



Steele Ozone & Kidder County Press

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Kidder County Swimming Pool, a lot to be Thankful for



Kidder County Pool

Submitted by the Kidder County Poor Board

As we gather for Thanksgiving this year, our community has more than the usual blessings to count. One of the greatest reasons for gratitude is the long-awaited completion of the Kidder County Pool—a project made possible through the generosity, dedication, and heart of so many.

We begin with our deepest thanks to the sponsors and volunteers who stood with us over the last four years. Your donations, labor, and encouragement kept this project moving forward, even when challenges arose.

At the center of this effort was the Kidder County Pool Board—individuals who gave far more than time on a calendar. They

sacrificed evenings away from their families, spent countless hours on planning and problem-

solving, and rolled up their sleeves to complete hands-on labor to ensure the facility was ready to welcome swimmers. Their dedication is reflected in every wall painted, every flower planted, every cleaned surface, and every decision made along the way. Without their persistence and personal effort, this pool simply would not exist.

We are also grateful to our local contractors whose craftsmanship and commitment helped bring this project from concept to completion. Their skill and cooperation—often in less-than-ideal weather—were vital to seeing the vision through. And to the community members who supported this effort financially, physically, and emotionally: thank you. This pool stands as a testament to what a community can accomplish together.

Although a very wet spring

and summer set our timeline back, delaying the grand opening we had hoped for, we were still able to enjoy some late-season fun. These first days allowed us to test out the new facility, address any construction concerns, and get a glimpse of all the summers ahead.

As we look forward to next year, excitement is already building. We plan for a full season of swimming lessons, recreational fun, and sun-soaked days for families and children of all ages. The new location has already proven to be a wonderful fit, and we are thrilled that Kidder County will enjoy a high-quality, long-lasting pool for generations.

This Thanksgiving, we celebrate not only the completion of a project but the extraordinary effort that made it possible. To everyone who contributed—and especially to the board members

who gave their time, energy, and hearts—thank you. We can't wait to see you at the pool next summer. From your KCPB, Michele Pfaff, Abbey Messer, Samantha Coettze, Paula Mock, Erin Dewitz, Miranda Wolff, Melissa Hochhalter, April Rutledge, Emy Fettig, Jake Deboer, Kristie Rode, Sarah Friez, and Sarena Lawler.

Do remember, you are not done with us yet in 2025. We are also part of the group that brings you Winterfest. Some proceeds do help with operating costs of the pool as well as benefit other community causes we believe in. If you don't know how you can help by being on a board or volunteering...just participate in our events. Help out if you can, or bring friends and families. Winterfest is about our community coming together...just like a community pool brings all of us together. Winterfest runs Dec. 5-7th all over town.

Roads, Boards highlight County Commissioners' meeting

The November meeting of the Kidder County Commissioners kicked off with a focus on the county's roads over the first hour. It closed its final hour with two financial issues with two of the counties Boards.

Mike Rivinius of Wold Engineering updated the three Commissioners on possible grants the County can apply for to help pay for upcoming projects.

Joelle VanderLinden of Load-Pass Permits then presented the Commissioners with her company's service regarding permits for non-divisible overweight and oversized loads on county roads. The system is in place in several counties across the state.

By joining, the County hopes to recoup monies from the permits to help pay the county, its

cities, and its townships, pay for road repairs. Some road repairs are needed after being used by overweight vehicle traffic over time.

After the presentation, the Commissioners unanimously voted to join the service. It is expected to go into effect around the first of the year. How much money the system will generate will depend on how much overweight traffic passes through the county.

A late addition to the agenda came in the form of financial questions for both the Kidder County Council On Aging and the recently formed Kidder County EMS District.

For the Council on Aging, the Commissioners finally received (See "Meeting" on Page 2)

County School Board holds rare re-sunrise meeting

With the recent postseason run by the KC Wolves volleyball team (go gettem girls!), the Kidder County School Board moved its Thursday evening meeting to seven in the morning, nearly an hour before sunrise.

With a relatively light agenda, the Board was able to wrap up the meeting shortly before eight, freeing up Room 101 at the school in time for the high school's first period class.

In addition to the volleyball team's success, most of the fall sports have wound down with the winter sports starting to gear up for their upcoming seasons. Also, congrats to the HS football team! Although the school year is

still in its first semester, staffing for the 2026-27 school year was the main topic of discussion on Thursday morning. High School Principal Michael Wachter cited the probable growth of students taking elective courses online in the years to come to request hiring a Para-Professional to monitor the online classroom and assist the students while online. Wachter currently fills the role, but is not able to be in the room full-time.

Only a small number of students currently avail themselves of taking elective courses via computer as opposed to in class instruction. However, as with other districts, this could be a (See "Board" on Page 18)



Happy Thanksgiving to everyone at the Steele Ozone Press
Paul, DeAndra, Leviant and the rest of the Ozone Staff

We will be closed
On November 28th
Have a safe and
happy holiday!

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701.475.2301