

NEWS FROM
LOWELL TOWNSHIP

By Linda Melton

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We are a week away from graduation on Saturday, May 10, and Mother's Day on Sunday, May 11, as I write this on Sunday evening. Sunday afternoon is also the first Farmer's Market and Vendor's event. This event will be held on the second Sunday of the month in the Stockton Senior Center and its parking lot.

My new friend from Virginia, Nina Smith, received the Ash Rock book and is having a good time reading and reminiscing about the area and folks she knew growing up in Rooks County.

Steve and I were in Salina for a doctor's appointment

Thursday, saw evidence of good rains in ditches and ponds, and visited my brother and sister-in-law, Dale and Melva Stillwagon, at Bennington. We came home on Highway 24 and found the Circle Inn at Osborne destroyed, making way for a new Casey's convenience store and fuel station. They have made some smart location choices.

One of the little kittens will go to a good home and a loving eight-year-old girl. My niece, Kinzie Sharp, Leonardville, lost her cat and just had a birthday.

I am done trying to count up how many

"greats" to put with relatives. It makes me feel too old! My niece, Jordan Bartlett, was elected President of the Bennington FFA Chapter. My nephew, Cody Sharp, participated in the regional decathlon at Coffeyville over the weekend. Cody is a Cloud County Community College track team member and placed first in the 1500-meter race and first in javelin. He ranks seventh in the KJCC and second overall in the conference. I know I feel like a dwarf when I stand beside him.

My granddaughter, Daniele Melton, working at Exploration Place in Wichita, oversees the Sharks presentation. This place is a science and discovery center, and upcoming events are Barbie, Hands-On Harley-Davidson, and Ice Dinosaurs.

I read a notice stating that KSU Call Hall Dairy Bar will officially close on May 17, at 5 p.m. It will open up in the New Grain and Innovation Center; dates are pending. Call Hall ice cream is the best, which makes me sad. I was employed at Call Hall, and lunch many days consisted of cottage cheese, crackers, and ice cream at break times.

HPJ Live is an event sponsored by High Plains Journal set for Aug. 6-8 in Wichita at Century II Convention Center. It will incorporate past educational U events, including Cattle U, Alfalfa U, Sorghum Wheat U, and Soil Health U, with more than 100 exhibitors at a trade show. One of the many speakers will be Shannon Ferrell, a professor of ag law at Oklahoma State University, presenting "Five Steps Toward Your

PUBLIC NOTICE

N THE TWENTY THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
ROOKS COUNTY, KANSAS
PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF JAMES RICHARD RANDLE
Deceased.

Case No. RO-2025-PR-000008
(Petition Pursuant to K.S.A.
Chapter 59)

TITLE TO REAL ESTATE
INVOLVED

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO
ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified that on April 29, 2025, a Petition for Probate of Will and Issuance of Letters Testamentary under the Kansas Simplified Estates Act was filed in this Court by Petitioner, REBECCA LEE BARRIAULT, the Executor named in the "LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF JAMES RICHARD RANDLE", deceased, dated March 11, 2011, requesting that the instrument attached thereto be admitted to probate and record as the LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT of the decedent; and Letters Testamentary under the Kansas Simplified Estates Act be issued to Executor to serve without bond.

You are further advised under the provisions of the Kansas Simplified Estates Act the Court need not supervise administration of the Estate, and no notice of any action of the Executor or other proceedings in the administration will be given, except for notice of final settlement of decedent's estate.

You are further advised if written objections to simplified administration are filed with the Court, the Court may order that supervised administration ensue.

You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before June 3, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. in the Rooks County District Court, Rooks County Courthouse, 115 N Walnut Street, Stockton, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

Becky Barriault
Petitioner

/s/ Joshua A. Pollak
Joshua A. Pollak, #21699
Minter & Pollak, LC
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Wichita, KS 67202
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Attorney for Petitioner

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the above described leasehold interests are taken as the property of the Defendants as directed by said Order of Sale to be sold and will be sold without appraisalment to satisfy said Order of Sale.

