

Things I've Noticed

Reflections on ordinary life and the extraordinary things we often overlook.

BOB LYON

Learning to Hold Two Things at Once

I've noticed that some songs stay with you long after the radio goes quiet. For me, one of them is "Turn! Turn! Turn!" by The Byrds. Maybe it's the jangling guitars. Maybe it's because the older I get, the more truth I hear in the words. Pete Seeger didn't really write those words so much as set them to music. They come from Ecclesiastes, written thousands of years before anyone plugged in a guitar: "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

The chapter goes on like that. A time to weep and a time to laugh. A time to mourn and a time to dance. A time to keep silent and a time to speak. I've come to appreciate those verses more as I've grown older. When I was younger, I probably thought maturity meant figuring out which side was right. Now I think it often means recognizing what response the particular season God has given us calls for. It would be simpler if every choice came down to right and wrong. Some do, but not all.

Work and rest, for instance. Most of us were taught to work early. Show up. Do your best. Finish the job. Keep your word. But there is also a time to put away the tools, sit on the porch, take the trip, or spend an afternoon accomplishing absolutely nothing and not feel guilty about it. Rest isn't the enemy of work. Sometimes

it's what makes good work possible.

Then there is speaking and listening. There are moments when something needs to be said, and others when the room doesn't need another opinion. It needs someone willing to listen. I wish I could say I've always known the difference.

Life needs seriousness too. Responsibilities are real, and some things simply aren't funny. But I wouldn't want to go through life without laughter. Some of my favorite memories are of laughing with people I love, often about things that weren't particularly funny to anyone else. Laughter doesn't make light of life's difficulties. Sometimes it helps us carry them.

There is remembering and looking ahead. The older we get, the more there is behind us; old photographs, familiar songs, people we miss. Those memories are gifts. But the past is a better place to visit than to live. There are still books to read, people to know, places to see, and ways to be useful. The past deserves our gratitude. The future deserves our curiosity.

Contentment and ambition can live together too. Contentment receives with gratitude what God has given. Ambition asks how faithfully we might use what God has given. One says, I can be grateful here. The other says, There is still

good work to do. Most days, I need to hear both.

And then there are conviction and humility. We can believe something deeply and still listen. We can disagree without belittling. We can stand firmly without standing proudly. Conviction tells us where to stand. Humility reminds us how to stand there.

The trouble, of course, is that knowing all this and living it are two different things. Not long ago, I watched a video of my six-year-old grandson learning to ride a bicycle. He started the way most of us did, wobbling from side to side, turning the handlebars too far one way and then correcting too far the other. Slowly, the corrections got smaller. A little left. A little right. Before long, what had looked impossible began to look almost effortless.

What struck me wasn't that he had discovered the perfect position on the bicycle. He simply got better at making the corrections. I'm still doing much the same thing. I've worked when I should have rested, spoken when listening would have served better, and spent too much time looking backward when there was still plenty ahead worth seeing. Maybe you have too.

If so, a wobble doesn't mean the ride is over. We straighten the handlebars, regain our balance, and keep pedaling. Maybe we aren't meant to keep everything perfectly balanced. Maybe we're meant to recognize what this season asks of us and respond accordingly.

There is, after all, a time for everything. And wisdom, I suspect, is learning to make the corrections a little sooner and then to keep pedaling.

Bob Lyon is a retired structural engineer, educator, and long-time Jefferson County resident.

Medicare Open Enrollment assistance Oct. 19 at Perry

The program during the Monday, Oct. 19, meeting of the Perry Senior Citizens will be Medicare Open Enrollment.

This is a chance to get 2027 insurance options reviewed by a professional from Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging. Representatives will be set up in the library in the Perry-Lecompton Library, 203 W. Bridge Street, by 9 a.m. for those who need to come early.

Those interested should bring a list of their prescriptions with the dosage and number of times you take them each day and their Medicare card.

Lunch will be served in the Kaw center-room No. 1 at noon. Plan to arrive and be seated so opening can begin at 11:45 a.m. Provided will be fried chicken and a variety of potato dishes. Bring table service, a covered dish, and \$3.

Three Halloween wreaths handcrafted by Jean Shilling will be the door prizes.

Preacher Isaac Collins from Perry Christian Church will share a special musical number after lunch. All are welcome.

