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# THE MIAMI COUNTY REPUBLIC

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## Taking a look back at 2025

BY BRIAN MCCAULEY  
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There were a lot of ups and downs throughout 2025 in Miami County, as it was a year defined by elections, tragedies that impacted the community, growth for some businesses and closures of others, and a number of other changes.

The calendar has flipped over to 2026, but before we move ahead in the new year, the Republic is taking a look back at the top headlines throughout 2025 that impacted the lives of local residents.

It was a sad start to the year for customers of Rockers Pharmacy in Paola, as the business closed for good at the end of 2024.

The family-owned business had been a staple in the Paola community for 15 years, but owner Nate Rockers said the pharmacy could not overcome a reimbursement system that he believes is making it almost impossible for independent small-town pharmacies to survive.

The closure helped shed light on the system that involves pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) determining how much pharmacies are reimbursed for medications they purchased from wholesalers to distribute to customers.

The Louisburg community rallied around the Juarez family in March after Anthony Juarez was killed by a pickup truck that crashed into a Louisburg business along Amity Street.

He left behind a wife and four children.

Robert Korenich, a 77-year-old man from Deepwater, Mo., was arrested and charged with involuntary manslaughter, vehicular homicide, driving under the influence (drug intoxication), and speeding.

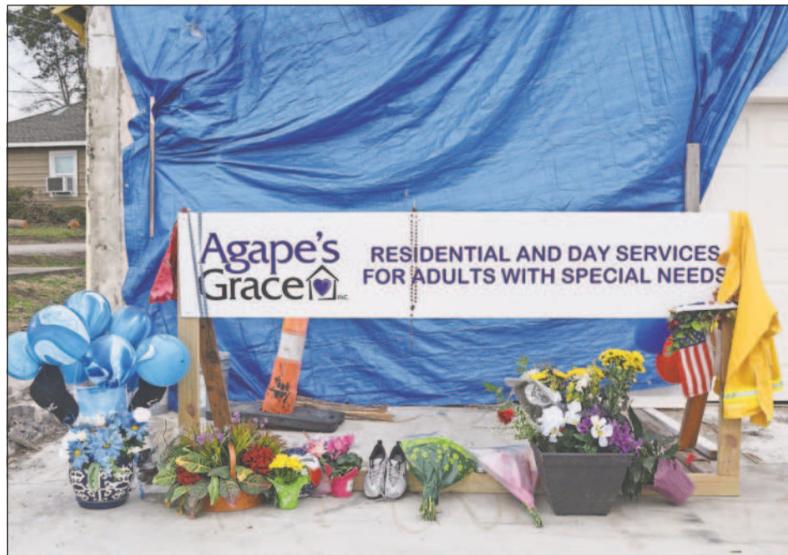
A preliminary hearing is scheduled to take place at 9 a.m., Jan. 16, at the Miami County Courthouse.

Louisburg Mayor Donna Cook clashed with a majority of City Council members regarding the appointments of the city administrator and city attorney positions during a meeting March 3.

Tension spilled over from the previous meeting, Feb. 18, when the council voted 4-1 to reinstate City Administrator Nathan Law after Cook suspended him with pay earlier that day.

During the March 3 meeting, Cook said Law's contract was terminated last June, and he became an at-will employee in an appointed position.

Cook outlined a number of reasons why she suspended Law and chose not to



File photo

A makeshift memorial for Anthony Juarez was decorated with flowers and other items at the site of the fatal accident that took his life March 18 in Louisburg.

reappoint him. She said it was based on performance and what was in the best interest of the city.

A day after the meeting, Council Member Tiffany Ellison posted a lengthy response to the mayor's comments on her Ward 2 Facebook page, stating that she disagreed, in some part or the whole, with every item mentioned.

When it came time in the meeting to review Cook's recommended appointments, Ellison made a motion to remove the city administrator position from the list.

There was a lengthy

discussion, including a disagreement in the interpretation of city code between City Attorney Mary Stephenson and Council Member Ryan Graves, who also is an attorney.

The motion to remove the city administrator position from the appointment list passed 4-1, with only Council Member Kalee Stone opposing.

Most of the other mayoral appointment recommendations were approved, but when it came time to appoint the city attorney, Ellison made a motion to approve a resolution stating that Stephenson is unfit to

be city attorney.

The motion passed 3-1-1 with Kalee Stone opposing and Graves abstaining because he has worked with Stephenson on cases in the past.

Gavino Macias, who was charged with murder in June 2024 after reportedly killing his 24-year-old wife, Kenia Lopez, in Miami County and then transporting her body in a camper back to Carthage, Mo., was sentenced April 14 to more than 10 years in prison.

Macias, 24, was initially

YEAR IN REVIEW / PAGE A2



Brian McCauley / Miami County Republic

The shelves at Rockers Pharmacy were bare on Dec. 30, 2024, as the business prepared to close for good at the end of the year.

## Louisburg teen collecting toys for Andula family in Linn County

BY BRIAN MCCAULEY  
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LOUISBURG – Sammie Magee of Louisburg is once again using her Sammie's Toy Drive charity to provide comfort in a time of grief, this time by collecting donations for the Andula family in Linn County.

Airen Andula, 13, of Pleasanton was reported missing Dec. 21 and found dead the next day in Bates County, Mo.

His 47-year-old neighbor, Damon Leonard, was arrested Dec. 22 and is facing multiple charges, including abandonment of a corpse, interference with law enforcement, criminal desecration, and having a vicious dog at large.

Sammie, 19, said the incident is tragic, and like so many other community members, her heart aches for Airen's parents and his two younger sisters.

She decided to do what she does best and get to work collecting toys, gift cards, and other donations to help the Andula family through this difficult time.

Sammie's charity work began when she was 15, and she was truly touched and heartbroken after the shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

"One of the victims was a Junior



Submitted photo

Sammie Magee of Louisburg gathers plenty of Amazon boxes at her home as she works to collect toys and other donations through her Sammie's Toy Drive charity. She currently is gathering donations for the Andula family in Linn County.

Girl Scout, and I've been a Scout since kindergarten," Sammie said.

She founded Sammie's Toy Drive and worked to collect toys and other donations to deliver to the impacted families in Uvalde.

She continues to travel to Uvalde twice a year, in May to attend the annual vigil on the anniversary of the shooting, and in November for her annual event delivering toys and offering activities for the impacted families.

"They are the most incredible people I have met in my entire life," Sammie said.

She stepped up again in 2024 to help families of those impacted by the Kansas City Chiefs parade shooting, and earlier this year she helped members of the Juarez family in Louisburg after Anthony Juarez was killed when a pickup truck crashed into a Louisburg business.

TOYS / PAGE A6

## Pleasanton man faces additional charges related to death of 13-year-old neighbor

BY BRIAN MCCAULEY  
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LINN COUNTY – A 47-year-old Pleasanton man now faces additional charges related to the death of 13-year-old Airen Andula, who went missing Dec. 21 and was found dead the next day after being attacked by dogs.

Damon Barrett Leonard was arrested Monday, Dec. 22, by members of the Bates County, Missouri Sheriff's Office and booked into jail on a charge of abandonment of a corpse. He was held on \$100,000 bond.

The Kansas City, Kansas Police Department is leading the investigation of the case due to a conflict of interest with the Linn County Sheriff's Office, and detectives announced Monday, Dec. 29, that they have filed additional charges against Leonard in Linn County.

Those charges include interference with law enforcement, criminal desecration, and having a vicious dog at large. Multiple dogs were also seized from



Bates County, Missouri Sheriff's Office

Damon Leonard, 47, of Pleasanton now faces charges in Linn County of interference with law enforcement, criminal desecration, and having a vicious dog at large, in addition to a previous charge in Bates County, Missouri, of abandonment of a corpse. Leonard reportedly took the body of 13-year-old Airen Andula across state lines.

his property, according to a news release from the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department.

A separate new release Monday, Jan. 5, confirmed that the teen died as a result of multiple dog bite injuries, according to the results of an autopsy conducted by

CHARGES / PAGE A6



# YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from A1

charged last summer in Miami County District Court with one count of intentional second-degree murder, which is a severity level 1 person felony punishable by 147 to 653 months in prison.

Earlier this year, though, a plea agreement was reached between Miami County Attorney Kenton Harding and Macias' defense attorneys, Paul Morrison and Veronica Dersch.

Per the agreement, Macias pled guilty to an amended charge of one count of unintentional but reckless second-degree murder, which is a severity level 2 person felony punishable by 109 to 493 months in prison.

Macias' lack of criminal history put the sentencing range at 109, 117 or 123 months, and the plea agreement recommended that Chief District Judge Amy Harth impose the maximum aggravated box of 123 months, which equates to 10 years and three months in prison.

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Paola's adult education program ended in 2025 due to a loss of grant funding, but Director Karen Ulanski-Swank found another way to keep serving community members.

Ulanski-Swank, who has worked at the Paola Adult Education Center for 28 years, said she submitted a grant application Jan. 31 for a five-year grant that would have funded the adult education program to the tune of about \$225,000 each year.

In March, she was notified by the Kansas Board of Regents that the grant request was denied because the application was incomplete.

Ulanski-Swank said responses to three important questions on the fillable pdf were left blank, but when she checked her saved version, they were filled out. Despite multiple attempts to contact state officials to fix the misunderstanding, Ulanski-Swank said the

decision to deny the grant was upheld.

Without funding to support the adult education program, Paola USD 368 Board of Education members voted during a special meeting April 29 to shut down the program.

Superintendent Matt Meek said it would not have been sustainable for the school district to take on the cost of the program.

He added that the Paola Adult Education building at 1710 Industrial Park Drive will still be used for the district's alternative education program, and the virtual program will still remain.

Ulanski-Swank confirmed that she will remain with the school district to oversee the alternative education program, which serves middle and high school students who lack the resources to succeed in a regular classroom.

She also created a non-profit called Second Chances Begin Here Inc. Initially, she said the primary focus of the non-profit will be helping people take the GED test to earn a Kansas State High School Diploma, and helping people with IETs to get trained in a career pathway.

She said the GED tests will need to be taken in Johnson County, Ottawa, Fort Scott or another approved testing site.

~~~~~  
During a special election May 6, Louisburg Library District No. 1 voters sent a strong message against a proposed bond for a new library.

The bond proposal failed with 60 percent of the voters saying "no."

Louisburg Library District No. 1 Board of Trustees members were asking district voters to approve general obligation bonds not to exceed \$8,750,000 for a new library estimated to cost \$9,978,942. The library district planned to cover the difference from its capital improvement fund.

Library officials have dealt with multiple issues at the aging downtown

building at 206 S. Broadway St., including flooding. The biggest problem continues to be space limitations inside the 6,700-square-foot library.

The proposed 16,500-square-foot library would have been built on land previously purchased by the library district on Harvest Drive near Louisburg High School and the water tower.

If the bond had passed, the current library on Broadway Street would have been sold to Joseph and Victoria Lowman. The couple previously transformed the 120 S. Broadway St. building into Victoria Rose Studios.

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Also in May, Spring Hill USD 230 voters passed a proposed \$60 million school bond by more than 1,200 votes.

Spring Hill school board members, during a special meeting in January, unanimously agreed to move forward with the May 13 special election for the \$60 million school bond.

The bond includes classroom additions at Spring Hill Elementary, Timber Sage Elementary and Prairie Creek Elementary for an estimated \$16 million.

Spring Hill High School will receive a new addition for career technical education (CTE) and an expanded commons area for an estimated \$25 million.

New roofs will be installed at Spring Hill Elementary and Spring Hill Middle School for an estimated \$7 million, and HVAC improvements will be made at Spring Hill Elementary, Spring Hill Middle School and Spring Hill Early Learning Academy for an estimated \$12 million.

~~~~~  
The new-look Louisburg Aquatic Center opened May 24 following the completion of a \$1.3 million renovation project that spanned seven months.

It's the first improvement project since the pool opened in 1998. There are a wide range of new features including boosted accessibility, shade comfort and play amenities.

One change is the zero-depth entry, which incorporates a new splash pad. A rope swing is now located where the drop slide was.

Along with concrete decking work, new piping and a heater were installed in the pump house, and small leaks throughout the aquatic center were repaired, city officials said.

New seating is provided around the pool, accompanied by shaded sections. There also is a new shaded structure near the concession stand.

A new ADA chair lift will make the pool more accessible for individuals with mobility needs.

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In June, more than 61 percent of Osawatomi



Brian McCauley / Miami County Republic

Paola's adult education program came to an end June 30 due to a loss of grant funding, but Paola USD 368 still plans to utilize the Paola Adult Education Center building for its alternative education program, and the virtual program is also still active.

USD 367 voters approved a \$20.05 million bond that will fund improvements to facilities throughout the school district.

District officials emphasized that the bond will not increase the mill levy, which is the rate in which property taxes are collected, because previous bonds are being paid off.

A total of \$1,282,530 will be spent at Trojan Elementary and the connected Swenson Early Childhood Education Center. The projects include upgrading the boiler, repairing the roof, creating secure entrances and upgrading playgrounds.

A total of \$798,532 will be spent at Osawatomi Middle School. The projects include upgrading the boiler, installing new terminal variable air volume boxes, and repairing the roof.