Gary Knight,
Sheriff of Rooks County, Kansas

Michael J. Baxter #26459
JETER LAW FIRM, LLP
P.O. Box 128, Hays, KS 67601
785-628-8226
Attorney for Plaintiff

(First Published in the Stockton
Sentinel April 24, 2025,
May 1, 2025
and May 8, 2025—3tc)

Oil and Gas Lease, dated February 1, 2005, filed in Book 346, Page 73, from E. Kent and Bette Stamper to Posse Energy, Ltd., covering the following described Land in Rooks County, Kansas:

Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SE/4 NW/4) of Section Thirty-two (32), Township Eight (8) South, Range Seventeen (17) West of the 6th P.M., Rooks County, Kansas

Oil and Gas Lease, dated October 20, 1970, filed in Book 106, Page 88, from Emery J. Stamper, et al., to Black Petroleum, Inc., covering the following described Land in Rooks County, Kansas:

Sixty-five acre tract in the Northeast Quarter (65 ac in NE/4) of Section Thirty-two (32), Township Eight (8) South, Range Seventeen (17) West of the 6th P.M., Rooks County, Kansas

Oil and Gas Lease, dated December 3, 2007, filed in Book 380, Page 107, from E. Kent Stamper and Bette Stamper, et al., to Posse Energy, Ltd, covering the following described Land in Rooks County, Kansas:

Oil and Gas Lease, dated December 3, 2007, filed in Book 380, Page 110, from Diane Baxter, et al., to Posse Energy, Ltd, covering the following described Land in Rooks County, Kansas:

East Half of the Northeast Quarter (E/2 NE/4) of Section Thirty-one (31), Township Eight (8) South, Range Seventeen (17) West of the 6th P.M., Rooks County, Kansas

Oil and Gas Lease, dated October 11, 2005, filed in Book 353, Page 363, from Hester Stamper, et al., to Posse Energy, Ltd, covering the following described Land in Rooks County, Kansas:

North Half of the Southeast Quarter (N/2 SE/4) of Section Five (5), Township Eight (8) South, Range Seventeen (17) West of the 6th P.M., Rooks County, Kansas

Oil and Gas Lease, dated December 3, 2007, filed in Book 380, Page 98, from Hester Stamper, et al., to Posse Energy, Ltd, covering the following described Land in Rooks County, Kansas:

West Half of the Northeast Quarter (W/2 NE/4) of Section Five (5), Township Eight (8) South, Range Seventeen

Oil and Gas Lease, dated October 5, 1970, filed in Book 101, Page 222, from Emery J. Stamper, et al., to Black Petroleum, Inc., covering the following described Land in Rooks County, Kansas:

West Sixty acres of the Northeast Quarter (W 60 ac NE/4) of Section Thirty-two (32), Township Eight (8) South, Range Seventeen (17) West of the 6th P.M., Rooks County, Kansas

Oil and Gas Lease, dated December 11, 1970, filed in Book 102, Page 126, from Emery J. Stamper, et al., to Posse Energy, Ltd, covering the following described Land in Rooks County, Kansas:

South Half of the Southeast Quarter (S/2 SE/4) of Section Twenty-nine (29), Township Eight (8) South, Range Seventeen (17) West of the 6th P.M., Rooks County, Kansas

Oil and Gas Lease, dated July 10, 2002, filed in Book 322, Page 44, from E. Kent Stamper and Bette Stamper, to ATPC, covering the following described Land in Rooks County, Kansas

North Half of the Southeast Quarter (N/2 SE/4) of Section Twenty-nine (29), Township Eight (8) South, Range Seventeen (17) West of the 6th P.M., Rooks County, Kansas

Oil and Gas Lease, dated January 4, 1982, filed in Book 166, Page 147, from Forrest A. Stamper, et al., to Jerry Green, covering the following described Land in Rooks County, Kansas:

