

Deaths

Mildred L. Smith

Mildred Lola Smith, daughter of Victor Davis and Lola (Moffitt) Davis Condley, was born on August 29, 1931, in Meriden, KS and died on February 4, 2024, at the Republic County Hospital – ISB at the age of 92.



She received her education at Perry (KS) Rural High School, the University of Kansas, Washburn University, Stormont-Vail School of Nursing, and Kansas State University, where she earned a Master of Counseling degree.

She married William E Smith on September 6, 1953 and they had three children.

They lived in Topeka, Kansas City, Belleville, and North Port, FL, returning to Belleville in 2014.

She was both a

homemaker and a registered nurse. She began her nursing career in Topeka, continuing as a practicing nurse and nursing instructor in Topeka, Kansas City, and Belleville. After earning her counseling degree, she worked until retirement as a personal counselor and director of psychiatric nursing at St. Joseph's Hospital in Concordia, KS.

She was a member of the Belleville Presbyterian Church and the Venice, FL Presbyterian Church.

She was a member of several civil, service, and social organizations.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her son, William James; her brothers, Floyd Davis and Philip Winkler; her sister, Norma Martin, and other relatives.

She is survived by her husband of Belleville; her son Steven (Ann) of Lexington, NC; her daughter Susan (Terry) Jelinek of Munden, KS; three grandchildren: Holly (Joe) Giammanco of Kansas City, MO; Tegan

Smith of Huntersville, NC; Jadd Smith of Charlotte, NC; her sister, Rosa Geske of Mesa, AZ, and other relatives.

Cremation was selected and the family will greet friends from 10 AM until 11:30 AM on Saturday, June 14 at the Bachelor-Surber Funeral Home, 1322 19th Street, Belleville, Kansas. Following the greeting of friends, at approximately 11:30 AM, a Graveside Service for both Bill and Mildred Smith will be held for friends and family at the Belleville Cemetery, Belleville, KS, with Lay Pastor, Deb Hadachek officiating. Interment will follow the services at Belleville Cemetery.

Memorials are suggested in Mildred's name to the Belleville Public Library, Belleville, KS.

Online condolences may be offered at www.bachelor-surber.com.

Bachelor-Surber Funeral Home, Belleville, KS, is assisting the family with arrangements.

Theresa Marie Baxa

Theresa Marie Baxa passed away on June 7, 2025, at the Mitchell County Hospital Resident Care Center in Beloit, KS. Her seven surviving children were all able to be at her side with their love and support.



Theresa was born on October 23, 1929, to Joseph G. and Catherine (L'Ecuyer) Kieffer in Clifton, KS. She was one of 11 children. At age 5, the family moved from the Clifton/Clyde area to Belleville, KS where Theresa attended school from grades 1 - 12. She had some vivid memories of the "dirty thirties" and the hard times of that era. In her high school years, she worked at her papa's store, "Sunflower Grocery." She learned the business, and she learned the art of working with the public.

After high school, Theresa married Alfonso J. Baxa on March 30, 1948. Al and Theresa made their home on the Baxa family farm near Wayne, KS. While living on the farm, they were blessed with 8 children. Theresa never had an idle moment as she worked raising the children, gardening, canning, raising chickens and doing the many chores associated with being a farmer's wife.

In 1962, "the year of the mud", Al and Theresa sold out the farm and moved to Randall, KS, where they purchased the grocery store from her papa, Joe Kieffer. This was not a new business for Theresa, and together with Al and all of their 8 children, they ran and operated Baxa Grocery until 1979. Theresa loved working with the people in the Randall community, and whether working alongside her at the grocery store or doing chores at home,

she taught her children the joy and value of hard work - making it fun and quick with her light-heartedness, laughter and love of singing. Her favorite bit of wisdom: "Many hands make light work."

Being active in the community of Randall was very important to Theresa. In the 1960's, she organized the Randall Boys Pee Wee baseball team. All of the boys of the area played, and all of the parents supported them. Everyone leaped for joy when they won State. She also helped plan and implement many community events such as the Bicentennial celebration and fundraisers for the tennis/ basketball court in the Randall Park. She was a past member of the Randall City Council. For many years she was an active member of the Randall Progressive Study Club.

In 1980, Theresa was proud to become a Certified Dietary Manager and ran the kitchen and dining services at Hilltop Lodge nursing home in Beloit, KS. She loved the employees she worked with, but most of all she loved the residents who were living their last days there. She was always bright and cheerful, smiling and talking to them each by name. "Work is love made visible." (Khalil Gibran)

Theresa moved from the family home in Randall to Beloit in 2002. Her volunteer work continued in the Beloit community where she helped at the Economy Shop, the Senior Center and the Mitchell County Historical Society. In 2008, Theresa was selected as the Mitchell County Lady of the Senior Fair.

