

SOCIETY

# A long tradition: County fair approaching in Meadowlark

**by Heather Roenne  
District 4-H Agent  
Meadowlark Extension**  
It's fair time! The county fair is an opportunity for communities to come together. It doesn't matter if it is a small fair or a large fair, it is the people who matter.



Heather Roenne

In my world, the county fair is a place to have youth showcase their projects, largely through 4-H or FFA. It is where they can have their efforts be rewarded and show growth from the past year. As a spectator, I love to delight in the entries on display. One truth about county fairs is that all the entries mark effort and learning. The ribbon is just that: a ribbon. It is important to remember that success for one does not mean failure for another. The county fair is a place where all accomplishments are recognized.

A simple county fair ties the past to the present and provides hope for the future. It is amazing to reflect on the collective memories of county fairs. Everyone can relate to the hot days walking through the barns and seeing that one goat contorted to nibble hay from a side stall or youth with red snow cones after the bucket calf show just before the parade.

On parade night, people line the edges of the streets in small towns to watch the display of community roll by. I enjoy it when the 4-H'ers come through on horseback with flags raised. The crowd automatically stands, removes cover, and smiles with patri-

tism as the flags pass. This is the county fair.

There are little children scrambling along the curbs collecting Dum-Dums and Tootsie Rolls that were tossed from a community float. The pee-wee football team float is always full of young boys in uniform, laughing and waving on square hay bales being pulled by a team dad.

There are all sorts of community groups, mainly comprised of volunteers, enjoying the evening and trying to help bring communities together for the benefit of everyone. Parade nights usually end with watermelon and bingo provided by the Lions or Kiwanis Club.

Another key event at the county fair is the livestock sale on the final night. This is an exciting time, a social time, and a poignant time. I remember my

See Fair Page 8

## Ozawkie Rural HS holds alumni reunion

The Ozawkie Rural High School met June 7 at the Ozawkie Township community center in Ozawkie. Lunch was served by Oakley Creek of Lecompton. Officers made pies. Others brought cake and cookies. Invocation was prayed by Danny Adams. The oldest class represented in attendance was 1950 with classmates Wayne McNary and Bill Adams.

A total of 33 graduates attended along with 27 guests, including vice president Sherry Seifert; secretaries Nancy Brunton and Carole Moore; and treasurer, Carole Moore.

Alumni attendees and their families:

1950: Wayne McNary, Mike McNary, Bill Adams

1951: Donna Bigham Stephens

1953: Veva McNary Ortiz, Delvis Steffey, Eva Jeanne Steffey, Charles McMullen, Norma McMullen

1955: Donna O'Trimble Bates, Nelda Herring McMullan and daughter Beth

1957: Carole Hesse Moore, Dan Moore, Nancy Kramer Brunton

1958: Meril Don Vanderpool, Sonia Cordova, Barbara Swinney Ballou, Donna Adams Cummings, Max Brunton

1959: Larry Knudsen, Ruth Edwards Brey

1960: Pat Swinney Scott, Darlene May Knudsen, Danny Adams, Donna Adams, Carol Waters Drummond, Jady Smith, Clifford Darrow, Martha Darrow, Dan Darrow, Kristine Thompson, Mary Jane Bigham Hoffer

1961: Rose Heston Corum, Roy Corum

1962: Henry Richter, Carol Richter, Ron Jared, Melinda Jared, Isaac Jared

1963: Dale Brunton, Patty May Brunton, Randy Scott, Sherry Spielman Seifert, Diane Nunamaker Gates, Buddy Nunamaker, Sherry Gates

1964: Ralph Johnston, Marcia Johnston

Friends attending: Kathryn Zwygart, Stella Aguliar, Debbie Troutman, Geraldine Kuntz Andrews, Kathy Guarino, Julie Durand, Jamie Durand, Ellen Durand, Ron Harper, Bill Kramer, and Les Brunton.

It seems everyone in old Ozawkie had nicknames. Donna Stephens reminded the group of many of them. Julie and Jamie Durand are commended for making the reunion a success. The committee for next year is: president DarylRene Ellis, vice president Sherry Seifert, secretaries Carole Moore and Nancy Brunton, and treasurer Carole Moore. Next year's reunion will be June 6, 2026.