East Half of the Northeast Quarter (E/2 NE/4) of Section Five (5), Township Eight (8) South, Range Seventeen (17) West of the 6th P.M., Rooks County, Kansas

Oil and Gas Lease, dated December 3, 2007, filed in Book 380, Page 101 and Book 427, Page 199, from E. Kent Stamper, et al., to Posse Energy, Ltd, covering the following described Land in Rooks County, Kansas:

South Half of the Northwest Quarter (S/2 NW/4) of Section Five (5), Township Eight (8) South, Range Seventeen (17) West of the 6th P.M., Rooks County, Kansas

KANSAS KLIPS

Hays tattoo artist killed in Russell, wife injured, suspect arrested

HAYS—The Kansas Bureau of Investigation issued a news release on Friday, April 25th, stating that the Russell Police Department responded after a citizen called 911 to report a shooting. When officers arrived in the 800 block of East Second Street in Russell, they found 49-year-old Deborah Torres of Russell with apparent gunshot wounds. The press release said her husband, 49-year-old Robert Torres of Russell, was inside their home. When officers entered the house, they found Torres deceased in the living room from apparent gunshot wounds. The KBI statement said officers cleared the home and found no other individuals inside. Officers obtained information leading them to suspect 33-year-old Robert "Bobby" James Torres of Russell, who was allegedly responsible for the shootings, the press release said. Deputies from the Russell County Sheriff's Office located the suspect in the 2200 block of U.S. Highway 40 in Russell and took him into custody without incident. The press release said Bobby Torres was booked into the Russell County Jail on suspicion of first-degree murder and attempted murder. An autopsy will be conducted, according to the KBI press release. The investigation remains ongoing; all suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Debbie Torres was hospitalized with Robert and Debbie's niece, Crystal Damm, creating a GoFundMe stating Debbie is expected to make a full recovery. The fundraiser will help cover funeral and medical expenses. (Hays Post)

Bomb threat briefly closed Kansas Walgreens store

HARVEY COUNTY—The Walgreens at 1300 North Main Street was closed briefly on Friday morning, April 25th, after a bomb threat was called into the store, according to a statement from Newton Police. It was reportedly one of multiple similar threats in the state. Officers checked the store and determined the threat was not credible, and the store management made the decision to reopen it to the public. (Hays Post)

Attempted murder reported in Hays

ELLIS COUNTY—On Friday, April 25th, at approximately 11:21 a.m., officers were dispatched to a shots fired call in the 300 block of East 14th Street in Hays. The reporting party stated that Michael Neuwirth had fired a gun at her and her friend before fleeing the area in a blue Chevy Cruze. Officers responded to the scene and began searching the area. At about 11:26 a.m., officers received a report of a male running from a vehicle and between houses with a handgun in the 100 block of West 19th Street as officers moved into the area. Michael Neuwirth was contacted and taken into custody in the 300 block of West 21st Street without incident. Detectives from the Hays Police Department contacted the reporting party and verified that Michael Neuwirth was the only suspect involved in the incident. The suspect's firearm and vehicle were located minutes later. Michael J. Neuwirth, 27, is currently being held in the Ellis County Jail on the charge of attempted first-degree murder. He is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. This incident is still under investigation. (Hays Post)

Unlicensed Kansas daycare owner charged in baby's death

TOPEKA—A Barton County woman has been charged with first-degree murder in connection with the death of a four-month-old baby, Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach said on Thursday, April 24th. Christy Nemnich of Ellinwood was charged with one count of first-degree murder, two counts of child abuse, and one count of operating an unlicensed daycare in Barton County District Court in connection with the March 28th, 2023 death of an infant referred to in records as "M.R." The charges were filed by First Assistant Attorney General Megan Ahsens of Kobach's office. The Kansas Bureau of Investigation is investigating the case with the assistance of the Barton County Sheriff's Office. (KAKE)