Call Paula Hladky at 785-760-0006 with questions.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Oskaloosa Independent and The Valley Falls Vindicator October 15, 2026)1t

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR OPERATING ONLY (5311)

Jefferson County Service Organization is submitting an application for operating assistance for transportation under the U.S.C. 5311 (rural public transportation) of the Federal Transit Act. The application will be for operating funds to help provide transportation services in the area. Written comments and questions in regards to this application are encouraged and will be accepted until Nov. 5, 2026 and should be sent to: Executive Director Lynn Luck, P.O. Box 212, Oskaloosa, KS 66066.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Oskaloosa Independent and The Valley Falls Vindicator October 15, 2026)1t

SAMPLE DBE NOTIFICATION FOR CTD ADVERTISEMENT (5311)

Jefferson County Service Organization Agency receives Federal Transit Administration (FTA) operating dollars. This funding is utilized for the purchase of fuel, insurance, equipment maintenance and storage. This agency is seeking Kansas Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) certified companies as potential vendors for these services. Please contact Lynn Luck at (785)863-2637 if you are a DBE or are interested in learning more about the DBE program.

Commodities to be distributed next week

Lynn Luck, executive director of the Jefferson County Service Organization, announced that the commodities made possible through the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program will be available to qualifying households in Jefferson County this coming Tuesday, October 20, in Oskaloosa.

The distribution in Oskaloosa will take place at the JCSO office, 410 Liberty, beginning at 1:30 p.m. and continuing until 3 p.m.

The distribution in Valley Falls has been discontinued.

For more information, call Luck at 785-863-2637.

CARD OF THANKS

Having been blessed to have been granted these 80 years and to have been remembered by so many has been an overwhelming blessing. Thanks to all.

Doug Mailen
20-1tc

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Oskaloosa Independent October 15, 22, and 29, 2026)3t

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, KANSAS

PROBATE DIVISION

In the Matter of the Determination of Descent of RUSSELL DEAN ELLIOTT, Deceased.

Case No. JF-2026-PR-000044

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

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Christine M. Elliott, one of the heirs of Russell Dean Elliott, deceased, requesting:

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

Tract 1: Commencing at the Southwest corner of the Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) of Section Thirty-one (31), Township Eleven South (T11S), Range Twenty East (R20E) of the 6th P.M., Jefferson County, Kansas; thence North 0°24'29" East a distance of 204.50 feet to the point of beginning, said point being on the West line of Section 31; thence North 0°24'29" east a distance of 223.39 feet, said point being on the West line of Section 31; thence South 89°15'03" East a distance of 195.00 feet; thence South 0°24'29" West a distance of 223.39 feet; thence North 89°15'03" West a distance of 195.00 feet to the point of beginning, containing 1.00 acres more or less, less public road right-of-way, said tract located in the Northwest Quarter of Section 31.

Tract 2: A tract of land located in the Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) of Section Thirty-one (31), Township Eleven South (T11S), Range Twenty East (R20E) of the 6th P.M.,

Jefferson County, Kansas, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest corner of the Northwest Quarter (NW1/4); thence North 0°24'29" East a distance of 204.50 feet, said point being on the West line of Section Thirty-one (31); thence South 89°15'03" East a distance of 195.00 feet to the point of beginning; thence North 0°24'29" West a distance of 223.39 feet; thence North 89°15'03" West a distance of 195.00 feet; thence South 0°24'29" West a distance of 223.39 feet; thence North 89°15'03" West a distance of 195.00 feet to the point of beginning, containing 1.00 acre more or less, subject to easements of record.

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 November 6, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. in the City of Oskaloosa, in 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.

Christine M. Elliott, Petitioner

James B. Biggs - KS-14079; MO-46566 CAVANAUGH, BIGGS & LEMON, P.A. 3200 SW Huntoon Topeka, Kansas 66614-4479 TEL: 785/440-4000 FAX: 785/440-3900 E-MAIL: jbiggs@cavlem.com ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER

Reports . . .

(Continued from page 6)

St./Elm St.; 1 car stop; Winchester PD, citizen assist, 603 Poplar; Rock Creek FD, standby, 508 Palmberg, Meriden; Union FD, standby, 100 S. Bulldog Ln., McLouth; District 11 FD, assist call, 940 Frazier, Valley Falls.

Phone calls: 911 calls, 130; administrative calls, 620; Text to 911, 2; Total phone calls, 750; Total dispatch calls, 271; Total burn permits, 56.

Moving?

TELL US!

The Independent

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Times Gone By Photos



Response to last week's photos: Last week's photo has been identified as the 1976 Jefferson County North homecoming court, Rick Weishaar, Pam Rathert, Junior Perry, Lanie Bertles, Eddie Noll, and Patricia Peek. Information provided by Chris Domann, Nortonville.

Any information about these and other photos that have run in this section is encouraged and welcome. We love hearing from you. Please email responses to: independent@jeffcountynews.com.

TIMES GONE BY

Reprinted from the archives of The Oskaloosa Independent — compiled by Jen Trowbridge

45 years ago

October 15, 1981

• Three prisoners were caught trying to break out of the Jefferson County Jail, Oskaloosa, using pieces of broken hacksaw blades Monday night.