A total of \$11,456,410 will be spent at Osawatomi High School. The projects include remodeling three science rooms, remodeling restrooms and making them ADA compliant, upgrading the auditorium (stage, seating, lights, curtains, audio), replacing windows, replacing doors and locks, replacing 23-year-old chiller units, replacing the boiler that is original from when the school was built in 1968, replacing hydronic piping, replacing air handling units, upgrading electrical service, repairing the roof, replacing the ceiling and lighting in the hallways and common areas, and upgrading the sewer main.

A total of \$6,512,528 will be spent on districtwide projects. The projects include replacing the existing track at OHS, upgrading IT, installing new concrete where needed, upgrading HVAC controls, paying



Brian McCauley / Miami County Republic

The Louisburg Library will remain at 206 S. Broadway St. after voters rejected a proposed bond for a new library that would have been built on Harvest Drive.

design and engineering fees, paying permit and inspection fees, paying for furniture and equipment, and paying a contingency of more than \$2 million.

School board members have said the \$20.05 million school bond will be paid off over 23 years.

~~~~~  
On June 1, George Honn of Paola was elected and sworn in as the American Legion Department of Kansas Commander.

Since then, Honn has been on a mission for local veterans, letting them know they are important and working with state and national American Legion members to be a voice for Kansas.

He has represented Kansas at national meetings in Tampa and Indianapolis.

Honn, who served in the United States Navy from 1979 to 1987, joined the Paola American Legion in 2008 to serve his brothers and sisters.

~~~~~  
During the summer of 2025, local officials began discussing ways to improve general public transportation services in Miami County, especially after the loss of Lakemary Center's

service that ended June 30.

Lakemary's transportation service is funded in part by the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) Public Transportation Program. The program offers 5311 grants for general public transportation, and 5310 grants for specialized transportation for the elderly and disabled.

Eligible applicants include county and city governments, along with private nonprofit corporations registered in Kansas, such as senior centers and Lakemary Center.

Lakemary leaders recently made the decision to only pursue the 5310 grants moving forward to continue providing transportation services for the people with developmental disabilities that they serve.

Other entities in Miami County, including local senior centers, also provide transportation services, but their resources are limited.

Representatives of the senior centers and other local agencies met a few times at the K-State Research and Extension Marais des Cygnes District office in Paola to discuss options.

YEAR IN REVIEW / PAGE A3



Brian McCauley / Miami County Republic

The revamped Louisburg Aquatic Center opened this summer with new amenities.

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*This project is funded in part by the KDOT Public Transit Program and the Federal Government.*



Jeremy Gulban  
Publisher

## THE MIAMI COUNTY REPUBLIC

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# YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from A2

During one meeting, Paola Senior Center Director Deborah Crain announced that the Paola Senior Center board members recently made the decision to also end the center's general public transportation service at the end of the fiscal year, which will be June 2026.

Misty Norton, director of mobility management for the East Central Kansas Coordinated Transit Council, has taken a lead role in keeping the community leaders informed and working together for a solution.

~~~~~  
 In July, Paola city leaders moved forward with plans to use general obligation bonds to pay for three water projects totaling \$1.05 million.

The city's primary focus is addressing streambank erosion along Wea Creek near 311th Street that is threatening the stability of the city's main water line from the Marais des Cygnes Public Utility Authority (PUA).

Paola and Louisburg currently purchase water from the PUA, which has a water plant along the Marais des Cygnes River near 343rd Street and Victory Road.

A primary waterline extends from the plant to 311th Street where it crosses Wea Creek and travels north to Paola's primary water tower near Cottonwood Elementary.

The waterline runs along the north side of 311th Street within the 35-foot Miami County road easement along Wea Creek, but city officials have learned that continued erosion of the Wea Creek streambank has increased the risk of breakage of the water line.

Paola City Manager Randi Shannon has discussed the issue with Paola City Council members during multiple meetings. It was stated that a major break in the line could potentially result in a loss of service for all 2,086 residential and 384 commercial customers. It also could result in future increases in fees to help cover the cost of the repairs and water loss, according to city documents.

Paola city officials plan to relocate the waterline to the south side of the road to fix the issue at an estimated cost of \$600,000.

City officials also plan to update outdated city meters to radio-read versions at an estimated cost of \$250,000, and replace certain water service lines to reduce lead and copper, as required by regulations, at an estimated cost of \$200,000.

The water projects total \$1.05 million, and Shannon said the city is permitted to move forward with using bonds to pay for the project without having an election per state statute under the Water Act.

Shannon said the bonds are expected to be paid off in four years, and city leaders shouldn't have to increase the mill levy because they can use the existing bond and interest mill levy that is being used to pay off previous bonds used to construct the Paola Justice Center. Those bonds should be paid off in 2026, when payments will start being made on the new bonds for the water projects, Shannon said.

~~~~~  
 Miami County commissioners approved the 2026 budget by a 4-1 vote but not before cutting \$450,000 after listening to taxpayers

speak out during a public hearing Aug. 27.

Miami County's proposed mill levy for the 2026 budget was 36.755, which would have been an increase of nearly two mills from the current 34.767. It is also higher than the revenue neutral rate (RNR) of 32.824.

The mill levy is the rate in which property taxes are collected, and the RNR is the rate that would generate the same amount of property tax revenue as the previous year based on the current year's assessed valuation.

Miami County's assessed valuation increased from \$707,228,477 to \$749,148,777.

Because the proposed 2026 budget exceeds the RNR, the county had to have an RNR public hearing in addition to a regular budget public hearing during the County Commission meeting Aug. 27.

Several residents spoke during the public hearings about their financial hardships and urged the commissioners to not increase taxes.

After the public hearings were closed, Commissioner Jene Vickrey recommended cutting \$200,000 from the Miami County Health Department that was planned to offset a loss of grant funding.

Commissioner Tyler Vaughan also suggested reducing the asphalt increase from \$750,000 to \$500,000, saving another \$250,000.

Vickrey agreed, and so did Commissioner Keith Diediker, even though Diediker pointed out that it's going to put the asphalt budget behind schedule.

Commissioner Paul Scruggs said he pushed for the asphalt increase, and he is not in favor of reducing it.



Brian McCauley / Miami County Republic

Lakemary Center's general public transportation service ended June 30.

The commissioners eventually voted 4-1 to approve the 2026 budget with the \$450,000 reduction from the cuts to the health department and asphalt budget. Scruggs voted against the motion.

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 In September, Miami County commissioners voted 3-1 to eliminate the county's economic development director position that had been held by Janet McRae for the past 18 years.

The decision was made following an executive session Wednesday, Sept. 17, with commissioners Tyler Vaughan, Jene Vickrey and Paul Scruggs voting to eliminate the position, and George Pretz voting against the motion. Commissioner Keith Diediker was not present at the meeting.

Vaughan said there has been a lot of discussion in recent years about how the commission wants to handle economic development, and eliminating the director position will allow for a more commission-led approach moving forward.

He added that he'd like to see the commission work directly with cities on economic development and pursue projects like the county's recent land

acquisition in Hillsdale for a new EMS station and sewer projects in Bucyrus and Osawatomie.

Scruggs agreed. "I think an action like this holds the commission accountable," Scruggs said. "Puts the onus on us now. That's what we're elected to do, in a sense, isn't it?"

Vickrey said the county will keep funds in the economic development department in the hopes that it will incentivize cities to work with the county on future projects.

Pretz said the economic development staff was involved in a lot of things, including small business loans, and he's concerned about how that will be managed moving forward without a director.

"I got a lot of concerns over this," Pretz said. "I really feel like, if you're going to have an economic development department, there need to be, at a minimum, one employee there to handle the day-to-day activities."

McRae had a variety of responsibilities, including creating economic climate reports, working with businesses on loans and grants, and working with the local chambers of commerce and The Miami County

