

~ AREA OBITUARIES ~

In Loving Memory of  
**NORMA JEAN BOSS**  
Oct. 8, 1941 – June 15, 2025

"Well done, good and faithful servant... Enter into the joy of your Lord." – Matthew 25:23



With heavy hearts and unwavering faith in the promise of eternal life, we announce the passing of Norma Jean (Hedges) Boss, a devoted wife, loving mother, hard-working woman of grace, and faithful servant of the Lord.

Norma was born on Oct. 8, 1941, in rural Severy, to her parents Clayton and Ruth (Morris) Hedges. She was raised with strong values and a commitment to family and hard work that would carry her throughout her life.

She graduated from Severy High School in 1959 and later married the love of her life, James Lee Boss. Together, they built a life rooted in devotion—to each other, to their children, and to the land they worked. Norma and Jim raised two children, James Lee Boss Jr. and Debra Lynn Boss, and spent many years side-by-side on the family dairy farm. In addition to her work on the farm, Norma was employed at Martin Marietta Rock Quarry, where she was known for her friendliness and dedication.

After the passing of her beloved husband Jim Boss in 2005, Norma moved to El Dorado, Kansas. There, she became a cherished member of the First Southern Baptist Church. Her church family brought her great joy and spiritual companionship, and she loved them dearly. Her faith continued to be a central part of her life and a source of peace and strength.

Her love for dancing reflected her fun-loving spirit. She also had a lifelong passion for perfectly polished nails and glitzy jewelry; she wore her style well and carried herself with grace and sparkle. She was known to have a sweet demeanor with a touch of sass.

She shared a special bond with her loyal companion, Odie, her beloved dog, who brought her comfort, laughter, and unconditional love.

She is survived by her son Jim Boss and his wife Vickie; her daughter Debi Boss; her grandchildren Mandy Lumbley and husband Justin; Tyler Boss and wife Heather, and Kayla Blaes and husband Andy. Norma had 7 great grand children, Wyatt, Liam, Charlotte, Tanner, Adeline, Landon and Stella, who lovingly called her "Grams." She was also loved many other family members and close friends.

A funeral service to honor Norma's life was held at the First Southern Baptist Church (200 Oil Hill Road, El Dorado), Saturday June 21, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., with burial to follow at Eureka Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the First Southern Baptist Church in El Dorado, and they may be left with or mailed to the funeral home. Online condolences may be left at [www.countrysidefh.com](http://www.countrysidefh.com). Services are under the direction of Countryside Funeral Home 420 S. 20th St., P.O. Box 247 Fredonia, KS 66736

May she rest in peace, and may her soul find joy in the arms of the Lord she so faithfully served.

**County Commissioners Discussed Push For Genasys Mass Notification System Enrollment**

After learning that just over 900 residents are enrolled with the Genasys Mass Notification System, Greenwood County Commissioners noted the need to increase enrollment during their most recent county commission meeting on Monday, June 23.

Levi Vinson with Emergency Management shared an update regarding increased involvement on the county's social media pages just one month after Social Media Manager Madison Morris took over the postings. Discussion then shifted to posting information regarding the Genasys Mass Notification System, a system Greenwood County utilizes in place of the CodeRed alerts. Vinson noted that approximately 2,500 residents were enrolled with CodeRed and those who haven't signed up for Genasys will not receive those notifications. Greenwood County Alerts is used to communicate public safety topics including severe weather, evacuations, local emergency notifications, etc. All residents are encouraged to sign up for alerts at <https://greenwoodks.genasys.com/portal/en>. During the

registration process, you can choose the types of alerts you receive and how to receive them, including landline phone, cell phone, text/SMS message and email.

During the registration process you have the ability to customize the order you wish to receive alerts. To receive targeted messages by location, you are encouraged to add your home address when registering. You can add multiple addresses, for example a home address and work address. The information entered into the system is for the purposes of communicating emergency and official county/city information only.

Vinson also shared information regarding to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics employment report, which showed Greenwood County as 100th out of 105 counties based on the lowest average weekly income. The highest

was Johnson County with an average weekly wage of \$1,490. Chautauqua was 105th with \$689. Greenwood County's average weekly wage was listed as \$756.

Greenwood County Appraiser Shawna Griffiths reviewed a contract with McCully & Associates, a mass appraisal consulting & services company. Griffiths noted they have utilized the services for several years and wished to continue, noting that this had been budgeted. The commission approved the contract in the amount of \$18,900 for the 2026 year.

The commission approved three employments; two for Road & Bridge, including full-time employee James Mills at \$20/hour and part-time employee John Plonka at \$17/hour; and one for the Appraiser's Office, Taelyn Huffman for Personal Property (Oil & Gas) at \$15/hour.

Brief discussions were held regarding drafting a payment tier system across the county, as well as creating lists of equipment for all departments and maintaining the list to note what is used/not used, need repairs or listed as a want.

Discussion was also held regarding the need to apply for various grants.

Greenwood County Counselor Paul Dean noted that he is still working to finalize the legal publication for the upcoming tax sale. He planned to meet with the Register of Deeds Office early this week to obtain the needed information.

The commission approved special payables totaling \$99,454.49; regular payables totaling \$200,757.64; and payroll totaling \$145,680.61.

The next Greenwood County Commission meeting is slated for Monday, June 30, at 9 a.m.

**Neal To Host 4th Of July Picnic and Parade**

On Friday, July 4, the Neal community will host their annual 4th of July picnic and parade, on Main Street, in Neal.

The annual picnic will be held at 6 p.m., at the community building, with the parade being held at 7 p.m. on Main Street.

Ice cream and cake will be served at the Neal Community Building after the parade.

All are welcome to attend.

All entries are welcome for the parade with line up being at the south end of Main Street at 6:45 p.m.

There will be live music on Main Street from 8-9 p.m. with fireworks following at dark.

**Parsons Murder Suspect Died . . . (Continued From Page 1) . . .**

After approaching the vehicle, Deputies observed McDonald inside of the vehicle; with a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Life saving measures were performed by Deputies on-scene, as well as Greenwood County EMS. McDonald succumbed to his injury on-scene. Parsons Police Department later arrived, and was provided with all evidence.

According to KAKE News, around 1:30 a.m. Saturday, Parsons police responded to a disturbance in the 1100 block of Richard Avenue. Multiple 911 callers reported hearing screams followed by two gunshots. Upon arrival, officers immediately

began speaking with witnesses and canvassing the area. Officers found a female dead from a gunshot wound. Preliminary investigations revealed that the incident was domestic in nature.

A witness, identified as the victim's son, reported that a violent altercation had taken place between his mother and her boyfriend, McDonald. The juvenile told officers that McDonald struck him in the head during the argument, prompting the victim to flee the residence. As she ran down the street, McDonald followed and fired two shots, one of

which fatally struck her.

Following the shooting, McDonald returned to the home, took the victim's car keys, and fled the scene in a white 2000 Cadillac Escalade.

McDonald, originally from the Kansas City area, had recently been residing in Parsons with the victim, and has had a history of domestic violence. On April 24, 2025, he was arrested on multiple charges, including Aggravated Domestic Battery, Aggravated Kidnapping, Criminal Threat, Criminal Damage to Property, and Endangering a Child. He was released on bond on May 15.

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