Dogs rescued, more found dead in north central Kansas

JEWELL COUNTY—Law enforcement and animal rescue agencies assisted Jewell County Sheriff's Deputies in seizing multiple dogs at a residence in the rural community of Esbon on April 24th, according to a social media report from the sheriff's office. Authorities found the dogs in "unimaginable conditions," according to the Humane Society of Greater Kansas City. Dozens of other animals were already dead. The Humane Society of Greater Kansas City took in 40 of the dogs, and the Hutchinson Animal Shelter also took dogs. Authorities have not reported possible charges in the case. (Hays Post)

Farm's Future." Panel discussions will also be held. Early registration runs through May 25. For more information and scheduling, visit www.live.hpj.com.

As a girl growing up on the farm, I was always fascinated with those weird little dung beetles rolling their little balls. Rarely do I see them anymore. Recently, I read an article stating the importance of this insect in the decomposition process of animal waste. They work to bury and remove waste from the surface and bury it underground, which aids in soil fertility. Breaking down dung piles also assists with the suppression of livestock pests like flies. The article stated there are three types of beetles: dwellers, those living in the manure; tunnelers, those living under

the piles; and rollers, those that roll and move it. Healthy dung beetle populations can depend on range management, and rotational grazing favors their abundance. Insecticides are not helpful, and ear tags are less harmful to their population. They do not brood very many offspring each season. From this knowledge, I should be more respectful of these little creatures.

Beets are good for us, but I have never had much luck growing them in the garden. They are a cool-season crop, so they should be planted early in the spring and harvested when they are an inch or more in diameter. Larger beets or more mature ones have less sugar. We like pickled beets, so I usually buy a jar. Beet juice is marketed as a natural energy drink because it contains nitrates. They convert to nitric oxide, which relaxes blood vessels and improves blood flow. Beet juice is low in calories, high in fiber, and good sources of folate and vitamins A and K. My Mom would make cooked beets, and the following recipe is

similar to hers.

BEETS

Drain two 14.5 oz. cans of sliced beets and reserve one cup of liquid. Melt one tablespoon of butter and saute 1 tablespoon of chopped onion. Stir in 2 tablespoons of flour until blended. Add beet liquid slowly and bring to a boil. Cook for two minutes until thick. Stir in two tablespoons of vinegar and one tablespoon of sugar. Salt and pepper to taste and heat until warmed.

Why do people say "tuna fish" when they don't say "beef mammal" or "chicken bird?"

A banker and his friend are fishing when their boat hits a rock and sinks. The banker panics, screaming, "I can't swim!" His friend wraps an arm around him and tows him toward shore. But after 20 minutes, he becomes weary and asks, "Do you think you could float alone?" The banker shouts, "This is no time to ask that!"

Spotted on the back of an Amish horse-drawn carriage, this handwritten sign: "Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust."

sure to encounter with you. I've learned so much. The dedication and empathy that you have for your patients and patient care are of the highest quality. I just have words to express my appreciation to this staff, like you to work with, that are the best ever in my life and I've had a lot."

Billinger said that is why she came to RCH with VanDyke stating, "You people can move mountains if you want to."

Billinger responded, "With the right administration."

Jordyn Wilkens was the next person to speak. She said that as a community member who has just moved back, she realizes how important the hos-

SEE SPECIAL MEETING, 10A

SPECIAL MEETING

FROM 6A

tial," stated Billinger. She thanked Jeff for letting her have that autonomy, stopping in their office, and having lunch with them. She said she had worked in many different hospitals and doesn't know if she has ever seen that.

"It's more of a respectful situation, and I appreciate you a lot, and I recognize that you didn't need to do this." She continued, "And despite a result of whatever happens, more people are pulling for you than you realize."

Jeff said, "You are the greatest staff in the world that I have ever worked with and it's been a plea-

Todd J. Menzies
Executor

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