Republic to produce the Miami County Visitors Guide.

~~~~~  
 A vision that began years ago with Mike Welter, the original director of Miami County Emergency Medical Services, became a reality in September with the grand opening of a new EMS station in Hillsdale.

The station officially became operational in early July, but community members were introduced to it during an open house and ribbon cutting Sept. 27.

The event featured current county commissioners and EMS personnel, as well as those from the past who helped get the project complete.

Miami County Administrator Shane Krull said the \$2.1 million project included constructing the facility, as well as purchasing the land and installing infrastructure that could encourage future businesses to locate on the 20-acre tract along Old Kansas City Road north of 255th Street and west of Columbia Road.

Krull said the county paid for the Hillsdale station by setting aside money

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# YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from A3

in a building reserve fund annually and earmarking American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money for the project.

Special recognition was also given to Fred and Sharon Abernathy, who sold the 20-acre tract of land to Miami County in 2021 for \$231,770. Sharon said the land has been in her family since 1913.

Louisburg USD 416 voters, during the Nov. 4 election, narrowly passed a proposed lease-purchase

agreement that will allow the school district to pursue a \$4.8 million ball-parks project.

The question passed with 1,266 “yes” votes (53 percent) compared to 1,113 “no” votes (47 percent), according to the official results posted by the Miami County Clerk & Election Office

The Louisburg school district plans to borrow \$4 million and pay it off over 10 years at 4.24 percent. The annual payments will be \$483,158.80, and the total amount paid over 10 years will be about \$4.8

million, including interest. School district officials have said there is a good chance it could be paid off early. They also have reiterated that they plan to use capital outlay funds to pay for the project without increasing the mill levy, which is the rate in which property taxes are collected.

The project will include the construction of two turf varsity fields north of Wildcat Drive south of Louisburg High School and Louisburg Middle School, and improvements made to the two existing south fields so they can be used for junior varsity.

Estimated completion of the ballfields project is slated for April 2026, according to the school district’s website.

A fire heavily damaged the Nance family home in Paola on Nov. 8, eight months after the teenage Nance brothers helped their neighbors evacuate during a house fire.

Both neighboring homes are located across the street from the Paola Fire Station.

Micah Nance and his two teenage sons, Lucas and Matthew, helped neighbors during a fire on March 5.

In July, the boys received awards for their efforts during a Paola City Council meeting.

On Nov. 8, the Nance home was heavily damaged by a fire, but there were no injuries as no one was home at the time.

Miami County Under-sheriff Matt Kelly said the sheriff’s office provided



File photo

Lucas Nance (left) and his brother, Matthew, were commended earlier this year for helping their neighbors evacuate during an overnight house fire March 5. They are pictured back in March in the yard of their father’s home, which was heavily damaged by a fire Saturday, Nov. 8.

gift cards to the Nance boys as they work to replace what was lost.

In December, Kodion Energy broke ground on a new 120,000-square-foot production facility in Paola’s industrial park.

The business is led by Joshua Okorie and his brother, Austin, who both grew up in Nigeria.

Joshua founded Kodion Consulting in 2016 with a focus on the tech industry, and he launched Kodion Energy in 2019 to merge his two passions.

He and his team began finetuning their design for a smart, efficient transformer that features AI-powered reading telemetry and a self-cooling system that increases output.

He established an office

in Paola after landing a lucrative contract for a solar farm in California that is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

Tariffs placed on imported goods, including transformers, have increased the demand for U.S.-made transformers like the ones made at Kodion.

Joshua realized he will need a larger facility to keep up with the growth, and planning began on a new 120,000-square-foot facility to be built on vacant land in Paola’s industrial park not far from the Kodion office.

Paola City Council members approved the preliminary site plan for the new facility at 1410 Industrial Park Drive in November, and dirt work on the project began in December.

Joshua said he hopes the facility will be fully operational by December next year, but he also hopes to have temporary occupancy for part of the facility by next summer.

Joshua said Kodion is currently only able to take on about 2 percent of the orders coming in totaling just a few million dollars a year.

When the expanded facility is operational, Joshua expects to be able to handle about 80 percent of the available orders, totaling an estimated \$250 million a year.

He also plans to hire about 100 people to work at the new production facility, joining Doherty Steel and Taylor Forge Engineered Systems as large-scale production facilities and employers in Paola.

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## AN INVITATION TO WORSHIP

**PAOLA ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
**Cross Point Church**  
 – 1016 N. Pearl Street, Paola, Ks. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

**BAPTIST**  
**Endless Mercy Baptist**  
 – Paola Community Center, 905 E. Wea St., Paola. Bible Study Sunday 9:30 a.m.; Worship 10:30 a.m.-noon. Ron Osborn, Pastor. 913-208-3585.

**First Baptist**  
 – 207 E. Wea, Paola. 913-594-6301. www.firstbaptistpaola.com. Sunday School for all ages 9:15 a.m.; Worship 10:30 a.m. Nursery and Praise Kids available.  
 Interim Pastor Rev. Dan Chadwick

**CATHOLIC**  
**Holy Trinity Catholic**  
 – Church and School, 501 E. Chippewa, Paola. 913-557-2067. htchurch@holyltrinitypaola.org. Masses Sat. 5 p.m., Sun. 8 & 10 a.m. Rev. Joe Sellas.

**CHRISTIAN**  
**Paola Christian**  
 – 302 E. Peoria, Paola. 913-294-3284. Worship Services Sun. 10 a.m.

**LUTHERAN**  
**First Lutheran**  
 – 401 E. Piankishaw, Paola. 913-295-3476. www.firstlutheran-paola.org. Worship 8 a.m.; Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Vacancy Pastor - Joshua Woelmer

**Trinity Ev. Lutheran**  
 – 34868 Block Road, Paola. 913-849-3344. www.trinitylcm.org. Sunday School & Bible Class 9 a.m.; Worship 10 a.m. Rev. Joshua Woelmer.

**METHODIST**  
**Paola United Methodist**  
 – 209 S. Silver, Paola. 913-294-3475. www.paolaumc.org. Worship Services 9:30 a.m.; Faith Studies for all ages 8:15 a.m.; Thrift Shop Sat. 9:00 a.m.-Noon. Reverend Maria Penrod.

**Plum Creek Global Methodist Church**  
 – 319th & Plum Creek Road, Paola. Sunday School 9:45 a.m.; Worship 10:45 a.m.

**PRESBYTERIAN**  
**Hillsdale Presbyterian**  
 – 22875 W. 255th St., Hillsdale. 913-783-4416. Worship 9:05 a.m.; Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Nursery Provided & Children’s Church. Rev. Laurie Johnston, Pastor.

**Lighthouse Church**  
 – 1402 E. 303rd. www.paolalighthouse.com. 913-294-2400. Sunday School 9:00 a.m.; Worship 10:00 a.m. Nursery Provided & Children’s Church. Rev. Kirk Johnston, Pastor.

**NONDENOMINATIONAL**  
**Living Proof Church** – 32401 Harmony Rd., Paola. 913-937-7312.

**LOUISBURG DISCIPLES OF CHRIST**  
**First Christian Church**  
 – (Disciples of Christ) 602 N. First St., Louisburg. 913-837-4760. www.fcclouisburgks.org. Sunday school (in person & Zoom) 9:30 a.m.; Worship 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.; Live streaming for 10:30 a.m. on our website. Rev. Deana Perdue, Pastor.

**CATHOLIC**  
**Immaculate Conception Church**  
 – 606 S. Elm, Louisburg. 913-837-2295.

**FAITH CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS**

**INTERDENOMINATIONAL**  
**Faith Chapel**  
 – 841 N. Metcalf, Louisburg. 913-837-2108. www.myfaithchapel.com. Celebration Service 10 a.m.; Nursery, Children’s Church 10 a.m. Family Night Wednesday: Free Meal 5:30 p.m.; Classes for All Ages 6:30 p.m.; Real Student Ministries Sun. 6:30 p.m. Jon Clayton, Pastor

**Rutlader Outpost Cowboy Church**  
 – 33607 Metcalf Rd., Louisburg, KS 66053. 913-594-2908. Email: rocowboychurch@gmail.com. Facebook | Youtube@RutladerOutpostCowboyChurch  
 Worship Services Every Tuesday 7 p.m.; Bible Study Thursdays 6:30 p.m. RutladerOutpostCowboyChurch  
 Worship Services Every Tuesday 7 p.m.; Bible Study Thursdays 6:30 p.m.

**METHODIST**  
**Louisburg United Methodist Church**  
 – 249 N Metcalf Rd, Louisburg 913-837-2374, Sunday School 8:15 a.m.; Worship 9:30 a.m.: Pastor Kathy Symes

**NONDENOMINATIONAL**  
**The Porch Community Church**  
 – 305 S. 2nd St., Louisburg. 913-837-3787.

**OSAWATOMIE ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
**Cross Point Church**  
 – 112 Main St., Osawatomie. Worship Service 9 a.m.

**BAPTIST**  
**Faith Baptist Church** – Brown & Retan, Osawatomie. 913-755-2300.  
**First Baptist** – 8th & Brown, Osawatomie. 913-755-3483.  
**Victory Baptist** – 212 E. Main, Osawatomie. 913-755-4678.

**CHRISTIAN**  
**Fontana Christian**  
 – 38333 Hedge Lane, Fontana. 913-937-6456. www.fontanachristianchurch.org. Sunday School 9 a.m.; Worship 10:30 a.m.; Adult & Youth Sun. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Pastor: Chris Shultz.

**METHODIST**  
**First United Methodist**  
 – 504 Pacific Ave., Osawatomie. 913-755-4774. Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Worship 10:35 a.m.; Rev. Hyun Ju Gil.

**WESTLEYAN**  
**The Well Wesleyan Church** – 513 15th St. Osawatomie 913-594-3411

**SPRING HILL BAPTIST**  
**Antioch Community Baptist**  
 – 22668 S. Waverly Road, Spring Hill. 913-884-8144. www.antiochchurchspringhill.com. Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.; Sunday School (adult & children) 9:30 a.m.; Children’s Church 10:45 a.m.; Wed. Dinner 5:30 p.m.; Wed. Service 6:30 p.m.

**NONDENOMINATIONAL**  
**Generation Bible Church**  
 – 20680 W 199th St., Spring Hill, KS 66083. 913-208-2869. Sundays: 9:30 AM Sunday school for all ages; Fellowship: 10:30; Service: 11:00; Tuesdays: 6:30 End Times bible study; Wednesdays: Bible Study 6:30  
 Pastor Jack Smith

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## LETTER TO EDITOR

Dear Editor,

*Where USD 368 — and Kansas — Go From Here*

The failure of the recent COLA property tax vote did not occur in a vacuum. Families are stretched thin. Costs are rising. Voters are understandably cautious when asked to approve new taxes. But while the vote ended in November, its consequences are arriving now — quietly and decisively — in our classrooms.

Nearly one million dollars has been cut from USD 368's budget. That figure is not abstract. It means fewer resources, tighter margins, and harder choices for educators already doing more with less. Schools do not stop functioning when funding falls short. They simply absorb the damage.

Kansas often comforts itself with the idea that we are "somewhere in the middle" nationally when it comes to education. Not the best, not the worst. But the middle is a dangerous place to become complacent. It is where gradual decline hides behind averages.

Kansas spends around the national

average per student when adjusted for cost of living, yet our outcomes lag behind states that have made more intentional investments. One reason is structural: Kansas relies heavily on local property taxes to stabilize school funding. When local measures fail — particularly in districts without rapidly growing tax bases — the safety net below them is thin.

The question before us is not simply how to recover from this failed vote. It is whether we are willing to address the system that made a single local decision so consequential.

High performing states offer instructive examples. States with more stable education outcomes reduce overreliance on local property taxes, prioritize classroom instruction and teacher support, and provide predictable, multi-year funding so districts can plan instead of react. Some index school funding to inflation so districts are not forced back to the ballot box every time costs rise. These are not radical ideas. They are pragmatic ones.

Closer to home, Kansas must confront a basic truth: tax cuts and

strong public schools cannot coexist without intentional replacement revenue. If we value education — not rhetorically, but materially — it must be funded as a shared responsibility, not a recurring local gamble.

For USD 368, the path forward requires transparency, honest community dialogue, and advocacy beyond county lines. It means engaging state lawmakers about funding stability. It means clearly explaining how dollars are used and why they matter. And it means resisting the urge to frame this moment as a failure of voters rather than a failure of policy.

Our children did not vote in November. They will not sit at the table when budgets are trimmed. Yet they will live longest with the consequences of what we decide now.

Kansas does not need to be first in the nation to take pride in its schools. But we must decide whether "the middle" is truly good enough — or whether our children deserve better than a system that asks them to make up the difference.

Monica Andreasen  
Paola

# Miami County Time Capsule

### 125 years ago (1901)

The Messers, Charles Kohlenberg, Charles Routt, Jim Menefee and Misses Eda Arzberger, Edna Young, and Pearl Young attended church at New Landcaster Sunday night.

~~~~~  
New Landcaster is on the boon. It now has a broom factory.

~~~~~  
The ice on the creeks is about 4 inches thick and frozen streams are swarmed with skaters.

~~~~~  
Buckeye Bill is the auctioneer for the Wm. Hines public sale to be held January 10, 3 miles west of Bucyrus.

### 100 Years ago (1926)

Wednesday afternoon Scott Bonds received word from the Kansas public service commission that his request for a permit to operate a bus line from Osawatomic to Kansas City, by way of Paola and Olathe, had been granted.

~~~~~  
Traffic check made by the patrolmen on Saturday under the direction of the county engineer showed that the heaviest travel is on the Jefferson Highway between Paola and Hillsdale.

~~~~~  
The City of Paola has a New Year's gift in the shape of a suit for \$87,175 damages filed Tuesday in Federal Court. Wednesday's Topeka Capital has the following to say of the new action against Paola City. "The City of Paola was made defendant in a suit for \$87,175 in a suit filed in U.S. district court yesterday by Lucy R. Mallory, New York, guardian of the estate of Earl D. Mallory and Clare Mallory minors of Englewood, Md. The city is held responsible for an alleged mob, which on the night of Oct. 27, 1921, is alleged to have fired the Mallory Opera House, Paola. It further is held liable for lack of water pressure which defeated efforts to save the building.

### 75 Years ago (1951)

In larger cities some



The archives of The Miami County Republic, Miami Republican, Western Spirit, Louisburg Herald and Osawatomic Graphic are maintained in bound books at the Republic newspaper office in Paola.

places charge a dime for a cup of coffee, the 5 cent charge continuing in all but the swank places. Paola still has the 5 cent cup of coffee.

~~~~~  
S. D. Whitaker has bought from Harry Fessenden the Nutrena seed and feed business he sold to Mr. Fessenden in August. Mr. Whitaker who had sold seed and feed since 1912, prior to his retirement, and after a brief rest was anxious to get back in the business. Merle Trent, son-in-law of Mr. Fessenden will continue to work for Mr. Whitaker. Charlie Lawrence who had worked there 18 years is now working at Fluor.

~~~~~  
When Paola gets the \$340,000 worth of waterworks improvements the town will have the best water system in the state as long as Bull Creek runs.

~~~~~  
Troopers Fred Coon and Eric DeGraffenreid, of the state highway patrol, presented the matter of short wave radio equipment for the police car to Miami County commissioners. They pointed out the increase in crime and how the state highway system broadcasts when felonies are committed. The troopers stated that should the county commissioners provide for equipping the sheriff's car with a radio quicker action would result in catching criminals if the department was part of the system. Paola and Osawatomic police departments could also be part of the system.

Trooper Fred Coon, who is president of the Lions Club, wants people to know that every time a handcuffed man is with him the man isn't a criminal. Trooper Coon is only rounding up Lions members to keep the attendance up.

~~~~~  
Dr. F. C. (Phog) Allen, basketball coach at the University of Kansas, will deliver commencement address to Paola High School graduates in May. Dr. Allen thoroughly understands young people and their problems and is an inspirational speaker.

~~~~~  
1951 Plymouth motor cars will be on display at Bailey Motors, on South Pearl Street, Saturday. This will be the first day for the showing of the new Plymouths.

~~~~~  
Ground was broken Monday for the foundation of a new Plum Creek Methodist church. The 24x32 building will join the old church on the south and will house the sanctuary. Elmer Hay is chairman of the building committee. The old church was built in 1883 and services have been held there ever since.

~~~~~  
Harry Fessenden, who January 1 sold his seed and feed business to S. D. Whitaker is getting back in the harness again at his old stand. Tuesday Mr. Fessenden completed the deal for purchasing the Hillsdale Elevator from Charles McBrearety and J. D. Buchman, who bought it from Fessenden in 1945.

~~~~~  
A speed limit on highways is proposed in a bill Representative Oliver D. Rinehart introduced in the state legislature on the first day of regular business. Rinehart's bill would set a speed limit of 60 miles an hour for pleasure car drivers on the highways of Kansas. At present there is no limit other than cars must be operated at a safe speed. Rinehart would make the limit 50 miles per hour from sunset to sunrise. The bill would reduce passenger bus speeds from 55 to 50 miles an hour, and trucks of less than the 5000 lb. class would be held within a speed limit of 45 miles an hour and speed limit for heavy trucks would be 40 miles per hour.

~~~~~  
Buy your Hadacol at Nicholson's Drug Store, \$1.19 a bottle.

~~~~~  
Marvin Barkis, owner of Barkis Motor & Implement in Louisburg is erecting a warehouse building on the corner of 14th and Broadway. The building will be 72x60 feet, constructed of concrete blocks, and a roof of galvanized iron. It will be used to store fertilizer and machinery at the present.

### 50 Years ago (1976)

Effective January 1, 1976, Jim and Wilma Johnson are the new owners of the Paola Floral Shop on the east side of the square. Jim has been manager of the concern. Announcement was made by Lorin Crawford, who will keep his floral shop in Osawatomic.

~~~~~  
Postal rates will increase the first of the year. The new 13-cent postage stamp will be required for first class letters.

