

—ORATORICAL WINNER—



JACKSON MENDOZA, a senior from Sterling High School, won the 2025 American Legion Kansas Department Oratorical Contest in Topeka. He will compete at the American Legion National Oratorical Contest, May 16-18, at Hillsdale, Mich. Pictured with Jackson is Angela Evans, American Legion Kansas Department Commander (and Sterling-Lyons Post No. 128 Commander).

SC hosts graphic design exhibition

The Walt Whitman’s poem “Song of Myself” has inspired the art exhibition at the Sterling College Art Center Gallery by guest artist Maddy Otter. The graphic design exhibition is entitled “Multitudes” and will be on display at the Gallery through April 18.

Talking about her inspiration, Otter describes parts of Whitman’s poem that were foundational to her thesis.

“The concept of self and community is explored at length, diving into the interconnectedness between the two,” Otter said. “Whitman’s lines ‘Do I contradict myself? Very well then, I contradict myself (I am large, I contain multitudes)’ resonated with me.”

Her thesis revolves around the idea that we are filled with fluid layers within our identity that blend opposing traits. Humanity is anything but black and white, and we are continuously evolving with new perspectives.

Otter continued by explaining how the themes of this exhibition - identity, human connection, and the influence of experiences on our perceptions- are incorporated within each piece created.

She uses her “Supercut” promotional posters as an example. “They blend mediums, illustrating how I merge different methods to create unified works,” said Otter. “Texture plays a significant role in my designs, and I enjoy layering elements to add depth and complexity to my pieces.”

The work in the exhibition was done over the course of three years as she completed her MFA. Otter utilized Vector graphics and printmaking methods, including intaglio, screenprint, cyanotype, lithography and book design to create all of her pieces.

A piece highlighted by Otter titled “Lifeblood” is an example of the challenges of the process paying off in the end. “It contains a lot of familial references, and their reaction made my heart swell. I ran into a few bumps in the road with some things I wasn’t used to before the piece, but the time and effort spent was 110% worth it,” said Otter.

This exhibition as a whole reflects her exploration and experimentation with methods of creation and incorporation of self into her work. Otter described creating all the pieces as a means for self-discovery in clarity for what shapes us into the layered beings that we are.

“I believe that every person is essentially a walking museum; the pieces we create are a reflection of us,” said Otter. “We are curated by the hands of time; joys, sorrows, people, and lessons learned. Our galleries grow with every passing day.”

Otter’s art show “Multitudes” is on display Monday through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Sterling College Art Center Gallery, 306 West Washington, Sterling until April 18.

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SC men’s basketball named KCAC Team of Character

The Sterling College men’s basketball team was named the 2024-25 KCAC Men’s Basketball Team of Character. The team ended regular season play with a 14-14 record and showed great resilience throughout the year.

“Coach (Randy) Stange and his staff have put in tremendous effort to build a team that plays hard and rep-

resents Sterling College positively both on and off the court. They represent the values held by the NAIA. Being named the KCAC Team of Character recognizes these young men for their involvement on campus and in the community, demonstrating their commitment to doing the right thing. Congratulations to our players and coaching staff,” Scott

Downing, Vice President of Athletics, said.

Head coach Randy Stange is proud of how his student athletes competed this season and is pleased his team was recognized for more than just their basketball talents.

“This season was a long and hard season with a lot of ups and downs,” Stange said. “The character, forti-

tude and ability to fight through adversity these young men demonstrated throughout the year is very meaningful and something that will continue to make them successful throughout their life. The importance of character outside of basketball is why this award is so meaningful knowing that other people recognize this in our team.”

SC cheer earns awards at KCAC Championships

Sterling College Cheer finished fifth at the KCAC Championships of Friday in Leavenworth.

The team came out of prelims in sixth place just .29 points away from fifth. In the final performance the Lady Warriors were able to improve their score to a 60.13 to clinch fifth place.

“They studied their prelim routine and knew what they needed to clean up. Once they hit that mat they did not hold back. Their motions were sharper, stunts were hitting, facials were on point, and dedication was in their eyes. They were so excited and emotional when they walked off that mat because they knew, as a team, they did what they come to do,” head coach Jessica Saiz said.

On top of a great team performance, Sterling’s Sheridan Neygen was named KCAC All-Conference Honorable Mention.

