

St. Patrick's Day
 Corned Beef & Cabbage
 with potatoes, dessert, and drinks
Saturday, March 14th
 5 to 7 p.m.
 Muscotah Community Building
 \$10.00 per plate
 Carry Outs Available
 SPONSORED BY MUSCOTAH OUTREACH

The Horton Headlight



Headlight office is open Fridays 9:00-3:00 phone 785-486-2512 headlight@carsoncomm.com or you may call Susan Higley at her home 785-872-3245

VOLUME 139, NUMBER 13 THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026 OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR BROWN COUNTY & THE CITIES OF EVEREST, MUSCOTAH & POWHATTAN 75¢ PER COPY

Spring Cleaning Time for Horton Residents

It's time for Spring Cleanup! There will be dumpsters in the vacant lot south of City Hall at the corner of 1st Avenue East and 7th Street, beginning Friday evening, April 24th until the morning of Monday, May 4th, 2026.

Acceptable items include furniture, carpet, empty paint cans, plastic, mattresses, wood, cabinets, tables, windows, demolished buildings, tubs, toilets, sinks, and shingles. There will not be anyone on site to assist with moving items, so please plan accordingly.

Please place metal items on the ground, as they will be removed separately.

Items that will NOT be accepted are antifreeze, freon, herbicides, pesticides, household cleaners, paint & paint products; spray paint, alkaline and Ni-Cad batteries, mercury, used oil, transmission fluid, brake fluid, gasoline, leaves, grass clippings and household trash. Additionally, NO tires will be accepted.

This annual Spring Cleanup is sponsored by the City of Horton and Hamilton Recycling for City of Horton residents. If you have any questions, call City Hall at 785-486-2681 extension option 1.

Missouri Man arrested on rape charges

On 3-5-2026 Alexander Holmes, 35, of Maryville, Missouri was booked in to the Brown County jail on charges of Rape, Aggravated Sodomy and Aggravated Indecent Liberties with a Child based on suspect being over 18 years of age and victim less than 14 years of age. This was based on a lengthy investigation by the Brown County Sheriff's office and upon sending reports to the County Attorney for review, a warrant was issued for Holmes arrest.



Left to Right: Carrie Miller, Adeline MacManus, Emmalee Burnham, Emma Ramirez, Aiden Rathert, Elaina Minard, Kaylee Manning, Kaydece Fultz.

HCCTC Students to Attend BPA National Leadership Conference in Nashville

ATCHISON, Kan. – Students from Highland Community College Technical Center (HCCTC) have qualified to attend the Business Professionals of America (BPA) National Leadership Conference in Nashville after strong performances at the BPA State Leadership Conference held Feb. 18–21, 2026, in Wichita.

Students representing HCCTC included Emmalee Burnham (Effingham), Kaydece Fultz (Effingham), Kaylee Manning (Atchison), Adeline McManus (Effingham), Elaina Minard (Horton), Emma Ramirez (Atchison) and Aiden Rathert (Troy), along with advisor and business instructor Carrie Miller.

At the state conference, students tested their knowledge and skills across a variety of business, technology and health-related competitive events. HCCTC student achievements included: Administrative Support Team 1st (Burnham, Fultz, Manning & Minard); Payroll Accounting 1st (Fultz); Fundamental Word Processing 2nd (Minard); Intermediate Word Processing 1st (Fultz); Fundamental Desktop Publishing 2nd (Manning); Health Insurance and Medical Billing 1st (McManus); Health Administration Procedures 1st (McManus); Medical Coding 1st place (McManus); Interview Skills 2nd (Burnham) 3rd (Minard); Top Ten - Open Events: Administrative Support Concepts (Fultz); Management, Marketing and Human Resources (Rameriz); Health Administration Concepts (McManus).

Qualifying students will travel to Nashville, Tennessee to attend BPA's 60th Anniversary National Leadership Conference, "Amplify Your Impact" May 6-10, 2026. They will join an estimated six thousand delegates from across the nation to participate in national level business and technology skills competitions. Business Professionals of America is an innovator in Career and Technical Education, providing members with opportunities for growth through education, competition, community service and personal development. With 60,000 members in the United States, Canada, China, Haiti, Puerto Rico, South Korea and United Kingdom.

BPA is a co-curricular organization that supports business and information technology educators by offering co-curricular exercises based on national standards.

Highland Community College Technical Center is proud of its students' accomplishments and their continued success at the state and national levels.

Horton City Commission meeting

**Unofficial minutes
By Clerk Evva Mayfield**

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regular meeting on Monday, March 2, 2026.

Mayor Stirtton Called the meeting order at 5:15 p.m., and the opening prayer was led by Angela Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Present: Commissioners Josh White, Avery Thornton, Natasha Gladden, Mike Pierce. City Attorney Kevin Hill was also present.

