

GOP Women to hold meeting on Aug. 18

Staff report

The Leavenworth County Republican Women will meet Aug. 18 at 11:30 a.m. at the Heritage Center, 109 Delaware St., in Leavenworth. Guest speakers will be local school board and Leavenworth City Commission candidates. To reserve lunch (\$12 for members, \$15 for non-members) contact Linda Flanagan by Aug. 12 at lflanagan405@gmail.com or 913-240-4142.

WHAT’S HAPPENING

Saturday, Aug. 9

WHAT: Leavenworth Farmers Market
WHEN: 7 a.m. to noon
WHERE: Haymarket Square, 7th and Cherokee streets
DETAILS: Locally grown and sourced produce, baked goods, cheeses, cookies and more

WHAT: Tour and carousel ride
WHEN: 1-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday
WHERE: CW Parker Carousel Museum, 300 S. Esplanade St.
DETAILS: Watch a movie, take a self-guided tour of the museum and see artifacts of carnivals, five different carousels and many carousel horses from the 1800s. Ride the fastest carousel ever, made in Leavenworth in 1913. Fee is \$5.

WHAT: Farmer & Craft Market
WHEN: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
WHERE: 2705 155th St., Basehor
DETAILS: Family friendly market featuring fresh, homemade items

WHAT: 39th Annual Leavenworth Cruisers Car & Bike Show
WHEN: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
WHERE: Ray Miller Park, 4101 S. 4th St.
DETAILS: Free admission for the public. Registration for cars/trucks/bikes participating in the car show is \$25. The event will have raffles, giveaways, food trucks, vendors, music and more. All proceeds go to the Leavenworth community in the form of donations to area charities and high school student scholarships to attend college with automotive-themed course focus.

WHAT: Sis’ Sweets 30th Anniversary Celebration
WHEN: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
WHERE: Sis’ Sweets, 610 Cherokee St.
DETAILS: Cookies, ice cream, refreshments, photo booth, coloring contest, prizes and more

WHAT: 3rd Annual Duck Hunt
WHEN: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
WHERE: Downtown Leavenworth
DETAILS: Entry is \$65 per team with no refunds. Event will be held rain or shine. For tickets, visit First City Creative Duck Hunt online.

WHAT: Summerfest 2025
WHEN: 4-7 p.m.
WHERE: St. Lawrence Parish Hall, Easton
DETAILS: Socialize and share a chicken dinner. Mass will be celebrated at 5 p.m. at St. Lawrence. Activities will begin at 6 p.m. to include children’s games, silent auction, bingo and country store.

WHAT: Movie in the Park - “Wicked”
WHEN: 8:30-10:30 p.m.
WHERE: Miller Memorial Park, 32400 83rd St., De Soto
DETAILS: Free admission, popcorn and parking. Restrooms on-site. Dogs welcome (on a leash)

Monday, Aug. 11

WHAT: Open Board Game Day
WHEN: 6-9 p.m.
WHERE: Gator Games and Hobby, 720 Shawnee St.
DETAILS: Learn new board games or enjoy your favorite classics.
FOR MORE INFO: 913-682-0220

If you would like your event to appear in What’s Happening, email the information to tlawson@cherryroad.com.

Rodeo

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by boardroom agricultural elites than by the rains and changing seasons.

As I watched the rodeo, I felt that I was witnessing a spiritually neutered version of the American cowboy. The roping skills and horsemanship were still there, but the spiritual independence of the cowboy roaming across the plains had been stripped away by the business interests that now sponsored its commemoration.

In the end I have mixed emotions. On the one hand, the idea of American West shouldn’t be reduced to my romantic imagination. It was a brutal time of disease, genocide and hardship. But the spiritually barren landscape of corporate farming and parceled land offers poor consolation.

I find it hard to fault people for seeking pleasure and solace in their cultural heritage. I enjoyed seeing the smiling faces and the pleasure people clearly derived from the rodeo.

