

HELEN MARY SMITH

■ 1943 - 2025 ■

Helen Mary Smith, formerly of Plainville, passed away on April 26, 2025, at the Locust Grove Village Nursing Home in LaCrosse at the age of 81.

She was born on November 7, 1943, to Alde-more M. and MaryRose B. (Plante) Tremblay.

She was first married in 1959 to Kenneth Lee, who preceded her in death on May 15, 1982. She later married Patrick Thrasher, who passed away on April 5, 2014. On May 24, 1994, she married Larry Smith in Miami, Oklahoma, who survives her.

Helen grew up attend-ing schools in Damar and Plainville. Early in life, she worked as a waitress and Candy Stripper. She worked at Redbud Village doing laundry and housekeep-



ing, ran her own café in Bogue, and operated the K-18 Bar in Plainville.

Helen also helped paint houses and worked in farming, home health care, and even telemarketing.

Helen is survived by her husband, Lar-ry Smith of Plainville; two daughters, Patricia (Brandon) McDonald of Mankato, and Hope Smith of Norton; step-

daughters, Linda (Mike) McCulloch of Russell, and Terri (Len) Steinle of Russell; stepson, Marc Smith of Hays; 18 grand-children; 23 great-grand-children; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her two hus-bands, Kenneth and Pat-rick; two sons, Keith and Roger Lee; brother, Gil-ber-t Tremblay; and two sisters, Theresa Smith and Marian Tremblay.

A funeral was held on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., at the Naz-arene Church in Plain-ville. Burial followed at St. Joseph Catholic Cem-etery in Damar.

Memorials are sug-gested to the Church of the Nazarene and may be sent to Plumer-Over-lease Funeral Home, 320 SW 2nd, Plainville, KS 67663.

LONNIE KEITH

■ 1947 - 2025 ■

Former Plainville res-ident Lonnie Keith Wise of Russell passed away on February 8, 2025, at the Rooks County Health Center in Plainville at the age of 77.

He was born on June 15, 1947, to Norman Keith and Ietta Mae (Hrabe) Wise in Hays, Kansas. He married Kathy M. (Berens) Wise in Russell on September 29, 2018.

Lonnie grew up in Pla-инville, where he gradu-ated from Plainville High School in 1965. He was a maintenance technician at EnerSys battery plant and Cross Manufactur-ing, and worked as a farmer for many years.

Lonnie was an Ea-gle Scout. During high school, Lonnie held sev-eral offices in FFA. Lon-nie and his sister Joan were avid competitors in Fox Trot dancing. He was longtime member of



Alcoholics Anonymous

He is survived by his wife, Kathy Wise of Rus-sell; his children, Stepha-nie Berens of Ohio, Carey Wise of Olathe, Lanell (Steven) Bailey, Jeremi-ah Lumpkin of Wichita; siblings, Vickie (Jack) Ashbaugh of Hill City, Pat (Alvin) Mills-Har-ber-t of Warr Acres, Okla., and Fred (Val) Wise of Cheney; brothers-in-law, Jeff McIntyre of Florence, Ariz., Larry Berens (Vala-

rie) of Hot Springs, S.D., and Kevin Moren of, South Dakota; sisters-in-law, Cheryl (Tom) Lath-rop of Hot Springs, S.D., Julie Fleharty of Idaho; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Norman and Ietta Wise; step-son Joseph Bennett, stepdaughter Heath-er Berens, brother Rex Wise, and sister, Joan McIntyre.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, May 9, 2025, at 11 a.m., at the First Christian Church in Plainville.

Memorials are sug-gested to the American Red Cross and may be sent to Plumer-Overlease Funeral Home, 320 SW 2nd Plainville, Kansas 67663.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.plumerover-lease.com

DONALD “DON” WAYNE McLAUGHLIN

■ 1946 - 2025 ■

Donald “Don” Wayne McLaughlin, age 79, of Stockton, Kansas, peacefully passed away on April 28, 2025, at Smith County Memorial Hospital in Smith Center, Kansas.

He was born on April 22, 1946, in Concordia, Kansas, to Elmer Wayne and Thelma Evelyn (Donaldson) McLaugh-lin.

On August 7, 1966, Don married Mary Ann Fix, who tragical-ly passed away 11 days later. Finding love again, Don married Linda Lou Wagner on September 7, 1968, at St. Thom-as Catholic Church in Stockton. Together, they built a beautiful family, welcoming three daugh-ters: Diana, Laurie, and Dawn.

Don spent his ear-ly years in Farmington Township on Bow Creek in Rooks County, Kansas, where his family instilled strong values and a deep connection to the land. He attended West Rock-port Country School until the 5th grade, then he transitioned to Stockton Junior High School. In the spring, before graduating from Stockton High School in 1964, Don received the prestigious Star Farmer of Kansas award through Future Farmers of Amer-ica. He pursued higher education at Kansas State University for one year before returning to Stockton to dedicate his life to farming and cattle raising.

Throughout his life,



Don was deeply com-mitted to his community and prioritized giving back. He was an active member of the 4-H Youth Program, serving as the Rooks County Free Fair Sheep Superinten-dent and Livestock Sale Committee Chairman for many years. He served in numerous communi-ty roles, including being a member of the USD 271 School Board, State Young Farmers Office, chairman of the Rooks County Farm Bureau Council, City Commis-sioner, and a member of the Methodist Church. His contributions ex-tended to the Executive Board of Farm Manage-ment #5 and the Farmers Coop Board. Don was also known for spreading holiday cheer and de-lighting children as Santa Claus at the downtown Christmas event.

