might as well take a chance on doing what you love." – Jim Carrey
Also graduating this year are six FAST Home-school students. Their ceremony took place on

Saturday, May 2, at the NorthRidge Church in Sabetha.
For a list of graduates, as well as senior salutes, see Section C of this week's Herald.

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

The headlines that shaped us

JULIE SHAFER

When history made headlines around the world, the news didn't always arrive in Sabetha right away. In the early days of *The Sabetha Herald*, reports of wars, disasters and major events often came slowly, sometimes in fragments, as information traveled by telegraph and through larger city papers. Yet even with limited details, The Herald captured something just as important — how those moments reached and were felt by the people of this community.

Before the age of instant communication, gathering the news was a slower and often uncertain process. Early editors relied on telegraph reports, word-of-mouth accounts and larger city newspapers to piece together what was happening beyond their community. Information could take days, or even weeks to arrive, and initial reports were sometimes incomplete or later corrected as more details became known. Despite these challenges, newspapers like *The Sabetha Herald* worked to bring the most accurate and timely accounts possible to their readers, connecting a small town to a much larger world.

What follows are a handful of events from The Herald archives. They represent just a small glimpse of the many moments over 150 years in which world history reached Sabetha and was experienced through its pages.

TITANIC

One of the earliest examples of this can be seen in the coverage of the Titanic disaster in 1912.

Today, most people hear the name Titanic and think of the "unsinkable ship" that tragically sank on April 15, 1912. We've learned the full story through books, history

➤HEADLINES.3A

SABETHA HISTORY CENTER, PART 3

Creating a space for all to reminisce, learn

HEATHER STEWART

Many Sabetha residents — and former residents — are anxiously awaiting the grand opening of the Sabetha History Center. However, while everyone is anxious to see the custom-made space that dives into the immersive history of Sabetha, the board and Dimensional Innovations (DI) have been working diligently to get the final details in place.

According to the History Center's board of directors— Shana Aberle, Tasha Schurter, Steve Knoblock, Jim Johnson, Bart White, Dennis Stones and Sheryl Plattner — after the planning phase, the execution phase began.

RENOVATING THE SPACE

With the plans officially in place, the renovations and physical labor began. Aberle said it was a full-team effort between DI, the board and plenty of local talent.

"Many people contributed to help all the pieces of the history center come together," Aberle said. "Steve [Knoblock] and Jim [Johnson] put in many hours of physical labor, making sure everything was on schedule, from painting to flooring to structural items. Loren Edelman [Edelmans Home Center] served as the general contractor for the interior work, overseeing Matt Manley and Skyler Dobson as they completed complex structural work, with Sandy Sanders providing drywall expertise. The other board members had a hand in the construction in various ways... It truly was a team effort."

Using as much local talent and skills as possible was one of Knoblock's goals when preparing the space.

"I wanted to incorporate as much of the local



Progress on the front porch area of the Sabetha History Center is being made on Monday, May 4.

Submitted

help that we had in town that was available," Knoblock said.

Johnson said that with DI being in Kansas City, they were grateful to have so many people available to assist with the project, and the local help even learned new skills along the way.

"By us volunteering our services to DI, we had Edelman's guys down there that had never bent and curved sheet rock," Johnson said. "So, they had to learn how to curve the sheet rock."



The old city hall ticket booth that has been refurbished sits in the east side of the Sabetha History Center. The ticket booth was refurbished by Ethan Young at Timber Traditions.

Heather Stewart | Herald

Stones also acknowledged the amount of time Johnson and Knoblock spent preparing the space.

"These guys [Jim and Steve] are carpenters and they put in a lot of time inside tearing out, putting in and getting it ready," he said.

➤HISTORY.6A

PLANTING

This planting season is making good headway

ERIN HERRMANN

With planting season under-way, local farmers are making good progress. According to Ag Partners Sabetha Coop manager Scott Schremmer, overall, corn planting is about 90 to 95 percent completed and soybean planting is approximately 60 to 65 percent complete, with progress expected to accelerate.

"With the bed of moisture [from the recent rains], I believe that we should see solid start to our crops this year," Schremmer said.

All the recent rainfall has been quite beneficial to the soil and planted seed, however, too much rain can be a concern for the future.

"My biggest worry at this time would be crusting of what has been planted. With the season warming and the wonderful rain we have had, a hard crust could form on top of the soil and make it difficult for seedlings to break through," Schremmer said.

When asked about potential crop yields, Schremmer said he foresees this year's yields increasing compared to 2025, largely due to improving farm practices as



This planter is preparing to plant soybeans on Sunday, April 26.

