SWKS News

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SUBSCRIPTION

Liberal Resident Returns To Baseball

By Tyler Hook

After five years away from professional baseball, former San Francisco Giants infielder and Liberal resident Kelby Tomlinson is preparing to return to the diamond, this time as a member of the Loco Beach Coconuts in the rapidly growing world of Banana Ball.

Tomlinson's father-in-law, Bill Prater, recently shared that the former major leaguer had been drafted and signed a contract to participate in the 2027 Banana Ball season. Unlike traditional baseball, Banana Ball combines competitive play with unconventional rules, entertainment, and audience participation, creating an experience centered around the fans.



Photo Courtesy of KSCB News of Kelby Tomlinson

For Southwest Kansas baseball enthusiasts, Tomlinson's career is one worth remembering. Originally from Chickasha, Oklahoma, and a graduate of Elgin High School, he arrived in Liberal in 2009 to play for Seward County Community College. During his two seasons with the Saints, he established himself as a standout player, earning honorable mention All-American honors and set-

See We Kan!, Page 6

Family Plans 90th Annual Thanksgiving Reunion

By: Tyler Hook

For most Americans, Thanksgiving is a time to gather around the table, share a meal, and reflect on the blessings of the past year. For one Stanton County family, however, the holiday represents a tradition that has endured through generations, wars, economic hardships, and changing times. This Thanksgiving, the descendants of John and Mary Winger will celebrate two remarkable milestones: 140 years of family history in Stanton County and the 90th anniversary of their annual Thanksgiving gathering.

On Thursday, November 26, 2026, the Winger family will gather at the 4-H Building in Johnson for its traditional Thanksgiving dinner. This year's celebration carries special significance, as organizers hope to accomplish something increasingly difficult with each passing generation: bringing together representatives from every branch of the family under one roof.

The Winger family's story in western Kansas began in 1885, when John Winger and his sons traveled west from Newton, Kansas, to establish a homestead in what would become Stanton County. After constructing a modest 14-by-18-foot sod house, John sent for the remainder of his family. Their first Thanksgiving on the Kansas prairie was far removed from today's abundant holiday tables, consisting of salted pork, rutabaga, and other preserved provisions. The

See **Reunion,** Page 4

Death Notices

Helen Mae Higgins Upchurch was born on July 10, 1933, in Elkhart, Kansas, to Ray Higgins and Daisy Edna Webb Higgins. She passed away on October 15, 2026, at Pioneer Manor in Hugoton, Kansas,

A private family burial was held at Elmhurst Cemetery in Guymon, Oklahoma. A Celebration of Life service honoring Helen was on Monday, October 26, 2026, at Guymon Church of the Nazarene.

Memorials in memory of Helen can be made to the OPSU Music Department. Memorials will be accepted at the Bunch - Roberts Funeral Home, PO Box 1112, Guymon, OK 73942. Friends can sign the online guestbook and leave condolences at www.bunchroberts.com.

Carlos Janai Cruz-Bojorquez, who left this world on Friday, October 30, 2026, in Garden City, Kansas, at the age of 40.

Carlos was born in Ciudad Cuauhtémoc, Chihuahua, Mexico. He lived in Ejido Jesús Lugo, Municipio de Guerrero, Chihuahua, until July 1994, when his family moved to Garden City, Kansas.

Book Signing will be held on Friday, November 13, 2026, from 10 A.M. to 8 P.M. at Robson Funeral Home, Garden City, Kansas.

Memorial service will be held on Saturday, November 14, 2026, at 10:30 A.M. at Robson Funeral Home, Garden City, Kansas.

A dinner and gathering to celebrate Carlos life will follow at the Senior Center from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

Carolyn Dunn, age 78, passed away on November 6, 2026, at Bob Wilson Memorial Hospital in Ulysses, KS. She was born on September 11, 1948, in Dodge City, KS, the daughter of Jay W. and Naoma (Hayden) Rundell.