~~~~~  
The Drexel Star printed its first paper using the offset printing method last week. It is printed by East Kansas Offset at Osawatomic.

~~~~~  
Fred Coon, former sheriff, Kansas Highway

# Obituaries

### BONNIE FAY LA GALLE

Nov 3, 1935 - Dec 27, 2025

Bonnie Fay La Galle, age 90, went to be with her Lord on December 27, 2025, at Heritage Nursing Home in Chanute, KS. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, January 2, 2026, at the First Baptist Church in Iola, KS. Visitation will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, January 1, 2026, at The Venue at Feuerborn Family Funeral Service, 1183 Highway 54, Iola, KS, 66749.

### PAUL R ARNETT

October 6, 1933 - December 27, 2025

Paul R. Arnett, 92, of Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, passed away peacefully on December 27, 2025. He was born October 6, 1933, in Fontana, Kansas, where he was raised by his parents Ivan and Gladys Arnett.

Paul proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Boxer. On December 30, 1956, he married Eva M. Reece, beginning a loving partnership that would span many decades.

Paul worked for Fairmont Dairy in Kansas City for many years before transferring to Kemps in the Twin Cities, where he continued his career in the dairy industry. Most recently, he resided at Inver Glen Senior Living Residence.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Eva M. Reece Arnett.

His second wife, Ann, was a great partner and support for Paul in their later years.

Paul is survived by his second wife, Ann W. Arnett; daughter Jana (Chuck) Anderson of Eagan, Minnesota, and grandsons Ryan and Kevin Anderson; his son, Steve (Sara) Arnett of Wood River, Nebraska, and grandchildren Maggie (Tanner) Roth, Knox Arnett, and Cole (Molly) Arnett. Paul was especially proud of his great-grandson, Cooper. He is also survived by his sister, Juanita Mathews of Paola, Kansas, and many relatives and friends.

Many thanks to the awesome staff at Inver Glen Senior Living and St Croix Hospice for their care for Paul in his last months.

Memorials preferred to the charity of your choice. Paul will be cremated and laid to rest at Star Valley Cemetery in La Cygne, Kansas.

Patrolman, probate judge and businessman, took over the Paola municipal court bench Saturday morning, replacing Ray Manly, who retired December 31.

~~~~~  
Drew McLaughlin, Jr. says: I am now the owner of a Pet Rock as one was sent to me in the mail at Christmas time. From whom it came, I know not. Already my Pet Rock, whom I have named Hardhead Oscar, knows how to roll over and how to take a drink. A person doesn't have anything until he gets a Pet Rock.

### 25 Years ago (2001)

The Miami County Economic Development Corp. will cease to exist as soon as the directors can close out the books. The board plans to vacate the current office on North Pearl by the end of January. In September, the corporation's executive board became the transition team to move the current organization into the county fold.

~~~~~  
When generators at the Nearman Creek Power Plant went back to producing electrical power, Osawatomic utility officials breathed a sigh of relief. The power plant went back on line after the Kansas City, Kan. Board of Public Utilities was able to steer around problems with record low levels on the Missouri River. "Now since Nearman is up and running we can get power off our contract," said Marty Springer, Osawatomic power plant superintendent. "And that power is much cheaper than buying it through Western Resources."

~~~~~  
The U.S. Postal Service is soliciting bids for construction of a new La Cygne Post

Office. The new post office will be built on the southwest corner of Market and Sixth Sts.

~~~~~  
Officials have rules out arson in the fire that heavily damaged the showroom and business offices of Cox Motor Co. In Pleasanton last week. Two days after the fire, company officials were discussing plans to get back in business and to rebuild.

~~~~~  
Paola Auto Center is no longer a Ford and Mercury new vehicle dealership. Mike and Vicky Hudgeons announced Monday that they have resigned their Ford-Mercury franchise as of Dec. 31, 2000. Paola Auto Center will continue to be a new-vehicle dealership for Chrysler, Dodge and Jeep franchises. The Hudgeons bought the dealership from Steve and Mike Hawkins in 1992. Paola's first Ford dealership opened more than 80 years ago just off Paola Park Square. Bill Peuser of rural Paola said his father bought the Ford dealership in 1922 from "Unc" Griffith. Peuser thinks that Griffith was the first owner of a Ford dealership in Paola.

~~~~~  
Space for physicians' offices at Maimi Count Medical Center will more than double this year. Plans for construction of an additional 11,149 square feet of office space at the hospital were approved Tuesday by Paola City Council. Hospital officials plan to complete construction by fall, said Jerry Wiesner, vice president and chief operating officer of the hospital.

~~~~~  
*Miami County Time Capsule is compiled by Paul Branson, Sr., utilizing newspaper archives that date back more than 150 years.*

# Republic readers can now get perks when they subscribe



The Miami County Republic's new Perks program gives subscribers the ability to experience discounts at participating businesses.

Current subscribers can visit republic-online.com/perks to access their digital Community Insider Perks card and explore offers from participating businesses.

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Community Insider businesses that participate in the Perks program get the benefits of increased visibility, free marketing and community engagement. Participating businesses also will be

featured in the Republic's newspaper, website and social media pages.

Businesses can join at no cost besides the deal they choose to offer Republic subscribers.

Anyone looking to subscribe to the Republic can do so for just 99 cents. Visit republic-online.com/plans for more subscription information.

# Mystery Solved

Thanks to a good response from our readers and Facebook followers, as well as a little research into our archives, we were able to solve last week's History Mystery.

The picture shows a group of girls competing for the Louisburg freshman volleyball team.

Teresa Reeves emailed us to let us know she recognized her cousin, Duana (Drew) Huerter as the coach in the front left.

Several people commented about the photo on Facebook. Lisa Foote-Ryckert also recognized Duana Huerter as the coach in the front row, as well as Carolyn Harding as the coach right behind her.

Angie Van Ness-Cunningham recognized Lori Town in the second row from the top.

Several others tagged people they recognized in the photo or who may have been in school at that time.

Kevin Barbour quipped that "Ya know you're getting old when your class makes the 'mystery photo'!"



Most people believe the photo was taken in the late 1980s or early 1990s.

We were able to track down the cutline that ran with the photo, which was taken by former reporter Kevin Dilmore. The cutline read: Freshmen competing for the Louisburg freshman volleyball team are, in front, Coach Duana Huerter, Janet DuBois, Jessica Honsinger, Wendy Harris, Stacy Clark; second row, Coach Carolyn Harding, Kristi Weers, Rachel Knittel,

Sarah Mallory, Becky Day; third row, Harmony Jennings, Lori Town, Tara Pearce, Heather Weers and Misty Baker; back row, Amy Slot, Angie Guetterman, Jennifer Weers, Amy Pope and Andy Fisher.

Our History Mystery photos are taken from boxes of old photos we have archived at the Republic office in Paola. Many were taken by Bob Harrington and other former reporters as early as the 1950s.

# TOYS

Continued from A1

That incident hit close to home, as Sammie was working at Cowboy Coffee Post in Louisburg just a few streets down when it occurred.

"It was a scary thing," Sammie said.

She recently reached out to the Andula family, and she said they were very grateful for her help. They also invited her to attend Airen's celebration of life Dec. 30.

Sammie said she plans to bring a couple of Comfort Cubs to give to the two younger sisters. The big, weighted teddy bears have been successful in providing comfort to grieving children in Uvalde, Sammie said.

She also is collecting toys, coats, shoes and other

items for the children, as well as gift cards for the adults. Sammie said donated funds will be turned into gift cards to places like Casey's, Price Chopper, and Walmart, and given directly to the family.

Community members interested in helping out can visit the Sammie's Toy Drive website at [www.sammiestoydrive.com](http://www.sammiestoydrive.com) where they can view an Amazon Wishlist of items for the family.

Sammie said she will be gathering all of the donations and personally delivering them to the family.

Although she is now studying journalism at Johnson County Community College, Sammie said she plans to continue operating her Sammie's Toy Drive charity.

"I love it so much," she said. "I don't want to stop anytime soon."

# CHARGES

Continued from A1

the Wyandotte County, Kansas Coroner's Office.

"The men and women of the KCKPD extend their deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Airen Andula as we confirm his cause of death," the release states.

The investigation remains ongoing, and additional charges may also be filed, police officials said.

According to a probable cause statement, Leonard called the Bates County Sheriff's Office on Monday, Dec. 22, and advised deputies that he knew the whereabouts of the missing child and that the child was deceased.

One day earlier, the Linn County Sheriff's Office made a Facebook post asking for the public's help in locating 13-year-old Airen Andula, who was last seen around 8 a.m. that morning in the Holiday Lakes neighborhood east of Pleasanton.

He was wearing a red hoodie and black jeans and was riding a mountain bike, and investigators said he may have traveled into the Pleasanton area, according to the sheriff's office release.

A multi-agency search took place Sunday night and into the early morning hours Monday. It continued Monday until Leonard's call came in.

Bates County deputies responded to Leonard's Pleasanton home and interviewed him. He described



Linn County Sheriff's Office  
**The body of 13-year-old Airen Andula was found Dec. 22 after he went missing one day earlier.**

a location in Bates County where he transported the deceased child from Kansas, according to the probable cause statement.

Leonard later drove the deputies to the location where he had placed the deceased child. A search warrant was obtained, and the

child's body was located in a remote area in rural Bates County down a large ravine in a creek bed, according to the probable cause statement.

Leonard reportedly admitted that he transported the deceased child from Kansas to Missouri and left the body in the bottom of the creek bed before traveling back to his home in Kansas, according to the court record.

Leonard was taken into custody, and the state requested a bond of \$100,000 because of the abandonment of a corpse charge and the fact that Leonard has a criminal history from Linn County, with him being convicted of attempted arson in 2000.

In the court document, the state alleges that

Leonard is a threat to the community and is a flight risk because he will likely be charged in Kansas for the death of the victim.

Leonard's listed Pleasanton address is on Lakeview Drive in the same Holiday Lakes neighborhood where Airen was reported missing east of Pleasanton near the Missouri state line.

According to court records, Leonard appeared in Bates County Circuit Court via Webex for an arraignment hearing Tuesday, Dec. 23, and he entered a plea of not guilty. A status hearing is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Jan. 15, 2026.

The Linn County Sheriff's Office stated in a release that, to ensure a thorough and transparent process, the investigation will be led by the Kansas City, Kansas

Police Department, with assistance from the KBI Crime Scene Response Team.

"Our hearts go out to the family and friends during this incredibly difficult time," the sheriff's office release states. "Our community is mourning this heartbreaking loss, and we respectfully ask that the family's privacy be honored as they grieve."

The Kansas City, Kansas Police Department posted a news release stating that the incident is under investigation by the KCKPD Major Case Unit, and all suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Anyone with information on this case is urged to call the Crime Stoppers TIPS Hotline at 816-474-TIPS (8477) or online at [KC-crimestoppers.com](http://KC-crimestoppers.com). All tips remain anonymous and may qualify for a cash reward, according to the release.

# Calving school offered to assist beef producers

BY KATELYN BARTHOL  
*Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent*

In anticipation of calving season, K-State's Department of Animal Sciences and Industry and K-State Research and Extension faculty and staff are planning a series of calving schools to help boost producers' chances of a successful year.

The Marais des Cygnes District, Frontier District, and Coffey County Extension offices will be hosting one of these calving schools on Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026.

The program will be hosted at the Miami County Fairgrounds - Building No. 2, 401 Wallace Park Drive, in Paola.

Things will kick off with a sponsored brisket meal at 6 p.m. followed by presentations starting at 6:30 p.m.

There is no cost to attend, but interested people are asked to pre-register by contacting the Marais des Cygnes District - Paola office (913)-294-4306 or emailing [kbarth25@ksu.edu](mailto:kbarth25@ksu.edu) by Jan. 9.

This program will outline overall calving management that includes stages of the normal calving process and tips to handle difficult calving situations.

K-State Research and Extension beef veterinarian A.J. Tarpoff said the event will increase knowledge, practical skills and the number of live calves born. Dr. Tarpoff will demonstrate proper use of calving

equipment on a life-size cow and calf model.

Dystocia, calving difficulty, is the result of the difference between calf size at birth (birth weight) and the dam's birth canal (pelvic area). These two factors (birth weight and pelvic area), along with cow age, calf sex, gestation length, pre-calving nutrition and cow body condition, calf presentation, and maternal effects, contribute to differences in calving difficulty.

Of these factors, research has clearly demonstrated that calf birth weight is the primary factor. As calf birth weight increases, the percentage of cows requiring calving assistance also increases.

Genetic selection is the primary tool for effective management of birth weight and calving difficulty. Birth weight is a highly heritable trait and responds to selection pressure. Tools such as Expected Progeny Difference (EPD's) for

birth and calving ease should be used in sire selection, especially when breeding first calf heifers.

"Our goal is for producers to leave better prepared for calving season," Tarpoff said. "We will discuss timelines on when to examine cows for calving problems, and when to call your vet for help if things are not going well. It's an excellent program regardless of experience level."

Door prizes, including calving supplies, will be awarded at the end of the program.

>> CROP PRICES		
	Last Week	This Week
Corn	\$3.82	\$3.82
Milo, ct	\$3.18	\$3.16
Soybeans	\$9.90	\$9.76
Wheat, hard	\$4.15	\$4.15
Wheat, soft	\$3.94	\$3.99

Quoted by Bechner Grain on Monday afternoon.



