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—LOVE STERLING—



ABOVE: Isaac Briar, Julian Smith and other members of the Sterling College basketball team spread mulch in the bulb-outs on Broadway for Love Sterling.



LEFT: Resident Lynn Bush and Sterling College soccer player Sheridan Nguyn lift a bag of leaves into the back of a truck for disposal. Sterling College students, faculty members and coaches could be found throughout town helping with various projects Saturday morning.

County board hears EcoDevo update

By Rene Wilson

County Commissioners heard a quarterly report from Rice County Economic Development Director Taryn Daniels Monday.

She shared some concerns about the Revolving Loan Fund that currently has three recipients that are behind or not making payments.

She has requested financial reports from two of the three, but has not received anything in return. She has been unable to locate contact information on the third.

Daniels said she has had four or five perspective recipients ask about the loan program, and she feels a more defined process needs to be in place for those that are delinquent.

“It’s a good program and does great things to help local businesses, but it doesn’t seem like

it’s functioning properly,” Daniels said.

She noted that no UCC (Uniform Commercial Code) filings had been done for any of the loans, which she is currently working on correcting.

In other business commissioners:

- Approved the Kansas Department of Corrections Funding for fiscal year 2026 as presented by Central Kansas Community Corrections Director Brooke Haulmark;

- Approved airport lease agreements for aerial ag sprayers including Alpha Ag Air and Maxwell Aviation;

- Approved a public hearing for the five year solid waste management plan for the landfill as presented to be held on May 19 at 9:30 a.m. during the county commission meeting;

- Approved change or-

der for drainage on the airport hangar project for \$28,877, which will be reimbursed 90% by the FAA

- Approved the payment of a Kirkham Michael invoice for construction engineering on the 22nd Road (Hunter Blvd.) bridge for \$10,840.44. The payment is eligible for a 90% reimbursement from the Kansas Local Bridge Improvement Program;

- Approved having Kirkham Michael inspect 24 bridges at a cost of \$180 per bridge for a total of \$4,320;

- Approved entering into the federal funds exchange program, exchanging \$79,189.32 in federal funding for \$71,270.39 in state funding that allows for increased flexibility on how the funds are used;

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Bassett resigns head coaching position

Sterling College Athletics and Vice President of Athletics, Scott Downing, has announced that women’s basketball head coach K.C. Bassett has resigned to take a NCAA Div. II assistant position.

“K.C. has been an invaluable asset as coach of the Lady Warriors,” Downing said. “After stepping into the role following Hall of Fame Coach Lonnie Kruse, she has shaped and developed a team that reflects her unique basketball style while competing for championships. Her influence extends beyond the court; she influences student-athletes in every area of their lives. Her program impacts the entire Sterling community. We are grateful for her loyalty and wish her continued success in her career.”

Bassett finished her tenth season

at the helm of the Lady Warrior’s basketball program with a record of 232-114 after taking over in 2014-15. She started her coaching career at Sterling College in 2007 under Kruse and was inducted into the Sterling College Hall of Fame herself in 2016. She has also served Sterling as the Associate Athletic Director and Senior Women leader starting in 2021.

Over the past seven seasons, she has led the Lady Warriors to three KCAC regular season championships, three KCAC conference tournament championships and six trips to the NAIA National tournament (2019-23 and 2025).

Bassett has also coached five NAIA All-Americans, three KCAC Players

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BASSETT

Main Street Market Day Saturday

Sterling Chamber Main Street is gearing up for Saturday’s Main Street Market Day. The event will include vendors, food trucks, local artist demonstrations in Studio 96 and a stage for Kansas Touring Artists.

The day will kick off with the Kids Cove 5K Donut Dash starting at Sterling Lake at 8 a.m.

Broadway will be busy beginning at 9:30 a.m. with vendors, food trucks, a sidewalk chalk contest at First Bank, glass blowing demonstrations with

April Lemon and a kids craft tent.

Studio 96 will host live artists, Mother’s Day photo sessions and a Dino O’Dell STEM show at 11 a.m.

Table Coffee Roasters will host a demonstration at Clives at 10 a.m.

Activity on the stage at Broadway and Main will include: Laughing Matters with Jay and Leslie, 10 a.m.; stained glass demonstration with Randy Rayer of Rayer Bearden, 11 a.m.; singer/songwriter Sky Smeed, 12:15 p.m. and Dino O’Dell, 2 p.m.

