

Legal Notices

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF LOGAN COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of **GALE MERLIN SCHAFFER,**

LG-2026-PR-000004
Deceased

(Petition Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Daniel Schaffer, heir of Gale Merlin Schaffer, deceased, requesting that:

Descent be determined of the following described real estate situated in and Logan County, Kansas:

Lots 114, 116, 118 and 120 in Block 35, as numbered on the recorded plat of the town of Ennis City, commonly known as Monument, Kansas.

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 or the terms of any valid settlement agreement that may later be filed.

You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before April 15, 2026 at 10:00 AM, in the District Court, Logan 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.

Daniel Schaffer
Petitioner

Craig L. Uhrich
UHRICH LAW FIRM P.A.
222 Center Avenue
Oakley, KS 67748
(785) 671-1237
*Attorneys for Petitioner,
Daniel Schaffer*

Wheat and more... Or less

by Vance Ehmke

Wheat Looks Great...but Without a doubt, much of the Kansas wheat crop looks just great. Based on tiller counts, there's a lot of 80 and 100-bushel wheat out there. But there's a lot to worry about between now and wheat harvest. Last week I asked KSU wheat breeder Dr. Allan Fritz what his greatest worry was concerning the 2026 wheat crop. It wasn't winter kill caused by something like the wild swings in temperature we've been having recently of 80 degrees followed by temps dropping to 10 degrees for overnight lows. Winterkill generally occurs when soil temps at the crown drop to 10 degrees--and we're nowhere near that. Yes, we've lost some leaf surface because of freezing temps and high winds, but that's just cosmetic and doesn't result in yield loss. Instead, Allan says his biggest worry is because of the mild winter, the wheat crop is way ahead of normal in plant development--a good two weeks. Some wheat observers are saying the wheat crop is even four weeks early. "And if we carry through on that trend, it means much earlier heading...and the potential for a late freeze to really hammer the crop." Remember the Mother's Day freeze of 1981? I remember that year. We were down in Arizona for a short time in the winter and it was warmer here than there--kind of like the 80-degree weather we've been having recently. Then based on date of heading, it looked like we were going to start harvesting wheat on June 10 instead of the normal June 20th. I thought, "That can't be". And I was right. We lost the entire crop when nighttime lows hit 27 degrees right at pollinating time on Mother's Day. That was all she wrote. Still, if we have a return to cooler weather, the crop could slow down and get us right back on track. "If that doesn't happen, however, we'll

sweat every cold front that comes through Kansas this spring," Allan says. To him, the wheat danger zone is in mid to late April. OK, that's one thing. But there's more. Over Christmas we drove out to Denver and I was astounded at how big all of the wheat was between here and there. Since then we've heard from growers in south central Kansas who are talking about wheat being a foot tall and ready to joint. And, of course, all that above-ground plant mass takes a lot of water and will continue to do so. Too, the trend looks like a continuation of warm and dry. Playing that trend forward, if the plant starts running out of moisture, it'll start aborting tillers. And then, yield potential starts going down. So if you want to start praying for rain, this would be a good time to do it. As a side note, however, I've tried that and it doesn't work...but it might help you feel better. And then there's wheat streak mosaic. In a recent poll of northwest and north central Kansas farmers, about half said they'd rate last fall's control of volunteer wheat at only between fair and poor. As we all know, controlling volunteer wheat is the most effective way to eliminate the mosaic viruses. And, as Allan points out, there was a lot of volunteer wheat last fall because of high winds shattering the grain out of wheat heads before harvest. That was followed by a lot of rain which resulted in very heavy populations of volunteer wheat. Even though the newly-planted wheat crop may have gotten infected last fall, the symptoms won't start showing up until this spring. So that's another thing to keep an eye out for. If your wheat starts turning yellow in the next several weeks, you've got a problem. So we've got a lot to worry about. But we've also got a lot to be thankful

(Contiued)

Online registration is available at ftwallace.com or by contacting the Fort Wallace Museum at 785-891-3564. The symposium begins at 9 am MDT with doors opening at 8 am. Members of the Guardians of Fort Wallace receive a discount and memberships are available at the door.



Obituary

Edmund "Edd" James McDonald, 47, of Park, Kansas, passed away on February 21, 2026. He was born on January 12, 1979, in Dublin, Ireland, the son of James and Geraldine (Murphy) McDonald.



Edmund "Edd" James McDonald (1979-2026)

Edd was raised in Ireland with strong faith, a love of machinery, and a gift for storytelling that he carried proudly with him to Kansas. He graduated from Salesian Agriculture School in Pallaskenry in 2000 with a degree in Agricultural Mechanics. Edd could fix just about anything with an engine — and if he couldn't, he'd figure it out.

