

Sweet Mama Lea’s bakery shop presented at Rotary Club

BELOIT—The Sept. 9, 2025, Rotary Club program was presented by Lea Teresa, owner of one of Beloit’s newest business ventures. The meeting was held at the Beloit Municipal Building and was brought to order by President Kevin Mickey and opened with prayer by Richard Montgomery. The next Rotary meeting will be held on Sept. 16, 2025, with Sister Serena Deters of the Marian Sisters.

Lea Teresa, owner of “Sweet Mama Lea’s Bakery Shop”, located at 204 S. Mill Street, started out by telling us how she got the name “Sweet Mama Lea”. It was suggested by friends while she was still in college, and she didn’t like it. To her, it sounded like a name for some old woman; but it stuck, and today she is still Sweet Mama Lea!

Lea grew up in Albuquerque, N.M. She attended New Mexico State University, where she majored in English. She worked in restaurants in New Mexico, where she trained with a French Pastry Chef. While at the University of New Mexico, she started doing weddings and events. She also lived in Portland, Oregon, where she was a pastry chef in a high-end restaurant. She did sugar art, chocolate work, portrait cakes and

catered events. She also worked construction for a time.

Since she was a young girl, she had always wanted to open a bakery. When she discovered the building at 204 S. Mill Street was for sale, she thought that this was the chance she had been looking for to finally open her bakery. Using skills that she had learned while working construction, she was able to make her dream a reality.

Her father, who was a contractor, came out of retirement to help her with the project. After a lot of work, Sweet Mama Lea’s Bakery Shop opened on October 25 of last year.

Her bakery serves all manner of wonderful items. Items such as breakfast pastries, croissants, muffins, cookies, cupcakes, as well as sugar-free and gluten-free offerings. Wedding cakes and birthday cakes are also offered. Coffee and tea are also offered at the shop.

She said she wants to provide the community with a comfortable place for people to relax and enjoy one another.

Being in Beloit just feels so right, she said. Sweet Mama Lea’s is currently open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Jewell receives \$5,979

KDOC awards Rural Mural funding

The Kansas Department of Commerce (KDOC) announced that the agency has awarded \$75,000 in Rural Mural funding to support 12 public art projects in rural communities across the state.

“Our rural communities are the backbone of what makes our state so great — they’re rich in culture, resilience and unique identity,” Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland said. “Investing in these large-scale public art pieces allows communities to signal not only hometown pride but a commitment to harnessing creativity to drive economic growth across Kansas.”

Recipients of the Rural Mural grant include:

City of Belle Plaine (\$7,424): A vibrant mural celebrating the city’s history, small-town charm and community spirit through colorful, whimsical art

City of Halstead (\$7,424): A mural designed with community input to warmly welcome visitors and reflect local identity

City of Herington/Visit Herington! CVB (\$3,124): An automotive-themed mural and painted locomotive sculptures by local artists

City of Jewell (\$5,979): Expansion of buffalo public art installations celebrating the region’s natural and cultural history

Decatur County Area Economic Development Corporation (\$3,924): A festive mural capturing the joy and nostalgia of community carnivals

Genesis Inc. of Coffeyville (\$6,808): A

public art project symbolizing growth, renewal, and community transformation

Linger Gig Lab (\$7,424): A creative logo mural representing the organization’s identity and mission in Cimarron

Mo-Kan Regional Council (\$4,697): A mural project showcasing the spirit and resilience of small-town life in Wathena.

Phillips County Community Foundation (\$7,424): A mural project highlighting the interdependence of the local agriculture community

Sabetha Chamber of Commerce (\$7,424): A downtown mural designed to promote civic pride and enhance community aesthetics

South Central Community Foundation (\$5,924): IMPACT Pratt’s community-driven mural project enriching a local park with vibrant imagery

Wabunsee County Historical Society (\$7,424): A mural on Main Street in Maple Hill honoring the region’s ranching roots and rural traditions

“We’re thrilled to be able to support 12 more murals and public art projects across the state,” Director of the Office of Rural Prosperity Trisha Purdon said. “These works of art will not only beautify and revitalize underutilized spaces but also foster a sense of pride and belonging through these new vibrant gathering spaces.”

The Rural Mural funds are one of the many resources provided by the Department of Commerce that work to support rural communities in Kansas.