## CALVING MANAGEMENT SCHOOL

**TUESDAY, JAN. 13, 2026**  
6:00 p.m. - Brisket Meal  
6:30 p.m. - Program  
Miami County Fairgrounds - Bldg #2  
401 Wallace Park Dr.  
Paola, KS 66071



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Weight	Average	High	
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400 - 499 #	\$455.00	\$160.00	
500 - 599 #	\$395.00	\$445.00	
600 - 699 #	\$361.00	\$392.00	
700 - 799 #	\$346.00	\$377.50	
800 - 899 #	\$353.50	\$365.50	
900 - 999 #	\$336.00	\$344.50	
<b>HEIFERS</b>			
Weight	Average	High	
300 - 399 #	no test		
400 - 499 #	\$370.00	\$390.00	
500 - 599 #	\$355.00	\$400.00	
600 - 699 #	\$346.00	\$366.50	
700 - 799 #	\$355.00	\$359.00	
800 - 899 #	no test		
900 - 999 #	no test		
<b>BULL CALVES</b>			
Weight	Average	High	
400 - 499 #	no test		
500 - 599 #	\$375.00	\$420.00	
600 - 699 #	no test		
<b>BUTCHER COWS</b>			
High Yielding	\$161.00 to \$195.00		
Medium	\$141.00 to \$160.00		
Low Yielding	\$95.00 to \$140.00		
<b>BUTCHER BULLS</b>			
From	\$153.00 to \$200.00		

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## Osawatomi High School set to induct 2026 hall of fame class

BY GENE MORRIS  
emorris@cherryroad.com

OSAWATOMIE – The Trojans’ 1973 state championship football team, Derrick Shelby, Jenny Snyder Cumpton, Mac Steele, Rick Stephens, Crystal Walker Ecton and Eddie West will be inducted into the Osawatomi High School Hall of Fame.

The Hall-of-Famers will be introduced between the varsity girls and boys basketball games against Prairie View on Friday, Jan. 16. The Osawatomi Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be held at 6:15 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 17, in the high school auditorium.

The Osawatomi Hall of Fame Class of 2026 will join the inaugural Class of 2025, including legendary coaches Bill Freeman and Rodney Madden, quarterback Lynn Dickey, running back Derrick Jensen, Jeremy Isenhower, Tayler Soucie Llewellyn and the 1966 undefeated Trojans football team.



Submitted Photo

The undefeated Osawatomi High School state championship football team is among the hall of fame class of 2026 which will be recognized between basketball games against Prairie View on Friday, Jan. 16, and inducted at the school auditorium on Saturday, Jan. 17.

### 1973 Trojans football team

The 1973 Osawatomi Trojans state championship football team was 12-0 with seven shutouts.

Osawatomi defeated Ulysses by a score of 15-0

in the state championship game. Shawnee Heights was the only team to post double digits against Osawatomi, falling 21-14 in the playoffs.

Seniors on the state title team were Ike Brady, Bo

Bumgarner, Scott Cook, Bill Hammond, Derrick Jensen, Nelson Jordan, Gene Kroger, Steve Lindsey, Chuck Marcum, Chad Montgomery, Frank Packard, Bob Pennock, Doug Pfaltzgraff and Marty Powell.

Juniors on the team were Stan Newcomb, Jim Self, Jack Welch and Buddy Zaman.

Sophomores were Tom Billinger, Don Brady, Jim Byard, Mike Conrad, Jack Corlis, Chris Maimer and

Dan Wendt.

Bill Freeman was the head coach. Assistant coaches were Troy Hodges and Bob Whitehead. Randy Newport was the manager.

HALL OF FAME / PAGE B4



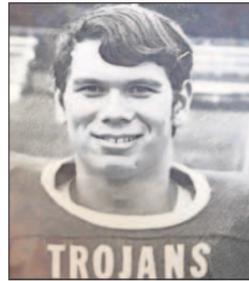
Derrick Shelby



Jenny Snyder Cumpton



Mac Steele



Rick Stephens



Eddie West



Crystal Walker Ecton

## Gulley shines in his moment on the gridiron with Larimore Polar Bears

BY GENE MORRIS  
emorris@cherryroad.com

LARIMORE, ND – Anderson Gulley was lined up at the goal line prior to the Larimore High School Polar Bear homecoming football game against Nelson County Chargers.

As his name, “Anderson Gulley,” was said loud over the speakers, Anderson and the offensive starters ran through a tunnel of his teammates onto the football field Friday, Sept. 26.

Anderson, standing 5 feet, 11 inches and topping the scales at 230 pounds, was playing guard.

His family and friends clapped and cheered for

him from the stands.

It was the first start of Anderson’s high school career.

Among those in the stands cheering for Anderson was his grandmother, Linda, who was seeing him play for the first time.

Seated with her were Anderson’s parents, Jeff and Stacie, siblings Aaron, Laura and Lindsey, as well as niece Anna and nephew August.

“We were all cheering for him,” Jeff Gulley said. “Everyone who knows Anderson, knew what a big deal this was.”

Jeff Gulley is a graduate of Paola High School. He

is former sports editor of the Osawatomi Graphic.

Anderson attended Osawatomi schools through the fifth grade. His siblings, Aaron, Laura and Lindsey, are Osawatomi High School graduates.

Linda Gulley lives in Paola.

### One of the Guys

No matter how hard he worked, Anderson was not going to be the star offensive lineman.

That was OK.

Anderson was part of the team. He was challenging himself to become the best player he could be.

The week of the big homecoming football game, Gulley met with Larimore football coach Kal Triplett to let him know this was not going to be like the other Friday Night Light football games for the family.

“I told him I was not asking for anything special, but I wanted to let him know Anderson’s grandmother was going to be there for the first time,” Gulley said. “I just asked him to get Anderson on the field.”

Coach Triplett, knowing Anderson’s dedication to the program, helped make it a night none of the Gulleys would ever forget.

“Anderson was a great teammate,” Triplett said. “He was always congratulating players after they came off the field and



Submitted Photo

Anderson Gulley, a senior at Larimore High School in North Dakota, poses for pictures on homecoming night with siblings (from left) Alan Gulley, Lindsey Pozzie, Aaron Gulley and Laura Gulley.

encouraging them from the sideline.”

Anderson started, playing the first series at guard for the Larimore Polar Bears.

As awesome as that was – there was more to come for Anderson and his family.

Much more. Down eight points with four minutes left in the fourth quarter, Larimore’s junior guard Hunter

Thorvilson went down with an injury.

Coach Triplett called on Anderson to be the “Next Man Up” on the offensive line.

The Polar Bears went to their bread and butter play they had run with Thorvilson, pulling the guard and running behind him.

Only this time, with the game on the line, the guard they were pulling

was Anderson.

Larimore ran the first play of the drive with Anderson leading the way with his block and picked up the first down.

The Polar Bears ran the play two more times, punching the ball into the end zone to make it a two-point game.

Anderson pulling from his guard position, blew

GULLEY / PAGE B6



Submitted Photo

Anderson Gulley has pictures taken with his parents Stacie and Jeff Gulley.

# Coach Lee inducted into Kansas Coaches Association Hall of Fame

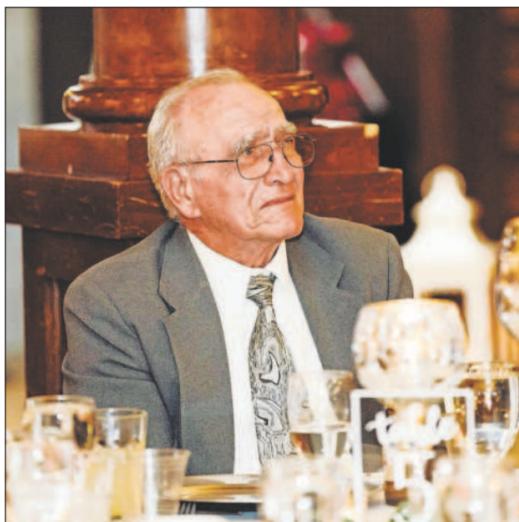
BY GENE MORRIS

emorris@cherryroad.com

MULVANE, Kan. - Former Paola High School football coach Jim Lee was recently inducted into the Kansas Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Lee was enshrined with the Kansas Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame Class of 2025 at Kansas Star Casino in Mulvane on Sunday, Dec. 7.

Coach Lee was head coach of the Paola High School Panthers football team from 1979 to 1997. He compiled a record of 223-100-4 during his high school coaching career. When he retired, coach Lee was ranked in the top 10 in wins in Kansas high school



Coach Jim Lee

football history.

Coach Lee led the Paola Panthers to the state championship game in 1984, 1987 and 1994.

Paola defeated Wichita Kapaun Mount Carmel for an undefeated state championship in 1984. The Panthers, the smallest

team in Class 5A that season, upset Olathe South 35-6 in the substate game and scored a 28-21 overtime victory against Mount Carmel in the state title game.

It was the first state championship in the history of Paola High School for any sport. Lee was named Coach of the Year by The Wichita Eagle in 1984.

The Paola Panthers upset Scott City to win another undefeated state title in 1994. A blocked punt and turnovers sparked Paola in a lopsided 51-13 victory against Hiawatha in the substate game. On a rain-soaked field at Welch Stadium in Emporia, Paola shocked heavily favored Scott City by a score of 28-8.

The 1984 state championship football team was inducted into the Paola High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 1997. Coach Lee was inducted in 1999. The 1994 team was enshrined in 2000.

Coach Lee notched the 200th win of his high school football coaching career in September of 1995 with a dominating victory against Gardner-Edgerton.

State power-rankings had Paola as 18-point underdogs against Gardner-Edgerton.

His son, Jon, who played quarterback for the Paola Panthers that season, scored a touchdown in the 200th win.

Coach Lee was presented with a 200th Victory game ball after the milestone.

He received bachelor's and master's degrees from Fort Hays State. Lee played football at Fort Hays State. He was a four-year letter-winner.

Lee, a linebacker, rarely left the field in 1961 and 1962. He was inducted into the Fort Hays State Hall of Fame in 1997.

Nicknamed "General Lee," he may be best known for his ability to create fumbles. A recruiting tape put together years ago was reportedly 20 minutes of the former linebacker causing fumbles.

Lee was an NAIA honorable mention selection at linebacker in 1962. He was named to the all-district team and was a second-team all-conference selection.



Louisburg Lady Cat wrestlers (from left) Brooklyn DeWeese, Leola Eslinger and Maliya Collins pose for pictures with their medals from the Effingham Invitational. Eslinger placed first at 155 pounds. DeWeese was runner-up at 135 pounds. Collins finished third at 125 pounds.

Submitted Photo

## Lady Cats place seventh at Effingham tournament

BY GENE MORRIS

emorris@cherryroad.com

EFFINGHAM - The Louisburg girls wrestling team placed seventh in the Effingham Invitational.

Louisburg scored 62.5 points in the tournament Saturday, Dec. 20. The Lady Cats were seventh in the 17-team invitational.

Leola Eslinger placed first at 155 pounds. She

was 3-0 with three pins. Brooklyn DeWeese was runner-up at 135 pounds. DeWeese went 2-1 with a pin and a technical fall.

Maliya Collins was 3-1 with three pins for third place at 125 pounds.

Mya McKitrick was 1-2 with a pin at 100 pounds. Alina Wojciechowski wrestled at 120 pounds.

Nora Smith competed at 170 pounds.

### Team Leaders

Most Pins / Least Time - Eslinger (3 / 1:37)

Fastest Technical Fall - DeWeese (5:01)

Most Team Points - Eslinger (24)

Most Single Match Points - DeWeese (15)

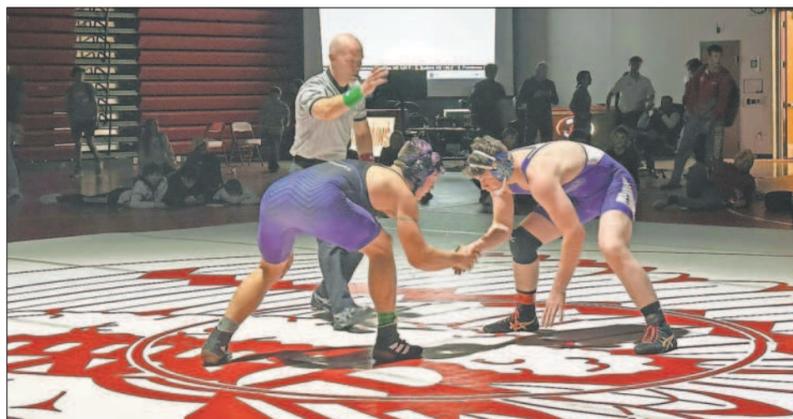
Most Total Match Points - DeWeese (1)

Largest Seed Differential - DeWeese (Seeded sixth, placed second)



Submitted Photo

Members of the Louisburg Lady Cats wrestling team pose for pictures after placing seventh in the Effingham Invitational.



Submitted Photo

Louisburg wrestler Vance Hahn prepares to square off in the 190-pound title match in the Randy Starcher Memorial. He was 5-1 with four pins for second place.

## Wildcats medal four wrestlers at Tonganoxie

BY GENE MORRIS

emorris@cherryroad.com

TONGANOXIE - Vance Hahn, Syllas Weichert, Brooks Rankin and Levi Cotter led the Louisburg wrestling team in the Randy Starcher Memorial, capturing medals for the Wildcats.

Louisburg tied for seventh place in the team standings with 75.5 points Saturday, Dec. 20.

Hahn was 5-1 with four pins for second place at 190 pounds.

Weichert was 3-2 with a pair of technical falls and a major decision for third place at 120 pounds.