Throughout her life, Theresa's love of God and His church were always top priority. She began singing and being part of CYO at St. Edwards in Belleville at a very young age. At St. Mary's in Jamestown she shared

her faith again through Altar Society, singing and teaching CCD. She was a parishioner of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church of Beloit and loved being able to walk across the street for daily mass and serving as a sacristan until she was no longer able. She led her family with her faith in God and proudly shared it with anyone she met.

Theresa is survived by her children: Annette (Butch) Burks, Jewell; Kathleen Jones, Randall; Jerry (Dotty), Salina; A.J. (Karlene), Beloit; Mark (Tami), Salina; Nicolas (Heike), Beloit; and Rebecca (Alan) Burcher, Kinsley; 23 grandchildren; 58 great grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren. She is also survived by her siblings: Marge Walker, Belleville; Dave (Tuni) Kieffer, Hartford, Indiana; and Marilyn Wilson, Wichita.

Theresa was preceded in death by her husband, Alfonso J Baxa, Sr.; her son and daughter-in-law, Daniel and Virginia Baxa; son-in-law, Jan Jones; and great grand-daughter Ashley Burks. Her siblings Fr. Bud, John, Mary, Anne, Tom, Judy and Jim also preceded her.

Funeral services will be at 10 AM Friday, June 13 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Beloit. Burial services will take place at St. Isadore's Cemetery in Cuba, KS at 2:30. A rosary service will be at 7 PM on Thursday, June 12 at the Roberts Family Funeral Home in Beloit. Visitation will also be on Thursday, June 12 from 1 PM until the rosary begins, with the family being present starting at 5 PM. Memorials may be given to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church of Beloit in care of Roberts Family Funeral Home.

Roberts Family Funeral Service is in charge of arrangements. Condolences may be left at www.robertsfamilyfs.com

Public Forum

Public Forum Policy: Writers must include their names for publication. Letters may be edited for space limitations. The opinions expressed here are those of the writer, and not of this publication.

Wind Turbines Affect Weather Patterns

Editor:

More research is proving true facts, answering the question: Why does rain approach the Jewell Co./Republic Co. line and the storms veer off north into Nebraska? Maybe this attached article is the reason?

An important question someone might ask: Is Trish Voth still getting \$14,000 to \$18,000 PER MONTH to advise representatives of Republic Co. to make decisions that benefit NextEra?

Understanding Wind Turbine Mechanics

At its core, a wind turbine is a sophisticated piece of machinery designed to convert kinetic energy from the wind into electrical energy. The blades of a turbine, usually three, capture the wind's energy and rotate, spinning a shaft connected to a generator. This process is efficient and environmentally friendly, but it also interacts with the atmosphere in unique ways. The rotation of the blades can disrupt local airflows, potentially altering weather patterns in the vicinity. The scale and impact of these changes depend on various factors, including the size of the turbine and the density of the wind farm.

Brenda K. Danielson
Belleville, KS

The slowdown threatens rural economies by halting the local jobs and long-term positions in operations and maintenance that new construction brings. Tax revenues from energy projects fund vital infrastructure and critical public services like schools, emergency services, and roads. In Iowa's Howard County, 147 wind turbines account for 14.5% of the county's total annual tax revenue.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, about 85% of U.S. farm households earned the majority of their income from off-farm sources. Hosting wind turbines or solar panels offers a stable source of income through lease payments, but the additional income is at risk if renewable energy development declines.

Rural economies have grown thanks to renewable energy development, but without continued investment, many communities will not be able to unlock those economic benefits.

Contact your congressional representatives. Tell them to support federal funding for renewable energy development and oppose tariffs that will affect future development in rural communities.

Mallory Tope, Policy Associate
Center For Rural Affairs

Tariffs Threaten Rural Economy

Editor:

Despite record-high wind and solar generation, the U.S. renewable energy sector faces uncertainty. Tariffs and potential repeals of federal funding are creating roadblocks to the further build-out of energy projects.

Wind, solar, and other renewable energy projects have helped revitalize rural communities by creating jobs, generating new tax revenues, and providing lease payments to landowners.

However, energy projects rely on globally sourced components due to the U.S. supply chain's inability to meet rising demand. To avoid tariffs, solar developers are stockpiling panels, but the impact is only delayed. Battery storage is critical for grid reliability and faces tariffs of up to 65%.

The rising costs are forcing companies to delay or cancel plans.

For example, the Plum Creek Wind Project in Minnesota was cleared for construction this fall, but the project developer, National Grid Renewables, has pressed pause due to escalating costs tied to tariffs.