Moxley Charitable Trust gains assets

The Max and Charlene Moxley Charitable Trust, which provides for grants to charitable and non-profit organizations in Sterling, is entering it’s 13th year of operation.

The Trust has provided more than \$900,000 to qualified organizations since its inception, and is accepting grant applications until Monday, May 12 at PO Box 6, Sterling, KS, or by hand delivery to the law offices of Bush, Bush and Shanelec at 229 S. Broadway.

The foundation anticipates distributing funds in June of 2025.

The trustees are also pleased to announce that the Mike Forwalder Estate has given its assets to the Moxley Charitable Trust, primarily to serve the educational needs of USD 376 and Sterling College in honor of the Forwalder/Boes family.

Forwalder, a lifelong Sterling resident, died on Jan. 23, 2025. He was a graduate of Sterling High School and Sterling College. He also proudly served in the Army National Guard. Many residents of the area are familiar with Forwalder’s carpentry skills. He built and remodeled many houses in the area, following in his father, Harold’s, footsteps.

Forwalder’s memorial notice can be found on Page 3.

The trustees wish to invite other individuals to consider gifting a part of their estates to the Moxley Charitable Trust for the benefit of qualified non-profit organizations in Sterling. The trust, which is already established and exempt from IRS taxation, has a present acting Board of Trustees and a plan for it’s succession for years to come.

SCMS hosts KDC’s Community Impact Tour

Sterling Chamber Main Street (SCMS) has had a busy week hosting members of Kansas Department of Commerce’s Quality Places division on their Community Impact Tour last Wednesday and holding a ribbon cutting for the newly expanded bakery operations of Clive’s Staples and the new location for the Table Coffee Roasters.

As an Affiliate National Main Street and Kansas Main Street Community, SCMS was eligible for the Residential Opportunities on Main Street (ROOMS) grant. This KDC and KMS grant provided critical funding for a fire suppression system in the Shay Building.

Members of KDC toured the apartments in the upper floor of the building.

Ribbon cutting.

A ribbon cutting was held Friday for Clive’s expanded bakery and the Table Coffee Roaster’s new home.

Clive’s received an Incentives Without Walls (IWW) loan from SCMS when

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MEMBERS of KDC pictured with Dave Wilson, building owner, Ian Hutcheson, city manager, and Meg Van Dyk, SCMS board president.

SC choir Spring Pops Concert Sunday

Get ready for a night of powerhouse vocals, unforgettable melodies, and music that moves more than just your feet.

On Sunday at 7 p.m., Sterling College’s Concert Choir and Highland Singers take the stage at Culbertson Auditorium for their Spring Pops Concert entitled “Stand Up: Songs of Change and Hope” —a high-energy, heart-stirring celebration of music’s power to unite, uplift and ignite.

Blending Broadway hits, pop anthems, and timeless classics, this concert isn’t just a showcase of talent, it’s a call to reflect, remember and rise. The evening promises a bold and moving journey through the songs that have shaped generations and inspired change around the world.

Sean Foster is finishing his first year at Sterling College as the Concert Choir Director.

Marisa Callan is the director of the Highland Singers.

“It has been an absolute joy to collaborate with Sean Foster this year,” Callan said. “From the very beginning, our goal was to offer both our students and audience a wide range of musical experiences—programming that would challenge, inspire, and uplift.”

Following a winter concert centered on the global language of folk music, the upcoming concert shifts its spotlight to the songs that have echoed through radios, theaters and screens during pivotal moments in history. “Stand Up” isn’t just a title—it’s a theme that threads through every note and lyric of the evening.

“Popular music has a unique way of capturing the spirit of its time,” Foster said. “With this

program, we’re exploring how songs familiar to many of us have also been vessels of social commentary, unity, and hope.”

Audiences can look forward to powerful selections performed by the Sterling College Concert Choir, including: “What About Us” by Pink – an anthem of resilience and demand for truth; “The Sound of Silence” by Simon and Garfunkel, a timeless reflection on the human condition; and “You Can’t Stop the Beat” from “Hairspray” – an exuberant celebration of progress and change.

Meanwhile, the Highland Singers will bring emotional depth to the stage with standout performances, including the show-stopping “Stand Up” from the film “Harriet,” which has quickly become a favorite of the

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