Rankin went 2-3 at 106 pounds for fourth place. He had two pins.

Cotter was 2-4 with two pins for fourth place at 113 pounds.

Keegan Rogers was 2-3 with a pin and a major decision for seventh place at 126 pounds.

Myke McKitrick went 2-3 with two pins for seventh place at 132 pounds.

Josiah Clayton was 2-3 with a pin for seventh place at 150 pounds.



Submitted Photo

Louisburg freshman Syllas Weichert (left) has pictures taken on the podium after placing third in the Randy Starcher Memorial. He was 3-2 with two technical falls.

Brody Pemberton placed eighth at 138 pounds.

Tristan Weller was eighth at 150 pounds.

Maddox Day placed eighth at 165 pounds.

James Langer was 1-4 with a pin for ninth place at 175 pounds.

Spencer Mattison was 2-3 for 11th place at 144 pounds.

Bo Ballard placed eighth at 157 pounds.

### Team Leaders

Most Pins / Least Time

- Hahn (4 / 7:31)

Most Technical Falls / Least Time - Weichert (2 / 7:45)

Most Pins-Falls / Least Time - Hahn (4 / 7:31)

Fastest Pin - Cotter (30 seconds)

Fastest Technical Fall - Weichert (2:00)

Most Team Points - Hahn (24.5)

Most Single Match Points - Weichert (21)

Most Total Match Points - Weichert (62)

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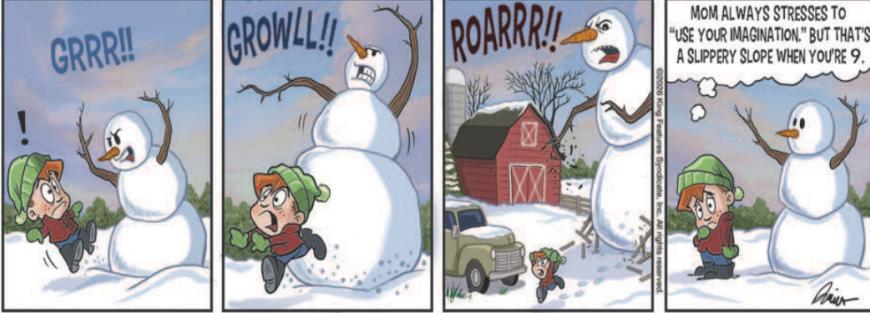


Submitted Photo

Members of the Louisburg wrestling team pose for pictures following the Randy Starcher Memorial at Tonganoxie. The Wildcats had four wrestlers place in the tournament, finishing seventh in the team standings.

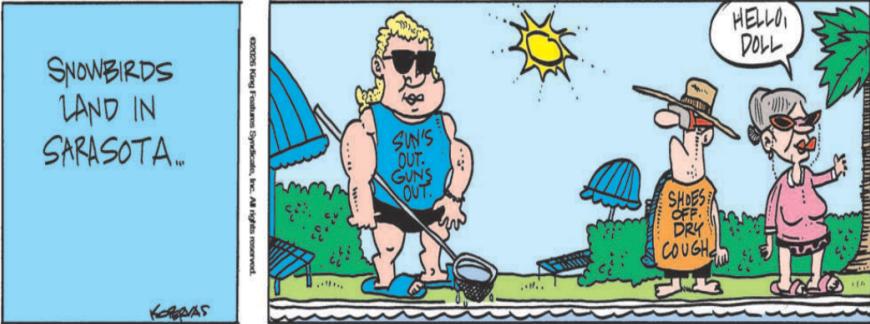
# Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



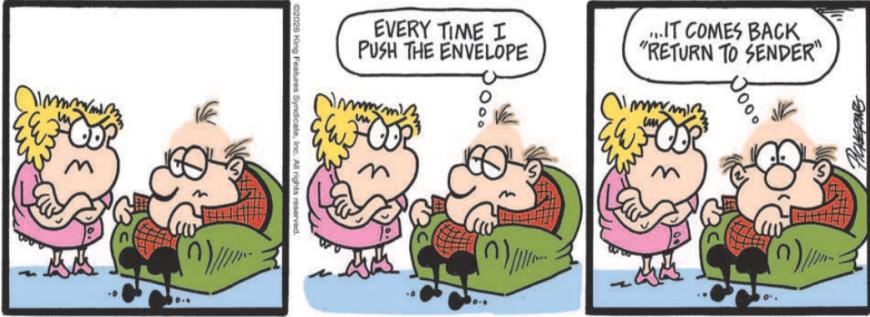
## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



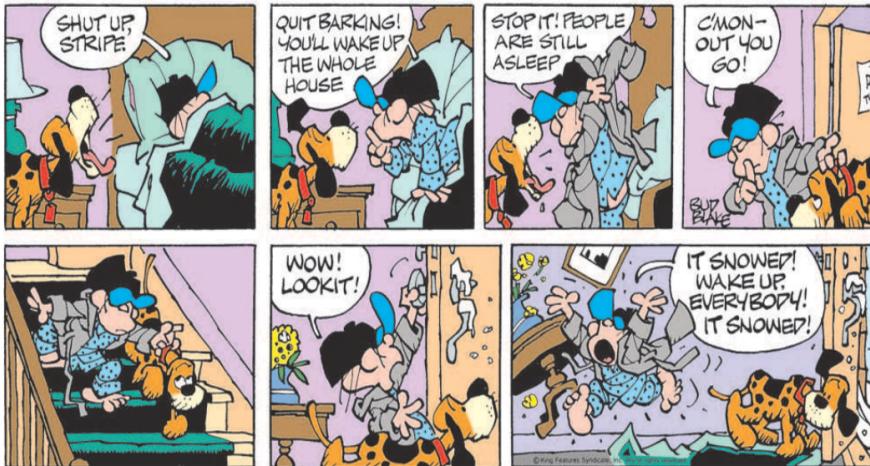
## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



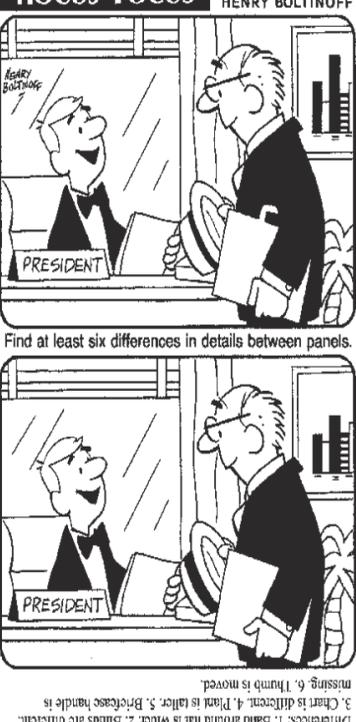
## OLIVE & POPEYE

By Randy Milholland



## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



### CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: L equals X

HQGI JNEGAQSID JPKKGIVB  
 DNGJ GLASIYA WNX IN  
 ZOOZXGIA XGZJNI, HQZA  
 ESDQA BNP YZVV AQZA?  
 ONNW NW GLSJAGIYG.

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### SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Trap **SUMBAH**

Crack **CHERAB**

Plan **BIGMAT**

Plod **NICHED**

**TODAY'S WORD**

# King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Sketch
- 5 Old name for France
- 9 Microwave
- 12 Top-of-the-line
- 13 Golden Rule preposition
- 14 "As I see it," in a text
- 15 Lady of Spain
- 16 Teen fave
- 17 Stannum
- 18 Out of control
- 19 Pool unit
- 20 Faction
- 21 Humorist
- 23 Follower (Suff.)
- 25 Cerebral
- 28 Car safety feature
- 32 Tree bumps
- 33 Unfettered
- 34 Closed tight
- 36 Outlaw
- 37 Summer in Paris
- 38 Flavor enhancer, for short
- 39 Aspic shaper
- 42 Pair
- 44 Now, in a memo
- 48 Rock producer Brian
- 49 TV's Griffin
- 50 Painter Magritte

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
15				16				17			
18				19				20			
			21	22			23	24			
25	26	27				28		29	30	31	
32								33			
34						35		36			
			37					38			
39	40	41		42	43			44	45	46	47
48				49				50			
51				52				53			
54				55				56			

- 51 Thesaurus wd.
- 52 DLI doubled
- 53 Partner
- 54 Chopper
- 55 Diminutive suffix
- 56 Dance move
- 8 Texter's guffaw
- 9 Tubular pasta
- 10 During
- 11 Corn concoction
- 20 Coerces
- 22 Map feature
- 24 "The Da Vinci Code" monk
- 25 Small ammo
- 26 Wish undone
- 27 Coach
- 29 Physique
- 30 "— was saying ..."
- 31 Retrieve
- 35 Sense
- 36 Low-budget flick
- 39 Small plateau
- 40 Cameo stone
- 41 Single
- 43 Legal document
- 45 Plane reservation
- 46 Pot starter
- 47 Incubator noise
- 49 Bovary's title (Abbr.)

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### Weekly SUDOKU

3	7			2				5
1						2	7	
	5	2		7	6	8	3	
	4	1				5	9	
			7	5	9	4		1
	6			1			8	
	1	5	6	3				
6	7						2	5
2	4						1	3

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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### Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY:** What is the name of the festival of lights that's celebrated in some European countries as the start of the holiday season?
- MOVIES:** Which actor played folk singer Pete Seeger in "A Complete Unknown"?
- SLOGANS:** Which company uses the advertising slogan "The Best a Man Can Get"?
- HISTORY:** What was the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention about?
- TELEVISION:** What is the name of Liz Lemon's show in the sitcom "30 Rock"?
- SCIENCE:** What kind of substance does Boyle's law govern?
- FOOD & DRINK:** What is the primary ingredient in the Italian dish calamari?
- LITERATURE:** Which Shakespeare play introduces the characters Beatrice and Benedick?
- MATH:** What kind of number is pi (3.14)?
- MUSIC:** What is the name of the house band on "The Tonight Show"?

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### FiveSpot™

Not really sure

M	A	Y	B	E

Possibly  
 Assist at the climbing wall  
 A single unit of grass  
 Kept a machine running smoothly  
 Provided a hint  
 Might be able

Solve each row by replacing one letter from the answer above or below and scrambling to make a new word. When complete, the top and bottom words will have no letters in common.

FiveSpot is a trademark of Michael McLinden. See more at [www.sprouts-puzzle.com](http://www.sprouts-puzzle.com)

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### WATCHING Today's Word

3. Gambit; 4. Inched  
 solution  
 1. Ambush; 2. Breach;

### SCRAMBLERS

D	L	N	O	C
L	D			
C	L	U	E	D
L	U	B	E	D
B	L	A	D	E
B	E	L	A	V
M	A	V	B	E

FiveSpot™ solution

2	8	4	5	9	7	6	1	3
6	3	7	4	8	1	9	2	5
9	1	5	6	3	2	7	4	8
5	6	9	2	1	4	3	8	7
8	2	3	7	5	9	4	6	1
7	4	1	8	6	3	5	9	2
4	5	2	1	7	6	8	3	9
1	9	8	3	4	5	2	7	6
3	7	6	9	2	8	1	5	4

### King Crossword

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

D	R	A	W	G	A	U	L	Z	A	P	
D	O	N	A	I	D	O	L	T	I	N	
A	M	O	K	L	A	P	S	I	D	E	
B	R	A	I	N	Y	A	I	R	B	A	G
B	U	R	L	S	L	O	O	S	E		
S	E	A	L	E	D	B	A	N	D	I	T
E	T	E	M	S	G						
M	O	L	D	T	W	O	A	S	A	P	
E	N	O	M	E	R	V	A	R	E	N	E
S	Y	N	M	C	I	L	M	A	T	E	
A	X	E	E	T	I	E					

### Weekly SUDOKU

Answers

1. St. Lucia's Day
2. Edward Norton
3. Gillette
4. The first women's rights convention in the United States
5. "TGS with Tracy Jordan."
6. Gas
7. Squid
8. "Much Ado about Nothing"
9. Irrational
10. The Roots

# HALL OF FAME

Continued from B1

## Derrick Shelby

Shelby, a member of the Class of 1991, earned two school letters in basketball and three letters in track and field.

During his senior season, Shelby led the league in scoring, averaging 25 points per game with 525 points on the season. He was named first-team, All-State Class 4A by the Wichita Eagle and was first-team all-league.

Shelby topped 20 points in a game 14 times. He has 30 points or more six times and posted 40 points or more twice.

He scored a school record 60 points in a 107-60 victory against Prairie View. Shelby made 12 3-pointers in the game, tying a state record. He sank 95 3-pointers during the season, which is more than any other Osawatومية Trojan made in their entire career.

Osawatومية was 46-21 during his three seasons with the varsity team and 34-14 during his two seasons as a starter.

Shelby ran on the league champion 4x100-meter relay team. He was second in the triple jump and third in the long jump as the Trojans won the league title. Shelby was a three-time state qualifier.

He has coached eight NBA players and 25 NCAA Division I college basketball players in the AAU circuit.

Shelby played college basketball at Allen County, the University of Texas Arlington and Friends University.

## Jenny Snyder Cumpston

Snyder Cumpston, a member of the Class of 2003, earned four letters in track and field and three in volleyball.