Motion to adopt the agenda and to add three executive sessions after the commissioner's report, Motion by Commissioner Thornton. Seconded by Commissioner Pierce. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Thornton to approve the minutes from February 17th, 2026, regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Pierce. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Thornton to approve Appropriation Ordinance # 3901 (Payroll) for \$44,079.66. Seconded by Commissioner Pierce. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Thornton to approve Appropriation

Ordinance # 3902 (Disbursements) for \$155,760.23. Seconded by Commissioner Pierce. All aye.

Public Comments:
Chad Reynolds: Concerns of lack of communication with public.

Randy Aston: Inquired about penalties due to postal delivery.

Megan Hollister: Wanted to make aware of a municipal court case.

Discuss Commission Titles Charter Ordinance No. 25
Motion by Commissioner Pierce to approve Charter Ordinance No. 25. Seconded by Commissioner Gladden. All aye.

Consider Housing Authority Board Member Reappointment
Consensus is to open-up to the public and to see who's expired for all boards and put out for public notice. Housing Authority Board appointment tabled and will bring back up at a later date.

Appoint Directors to KMEA Board

Motion by Mayor Stirtton to appoint Commissioner Thornton for Director 1 of KMEA Board, Second by Commissioner Pierce. Mayor Stirtton, Commissioners Pierce,

Gladden and White aye, abstain Commissioner Thornton

Motion by Mayor Stirtton to appoint Commissioner Pierce for Director 2 of the KMEA Board. Seconded by Commissioner White, All aye.

Review Lake Caretaker Contract

Motion by Commissioner White to amend Lake Caretaker Contract to cover dates January 1st through December 31st. Seconded by Commissioner Pierce. All aye.

Discuss Spring Cleanup Dates
Motion by Commissioner Pierce for Spring Cleanup date set for April 24th through May 4th, 2026. Seconded by Commissioner Gladden. All aye.

Public Works Updates

Randy Mayfield advised the track on the mecalac split, and while on a fire call someone backed into the fire truck with damage of \$1,845.00, also discussed oil changes needed in two of the generators in the electric plant. Motion by Commissioner Pierce, for Randy to spend \$12,430.00 to buy oil for

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Brown County District Court

Compiled by Melanie Davis, Headlight reporter

CRIMINAL

First appearance hearing on Daniel Christopher, has been scheduled for Mar. 18. He is charged with possession of marijuana, a class B nonperson misdemeanor and possession of drug paraphernalia, a class B nonperson misdemeanor.

First appearance hearing on Konner G Goodman, has been scheduled for Mar. 18. He is charged with possession of marijuana, a class B nonperson misdemeanor and possession of drug paraphernalia, a class B nonperson misdemeanor.

Preliminary hearing on Orville Smith has been scheduled for Apr. 8. He is charged with traffic in contraband in a correctional institution, a level 6 nonperson felony; possession of marijuana, a class A nonperson misdemeanor; and possession of drug paraphernalia a class B nonperson misdemeanor.

Arraignment hearing on Paul Wade Pearson, Hiawatha, KS., has been scheduled for Mar 25. He is charged with two counts of furnishing cereal malt beverage to a minor, a class B person misdemeanor.

Preliminary hearing on Douglas Dean Tollefson, Hiawatha, KS., was held and has been continued to May 6. He is charged with possession of methamphetamine, a drug severity level 5 felony; possession of marijuana, a class B nonperson misdemeanor; possession of drug paraphernalia, a class B nonperson misde-

memeanor; and transporting an open container of alcohol, an unclassified misdemeanor.

Status Conference on Charles Phillip Blacksmith, Horton, KS., was held and was continued to Mar. 4 He is charged with possession of methamphetamine, a drug severity level 5 felony and possession of drug paraphernalia, a class B nonperson misdemeanor.

Sentencing on Levi William Platt, Hiawatha, KS., has been scheduled for Apr. 15. He is charged with battery on a law enforcement officer, a level 7 person felony; possession of methamphetamine, a drug severity level 5 felony; endangering a child, a class A person misdemeanor; possession of marijuana, a class A nonperson misdemeanor; and possession of drug paraphernalia, a class B nonperson misdemeanor.

Arraignment, status hearing on Betsy Marie Sweet was held and has been continued Apr. 15. She is charged with possession marijuana, a class B nonperson misdemeanor and possession of drug paraphernalia, a class B nonperson misdemeanor.

Arraignment on Jose Antonio Paredes, Omaha, NE., was held and has been continued to Apr. 1. He has been charged with driving under the influence, a class A misdemeanor unlawfully; possession of marijuana, a class A nonperson misdemeanor; possession of drug paraphernalia, a class B

nonperson misdemeanor; and transporting an open container of alcohol, an unclassified misdemeanor.

