

Obituaries

MARIE L. WEDEL

Marie L. Wedel, 102, of Moundridge, Kansas, passed away on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at Pine Village.

She was born on June 20, 1923, in Elyria, Kansas, to Joe D.C. and Matilda (Zerger) Goering. She graduated from McPherson High School and later attended McPherson College.

Marie was united in marriage to Homer Wedel on September 22, 1944, in Moundridge. He preceded her in death on June 23, 2014.



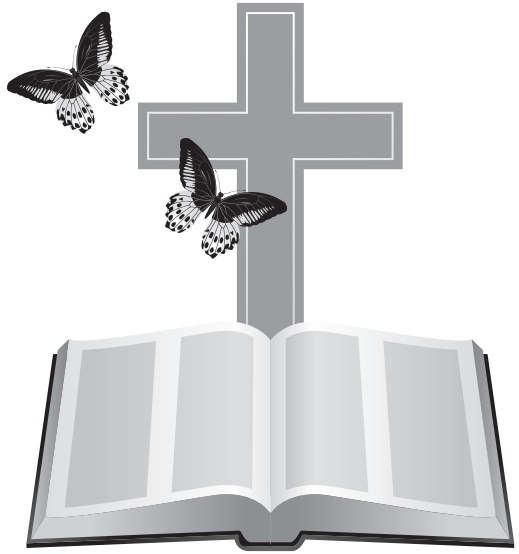
She was a lifelong member of Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge. Marie worked 21 years as District Secretary and School Board Clerk for USD 423, retiring in 1988.

She is survived by her son, Frank (Susan) Wedel of Leoti; daughter, Carla Shilts of Moundridge; seven grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Marie was preceded in death by her parents, husband, son-in-law, and great-granddaughter.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m., Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at Eden Mennonite Church. Services will be livestreamed at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84325604562?pwd=rZQZhawCHQHbXY1Yn2AIUtKi8vhhK3.1>, Meeting ID: 843 2560 4562, Passcode: 536457.

A private family burial will be held in the church cemetery. Friends may call from 3 to 8 p.m., Tuesday, September 30, at Moundridge Funeral Home, with family present from 6 to 8 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) in care of Moundridge Funeral Home, PO Box 410, Moundridge, KS 67107.



*When the cares of my heart are many,
your consolations cheer my soul.*

Psalms 94:19

HELEN LOUISE PFEIFFER

Helen Louise (Harvey) Pfeiffer, 94, a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, in her home in Wichita, Kansas, surrounded by her loving family.

Helen was the first of two children born to Harold Harvey and Josephine Lois (Edmonston Harvey) Spangler on November 5, 1930, at the Harvey farm outside Protection, Kansas.



The family moved to California in 1933, residing in the LA suburbs of Pico and Whittier. Helen loved her years in California, often recalling watching movies in iconic theaters, spending time with friends at Knott's Berry Farm, and riding the carousel at the pier. When Helen was in 8th grade, her family moved back to Protection, Kansas, while she stayed in California to finish the school year.

After graduating from Ranchito Elementary, she boarded a train to travel to Kansas by herself, where she joined her family. She graduated from Protection High School in 1950. Helen married the love of her life, Glenn Pfeiffer, on June 30, 1951. The couple lived in many western Kansas towns through Glenn's work with Southwestern Bell until they eventually settled in Bucklin, Kansas, in 1965.

In Bucklin, they raised their family, developed many friendships, and were deeply involved in the Free Methodist Church. Helen loved to teach bible stories to children and was a regular Sunday school teacher. The couple moved to Newton, Kansas, in 2005, and became involved in the Newton Christian Church, Asbury Park, and the Newton Senior Center. They eventually moved to Wichita, KS, where they made special memories with their children and grandchildren.

Helen dedicated her life to creating a warm and nurturing home for her husband of almost 70 years and their four children. Helen's greatest joy came from spending time with her family. She loved her grandchildren and great-grandchildren deeply. Helen loved to travel with Glenn in their motor home and on bus tours, visiting 46 US states, Mexico, and Canada. Helen also enjoyed watching KU basketball, playing games like bingo and Phase 10, and doing puzzles.

Helen was preceded in death by her loving husband, Glenn, on May 6, 2021. She was also preceded in death by her father and mother, stepfather Clifford Spangler, brother Jesse Wayne Harvey, and two cherished sons, Glenn Lee Pfeiffer and Lloyd Gene Pfeiffer.

She is survived by two daughters: Dixie and husband Mike York of Greenwood, Indiana and Debbie and husband Tim Graber of Wichita, Kansas; and grandchildren Michael (Sara) York, Brandon (Allison) York, Lauren (Caleb) Zogleman, Jonathan Graber and Matthew Graber, and 5 great grandchildren- Gunnar and Sawyer York, Alexa and Skylar York, and Silas Zogleman.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Protection Christian Church in care of Broadway Mortuary, 1147 S. Broadway, Wichita, KS 67211.

Events calendar

Have an event to add? Send like information to news@thekansan.com.

Sept. 27
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. — Kids Art Carnival by Carriage Factory Gallery, 128 E 6th St.
11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. — Harvey County United Way Chili Cookoff, 100 block of East Sixth Street. Advance tickets = \$5, At the Gate = \$8.

Oct. 2
Taste of Newton, Downtown

Oct. 3
4 to 9 p.m. — Oct-soberfest, Billy Simms Barbecue, 1414 N. Main.
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. — Newton High School homecoming parade. First Street from Meridian to Grandview and Grandview from First to Second Street.

Oct. 4
8 to 9 a.m. — First Saturday Bird Walk, Kauffman Museum, 2801 N. Main.
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. — Kansas Barn Sale, Riverside Park, Halstead. Art, antiques, junk, vintage, and artisan made goods all in one fun Fall festival!