—Nancy Brunton, reporter

### PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Oskaloosa Independent June 19, 26, and July 3, 2025)3t

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, KANSAS

Pursuant to KSA Chapter 59 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: Helen Louise Smith, Deceased Case No. JF-2025-PR-000025

**NOTICE OF HEARING** THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed on June 12, 2025, in this Court by John Kabus, as a person interested in the estate of Helen Louise Smith, deceased, requesting: Descent be determined of the following described real estate situated in Jefferson County, Kansas:

Lot One (1), in Block "E", in Wind-N-Wave Estates, a subdivision in Jefferson County, Kansas, according to the recorded plat thereof, and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by decedent at the time of death. And that such property and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by the decedent at the time of death be assigned pursuant to the laws of intestate succession. You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before July 18, 2025, at 8:30 a.m., in said court, in the Jefferson County, 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.

John Kabus  
Petitioner

PREPARED AND APPROVED BY:  
Werring Law, LLC  
Andrew E. Werring, #22184  
Attorney for Petitioner  
110 N. 5th Street  
Atchison, KS 66002  
P: 913-367-2424  
F: 913-367-7017  
E: andrew@werringlaw.com

## OBITUARIES

### DONNA KAMPFER

Donna Joanne (Terry) Kampfer, beloved mother, grandmother, daughter, and sister, passed away peacefully and surrounded by loved ones, on June 15, 2025, at the age of 79. Her life was a testament to the love and joy she gave and received, especially from her close-knit family.

A longtime resident of McLouth, Kansas, Donna was full of kindness, fun and unwavering support to those she loved. She retired after 31 years of hard work and friendship from Hallmark Cards. Retirement didn't slow her down—instead, she embraced a new chapter with her usual energy and optimism. As part of a physical therapy routine, she discovered a passion for swimming and soon became a senior citizens' aerobic swim instructor, where she found not only strength but lasting friendships.

Donna's heart was fullest

when she was with her family. She was the center of their lives—the one who cheered the loudest for her kids and grandkids and welcomed everyone with open arms and an open heart. Her daughters, lovingly known as "Donna's girls," and her grandchildren were her greatest joys. Her face lit up at holidays, family dinners, and everyday moments which she enjoyed until her last breath.

While living in a retirement community in Lawrence, Donna found joy in simple pleasures—tending to flower arrangements, caring for the goldfish pond, and sharing laughs with friends. Her nurturing spirit and vibrant personality left a lasting mark on everyone she met.

She was preceded in death by her loving parents, Anna Mae (Williams) and Dewey Basil Terry; and her siblings, Lyla (Milt) George, Rita (Jack) Johnson, Cecil (Helen) Terry, Frank (Juanita) Terry, and Delbert (Joyce) Terry.

She is survived by her brother, Jerry Terry of McLouth, who

remained a steady presence in her life.

Donna is survived by her daughters, Kim (Rick) Hochar of McLouth, Karen (Ben) Pierron of Topeka, and Kelly Schneider of Leavenworth. Her legacy lives on through her seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Her life will be honored at a memorial service at the First Baptist Church of McLouth, Kansas, on July 17, 2025, at 6 p.m., followed by a celebration of life. A private interment will take place at a later date.

"Donna's girls" extend their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who lifted their mother in prayer, visited, or reached out with love and kindness during her final days. Donna felt deeply comforted and profoundly loved.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Donna's name to the McLouth Public Library or the First Baptist Church of McLouth—places that reflect her values of learning, faith, and community.

*Paid obituary*

### BRUCE BONEBRAKE

Bruce Rene Bonebrake passed away June 11, 2025, after a short illness.

He was born in Kechi, Kansas, to the Rev. Boyd and Mary Ann Bonebrake September 27, 1951. Bruce was welcomed into the family by older brother, Steve.

They later welcomed Brent and Marcia. The Bonebrake family moved frequently, but landed in Kinsley, Kansas, for Bruce's high school years where he graduated in 1969. He attended the University of Kansas and in his summers was a camp counselor at White Memorial Church Camp in Council Grove, Kansas.