Left to cherish his memory are his beloved wife, Linda McLaughlin, of the home in Stockton; daughters, Diana (Gail) Strutt of Stockton, Laurie (Brian) Fritz of Tope-ka, and Dawn (Jerry)

Gerstenkorn of Mans-field, Texas; six grand-children: Bradley Strutt, Hayley (Stephen) Moll, Macey (Jackson Rebel) Strutt, Hannah (Clay-ton) Brummer, Ava Fritz, and Lily Gerstenkorn; four great-grandsons: Lincoln Moll, Theodore Moll, Sullivan Moll, and Beau Brummer; and Judy Schroeder, who was more like a sister than a cousin.

Don is preceded in death by his parents, Wayne and Thelma Mc-Laughlin; first wife, Mary Ann (Fix) McLaughlin; and his in-laws, Ralph and Philippa Wagner and Floyd and Mary Fix.

As we remember Don, we celebrate a remark-able man whose warmth, dedication, and integ-ri-ty touched the lives of many. He leaves behind a legacy of love, hard work, and community spirit that will forever resonate in the hearts of those who knew him.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Saturday, May 31, 2025, at 10 a.m., at the Stockton Church of Restoration. Inurnment will follow at the Stockton Cemetery. The family invites attend-ees to dress comfortably in casual attire.

Memorial contribu-tions are suggested to Rooks County Free Fair and may be sent to Plum-er-Overlease Funeral Home, 723 N. 1st, Stock-ton, KS 67669.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.plumeroverlease.com

LARRY L. CHAMBERS

■ 1938 - 2025 ■

Larry L. Chambers, age 86, of Rexford, passed away peacefully at his home on Tuesday, April 29, 2025.

He was born on June 12, 1938, in Colby, Kan-sas, to Herman Cham-bers and Lily Owens Chambers (later Plum-mer). He graduated from Levant High School in 1958 and proudly served in the U.S. Army, attend-ing basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missou-ri, and then serving at Fort Riley.

On February 27, 1960, Larry married the love of his life, D. Dorine Alle-man. They built their life together, raising three daughters: Dori, Dawn, and Larisa.

Larry had a diverse and dedicated work life—moving mo-bile homes, working in auto body repair and painting at Lyle’s Body Shop, serving as an insurance salesman and later as a district man-ager for Mutual of Omaha, and managing rental properties. Even after re-tirement, he continued to work, staying active



at Dillons and Comfort Inn.

A true handyman, Larry had a knack for fix-ing anything. He loved to “tinker”. He enjoyed working on cars, meticu-lously caring for his yard, planting trees, and tending to plants and he had many collec-tions. He loved music, which he listened to often, and even played the organ. He donated much of his time work-ing the sound system at the church. He was well known for his sense of humor, strong work ethic, and love for his grandchildren.

He was preceded in

death by his parents, Herman Chambers and Lily Plummer, and his beloved wife of 51 years, Dorine Chambers.

He is survived by his daughters Dori (Tim) Melia of Elkhart, Dawn (Tom) Stephens of Col-by, and LaRisa Cham-bers of Sacramento, Cal-if.; grandchildren, Kyle Custer of Elkhart, Kelly Escalara of Fountain, Colo., and Reed Ste-phens, Jill Stephens, and Grant Stephens of Colby; great-granddaughter Kamryn Escalara; his sister Anna Dean Ro-denbeck of Colby; along with many nieces, neph-ews, and friends.

Visitation was held on Monday, May 5, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. at Colby United Methodist Church, followed by the funeral service at 2:00 p.m. Burial was in Beu-lah Cemetery.

Memorial contribu-tions are suggested to the American Cancer Society and may be sent in care of Baalmann Mortuary, P.O. Box 391, Colby, KS 67701.

For online condolenc-es or more information, please visit baalman-nmortuary.com.



Measles Information from Dr. Beth Oller

As a doctor who has been in practice for 15 years, I have never seen a case of measles. Why? Because vaccines work.

Measles was declared eliminated in this coun-try in 2000, which is why many of us have never been infected or known

anyone with measles. Before the first measles vaccine was made avail-able in 1963, this sin-gle virus was responsi-ble for over 2.5 million deaths around the world each year. In the United States, there were 3-4 mil-lion cases of measles each year, resulting in 400 to 500 deaths. Most of these deaths were in children less than five years old or the elderly. Deaths are usually caused by pneu-monia (infection of the lungs) or infection of the brain (encephalitis).

It takes 95% of the pop-ulation to be vaccinated against measles to avoid



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
City of Garnett, Kansas, Comprehensive Plan

The City of Garnett requests proposals from qualified consultants or firms to review city comprehensive plan and develop a comprehensive plan for the City. The new, updated plan will provide vision, goals, objectives, and policies to guide the City's development and redevelopment for the next 20 to 25 years. The plan will guide the City Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission, staff, developers, property owners, and residents on the appropriate growth and redevelopment for the City. The updated plan will integrate all aspects of urban development, including demog-raphics, land use, public facilities and infrastructure, transportation, environmen-tal, and economic growth recommendations. A critical component of the plan will be setting a vision for the City's development and redevelopment, including areas in the City and possible annexation land. The vision component will need to analyze existing and future infrastructure needs and how technology will play a role in community outreach and City operations.

The qualified consultant will need to take a creative and innovative approach to reviewing the needs of the community, while obtaining public input about the plan. The planning process shall develop a comprehensive vision for the City, business opportunities, amenities and programs, as well as complement the recently-com-pleted parks plan.

SUBMITTAL DEADLINE
One (1) electronic copy in PDF format, in accordance with this RFP, will be ac-cepted **no later than 3:00 PM CST on May 30, 2025** and shall be submitted via the following email address: dwilson@garnettks.net

Full document and information are available at www.simplygarnett.com.