Sheriff Carl Eisenhower said that a noise could be heard early in the evening at the back of the jail. The prisoners had been working about three hours before they were caught.

• Oskaloosa Rotarians Saturday morning began beautifying entrances to Oskaloosa by planting shrubs at the west and north city limits. Red wood signs proclaiming "Welcome to Oskaloosa" will be erected when they are finished.

Those working on Saturday were Rod Sewell, Jackie Coleman, Rev. William Winter, Bill Gump, and Roger Coleman.

• The USD 341 Board of Education are going ahead with their plans to partition classrooms in the elementary school. The Board will spend about \$57,000 on the partitioning and ductwork.

The Board also voted to construct a room for wrestling practice in the southeast corner of the bus garage. The 36' x 30' room will cost around \$1,650.

• McLouth High School Homecoming Queen Lisa Patterson and King Dwayne DePriest were crowned during halftime of the homecoming football game Friday night.

The Bulldogs provided alumni and students with a victory over Wathena, 25-6.

35 years ago

October 17, 1991

• Oskaloosa High School crowned Troy Unrein and Laura Noble as its homecoming King and Queen during halftime festivities of the Bears' Oct. 11 football game with Horton.

• McLouth High School crowned Charisse Forshee and Jason Funk as 1991 Homecoming King and Queen during halftime festivities of the Bulldogs' Oct. 11 football game with Valley Falls.

• Florence Milner, Oskaloosa, was the winner of the pastel-colored fan quilt at the John Steuart Curry Fall Festi-

val. The quilt was made and donated by the Jefferson County Craft Guild.

• Julie Kay Kramer was named the Kansas State Grange Ambassador at the state convention in Emporia Oct. 20.

Julis is the daughter of W.J. and Susan Kramer, and granddaughter of W.A. and Ellen Kramer, Ozawie. She is a seventh-degree member and is currently the Lady Assistant Steward of Pleasant View Grange, Ozawie.

• The Oskaloosa High School girls' volleyball team roared through the Delaware Valley League without a loss and won the DVL title outright.

Next up will be the DVL tournament, where the Bears are seeded first.

25 years ago

October 18, 2001

• Long-time Oskaloosa resident Velma Hannah will celebrate her 90th birthday Thursday, Oct. 25. Hannah was born at Dunavant and lived in and around Oskaloosa most of her life, serving as the Jefferson County Clerk until 1978.

• The McLouth girls' cross-country team captured the Delaware Valley League title with a win at the DVL meet Oct. 11 at Rim Rock. Courtney Edmonds paced the team with a fourth-lace finish with a time of 14:04.

• Carroll Noll, Nortonville, was recently honored as a member of the 2001 Highland Community College women's indoor track and field team, which was champion of the KJCCC eastern division.

Noll is a sophomore at Highland.

• Lauren Gantz, Lecompton, and Sara Ann Swoyer, Winchester, are members of the Emporia State University Marching Hornets band, who perform at the school's football games.

Gantz plays the flute and Swoyer is a saxophone player.

• Derek Rathert was chosen as a homecoming king candidate at Highland Community College this fall. Homecoming events took place during the first week of October.

He is the son of Bill and Nelda Rathert, Nortonville.

15 years ago

October 20, 2011

• The Jefferson County Republican Central Committee has chosen Jason Beveal as the county's next prosecutor. Beveal, a Valley Falls native, was the only candidate nominated.

• The congregation at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Perry conducted a groundbreaking ceremony Sunday on a long-held dream of a parish center.

The center will house a large banquet room, six classrooms for religious instruction, a kitchen, and offices.

• Allyson Ottensmeier, Oskaloosa, daughter of Randy and Darla Ottensmeier, had the champion Simmental heifer at the Kansas State Fair and was fourth overall in the Supreme Heifer Drive.

She also placed first in the Crossbred steer class (1,319 lbs.-1,340 lbs.) and was fourth in senior showmanship.

• Volunteers who donated time and effort to help build the new preschool playground at Oskaloosa Elementary School gathered before the Bears' football game on Oct. 14 and were recognized. The playground was organized and funded by the Oskaloosa Elementary PTO. Some funding was also provided by the Oskaloosa Board of Education. Materials, labor and equipment were also provided by Kings Construction, Meier's Ready Mix, and Oskaloosa Lumber.

The volunteers were AJ Kreutzer, Patricia Kreutzer, Troy Kreutzer, Nolan O'Brien, Mike Kelsay, Kyan Blaufelder, Cannon Kramer, Auggie Blaufelder, Cindy Kelsay and Kent Cramer.

Deadline for News & Ad Copy is

Monday, before noon.

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