Kansas Game Warden Q&A

BY LANDEN CLEVELAND

Pronghorn Antelope

When people think of Kansas, they don’t normally think of Pronghorn Antelope. But Kansas has them, and it is fairly easy to hunt them. Most people don’t know that if you are a resident of Kansas, you can actually buy an over-the-counter permit to hunt them with archery equipment. If you want to hunt them with muzzleloader or rifle equipment, there is a draw to apply for in June of every year.

We don’t have them here in North Central Kansas, but they aren’t as far as one might think. If you left this area and headed west, you would be in Pronghorn country in roughly three hours. What you need to legally hunt them is just your hunting license and antelope permit.

There are some positives and negatives about hunting them, though. The positives are that most landowners will let you hunt them on their property, and they are Diurnal. Diurnal means they are active during the daytime, as opposed to Nocturnal, which means something is active during the nighttime. The negatives are that Pronghorn are skittish, and they stay out in the wide open. So, if you spook one, it might run for a couple of miles before it stops. If you would like to read the regulations pertaining to this, they are in our hunting regulation booklet in the antelope section. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at: landen.cleveland@ks.gov.

Beloit City Council meeting agenda covered

Electric Rate discussion tabled for Oct. 1

BY SHARON SAHLFELD

Call Editor

The Beloit City Council meeting was held on Sept. 17, 2025, with Gretchen Staples absent and Mayor Tom Naasz attending through Zoom and Commissioner Andrew Grabon conducting the meeting.

City Manager, Halley Roberson, reported that EDA interviews have been set up and the council can expect engineer selection as early as a week.

They are looking at three weeks for a partial closure of Walnut Street, with a possibility of two weeks.

There have been a good amount of interviews to be held for the RFP meter project, with a good amount of interest from vendors.

Roberson recently attended a Bond rating meeting.

The city is looking at Sourcewell Co. for the possible purchase of a wastewater Vac (suck) Truck for Beloit. There is cooperative purchasing availability for state contracts, and the bidding process has already happened. This makes it accurate to pick the vehicle that is wanted and to insure what is wanted.

– Scott Crist attended the meeting by zoom to talk some about the bond timeline. The bond process for the solar and battery is moving forward with no needed action from the council at this time. Resolution 2025-40 authorizing the offering sale of GO Bonds was approved.

Crist mentioned about the Federal lowering rates,.25 percent and that will be \$450,000 In savings for this project.

– Police Chief, Chad Lackey, reported they have a new police officer that has gone through Phase 1 with 14 weeks (560 hours studying) and is currently in field training of 12 weeks during Phase 2.

Lackey was proud to report that Sergeant Alcorn of Beloit was contacted from Texas for an interview on helping catch two possible criminals that were put into custody for homicide. “He helped put these criminals where they belonged, and that meant a lot to be able to help make that happen,” said Lackey. Lackey said his department is expect-

ing a lot of people to attend the BHS dedication and homecoming ceremonies on Sept. 19, and are preparing themselves for the event.

Lackey spoke about the Mental Health “Down on the Farm” program held on Sept. 16 at the Beloit Methodist Church in Beloit. Sandra Wick, Stephanie Simmons, Mary Prochaska and himself all presented programs for the signs of emotional and mental stress on the farming community. “The event was well attended,” said Lackey. “It was presented to those who interact with farmers on a daily basis. We are planting those seeds to make these programs grow.”

Lackey was recently voted in again as the Kansas Law Enforcement Association District Governor of District 3 for the six county North Central Division. There are 3200 members.

– Roberson reported for Solomon Valley Economic Director, Emily Benedick, who was absent for Community Development, saying progress is being made on the MIH housing project.

– In the Consent Agenda, the City council meeting minutes and Appropriations were approved.

– Ordinance 2376 Mowing Assessments and Ordinance 2377 Solomon Valley Eagles Special Event were both approved.

– Resolution 2025-40, authorizing the offering of sale of GO Bonds was approved.

– In Formal Actions, the Isle of Lights agreement was approved. The Pheasants Forever Special Event request was approved.

The DBT Transportation agreement was approved with the renewal and another service needed with the weather site being made more available.