Funeral Service will be Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at 2:00 PM at Shelton Memorial Christian Church, Ulysses, Kansas with Pastor Casey Chapman and Tamra Rundell officiating. Interment will follow at the Ulysses Cemetery. Visitation will be Monday, November 9, from 2:00PM until 8:00PM at Garnand Funeral Home, Ulysses. Memorials may be given to Shelton Memorial Christian Church Scholarship Fund in care of Garnand Funeral Home, 405 W. Grant Ave., Ulysses, KS 67880. Condolences may be posted at www.garnandfuneralhomes.com.

Linda Smith, age 78, died, November 5, 2026, at Bob Wilson Memorial Hospital in Ulysses, Kansas. She was born, September 12, 1948, in Lakin, Kansas, the daughter of Luther James and Geraldine (Mead) Harp.

Graveside Service and burial will be Thursday, November 12, 2026, at 1:00 PM at the Ulysses Cemetery, Ulysses, Kansas, with Minister David Schumacher officiating. Visitation will be Wednesday, November 11, from 2:00 PM until 8:00 PM at Garnand Funeral Home, Ulysses. In Lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to Gideons International in care of Garnand Funeral Home, 405 W. Grant Ave., Ulysses, Kansas 67880. Condolences may be posted at www.garnandfuneralhomes.com.

Wesley Walter Werner, 99, died Friday, November 6, 2026, at The Ranch House, in Garden City, Kansas. He was born February 4, 1927, at Nekoma, Kansas, the son of Robert E. & Mary E. (Fischer) Werner.

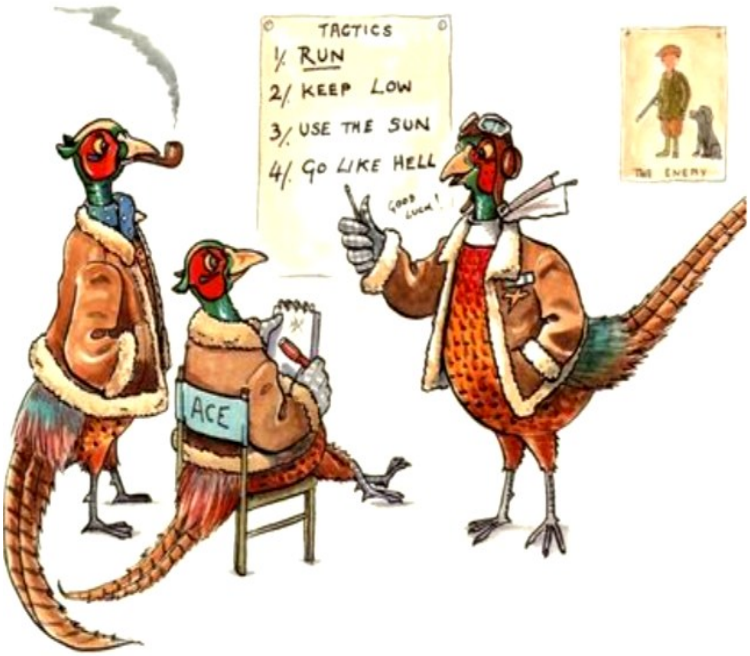
A memorial service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, November 13, 2026, at Garnand Funeral Home in Garden City. The service may also be viewed on Facebook Live on the Garnand Funeral Home Facebook page. Burial will follow at Valley View Cemetery in Garden City. There will be no calling hours. The family suggest memorials given to the Wesley Werner Memorial Fund in care of Garnand Funeral Home, 412 N. 7th St., Garden City, Kansas 67846. Condolences may be given at garnandfuneralhomes.com.