Submitted | Preston Thomas

well as increased moisture levels compared to rain received around this time last year.

"With the local farmers finding updated equipment or planting components, acres continue to get planted faster, compressing planting timelines from months into weeks," Schremmer said. "Genetics also keep improving along with our best farming practices for soil health. Slowly over time, our averages have been increasing."

Overall, this planting season is looking pretty positive at the

moment. Schremmer expects seeding to be wrapped up in a couple weeks for most farmers in the area.

"With the speed they can plant and the clean start to the planting season, the [local] farms should be off to a good start," Schremmer said. "May has some rain expected for the end of the month that could push them on their ideal planting window. In general, farmers are well ahead of last year. Planting [for most farmers] should be wrapping up in the next two weeks, depending on rain delays."

CITY OF SABETHA

'Cleaning up' Sabetha



Kayl Murray throws some wood into the wood pile during the Citywide Clean-Up on Wednesday, April 29.

Erin Herrmann | Herald



Naomi Pearson lifts a school desk off a trailer during the Citywide Clean-Up on Wednesday, April 29.

Erin Herrmann | Herald

See more from the Citywide Clean-up on Page 8B.

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3 Sections - 36 Pages



\$1

HISTORY: A ribbon cutting and grand opening will be held Friday, May 22

■ HISTORY.1A

Johnson added that Draperie Decor Interiors did the carpeted floor in the west side.

DESIGNING THE DISPLAYS

When developing the space and choosing what types of displays and exhibits they wanted included, the board wanted to make sure that all ages would enjoy something at the center.

“One of our priorities when designing the history center was making sure that all the exhibits were engaging for all ages,” Aberle said. “We wanted to include several exhibits that offer an interactive experience to appeal especially to younger audiences. It was also essential to provide comprehensive historical exhibits for visitors who appreciate in-depth displays, as well as additional options for those who prefer browsing more casually.”

According to Knoblock, kids will get to see inside a “conditioner” with hands-on displays and while kids are working an interactive display, parents are able to read about another piece of Sabetha’s history close by.

The board said that they are not just focusing on families and individuals visiting, they also hope to attract school classes as well.

“We are setting this up so that the school can set up and bring a class in,” Stones said.

One thing the board wanted to emphasize is that this history center is not just a “Wenger museum,” it is a place for visitors to reflect on and remember Sabetha’s history. In addition to the history of Wenger Manufacturing, other historical information and displays will cover the Nemaha County Cooperative Creamery, Sabetha’s birthday, the nursing college and hospital, Sabetha school history, local military, farming, local land plats, businesses, and more.

Various artifacts have already been collected for displaying in the center, according to Aberle.

“The history center board is made up of people who are all very passionate about Sabetha and have been collecting Sabetha artifacts for many years,” Aberle said. “There were also a number of other local residents or family members of former residents that have donated items we are using for the exhibits.”

When thinking about all of the information and displays that will be in the center, each board member had a different display that they consider their “favorite.”

“There are several exhibits that I would consider my favorite, but the Digital Diary area stands out as especially unique,” Aberle said. “This exhibit will offer visitors a unique perspective on history through the presentation of first-person narratives from historical Sabethans.”

“I think one of my favorites is gonna be the four display cabinets — the military, schools athletics, hospital and a farmer,” Stones said. “Everything else is gonna be pretty cool, but I kind of like seeing that when you come in.”

“For me, I got a couple different



The old refurbished library desk has been installed at the entry of the Sabetha History Center. The desk was refurbished by Ethan Young at Timber Traditions.

areas, because I’ve been working throughout the whole thing, but one of them is the front porch,” Johnson said. “It’s gonna be really cool that you go up and ring a doorbell, and there’s gonna be an actor behind that screen door. It opens up and says, ‘Welcome to Sabetha, Kansas. It’s really cool and kind of a neat exhibit.”

“Then, the other thing is that for me — because I collect that kind of stuff — like any automobile dealerships or other old businesses that are no longer here,” Johnson continued. “Wherever we put this stuff, it brings back memories to people and they’ll say, ‘I remember Bill Leman’s Pontiac dealership.’ ‘I remember when ice cream came in a tub just like that.’ ‘I used to work at the creamery.’ ‘I used to fill ice cream tubs like that.’”

Knoblock expressed that all of the exhibits are unique because the board deliberated on a lot of things, so the entire center is special to him.

“Well, I think just getting the whole thing off the ground... There was kind of a dream, and then we fulfilled it,” Knoblock said.

While each board member has a favorite exhibit, there are a couple of features in the center that they think all visitors will enjoy and those are the renovated ticket booth from the old city hall building and the original librarian desk from Mary Cotton Public Library.