The spirit of the Wild West is not likely to be resurrected, especially when the economic forces preventing its resurrection are so robust. But what I hope for is an acknowledgment of where we stand in relation to the ideal and the forces that killed it. Doing that brings us far closer to the spirit of the cowboy than engaging in the fantasy that it still exists.

Sam Foglesong is a scholar of African Studies and a writer who lives in Hays.

ON THE AGENDA

- The Leavenworth Board of Education will have a special meeting and regular meeting Monday at the school district’s administrative office, 200 N. Fourth St. The special meeting will begin at 5 p.m. Board members will discuss goals. The regular meeting will begin at 6 p.m. Agenda items include a public hearing regarding the closing of the Nettie Hartnett Education Center, an executive session to discuss personnel, consideration of a board attorney, a state assessment and building needs assessment review, a school finance primer and review of budget information for publication.
- The Lansing Board of Education will meet at 6 p.m. Monday at the district office, 200 E. Mary St. Agenda items include a presentation about an enrollment and capacity analysis, a reinvestment housing incentive district resolution, a discussion about a state law concerning patriotic exercises in schools, baseball field lights, a Kansas Association of School Boards delegate assembly representative, a revised

AG

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I ask once again: Do we actually know that Kobach is a U.S. citizen? He might be one, sure. It even looks likely, based on his biography and multiple terms in public office. One assumes that Gov. Laura Kelly’s opposition research team would have ferreted out any scandals back in 2018.

But we don’t know for sure. I haven’t seen his birth certificate. He wrote a book about South Africa and studied overseas, at Oxford University in Great Britain. And notably, in his testimony supporting SB 254, he doesn’t make his U.S. citizenship absolutely clear. If that was a problem for Arroyo’s testimony — as McLaughlin suggested — surely it should be a red flag for Kobach’s.

Surely, sufficiently suspicious law enforcement officials would find reason to investigate, right? After all, they would just be asking for Kobach’s papers. That wouldn’t be a big deal, given that all of us carry around copies of our birth certificates at all times. It would sure be a relief for all of the rest of us to know that our attorney general is actually a citizen of the United States.

Kobach endorsed just this approach back in 2010. Then he was calling on President Barack Obama to release a detailed version of his birth certificate.

“It doesn’t have a doctor’s signature on it,” Kobach said, according to the Associated Press’ John Hanna. “Look, until a court says otherwise, I’m willing to accept that he’s a natural U.S. citizen. But I think it is a fair question: Why just not produce the long-form

Gerrymandered

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Lawrence out of Douglas County. This makes an ungainly district and puts the voters of Lawrence into a district where they are out of place.

To the east, it makes an oddly-shaped Second District, in which the northern part is connected to the rest by a narrow corridor that consists only of eastern Douglas County.

There were numerous court challenges, but ultimately the Kansas Supreme Court ruled that in most cases, the courts do not have jurisdiction over redistricting.

Disclosure: I served as an expert witness for the plaintiffs challenging the map in one of these cases.

The situation is even more complicated in Texas. Most of the Democratic districts the Texas Legislature seeks to eliminate are “majority minority” (majority non-white) districts, which have special protection due to the Voting Rights Act. These protections have been upheld recently by the U.S. Supreme Court. In addition, after the 2030 Census, Kansas may lose a district, while Texas stands to gain.

Gerrymandered district maps get complicated, and have unintended consequences. Just ask the Kansas Legislature.

Michael Smith is a college professor in Kansas.

Defendant sentenced to 48 years for kidnapping

Staff report

A Leavenworth man has been sentenced to more than 48 years in prison for kidnapping a teenage girl, according to a news release from the County Attorney’s Office.

Lajuan Sammie Louis Lowery, 38, was sentenced Wednesday in Leavenworth County District Court for aggravated kidnapping.

The crime occurred Aug. 14, 2024, in the area of 10th and Pottawatomie streets. The victim, a 16-year-old girl, was walking when Lowery grabbed her from behind and dragged her into an alley. The teen fought back and Lowery eventually fled the area, according to the news release.

Lowery was convicted of the kidnapping charge in April. Jurors acquitted him of an aggravated sexual battery charge.