William E. Smith

William E. (Bill) Smith, son of Claybourne Smith and Ruth (Carnine) Smith, was born on August 22, 1930, on a farm near Hartford, KS and died on April 26, 2025, at Republic County Hospital - ISB, Belleville, KS at the age of 94.

He received his education at Hartford High School, Newman Hospital School of Nursing, Washburn University and The University of Kansas City Dental School.

He married Mildred Davis on September 6, 1953 and they had three children.

The couple lived in Topeka, Kansas City, Belleville, and North Port, Florida, returning to Belleville in 2014.

Smith began a career as a registered nurse in



1950 and also served as an officer and registered nurse in the Kansas National Guard in Topeka. He and Mildred moved to Kansas City in 1952 where he continued a part-time nursing career while attending dental school at The University of Kansas City.

After attaining the Degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery in 1960, the family moved to Belleville, KS and started a dental practice. He became a Fellow in the Academy of General Dentistry in July 1984. He continued practicing dentistry until his retirement in 1993.

He was a member of the Belleville Presbyterian Church and the Venice Presbyterian Church in Venice, FL.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, sister, Arlene Benson; son, Jimmy; and his wife.

He is survived by daughter, Susan (Terry) Jelinek of Munden, KS; son, Steven (Ann) Smith of Lexington, NC; three grandchildren: Holly (Joe) Giammanco of Kansas

City, MO; Tegan (Mark) Wagner of Huntersville, NC; and Jadd Smith of Huntersville, NC; one great-granddaughter, and other relatives.

Cremation was selected. The family will greet friends from 10 AM until 11:30 AM on Saturday, June 14 at the Bachelor-Surber Funeral Home, 1322 19th Street, Belleville, KS. Following the greeting of friends, at approximately 11:30 AM, a Graveside Service for both Bill and Mildred Smith will be held for friends and family at the Belleville Cemetery, Belleville, KS, with Lay Pastor, Deb Hadachek officiating. Interment will follow the services at Belleville Cemetery.

Memorials are suggested in Bill's name to Republic County Hospital - ISB, 2420 G Street, Belleville, KS.

Online condolences at www.bachelor-surber.com

Bachelor-Surber Funeral Home, Belleville, KS is assisting the family with the arrangements.

PUBLIC NOTICE

First published in the Belleville Telescope, Thursday, June 12, 2025. IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF REPUBLIC COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of Curtis D. Tilton, deceased. Case No. RP- 2025-PR-000012

(Proceeding Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59) NOTICE OF HEARING THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition for Determination of Descent has been filed in this Court by Anita D. Abbott Tilton, Spouse of Curtis D. Tilton, deceased, requesting:

Descent be determined of the following described real estate situated in Republic County, Kansas: Northwest Quarter (NW¼) of Block Fifty-eight (58), in the Original Townsite

of Belleville, Kansas, except the South Five (5) feet thereof, according to the recorded Plat thereof.

and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by the Decedent at the time of death. And that such property and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by the decedent at the time of death be assigned pursuant to the laws of intestate succession.

Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 2021-PR-021, the hearing will be conducted remotely by Microsoft TEAMS, using computer or cell phone or the Cloud County Courthouse Community Computer. Parties must contact the Court at (785) 527-7234 within three (3) days prior to the hearing to be included and shall provide an email address to participate in the remote hearing. Participants in the

remote hearing shall abide by the Remote Hearing Procedures, a copy of which shall be emailed to the participants prior to the hearing.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on July 7, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. at the Republic County Courthouse, in the City of Belleville, Republic County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition. Anita D. Abbott Tilton, Petitioner

William "Ross" Van Horn Sup. Ct. 29756 CONDRAY, THOMPSON & VAN HORN, LLC 812 Washington Street Concordia, KS 66901 (785) 243-1357 FAX (785) 243-1359 Attorneys for Petitioner

Funeral Notice

Larry Charles Brunsilius

Larry Charles Brunsilius passed away on December 7, 2024.

Inurnment will be held on June 14, 2025 at Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Belleville at 11 a.m. Luncheon to follow at the 4-H Building in Belleville for fellowship with the family.

We, the specialty crop growers of Republic County, ask that those applying Dicamba products in our neighborhood be mindful of the potential harm Dicamba can inflict on our crops, which make up all or part of our livelihood. For information on crop location please go to Driftwatch.com or call

Dan Kuhn - 785-614-1339
Warren Sutton - 785-243-6853
Robert Nutsch - 785-275-1700
Kristy Shrader - 785-275-2216
Chris Janssen - 785-335-2611
Philip Meinecke - 785-262-7597