“It’s really great that the city has held on to just two pieces of history, both being the library desk and the ticket booth,” Johnson said. “The two pieces were renovated by Ethan Young with Timber Traditions.”

According to Knoblock, another thing they will have occasionally will be some outside displays with tractors and manure spreaders that are antiques. These will only be out on certain days.

With numerous types of displays, the board hopes that there will be “something” that will grab someone’s attention.

“I hope that there will be some-

thing that will grab somebody’s attention in there,” Stones said. “It may not be the whole thing. Hopefully, it will spark a lot of conversation and the memories of people in town, and maybe get some talking, but it’s important to understand how this community got started and why it survived. I think that’s gonna be shown in here if you really dig through and look at it.”

Knoblock agreed, saying, “It’s not one you’re going to just breeze through and breeze out.”

“What makes the Sabetha History Center stand out is how it blends our community’s unique history throughout the space, highlighting innovation and creativity with interactive, hands-on experiences,” Aberle said.

The board said in order to keep visitors coming back, the board plans to change out some of the artifacts, since Sabetha has an extensive history.

“The history center features numerous rotating exhibits, sometimes changing seasonally, giving visitors plenty of reasons to return. In addition, the gift shop will regularly update its selection of gifts and souvenirs,” Aberle said.

GOALS

According to the board, the goal of the center is to educate visitors about Sabetha’s history, as well as preserve Sabetha’s history so it is not lost.

“We aim to provide educational and community programs, welcoming school groups to visit the space,” Aberle said. “By attracting more visitors to Sabetha, we hope that the history center will help boost tourism in our area and encourage patronage of local businesses. Our primary objective during the first year is to establish the space as a tourist attraction in Kansas, encouraging more visitors to come to Sabetha and contribute to the local economy.”

“I would hope that it would generate some conversation, and I’d like to be able to see some of the people that we haven’t even

thought about talking to, come forward with information,” Stones said. “I think our goal is to provide the most history of this community that we can for people in the future, so it’s not lost.”

Johnson said he feels like the board is doing “their part” to bring people to downtown Sabetha and draw them in.

While the board may be doing “their part,” they all agree that this project wouldn’t be possible without the entire community — from beginning to present.

“I think the community is what shaped the whole museum, from the very beginning until now, and all the things that have happened here to make our community what it is,” Stones said.

“The history that Sabetha holds is something to be proud of,” Johnson said. “We’ve got to show it somehow... Where would we be if we didn’t have the community or the workers that we do have?”

A REFLECTION

With the center opening in a mere two weeks, the board of directors reflected on how the project began as a dream and has developed into something that exceeded all of their expectations.

“This project is way beyond what I dreamed it would be,” Aberle said. “The creativity of the DI team, the willingness of our board to look outside the box and the excitement of the community has made this project so fulfilling.”

Johnson agreed, saying DI was “amazing” to work with.

“With every Zoom meeting that we had with DI, it was just amazing. They would awe us with what they put together by our ramblings. It’s neat to see it come together,” Johnson said.

Knoblock said DI is very creative.

“These people from DI can take your information that you just talk about, and they have great vision,” Knoblock said. “They’ve got a tremendous staff. I just felt humbled that they even accepted us because it was a small project. That’s a fact. Their vision is just



This photo depicts the framing for the curvature of this interactive display within the Sabetha History Center.

Submitted



The timeline display for the Sabetha History Center is waiting to be installed on Monday, May 4.

Heather Stewart | Herald

unbelievable. In my opinion, it’s a lot bigger than what we had anticipated it being.”

Stones said the project came together quickly.

“It’s above and beyond everything. I never dreamed we would get to this point this quick,” Stones said.

Plattner agreed, saying she is excited to see how the center will continue to grow.

“This project has gone far beyond anything that I could have imagined,” Plattner said. “I am looking forward to how the museum will grow and continue to reflect our community.”

IMPORTANT INFO

Hours

While the hours are subject to change, the initial hours will be as follows:

Tuesday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Thursday: 3 to 7 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Large groups and special requests are welcome by appointment.

Admission

Admission to the history is free. However, voluntary donations are welcomed and will support ongoing maintenance and preservation of the history center.

Accessibility

“Our goal was to ensure the center is inclusive and fully ADA accessible, featuring new electronic front doors and accessible facilities throughout,” Aberle said.

Gift Shop

According to the board, a small

gift shop will be available.

“There will also be a small gift shop featuring branded items, such as logo t-shirts, Sabetha postcards featuring scenery from local photographer Harland Schuster, stickers with Sabetha and Kansas icons, magnets, keychains and numerous other items, including puzzles and STEM-type toys to fit with the innovation theme in the center,” Aberle said. “Also, in the gift shop area, there will be a “Handcrafted Sabetha” section featuring locally-made items.”