One summer, after camp, he went home to Emporia with a buddy and agreed to a blind date where he met his soon-to-be wife, Carol Ruth Hall. They celebrated 54 years together in May, just before he passed away.

Bruce owned rental properties in Lawrence and Topeka and managed those for many years along with joining several Flickinger uncles and his brother, Brent, in making walking sticks and hiking staffs, and selling them at renaissance and other summer festivals. Bruce planted more than 100 trees at their country place and loved his gardening and Kansas basketball.

He is survived by his wife, Carol; his brothers, Steve (Marilyn) and Brent; sister, Marcia (Don); son, Matthew; daughter, Laura (Josh); and several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Cremation care is planned. Bruce grew up playing on the Arkansas River just outside Kinsley. His ashes will be scattered on the Kaw, another favored waterway.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Arbor Day Foundation, 211 N. 12th St., Lincoln, NE 68508 or the Nature Conservancy, 4245 North

Fairfax Dr., Suite 100, Arlington, VA 22203-1606. Barnett Family Funeral Home/Jefferson County Crematory of Oskaloosa, Kansas, is assisting the family.

barnettfamilyfh.com  
*Paid obituary*

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## ODDS AND ENDS

- Valdosta State University, Georgia, congratulates Rebekah Ballast, Oskaloosa, for earning a spot on the spring 2025 dean's list.
- To qualify for the dean's list at VSU, students must achieve a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher on nine or more semester hours with an institutional grade point average of 3.0 or higher.
- Mount Mercy University congratulates the following May 2025 graduates: Ellie Stember, Bachelor of Business Administration, Summa Cum Laude, Oskaloosa.

**K-STATE** Research and Extension Meadowlark District

www.meadowlark.ksu.edu  
https://www.facebook.com/MeadowlarkExtensionDistrict

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Medicare Consulting—Any Date—Any time, call for appointment—Holton, Oskaloosa, Seneca—Cost: FREE

Farm to Fork Festival—June 28—3:00-10:00 PM—605 Cedar St., Perry—Cost: FREE

District Offices closed for 4th of July holiday—July 4

Jefferson County 4-H County-wide Blood Drive—July 7—:00-5:00 PM—Delaware Township Hall, Valley Falls—Registration optional.

Stay Strong, Stay Healthy—July 22-Sept. 18 (Tues. and Thurs.—16 sessions)—10:30-11:30 AM—Seneca—Cost: \$20—Registration required

Walk with Ease—Aug. 4-Sept. 17 (Mon. and Wed.)—10:00-11:00 AM—Valley Falls—Cost: FREE—Registration required

District Offices closed for Labor Day—September 1

Extension Master Gardener Training—September 4-December 4 (Thursdays) - 1:00-4:00 PM—Zoom—Cost: \$60—Registration required

Matter of Balance—Oct. 1-Nov. 24 (Weds. & last one on Mon.) - 1:00-3:00 PM—Grantville United Methodist Church—Cost: FREE

**County Fairs**

For more information, please go to https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/

**Jackson County**—July 14-18—NE Kansas Heritage Complex—12200 214th Rd., Holton—Cost: Free  
Carnival—July 15-19—rides start at 5:30 PM—NE Kansas Heritage Complex—12200 214th Rd., Holton—Cost: Purchase tickets for rides

**Nemaha County**—July 24-28—1500 Community Dr., Seneca—Cost: Free

**Jefferson County Fair**—July 28-31—Jefferson County Fair Grounds—605 Ratz, Valley Falls — Cost: Free

Contact your local Meadowlark Extension District office for more information:  
Monday through Friday, 8:00-12:00, 12:30-4:30

Holton Office 114 W 5th St. 785-364-4125	Oskaloosa Office 100 E Washington 785-463-2212	Seneca Office 1615 Branch St. 785-336-2184
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## WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE

that

**Wyatt E. Burk**  
of Jefferson County North High School  
and

**Lillyan R. Lloyd**  
of Valley Falls High School

are the 2025 recipients of \$500 Kendall Bank Scholarships

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Wyatt E. Burk

Lillyan R. Lloyd

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