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"Our Family Serving Your Family for Generations"

**Hoe & Tell**  
 By Shirley Buller  
 "Master Gardner"  
 vsbuller60@gmail.com

This Christmas issue finds most of us deep in Christmas plans and hoping for clear highways and healthy people. We are navigating through a spell of stomach flu in the extended family and postponed our celebrations until the weekend after Christmas. The weatherman has promised us a day in the seventies and any Christmas coats will stay in the closet until later.

This Christmas finds our family celebrating more than usual, as we recall this important date in our family history. A hundred years ago on Christmas night, 1925, John and Anna (Penner) Muller stepped off the train at Ingalls Kansas, a journey that began in August, 1920, from the small farming village, Podolysk, Neu-Samara Colony in southeast Russia, near what is now Kazakhstan. Grandmother Elizabeth Penner's letters from Montezuma, Kansas, had planted seeds of hope several years before and the turmoil of the Russian Civil War that followed the Communist Revolution in 1917, prompted them to pack and flee. Grandfather John Muller, a German citizen spent three years in a Russian prison because he was German. After the Czars were shot, civil war raged, with several different groups all vying for control of a very large, disorganized country. Grandmother Anna writes in her journal "we had little strength and courage to work as the robber bands took away all we had and plundered and burned and murdered as they went through our village." They had already buried two children and would bury another one on the journey. Little did they know they would be homeless and hungry for five and half years as they waited for immigration papers from the United States. It took the Communists several years to organize and close the borders, and it was during this time that they could legally leave Russia, although the Communists made sure they would be penniless and destitute when they did.

With the help of the newly formed MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) and the German government that met them with open arms, they found themselves sheltered in refugee camps in Germany for the next five years. Anna's brother Jacob joined them in the Lager Lechfeld Camp and was able to get papers and money with the generosity of relatives in Montezuma and arrived in Montezuma several years before the Mullers immigrated.

The generosity of the Montezuma cousins, George and Susie Unruh, Jonas Unruh and Peter and Agnes Koehn families and friends Peter Voths and Loewens all made the adjustments to a new world and life a little easier. Grandma Anna writes "a very good lady teacher named Mrs. Hester Thomas had much patience with the children and it took not long before they could read, write and talk". John got his citizenship in the 1940's, Anna in the 50's and Rosie and Jake in 1981. Jake, John and Sarah's husband all served in the military in WW 2. This family has scattered through several states and I am the only direct descendant left in western Kansas.

**Legal Notices**

(First published in The Oakley Graphic on December 24, December 31, 2025 and January 7, 2026.)

be admitted to probate and record; that Jason Baalmann be appointed as Administrator and be granted Letters Testamentary without bond.

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF LOGAN COUNTY, KANSAS**

In the Matter of the Estate of DELORES DIANE LOCKHART f/k/a DELORES BAALMANN, Deceased

Case No. LG-2025-PR-000023

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on December 11, 2025 a Petition was filed in this court by the undersigned.

The Petition states that the undersigned is an heir, devisee and legatee named in the Last Will and Testament of the decedent dated January 31, 1997 and the Petition requests that the Will

All creditors of the above named decedent are notified to exhibit their demands against the estate within four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this Notice, as provided by law, or if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, 30 days after actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Jason Baalmann  
 Petitioner  
 Ken Eland, #12054  
 Attorney for Petitioner  
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**Movie Corner**  
 Visit our website at www.palacetheatreoakley.com.  
**David**  
 December 26, 27, 28  
 Runtime: 1 Hour 55 Minutes  
 Rated: PG

From his mother's songs to his clash with Goliath, David's journey from humble shepherd to anointed king tests the limits of faith, courage, and love-culminating in a battle for the soul of a kingdom.

**Sponsored By:**  
**United Christian Church**  
 Times: Friday @ 7:30,  
 Saturday @ 7:30, Sunday @ 7:00  
 Regular Admission

**Free Matinee ~ Jan. 1 @ 1:00PM**  
**Abominable - Rated PG**  
**Sponsored By: The Bank**  
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**Pull Off, Lights Out: KDOT, KHP Launch**

**Kansas dust storm safety campaign**

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) are launching a new safety campaign sharing safety guidance for western Kansas drivers traveling through areas with blowing dust and high winds.

A public service announcement (PSA) highlighting dangers in dust storms was created as part of the safety campaign. KDOT and KHP encourage media outlets, traffic safety partners and the public to share the PSA, which can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/DoDWPzY KRM>.

Dust storms often occur from December to April. The region's flat plains, open agricultural fields, ongoing drought conditions and strong wind patterns create an environment where hazardous dust storms can develop rapidly.

"In Kansas, a windy day can turn dangerous fast. Knowing how to react properly can save lives," said **Technical Trooper Tod Hileman**.

Drivers are urged to prioritize safety over speed when encountering high winds or sudden reduced visibility. The high winds can create sudden gusts and cause larger vehicles, including large trucks, RVs and trailers, to sway or lose control.

Blowing dust adds another layer of danger, with visibility capable of dropping to zero within seconds. These sudden "brownout" conditions increase the likelihood of multi-vehicle crashes.

"It's important to remember what to do in these situations, because these steps may be the difference between safety and disaster. We want the traveling public to be knowledgeable, so they can respond when visibility is low," said **KDOT Director of Safety Troy Whitworth**.

The Pull Off, Lights Out campaign outlines several critical safety steps for motorists involving dust storms, which include:

Avoid driving into or through a dust storm, if possible.

Do not wait until poor visibility makes it difficult to safely pull off the roadway — do it as soon as possible.

Turn on low beam headlights if you must drive through dust.

Never stop in a travel lane; look for a safe place to pull completely off the roadway and away from other vehicles.

Turn off all vehicle lights, including headlights and emergency flashers, while parked.

Set the emergency brake and take your foot off the brake pedal.

Stay in the vehicle with your seat belt buckled and wait for the visibility to clear.

Residents are encouraged to monitor local weather alerts and be aware of rapidly changing conditions throughout the region. For current road conditions and traffic information before you leave, visit [Kandrive.gov](http://Kandrive.gov) or call 511.

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**Kansas Press Association**

**Community Calendar**

Contact us  
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Hours Mon - Sat 10am-8pm Sunday Noon-5pm 127 Converse Ave Oakley - 785-671-1100	<b>Check out our every-day low prices!</b>	Holiday Hours Dec 24 - 10-5 Dec 25 - Closed New Years Day 10-6	24	25	26	27
28	<b>Brock Sloan Retirement Party</b> 4-6pm at Fick Fossil Museum	30	31	 1	2	3