“Sheridan came to Sterling to play soccer and decided she wanted try cheer. She had never cheered before, but had done gymnastics. She blew us all away from the moment she started practicing. She picked up so fast, and has become a major asset to our team,” Saiz said. “She brings so much energy, laughter to our squad, and we can’t forget the flips. I hope and pray she continues to stick with cheer for next year as she is just a freshman and has lots of potential to make All-KCAC First Team.”

Delany Woodworth was named the Lady Warrior’s Champion of Character.

“Delany is a genuine leader on our team. She leads by example, and is respectful to her teammates. She wants to do her best and helps her teammates to be their best even outside of practice. They all look up to her,” Saiz said. “She is a senior next year, and this one is going to be a hard season for me. I am not ready to let her go and I hope to find more Delany’s to add to the team.”

The Lady Warriors were also named the 2025 KCAC Team of Character.

Committed to advancing character-driven athletics, the NAIA Champions of Character program aims to inspire student-athletes, coaches, officials, and fans to hold high standards and embody what character truly means in a competitive arena. By keeping the five core values of integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship, and servant leadership at the heart of the athletics experience, the Champions of Character program empowers participants to change the culture of sport.

To top the day off, four Lady Warriors were named 2024-25 Competitive Cheer All-KCAC Scholar Athletes. The All-KCAC Scholar Athlete Academic Award recognizes excellence in the classroom by KCAC member student athletes who are sophomores or above in academic standing at the beginning of the semester in which they compete, carry a minimum 3.25 cumulative GPA at the beginning of the semester in which they compete and have attended one full year at the KCAC institution. The four included Hayleann Harrington, Abigail Sawin, Morgan Urwiler and Woodworth.

Sterling Public Notices

ORDINANCE NO. 2576

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CHANGE OF ZONING CLASSIFICATION FOR REAL ESTATE COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS the property located at the southwest corner of North Broadway Avenue and Avenue U, STERLING, RICE COUNTY, KANSAS, FROM COUNTY AG (COUNTY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT) TO CITY I-1 (CITY INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT)

WHEREAS, the City of Sterling Planning Commission, after providing notice and holding a hearing pursuant to K.S.A. 12-757 and Article 11 of the Zoning Ordinance for the City of Sterling, Kansas, has considered a request for change of zoning classification for the real estate commonly referred to as the property located at the southwest corner of North Broadway Avenue and Avenue

U, Sterling, Kansas, and recommends the Governing Body of the City grant said request; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the City of Sterling, Kansas, after due investigation and consideration has determined that the nature and extent of public use and interest served is such as to permit the requested change of zoning classification.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF STERLING, KANSAS:

SECTION 1: That the zoning classification for the following real estate, to wit:

Commencing at the Northeast corner of the Northwest Quarter of Section Sixteen (16), Township Twenty-one (21) South, Range Eight (8) West of the 6th P.M., Rice

—VIRTUAL VISIT—



AUTHOR ALAN KATZ had a virtual visit with Sterling Grade School students to celebrate World Read Aloud Day last Wednesday. To prepare, students read some of Katz’s humorous poems in library storytime. During the visit, the author emphasized the importance of reading, writing, and treating others with kindness. He shared poems and jokes that left both students and staff laughing.

### 27th Spring Art Auction

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County, Kansas; thence West along the North line of said Northwest quarter and parallel with the South line of said Northwest Quarter a distance of 1400 feet to a point; thence South and parallel with the East line of said Northwest Quarter a distance of 1800 feet to a point; thence East and parallel with the North line of said Northwest Quarter a distance of 1400 feet to a point; thence North along the East line of said Northwest Quarter and parallel with the West line of said Northwest Quarter a distance of 1400 feet to the point of beginning. Containing approximately 57.85 acres more or less

is hereby changed from County AG (County Agricultural District) to I-1 (City Industrial District). Further, that the zoning map for the

City of Sterling be changed accordingly.

SECTION 2: That this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication of the above ordinance in the official city newspaper.

SECTION 3: This ordinance shall be recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds, Rice County, Kansas.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND AD- OPTED on this 17th day of March, 2025.

By Brian Inwood, Mayor

ATTEST:  
By Jessi Dobson, City Clerk  
(Published in the Sterling Kansas Bulletin, Sterling, Rice County, Kansas, on March 20, 2025).

12.25

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\*2024 Kansas State Study; Conducted by Coda Ventures

Kansas Press Association

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