Snyder Cumpston held six track and field school records when she graduated. She still holds five of the records. She is the school record holder in the 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash, 400-meter dash, 100-meter hurdles and 300-meter hurdles.

She won 12 state track and field medals, including

six gold medals. Snyder Cumpston captured 10 regional gold medals and 10 league gold medals. She was a state champion in the 100-meter hurdles, 200-meters and 300-meter hurdles.

During her junior season, Snyder Cumpston won 20 of 27 events she competed in for the Lady Trojans.

She was second in kills on the volleyball team her junior season with 146. She was third in aces.

Snyder Cumpston went to Wichita State University on a track and field scholarship.

She was part of the school record 4x400-meter relay team. Snyder Cumpston is No. 2 all-time in the indoor 60-meter hurdles and the 100-meter outdoor hurdles. She ran on the No. 2 4x400-meter relay team.

Snyder Cumpston earned All-Conference honors in indoor and outdoor track and field in 2006.

## Mac Steele

Coach Mac Steele was coach of the Osawatومية High School football and basketball team for 34 years.

He had a record of 139-122 with 25 ties for the Trojan football team from 1926 to 1959. The Trojans were 8-1 in 1954 and 8-2 in 1947.

Steele coached the basketball program from 1927 to 1960. He was 231-228.

Steele, who the gymnasium is named after, has the most career wins as a coach in football and basketball. The Trojans were 14-1 in 1947 and 15-2 in 1927.

## Rick Stephens

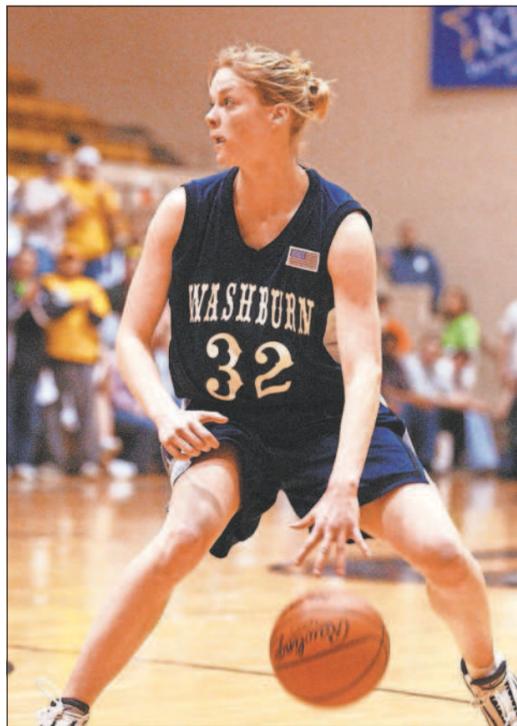
Stephens, a member of the Class of 1973, signed with the University of Kansas to play football before tragically passing away three days before graduation.

He was a three-year letter-winner in football and track and field. Stephens also lettered in wrestling. The 1973 track team won the Pioneer League Championship.

Stephens was fourth in the state in the shot put. The Trojans were



Derrick Shelby presents the basketball from his 60-point game to Osawatومية athletic director Jordan Kupersmith. Shelby is one of the athletes being inducted into the hall of fame.



Crystal Walker Ecton, an Osawatومية graduate, drives the floor for Washburn University. She is ranked in the top 10 at Washburn in 11 categories. Walker Ecton is one of the athletes headed to the Osawatومية hall of fame.

runner-up in the regional meet where he placed first in the shot put and first in the discus. He was the league champion in the shot and the discus.

More than 50 years later, Stephens still holds the school record in the shot with a mark of 56 feet.

He won 22 gold medals in his high school track and field career.

Stephens was first-team All-Pioneer League at running back and defensive tackle. He ran for 784 yards and 10 touchdowns.

## Crystal Walker Ecton

Walker Ecton lettered in volleyball, basketball and softball at Osawatومية High School.

She helped lead the Lady Trojans basketball team to third place in the state

tournament. Walker Ecton was first-team All-State Class 4A her senior season (1997-98).

Walker Ecton finished her career with 1,585 points. She averaged 22.5 points and 10 rebounds per game. Walker Ecton topped 30 points in a game six times with a career high of 36 points.

The Osawatومية girls basketball team was 62-32 during her high school career and 41-9 her final two seasons.

She was a first-team All-State Class 4A selection in volleyball during her senior year.

Walker Ecton was honorable mention all-league in softball.

She played collegiate volleyball at the University of Kansas for two years. Walker Ecton transferred to Washburn University and played basketball and volleyball.

Walker Ecton was a two-time All-American Honorable Mention in basketball. She was the MIAA MVP her senior year. Walker Ecton led the team in scoring both seasons.

She was inducted into the Washburn University Athletic Hall of Fame in 2013.

Walker Ecton is ranked in the top 10 at Washburn

University in points, field goals made, free throws made, offensive and defensive rebounds, points in a season, offensive and defensive rebounds in a season, games played in a season, points in a game and rebounds in a game.

Playing for the volleyball team in 2000, Walker Ecton was second on the club in blocks and digs and third in kills.

## Eddie West

West was a four-year letterman in track and field for the Osawatومية Trojans. He also lettered in football and basketball.

He won the broad jump in three meets in 1955. He placed first and second in the 220-yard dash. He also medaled in the shot put.

During his senior season with the Osawatومية basketball team, West averaged 15.8 points per game.

He was an all-league running back for the Trojans. West topped 645 yards of total offense, including 230 yards receiving and 10 touchdowns.

West was a three-year starter for the Pittsburg State University football team, including the NAIA National Championship team in 1957. He was first in the conference in the broad jump in 1959. He was second in 1956 and 1957 and fifth in 1958.

# Making preparations for winter lambing season



It seems as if we just wrapped up our fall harvest, and now we have started a whole new year.

While we have officially entered the winter season on the farm where things slow down for us just a bit, there's still plenty to do.

There are a few fields in our area that still need to be harvested, but the majority of the farms in our area have the grain out of



Kim Baldwin  
Kansas Farm Bureau

the fields, and cattle have been moved in to graze the

remaining stalks for a few months this winter.

While I grew up helping feed cattle over the winter months, breaking ice and occasionally bringing a calf inside to warm up or feed it with a tube, my winters are now void of that.

A handful of years ago we transitioned to 100 percent fall calving. We no longer bundle up in multiple layers of clothing to conduct routine checks in the darkness of winter for newly born calves.

While I miss having my children experience that season, I'm thankful our cattle have a place to graze during the winter and get

bred before they return to our location in late spring.

We may not be monitoring the arrival of newborn calves during the winter months any longer, but we are preparing for the arrival of our next group of lambs.

The ewes are definitely showing signs that our winter lambing season is quickly approaching. And while we might not have calves warming up in the mud room any longer, there's always a chance a little lamb or two will be brought inside allowing my kids the opportunity to dry them off, warm them up or even bottle-feed a baby or two.

Before these little lambs start arriving, the goal is to have the maternity pens prepped and ready. The pens are inside the barn and provide a warmer experience for everyone involved. The warming lamps also need to be tested and set. Hay and grain also need to be moved closer to where we'll be spending more time at for the next few months.

Who will lamb first? How many will she lamb? Will we have enough room for all the babies? What's the weather look like?

There are so many questions that my family is starting to ask. While we

don't know the answers to any of the questions yet, we will surely know some of them soon.

It's always an exciting time as we prepare for and await the first arrivals of the winter lambing season.

Kim Baldwin helps write "Insight," which is a weekly column published by Kansas Farm Bureau. Originally a native of New Mexico, she moved to Kansas to marry her husband, Adam, in 2010. With their children, Banks and Isannah, the family raises wheat, corn, soybeans, grain sorghum and popcorn on their McPherson County farm.

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# 1979 Topps baseball card set filled with fond memories

During one of my summer visits to St. Louis to see my parents Franklin and Genevieve, which I did every June and July, I decided to finally finish off a 1979 Topps baseball card set I had been putting together by hand.



Gene Morris

I had them in a nice red baseball card binder with plastic pages and had ordered the final half dozen or so cards I needed to complete the set. I took them to St. Louis to share the moment with them.

There was something about the design of the 1978 Topps football card set and the 1979 Topps baseball card set that has always stood out to me. They came out during the 1978-79 school year with the football set released during the 1978 season and the baseball card set coming out in the spring of 1979.

The 1979 baseball card design has a baseball in the lower left corner with the Topps logo inside. The team name is across the bottom in dark letters with the team color behind it and a white border around the entire card. I love the All-Star cards as well, which have

pink lettering and a purple background along the bottom right above the players name and position.

The 1978 football card design is similar, a tradition Topps did with a lot of their football and baseball card designs. Football cards have the position listed inside of a football on the bottom right-hand side of the card. The team name runs down the left side of the cards.

Boy, even looking at the set now, it brings back memories of ripping through packs of baseball and football cards. For my birthday and Christmas in 1978, I remember getting packs of football cards and thinking they were the best present any kid could get.

Back then Topps was the only company printing sports cards. Packs

were 25 cents each. When the cost rose to 33 cents a pack in 1980, I thought it was the end of the world. You couldn't get four packs for a dollar anymore.

There are so many kinds of sports cards on the market today, it is mind-blowing.

Sadly, I think the prices have kept some of the kids from getting into the hobby. Packs are like \$12 and up for six or so.

I don't like it. It was easy when I was a kid. Your pocket change could buy you a pack of bubble gum cards. Plus, you felt like you got a good deal on every pack.

There have been a lot of innovations in sports cards over the last four to five decades, from the slick card stock to limited game-used materials and autographs. All of that is fun, but man, I miss the good old-fashioned cardboard.

My favorite cards from the 1978 Topps football card set includes the Green Bay Packers Lynn Dickey, Archie Manning with the New Orleans Saints, the St. Louis Cardinals cards of Jim Hart, Mel Gray and Dan Dierdorf,

Frank Tarkenton from the Minnesota Vikings, Chicago Bears running back Walter "Sweetness" Payton, Roger Staubach, Ed "Too Tall" Jones and rookie running back Tony Dorsett from the Dallas Cowboys.

I still tell people today, if you think Patrick Mahomes runs a lot, look up Tarkenton and see how much he scrambled to extend a play and make a throw. He played during a time when there were not as many rules in the game to protect the quarterback as there are now.

I absolutely love the 1979 Topps baseball all-star cards of the Cincinnati Reds all-star Pete Rose following through on a swing and Kansas City Royals all-star George Brett in a stance ready to field a ball at third base.

The set features the final full-size card made of St. Louis Cardinals Hall-of-Famer Lou Brock and New York Yankees catcher Thurman Munson, who died tragically in a plane accident Aug. 2 of that year.

Ozzie Smith's rookie card with the San Diego Padres is epic for the times, dating the card



Gene Morris / Miami County Republic

Miami County Republic sports editor Gene Morris shares thrill of completing a 1979 Topps baseball card set with his parents in St. Louis more than a decade ago and his love for the good old days of sports card collecting.

with his side burns.

I got the card signed by Ozzie during a visit to one of our local Chevrolet dealerships while growing up in St. Louis. He said it was an old one, smiling, before signing the card.

I have 227 of the 528-football card set autographed. My favorite signature is from Baltimore Colts wide receiver Glenn Doughty who signed the card "Shake &

Bake!"

The 1979 Topps baseball set features 726 cards. I have 128 of them autographed. My favorite is one I just got back in the mail from New York Yankees rookie Jim Beattie. On a 3x5 index card I sent him in addition to the 1979 Topps card, I asked Beattie what his biggest thrill in the Major Leagues was, and he wrote winning Game 5 of the 1978 World Series.

## LEGALS

### CHARTER RESOLUTION NO. R25-12-048

A CHARTER RESOLUTION FOR MIAMI COUNTY, KANSAS ESTABLISHING A TRANSIENT GUEST TAX PURSUANT TO K.S.A. 12-1696 THROUGH K.S.A. 12-16,101, INCLUSIVE, AND SUBSTITUTING LANGUAGE ONLY FOR K.S.A. 12-1697(a) AND K.S.A. 12-16,101, PURSUANT TO K.S.A. 19-101, et seq.

WHEREAS, K.S.A. 12-1696 through K.S.A. 12-16,101 authorize cities and counties to levy a transient guest tax to fund tourism and convention activities; and

WHEREAS, K.S.A. 19-101 et seq. authorizes counties to exempt themselves from statutes that do not apply uniformly to all counties and to adopt substitute provisions by charter resolution; and

WHEREAS, Miami County desires to establish a transient guest tax of six percent (6%) and retain discretion to allocate the proceeds toward tourism and economic development activities without creating a convention and tourism committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI COUNTY, KANSAS, that the following Charter Resolution be adopted.

SECTION 1. The Board of County Commissioners of Miami County, Kansas, hereby establishes a transient guest tax for tourism and conventions by the power vested in K.S.A. 12-1696 to 12-16,101 and to it provide substitute language specific only to K.S.A. 12-1697(a) and 12-16,101, pursuant to its authority under K.S.A. 19-101, et seq.

SECTION 2. The Board of County Commissioners of Miami County, Kansas, hereby elects to exempt itself and make inapplicable to it the provisions of K.S.A. 12-16,101, relating to the establishment of a convention and tourism committee, its composition, the appointment of members, the length of members' terms, and the authority to contract.