Arraignment on Theresa Jean Gutierrez, Horton, KS., was held and has been continued to Mar. 23. She is charged with possession of methamphetamine, a drug severity level 5 felony and possession of drug paraphernalia, a class B nonperson misdemeanor.

Status Conference on Elijah Michael Horned Eagle, Horton, KS., was held and has been continued to Apr. 15. He is charged with possession of marijuana, a class B nonperson misdemeanor and possession of drug paraphernalia, a class B nonperson misdemeanor.

Suppression hearing on Tracy Adam Syens, Fairview, KS., has been scheduled for Apr. 20. He has been charged with possession of methamphetamine, a drug severity level 5 felony; possession of marijuana, a class B nonperson misdemeanor; and possession of drug paraphernalia, a class B nonperson misdemeanor.

LIMITED

A case has been filed by Midland Credit Management, Inc., plaintiff, against Sondra Selle, defendant.

PROBATE

An affidavit preserving will pursuant to K.S.A. 59-618a has been filed by John B. Kreider in the matter of the will of Gary B. Hanrahan, decedent.

**Meeting minutes
By Clerk Nikki Lee
February 23, 2026**

The Board of Brown County Commissioners met in regular session 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 1:00 p.m. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a prayer led by Commissioner Heinen.

COUNTY PERSONNEL / PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Tesoriero gave an update on the initial meeting with the City of Hiawatha regarding dispatch services.

County Counselor Austin Parker provided an update on drafting a resolution on construction codes. The MOU for the proposed Goldfinch Road project is on his list to do as well as bridge technology options.

ROAD AND BRIDGE

Project Manager Bryan Jones was present to discuss products and services Herzog Contracting Corp provides as well as an estimate for a 3-mile repair on Prairie Road. Also present was Road and Bridge Foreman John Selland. No action was taken.

MINUTES 02-17-2026

Motion by Commissioner Tesoriero to approve the February 17, 2026 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Pollock. Motion carried.

PAYROLL 02-18-2026

The February 18, 2026 payroll was approved as follows: Motion by Commissioner Pollock. Seconded by

Commissioner Tesoriero.

Motion carried.
 General \$102,321.44
 Road & Bridge 10,638.01
 Election 3,005.20
 Technology 337.50
 Appraiser 8,576.01
 Noxious Weed 2,000.00
 ACC 15,287.19
 JJA Core 13,912.72
 Services for Elderly 3,523.75
 Solid Waste 5,695.67
 Special MVT 4,845.20
 Employee Ben FICA 10,451.31
 Employee Ben KPERS 14,025.56
 State Unemploy/Work Comp - 231.11

Insurance -11,783.05
 TOTAL \$182,605.40
 TONNAGE REPORT

Motion by Commissioner Tesoriero to approve the Transfer Station 2025 fourth quarter Tonnage Report as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Pollock. Motion carried.

TRANSFER STATION HAULER BID

The Commission reviewed the sealed bid notice for hauler services from Brown County Transfer Station to Perry, Kansas submitted by the Solid Waste Director. The current hauler contract expires April 30, 2026. Motion by Commissioner Tesoriero to approve publishing the notice as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Pollock. Motion carried. The sealed bids will be opened March 23, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE

Motion by Commissioner Pollock to approve Occupational License #26-001 for Sac and Fox Casino. Seconded by Commissioner Tesoriero. Motion carried.

LOYD GROUP

The Commission was presented a

letter of engagement from the Loyd Group LLC to assist in preparing the 2027 Brown County Budget. The estimated fees for services provided will be \$25,000 plus any additional out-of-pocket expenses.

Motion by Commissioner Tesoriero to sign the Loyd Group letter of engagement as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Pollock. Motion carried.

TOWNSHIP ANNUAL REPORTS

The Commission was presented the Annual Township Reports for review. Motion by Commissioner Heinen to accept the Annual Township Reports as presented with the understanding that Morrill Township submits the General Fund expenditures page. Seconded by Commissioner Tesoriero. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Road and Bridge Foreman John Selland requested a 15-minute executive session.

At 2:14 p.m. Commissioner Heinen made a motion to recess into a 15-minute executive session for the purpose of discussing duties and compensation and protecting the interests of non-elected personnel, with the meeting to be called back to order in the Commissioner's Room at 2:29 p.m. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tesoriero. Motion carried. County Counselor, County Clerk, and Road and Bridge Foreman Selland remained. The meeting returned to regular session with no action taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 2:30 p.m. Commissioner Heinen made a motion to recess into a 15-minute executive session for the purpose of interviewing an applicant for the Road and Bridge department and protecting the privacy interests of

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