On September 4, 2010, Edd was united in marriage to the love of his life, Elizabeth "Liz" Kay McDonald, at the Clairmont Inn in Stratton, Colorado. Together they built a life rooted in faith, family, laughter, and horsepower.

Early in his career, Edd worked in harvesting, as a diesel mechanic at Bucklin Tractor (BTI), and as a truck driver. He later became a foreman with Sporer Land Development, where he worked for 14 years. In 2013, his career was cut short by a tragic accident that resulted in a traumatic brain injury. What followed was a long and determined recovery in Colorado. Through prayer, perseverance, and the unwavering support of family, friends, and neighbors, Edd made his way back home — where he belonged.

Though short-term memory challenges prevented him from returning to full-time work, Edd never stopped working in the ways that mattered. With his beloved Kubota tractor, he mowed lawns, cleared snow, graded driveways, and especially took pride in helping at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. If there were millings to spread or a parking lot to smooth, Edd was there — often before anyone else. Being useful brought him joy.

Edd was a faithful member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Park, the Knights of Columbus, the Rodeo Club, the NRA, and Ducks Unlimited. As a boy in Ireland, he was a proud Sea Scout — a title he never quite outgrew. He enjoyed playing cards and games, watching CSI and crime dramas, history and educational programs, and traveling whenever possible. Horses — especially Clydesdales — held a special place in his heart.

Above all, Edd was a devoted husband, father, and Papa. He was overjoyed at the thought of soon adopting his grandchildren and sharing with them the McDonald name. His pride, love, and willingness to help others defined him more than any job title ever could.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Kay McDonald of Park; his parents, Jim and Geraldine McDonald of Arklow, Ireland; his children, Bobbi-Ann (Malachi) Lewis, Elissa Roberts, Evan Roberts, and Rose Roberts; his cherished granddaughters, Ravin and Sabrina; his brothers, John (Cecelia) McDonald of Arklow, Ireland, and Colum (Kristina) McDonald of Perth, Australia; his sister, Carol (Paul) O'Hart of Drogheda, Ireland; along with many beloved brothers- and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, extended family, and dear friends. Also surviving are children of his heart, Collin, Scott, and Jessa. He was preceded in death by his grandparents.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Gove County Elder Care, Knights of Columbus, or for Mass Intentions, and may be sent to Schmitt Funeral Home, 336 North 12th Street, WaKeeney, Kansas 67672.

Condolences and memories may be shared at www.schmittfuneral.com.

Slán abhaile, Edd. May the roads of heaven be smooth, the engines always turn over, and may there always be a Kubota waiting for you.



Fort Wallace Symposium March 14

On Saturday, March 14, the Fort Wallace Museum is hosting its annual symposium reflecting the 150th anniversary of the pivotal events of 1876. With the theme, "From Fort Wallace to the Little Bighorn" speakers will address the connections between the Post and the Battle of the Little Bighorn, in which George Armstrong Custer and more than 200 men in his command were killed in action. Many of the soldiers in the 7th U S Cavalry had served in Kansas, most notably Myles W. Keogh, the Irishman who had commanded Fort Wallace from 1866-1867. Only weeks after the battle, James B. "Wild Bill" Hickok was killed in Deadwood, Dakota Territory. He had served as a constable in Monticello, KS; a marshal in Abilene; and as a scout for Fort Harker. Memorial Association President Jayne Humphrey Pearce said that the symposium will be unique in that it is a "hybrid event." "With two of our presenters coming to us from South Carolina and New Jersey," she said, "we thought why not give everyone the opportunity to take advantage of this technology. So people can attend in person or virtually." One advantage to attending in person is the taco bar provided by Virginia Renner. Speakers include award-winning author Craig Crease who will share "Incidents in the

Amazing Life of James Butler Hickok." Craig is the author of The Wanderer: James Butler Hickok and the American West, which is available in the museum gift shop. He will be joining the conference remotely. Also joining remotely will be Joe Creaden whose topic is "To Garry Owen and Glory: Myles Keogh and the 7th Ride into the Valley of Death." Joe is a longtime board member of the Order of the Indian Wars (now the American Frontier History Association) as well as the Little Bighorn Association. Returning to Fort Wallace from his home in Oklahoma is award-winning author, Dee Cordry. Dee's topic is "Yellow Nose: Southern Cheyenne Warrior and the Little Bighorn." Dee's book, The Children of White Thunder, is available in the museum gift shop. The talented and versatile living history presenter Marla Matkin brings her knowledge and dramatic ability to the conference with "The Widows: Faithful Standbys of the Little Bighorn." Marla's children's books, Custer's Mouse and A Dragon's Tale are available in the museum gift shop. Dennis K. Clark, namesake of our Distinguished Lecture Series, will be joining us from Leavenworth and will present, "The Critical Moment at the Little Bighorn: Keogh, Harrington, and Harrington."

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