SECTION 3. The Board of County Commissioners of Miami County, Kansas, hereby elects to exempt itself and make inapplicable to it the provisions of paragraph (a) of K.S.A. 12-1697, relating to the levy of a transient guest tax, to the maximum rate thereof, and to the purposes for which such transient guest tax monies may be spent.

SECTION 4. In order to provide revenues to promote tourism, conventions, and economic development related to tourism, Board of County Commissioners of Miami County, Kansas, hereby levies a transient guest tax at the rate of six percent (6%) upon the gross receipts derived from or paid directly or through an accommodations broker by transient guests for sleeping accommodations, exclusive of charges for incidental services or facilities, in any hotel, motel or tourist court, in the unincorporated area of Miami County and also that collected within the corporate limits of any city in Miami County where a transient guest tax is not now being levied and collected.

SECTION 5. The tax levied and collected pursuant to Section 1 of this Resolution shall become due and payable in the manner prescribed by K.S.A. 12-1698, and amendments thereto, except that all taxes remaining after the deduction for the expenses of the Department of Revenue in administration and enforcement for the collection shall be remitted to the Miami County Treasurer and shall be credited to a separate revenue account for transient guest taxes as established by Miami County and shall only be expended out of said fund as hereinafter provided.

SECTION 6. Pursuant to this resolution the Board of County Commissioners of Miami County shall be authorized to make expenditures from the separate revenue account for transient guest taxes as is deemed appropriate to promote Miami County's tourism promotion, economic development activities related administrative, promotional, and operational expenses, contracts with external agencies to implement tourism, promotion, or economic development programs and for offsetting General Fund expenditures related to tourism and economic development. No advisory committee shall be required. The Board may designate staff or contract entities to administer programs and make recommendations.

SECTION 7. This resolution shall be published once each week for two consecutive weeks in the official county newspaper.

SECTION 8. This is a charter resolution and shall take effect sixty-one (61) days after final publication unless a sufficient petition for referendum is filed and a referendum held on the resolution as provided by K.S.A. 19-101(b), in which case the resolution shall become effective if approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon.

The County Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the Kansas Department of Revenue not less than 30 days prior to the effective date.

ADOPTED this 17 day of December 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI COUNTY, KANSAS

/s/ Tyler Vaughan, Chairman Pro-Tem

/s/ George Pretz, Chairman

/s/ Jene Vickrey, Commissioner

/s/ Paul Scruggs, Commissioner

/s/ Keith Diediker, Commissioner

ATTEST:  
/s/ County Clerk  
Publish: Miami County Republic  
Date: December 31, 2025 and January 7, 2026  
4153930

### PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MIAMI COUNTY, KANSAS CIVIL COURT DEPARTMENT

FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION

Plaintiff, vs.

KAROLYN J WILLIAMS, JAWWAAD WILLIAMS, JOHN DOE (UNKNOWN TENANT/OCCUPANT), JANE DOE (UNKNOWN TENANT/OCCUPANT), SUMMERFIELD FARM HOMES ASSOCIATION, INC., ET AL.

Defendants.

Case No.: MI-2025-CV-000181 Division No.

Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 60 Title to Real Estate Involved

### NOTICE OF SUIT

THE STATE OF KANSAS, to the above-named defendants and the unknown heirs, executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors and assigns of any deceased defendants; the unknown spouses of any defendants; the unknown officers, successor trustees, creditors and assigns of any defendants that are or were partners or in partnership; the unknown guardians, conservators and trustees of any defendants that are minors or are under any legal disability; and the unknown heirs, executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors and assigns of any person alleged to be deceased and all other persons who are or may be concerned.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition has been filed in the District Court of Miami County, Kansas, praying to foreclose a real estate mortgage on the following described real estate:

LOT 132, SUMMERFIELD FARM ADDITION-PHASE THREE, A SUBDIVISION IN THE CITY OF LOUISBURG, MIAMI COUNTY, KANSAS.

COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 1308 N 3rd Street E, Louisburg, KS 66053 ("Property")

and all those defendants who have not otherwise been served are required to plead to the Petition on or before February 10, 2026, in the District Court of Miami County, Kansas. If you fail to plead, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

### NOTICE

Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(b), no information concerning the collection of this debt may be given without the prior consent of the consumer given directly to the debt collector or the express permission of a court of competent jurisdiction. The debt collector is

### PUBLIC NOTICE

attempting to collect a debt and any information will be used for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

MARINOSCI LAW GROUP, P.C.

/s/ David V. Noyce  
David V. Noyce, #20870  
11111 Nall Avenue, Suite 104  
Leawood, KS 66211  
Phone: (913) 800-2021  
Fax: (913) 257-5223  
dnoyce@mlg-defaultllaw.com  
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

MARINOSCI LAW GROUP, P.C. AS ATTORNEYS FOR THE PLAINTIFF IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Publish: Miami County Republic

Date: December 31, 2025, January 7 and 14, 2026  
4155540

Millsap & Singer, LLC  
8900 Indian Creek Parkway, Suite 180  
Overland Park, KS 66210  
(913) 339-9132  
(913) 339-9045 (fax)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MIAMI COUNTY, KANSAS CIVIL DEPARTMENT

Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC

Plaintiff,

vs.

Estate of Paul Meyn, Jr. aka Paul Walter Meyn, Jr. (Deceased), Jane Doe, John Doe, Christy Meyn, Dmytro Guzha, James Meyn, Kendra Mitts, Necia Reichard, Olga Meyn, individually and as Executor of the Estate of Paul Meyn, Jr. aka Paul Walter Meyn, Jr. (Deceased), Steven Meyn, and Susan Meyn, et al.,

Defendants

Case No. MI-2025-CV-000178

Court No.

Title to Real Estate Involved

Pursuant to K.S.A. §60

### NOTICE OF SUIT

STATE OF KANSAS to the above named Defendants and The Unknown Heirs, executors, devisees, trustees, creditors, and assigns of any deceased defendants; the unknown spouses of any defendants; the unknown officers, successors, trustees, creditors and assigns of any defendants that are or were partners or in partnership; the unknown guardians, conservators and trustees of any defendants that are minors or are under any legal disability

### PUBLIC NOTICE

and all other person who are or may be concerned:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in the District Court of Miami County, Kansas by Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC, praying to foreclose a mortgage on the following described real estate:

ALL OF LOT SIX (6), BLOCK 11, EXCEPT THE SOUTH 10 FEET THEREOF, IN THE CITY OF LOUISBURG, MIAMI COUNTY, KANSAS. Parcel ID No. 109-31-0-10-16-004.01-0. Commonly known as 205 S Vine St., Louisburg, KS 66053 ("the Property") MS 230014

and all those defendants who have not otherwise been served are required to plead to the Petition on or before February 10, 2026 in the District Court of Miami County, Kansas. If you fail to plead, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the request of plaintiff.

MILLSAP & SINGER, LLC

By: Dwayne A. Duncan, #27533  
dduncan@msfirm.com  
612 Spirit Dr.  
St. Louis, MO 63005  
(636) 537-0110  
(636) 537-0067 (fax)

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

MS 230014.462710 KJFC

MILLSAP & SINGER, LLC IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Publish: Miami County Republic

Date: December 31, 2025, January 7 and 14, 2026  
4157400

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MIAMI COUNTY, KANSAS CIVIL DEPARTMENT

Trust Bank fka Branch Banking & Trust Plaintiff,

vs Elizabeth E. Dean; Unknown Spouse, if any, of Elizabeth E. Dean, Defendants.

Case No. MI-2025-CV-000179 Court Number: Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 60

NOTICE OF SUIT The State Of Kansas, to the above-named defendants and the unknown heirs, executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors and assigns of any deceased defendants; the unknown spouses of any defendants; the unknown officers, successors, trustees, creditors and assigns of any defendants that are existing, dissolved or dormant corporations; the unknown executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors, successors and assigns of any defendants that are or were partners or in partnership; the unknown guardians, conservators and trustees of any defendants that are minors or are under any legal disability; and the unknown heirs, executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors and assigns of any person alleged to be de-

### PUBLIC NOTICE

ceased, and all other persons who are or may be concerned. You are notified that a Petition has been filed in the District Court of Miami County, Kansas, praying to foreclose a real estate mortgage on the following described real estate: LOT 15, BLOCK 1, PARK HEIGHTS ADDITION TO THE CITY OF OSAWATOMIE, MIAMI COUNTY, KANSAS, commonly known as 1120 Main St, Osawatomie, KS 66064 (the "Property") and all those defendants who have not otherwise been served are required to plead to the Petition on or before the February 17, 2026, in the District Court of Miami County, Kansas. If you fail to plead, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

NOTICE Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692c(b), no information concerning the collection of this debt may be given without the prior consent of the consumer given directly to the debt collector or the express permission of a court of competent jurisdiction. The debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Prepared By: SouthLaw, P.C. Blair T. Gisi (KS # 24096) 13160 Foster, Suite 100 Overland Park, KS 66213-2660 (913) 663-7600 (913) 663-7899 (Fax) Blair.Gisi@southlaw.com Attorneys for Plaintiff (255810) Publish: Miami County Republic

Date: January 7, 14 and 21, 2026  
4173050

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# GULLEY

Continued from B1

up his man at the goal line, and the Polar Bears ran behind him for the touchdown to tie the game at 28-28.

Levi Warnke intercepted a Hail Mary pass to send the contest into overtime.

Nelson County scored in overtime. Larimore had a pass broken up in the end zone and fell by a final of 34-28.

"Anderson came off the field and gave me a big hug," Gulley said. "As a parent, you just want to see your kid succeed."

"I think Anderson doubted himself a little bit before that game," he said. "He went out there and proved to himself he could do it. This was Anderson's football moment."

## Road to the Gridiron

Football was the furthest thing from Anderson Gulley's mind when his family moved to Larimore seven years ago.

Anderson not only had no interest in playing football, but he was also not a fan.

His older brother, Aaron,

played middle school and high school football for the Osawatomic Trojans, and his father, Jeff, is a huge fan of Notre Dame and Kansas City Chiefs – Anderson marched to the beat of a different drum.

Anderson was into Star Wars and his Marvel comics, especially Spider-Man.

Anderson played T-ball when he was a child and also kicked a soccer ball around.

His sophomore year at Larimore High School, Anderson went out for track and field. He started to excel at the shot put and discus. The Polar Bear senior has a shot at going to state this season.

Football was not in his blood – or so he thought.

## Just like Dad

Larimore Middle School approached Jeff Gulley about coaching the seventh and eighth grade football program.

Gulley said yes. Much to his surprise, Anderson wanted to play on the seventh-grade football team.

"Anderson, no you don't," Gulley told his son. "You don't have to play just because I am coaching. You are not going to

like it."

Despite never playing any school sports, Anderson insisted he wanted to play on the football team.

Anderson and his father agreed on a three-day trial period.

"You can go to three practices and try it out, if you don't like it, you can quit, and I won't be upset."

Anderson was there from day one, suited up and ready to go. He didn't know anything about the game.

Was he on the offensive line or the defensive line? He couldn't tell you.

Anderson only needed to know he was on the line, and his responsibility was to block the person in front of him.

He was there for the first day of practice and stayed committed through the final game of the season.

It was a special year, coach Gulley said. Not because of the wins and losses, but because of the players on the team and the lifelong bonds being created.

"What I remember most about that season is our eighth-graders were really good athletes," coach



Submitted Photo

Anderson Gulley puts his arm around his grandmother, Linda, who traveled from Paola to North Dakota to see him start for the first time in his high school career.

Gulley said. "More than that, those kids were great people."

"They told him they didn't care if he knew the game," he said. "They just wanted him to be

part of the team. Those guys helped him learn the game. We just had some great kids on that team."

Anderson did not play a lot that season, just picking up the game of football. However, he got on the field on special teams for kick returns.

## Starting Center

During his eighth-grade season, Anderson started at center.

"He never missed a practice or a game his eighth-grade year," Gulley said. "He didn't know the game, but he knew he was starting center and thought that was great."

Anderson was still his own man, setting his own trends by wearing his favorite Star Wars or Marvel socks for practice.

"No one cared what socks he was wearing," Gulley said. "They teased him in fun about them, but they genuinely just loved having him on the team."

## For Love of the Game

By this time, Anderson

was getting more and more into football.

He loved the Kansas City Chiefs and idolized center Creed Humphrey. Humphrey, a second-round draft pick in 2021, the 63rd overall pick, is now regarded as the top center in the National Football League.

Anderson saw a lot of junior varsity action in high school.

He needed to improve his footwork and play with more aggression. Anderson saw action in two games on the offensive line.

When the fall of 2025 rolled around, Anderson was back in the weight room and back on the football field for his senior season with the Polar Bears.

He was starting on punt team and a backup on the line of scrimmage. Anderson also played junior varsity with action on the offensive and defensive lines.



Submitted Photo

Anderson Gulley visits with niece Anna and nephew Auggie following the Larimore High School homecoming football game against Nelson County. He helped open the hole on the offensive line to set up a touchdown drive and a game-tying two-point conversion to send the game into overtime.

THE MIAMI COUNTY REPUBLIC

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