The Realtor agreement was approved with Hanson Auction and Realty to sell the old Port Library House/Hospice building on Main Street in Beloit with a suggested \$185,000 price. It has new windows, siding, guttering and the HVAC system is fairly new as well.

– In the Work Session, the Electric Rate issue was tabled for the next meeting on Oct. 1.

Beloit Chamber Commerce

Weekly Chamber Chat



Holiday Promotions to Maximize Your Busy Season!

The early bird gets the worm, and we want to be well prepared for all the worms! The Beloit Area Chamber of Commerce holiday committee has been busy preparing events to give you the best chance at a successful holiday sales season!

If you are a Chamber member, you’ve already received an email from us with our plans and how your business can be a part of the fun!

Saturday, November 11, Shop Small Saturday. Kicking off the season with our popular Jingle in Your Window contest with the theme, “Merry and Bright in Mitchell County!”

We’ll also be showing a “Shop Small” video we’ll be making of area small business owners and the reasons you should shop small.

And we’re combining two promotions, bingo and Jingle in Your Pocket for the Jingle Bingo! This year, businesses most opt in by contacting the Chamber. They will participate by giving a \$20 gift certificate for a prize. Shoppers must actually buy something from the participating business to get their bingo card marked.

Saturday, December 6, Ladies Day Out. This day is all about the ladies! A vendor fair and food truck will be at the Municipal Building. Summer Kids Cafe Home Tours will also be this afternoon.

New this year will be a cocktail/mocktail walk from 4-7 pm where participating businesses will stay open, and share a mocktail or cocktail with shoppers. Shoppers will give tips on who they think is the best! Businesses can team up with a non-profit so that non-profit can keep the money as a fundraiser, or they can donate it to a non-profit!

Saturday, December 13, Kids Day Out. This day is all about the kids and the magic of the holiday season! Santa will be at S&S! Many businesses will have events, like cookie decorating, train rides, free hot chocolate, photo booths, a free movie, and a jingle bell run!

Only chamber members will be advertised this year. If you want to be a chamber member, have ideas, or want to participate in any of the above events, please contact Mandy at beloitchamber@nckcn.com!

“A Christmas Chaos”

The Brown Grand Players announce auditions

CONCORDIA – The Brown Grand Players are excited to announce auditions for their upcoming production of A Christmas Chaos, directed by Whitney Jones. Performances will be held Nov. 14-16 at the Brown Grand Theatre and the company is seeking talented community members to bring this production to life.

Auditions will take place on: Wednesday, Sept. 24, at 7 p.m., at Brown Grand Theatre in downtown Concordia

“A Christmas Chaos” is a fast-paced, family-friendly comedy about a small theater troupe scrambling to put on their version of A Christmas Carol—only nothing goes as planned. With missing actors, misplaced props, and plenty of onstage mayhem, the cast stumbles, improvises, and hilariously tries to keep the holiday spirit alive. It’s a backstage farce filled with laughter, heart, and holiday cheer.

Casting Information
Roles are available for 16 cast members aged 18 or older and no prior experience is required. The Brown Grand Players welcome performers of all backgrounds and levels of experience.

Audition Requirements
• Aged 18 or older
• Be ready to read from the script—you do not need to bring any prepared monologues.
• Special attire is not required;

however, open toed shoes may inhibit movement.

• Bring a list of any scheduling conflicts with you to discuss with the director.

Rehearsal & Performance Schedule
Rehearsals will begin Oct. 1 and will generally be held Monday through Thursday from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. at the Brown Grand Theatre. Performances are scheduled for Nov. 14 and 15 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 16 at 2 p.m.

Interested participants should simply show up. For more information about the Brown Grand Players, please visit www.brownggrand.org/brown-grand-players/ or contact Whitney Jones at witnesshillman@hotmail.com.

The Brown Grand Players was formed in 1967 and was sanctioned in 1977 by the Brown Grand Theatre Board of Directors as the resident community theatre organization.

The Brown Grand Players is an extension of the Brown Grand Theatre and exists and operates under its own non-profit designation. Their mission is to promote growth and development of educational opportunities in the performing arts at the Brown Grand Theatre. Our goals are to benefit the Brown Grand Theatre through developing audience opportunities, enhancing community artistic involvement and giving back to the theatre in ways deemed appropriate and necessary.