All proceeds from the gift shop will be used to help support the history center.

Got a piece of history?

To donate an item, contact a board member or email sabethahistorycenter@gmail.com. Their website will have more information in the future at sabethahistorycenter.com.

Volunteers needed

The board said they are looking for more volunteers to assist in staffing the history center. If interested, please contact Tasha Schurter at 785-547-5573 or email sabethahistorycenter@gmail.com.

Financial Backing

The Sabetha History Center Board is thankful for those who have made this project to preserve the innovative history of Sabetha possible.

“Generous donors have made the Sabetha History Center possible,” Aberle said. “We have also been able to utilize donations from our Greater Sabetha Community Foundation fund to offset costs. Through the generosity of JBT Marel (owners of Wenger), we were able to purchase the building and the parking lot south of our building.”

“We have many generous financial donors through our fund at Greater Sabetha Community Foundation. It takes a lot of time, funds and volunteers to make something like this happen.”

GRAND OPENING

The grand opening for the Sabetha History Center will be held Friday, May 22, with a ribbon cutting taking place at 3 p.m. The history center will open at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 23, prior to the Alumni Parade and will be open until 2 p.m.

“Our goal was to be open for Memorial Weekend and the alumni events in town,” Aberle said.



Steve Knoblock, left, and Jim Johnson, right, stand inside the old city hall ticket booth at the Sabetha History Center on Thursday, April 2.

Submitted



The curved walls of this interactive display nears completion on Tuesday, April 14.

Submitted



A front porch with a doorbell and four display cases will welcome visitors into the Sabetha History Center.

Heather Stewart | Herald

GOVERNING BODY

Nemaha County Commission

Submitted by
Mary Kay Schultejeans
County Clerk

The Board of Nemaha County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, April 27, 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 Dalingshaus and Jason Koch, County Counselor/County Administrator Austin Parker, and County Clerk Mary Kay Schultejeans recording the minutes.

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

The board set and approved the agenda as presented for the

meeting.

Glace called for open public forum to begin at 9:10 a.m. No one came before the board to speak during the forum. Glace ended public forum at 9:19 a.m.

Department Reports

Emergency Preparedness Director Eddie Aldrine came before the board to ask for an executive session with the commissioners. The commissioners held a five-minute executive session to discuss the pay and performance of non-elected personnel. Present for the executive session were the Board of Commissioners, Aldrine and Parker. After five minutes, the commissioners requested 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 has accepted the resignation of Aldrine, effective May 20.

Road and Bridge/Solid Waste Supervisor Adam Kuckelman submitted a written report advising the board that:

- He has decided to pass on buying a new baler for recycling due to expensive repairs on the current baler and the purchase of the used recycling trailers recently. A grant can be applied for next year.
- Crews are hauling rock on various roads in District 3.
- The bridge crew is starting work on the bridge on X Road and U.S. Highway 36.

Also at the meeting:
The board reviewed and ap-

proved the minutes as amended from the April 20 meeting.

City of Seneca Administrator Steve Brooks and Mayor Joe Mitchell came before the board to speak to the commission about communication issues between the city and the county and about the conflict of interest with the county having the same person serve as the Nemaha County Counselor and the Nemaha County Administrator. Parker advised that this is not a statutory conflict.

Discussion was held with the local contractors present concerning the specifications for the proposed new EMS building for the county. The commissioners and those present left the meeting room at 9:50 a.m. to walk across the street to the area where the

EMS building is to be located. A decision was made concerning the placement of the building on the lot. The group returned to the meeting room at 10:35 a.m. The local contractors will send comments to Parker concerning the specs for the new building and he will type up the new specs for review at next week’s commission meeting.

The board reviewed a payroll report for the March/April 2026 payroll period. The commission approved the March/April 2026 payroll in the amount of \$550,271.24 with benefits included. The commissioners signed the payroll report as presented.

The commission approved the 2025 add/abate orders. Glace signed the orders as presented.

The board reviewed vouchers submitted by the different departments to be paid. The commissioners approved the AP warrants to be paid on April 28 as presented.

The Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ) program was not extended during the 2026 Kansas Legislative Session. Therefore, no new applicants will be accepted to the ROZ Student Loan Repayment Program after June 30.

The commissioners approved the engagement letter with Wisdom CPAs for payroll processing services. Chairman Glace signed the letter as presented.

The next regularly scheduled meeting was held Monday, May 4. These minutes were not available at The Herald’s press time.