Oct. 5
2 to 3 p.m. — Harvey County Life Chain, Ninth and Main.
4 p.m. — Live music: The Last Revel, Prairie Window Concert Series, Prairie Pavilion, Dyck Arboretum of the Plains, 177 W Hickory St, Hesston. Tickets \$35 adults, \$25 children by reservation at <https://dyckarboretum.org/arboretum-event/the-last-revel/> or by calling (620) 327-8127.

Oct. 8
9:30 a.m.—“Peace Work in Chicago,” Mark Frey, finance manager/administrative coordinator, Community Peacemaker Teams, Chicago, Bethel College Life Enrichment, Krehbiel Auditorium, Bethel College, 300 E 27th Street, North Newton. Cost: \$40 per semester or \$4 per week.
10:50 a.m. — “Indigenous Residential Schools in Canada,” Dr. Trent Voth, Bethel College assistant professor of Bible and religion, Bethel College Life Enrichment, Bethel College Mennonite Church sanctuary 2600 College Ave., North Newton. Cost: \$40 per semester or \$4 per week.

that need to be taken and qualify for that income range.”

The survey will be citywide because the park's primary daily user is Santa Fe 5/6 center, meaning use is by students from all over the city. The park also hosts a youth baseball league operated by the Rec Commission.

A consulting firm has been retained to “help them solidify that income status.” That survey can be used for several applications.

Timing is important, as the CDBG program is fully funded for this year, though next year funding has been cut by about 40 percent.

“Nothing changes [for Newton] other than the bucket of money you apply for. ... It makes it much more competitive,” Rivas said.

A new memorandum of understanding between the Recreation Commission, Board of Education and the city — partners in the project — is needed to pursue the CDBG grant.

Rivas said the financial commitment of the city remains unchanged, as the foundation is expected to pay engineering fees even if the city instigates the engineering plans.

There have been verbal agreements rendered, with final votes coming in October. The city will host a public hearing concerning the MOU and the CDBG grant during an city commission meeting, tentatively scheduled for Oct. 14.

The City's last CDBG funding of this kind was in 2001 for the renovation of Lincoln School into apartments.

Private fundraising efforts for renovations and improvements to Themian Park, one of Newton's oldest parks, have reached a bit of a milestone.

In July it was announced efforts primarily hosted by the Railer Foundation hit \$85,000. Combined with \$100,000 pledged by the Newton Recreation Commission and ongoing grant work by the Central Kansas Community Foundation, members of a steering committee discussed last week taking some next steps.

“We need to get engineering plans to the city so they can sign off on them,” said Brian Bascue, superitnedent of the NRC. “We can start piecing the project together. We talked about, instead of doing three phases, doing smaller projects and letting the public know that there is movement.”

The project, launched by The Railer Foundation last year, is expected to cost around \$1.7 million while adding pickleball, soccer, baseball and restroom facilities to the park while expanding parking across the street on land owned by the school district.

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The rec commission committed funds for the pickleball courts, leaving the foundation to fundraise for the other improvements being sought for the park.

Phase 2 of the project will be sidewalks, soccer field & baseball field improvements. Phase 3 will be an open shelter building and parking lot improvements.

The expectation is the launch one phase a year for three consecutive years.

FUNDRAISING

From A1

increase giving for the month.

“We had a very good month,” said Joel Smith, a member of the Railer Foundation fundraising team. “... I like where we are at.”

As of Sept. 25 the foundation had raised \$35,000 during the month — which will be matched up to 50 percent at month end by the Patterson Family Foundation.

That same day the Railer Foundation had \$105,000 in donations sitting in the bank, along with a commitment from the Rec Commission to support pickle ball courts at a \$100,000 level.

This month there has also been a move to pursue a Community Development Block Grant through the Kansas Department of Commerce. The CDBG program provides funding for projects that help low- to moderate-income neighborhoods.

“It would pretty much complete, from what we see as far as the numbers go, and this is rough estimate, it would get us to be able to complete phase I and still have some left over to start really getting into Phase II as well,” Cook said.

Smith estimated the first phase at about \$750,000 of the about \$1.6 million overall project.

“I think [the CDBG grant] is our best shot to get things moving quickly,” Smith said.

In February, the City Commission approved an interlocal agreement with Newton Public Schools, Newton Recreation Commission, and the Railer Foundation for a volunteer-driven \$1.8 million revitalization at Themian Park. The plan includes pickle ball courts, basketball courts, baseball fields, an urban soccer field, a park shelter, restroom facility and parking lot across the street.



After temporary pickleball courts at the Newton Recreation Commission have seen increased usage, the commission has committed to the construction of outdoor courts. That is part of a plan to renovate Themian Park downtown. [Courtesy/NRC]

Under that agreement, the city agreed to fund the extension of a sewer line, cover the cost of water service to the site, and construct the pad for the restroom. The city would not move forward with bidding and construction until the Railer Foundation raised the private funds needed.

Fundraising progress has since been slower than expected, though grants have come in and donations have been pledged.

The idea to pursue a Community Development Block Grant to help fund the first phase of improvements came up about a month ago, with the city commission asked to review that effort this week.

The grant would provide \$700,000-\$800,000, with a \$200,000 required local match.

The Railer Foundation has enough funding already secured to cover the local match.

To move forward with the grant application, the City would need to contract with Schaefer Architecture to provide the preliminary engineering report and estimate.

In addition, the application which is due Nov. 14 requires a low to moderate income survey to be performed.

“This would be a citywide survey,” said Daniella Rivas, city adminstrator. “I think that we landed at about 400 surveys

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