During Lowery’s sentencing Wednesday, the judge denied defense motions including one seeking a new trial.

Lowery was sentenced to 586 months in prison, or 48 years and 10 months.

“This is one of the most terrifying situations anyone could imagine — a young girl walking home is suddenly grabbed by a stranger and dragged into an alley,” County Attorney Todd Thompson said in the news release. “Her courage in fighting back and calling for help was extraordinary — and it likely saved her life.”

Lowery was on parole at the time of the kidnapping, according to the news release.

According to a Kansas Department of Corrections website, Lowery has prior convictions in Leavenworth County for theft, battery against a law enforcement officer, battery against a judge and obstructing a legal process.



Lajuan Lowery

school calendar, a security update and an executive session to discuss personnel.

- The Basehor-Linwood Board of Education will meet at 6 p.m. Monday at the district office, 2008 N. 155th St. Agenda items include a bond issue update, budget information, an update about chronic absenteeism, selection of a voting delegate for a Kansas Association of School Boards conference, inclement weather days, a design process for tennis courts, a board vacancy resolution and an executive session to discuss personnel.

birth certificate?”

If you have read through all the above and think I’m full of it, fair.

But if you believe that Arroyo and Kobach are clearly different, that asking for papers from one makes sense while asking for papers from the other sounds silly, ask yourself why. One elected official enjoys the benefit of the doubt. The other elected official doesn’t.

One will go to the office tomorrow and never have to wonder about being racially profiled. He will enjoy institutional support from his state and party.

The other official will face uncertainty and fear, the knowledge that earning citizenship and winning office the “right way” counts for nothing when an anonymous message can threaten her livelihood.

Clay Wirestone is Kansas Reflector opinion editor.

Obituaries

DEBORAH WILLIAMS

Deborah Williams passed away on August 4, 2025. Celebration of Life Visitation will be held on Friday, August 15, 2025 from 5 to 7 P.M. at Davis Funeral Chapel.

DORREAN KRASNICAN

Dorrean (Odle) Krasnican, 87, passed away, Saturday, July, 19, 2025, at Stormont Vail Hospital in Topeka, Kan., with her family by her side.

Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Friday, August 15, 2025, at R.L. Leintz Funeral Home. Inurnment will follow at 12:30 p.m. Friday at Leavenworth National Cemetery.

IMOGENE HODGES

Margaret Imogene Hodges was born in Leavenworth, Kansas on October 21, 1939 to Cary (Tad) and Elizabeth (Libby) May Boyd. She attended Leavenworth schools, where she met Byron Hodges. They married June 14,1958 and had 67 wonderful years together. Imogene passed from this life on August 6, 2025. She was 85 years old. The family will greet friends from 5-7:00 P.M. Monday, August 11, 2025 at the Mercer Funeral Home in Valley Falls, KS. A private family interment will follow at the Valley Falls Cemetery. The family will have a Memorial Service at the First Baptist Church, 340 N. 13th Street, Leavenworth, KS 66048 at 4:00 P.M. Tuesday, August 12, 2025. For a full obituary and to leave the family a condolence, please visit www.mercerfuneralhomes.com



JAMES LEBAR

James W. LeBar, 92, passed away peacefully at home in Milan, Mich, on July 7, 2025. He taught school for 33+ years, finishing his career teaching science and head golf coach at Leavenworth Sr. High for 25+ years. He was preceded in death by his parents George and Dorothy, his wife Mary Beth, his second wife Sandra and two brothers. He is survived by his daughter Janae’ of Milan, two sons, Jon of Leavenworth and Jeff (Angie) of Springfield, Mo., a brother, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held on September 27 from 2 - 5 p.m. at Coaches, 9089 W. 135th St., Overland Park, Kan.

NANCY HARRIS

Nancy A. Harris, 80, passed away on Wednesday, August 6, 2025 at the Primrose Retirement Community of KC.

Visitation will be Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at Belden Larkin from 9:30 to 11am. Funeral service will follow at 11:00 am at the funeral home chapel. Burial will be at Mt Bethel cemetery, Weston MO.



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