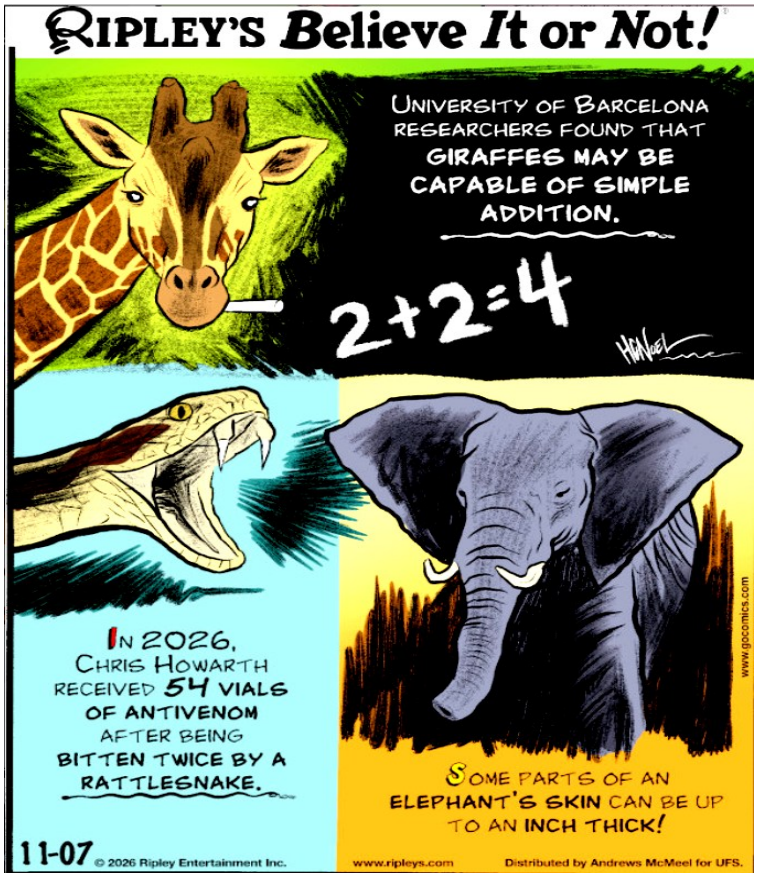
Vivian Ala Britt was born on June 20, 1955, in Guymon, Oklahoma, to Paul and Helen Hammontree. She spent her childhood making memories in the small town of Keyes, Oklahoma, where she loved running around with her sisters, helping her dad on the family farm, and chasing her little brother around. Those early years were filled with adventures, laughter, and the simple joys of growing up in a small town.

Funeral services will be held on Monday, November 2, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church in Elkhart, Kansas with Pastor Ed Richards officiating. Burial will follow at Willowbar Cemetery in Keyes, Oklahoma.

Services are in care of Garnand Funeral Home, PO Box 854, Elkhart, KS 67950. Condolences may be posted at www.garnandfuneralhomes.com.

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Thank You For Reading the 7th Edition of the SWKS News, we hope you enjoyed it and look forward to your continued patronage!

Sincerely,

Tyler Hook - Publisher

GAMES

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19 Musical Instruments

Adopt a Friend!

Meet Shadow and Crew, two great dogs looking for their forever homes!





Shadow
- Shepherd mix
- 10 months old
- Spayed
- Likes her doggie friends and walks

Crew
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- Neutered
- Perfect size!
- Not too big, not too small.

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The Penny That Becomes $5 Million: Compounding

Courtesy of Milo Milosevich

Imagine someone offers you a choice: Would you rather receive $1 million today, or a single penny that doubles in value every day for 30 days?

Most people would take the million dollars without giving it a second thought. But let's look at what happens when that penny starts doubling.

On day one, you have one penny. On day two, two cents. By day 10, you have $5.12. By day 20, you have $5,242.88. By day 30, that single penny has grown to an astonishing **$5,368,709.12!**

How is that possible? It's called compounding, and it's one of the most powerful concepts in building wealth.

Compounding occurs when your investment earnings begin generating earnings of their own. Instead of earning returns only on your original investment, you also earn returns on the growth you've already accumulated.

While nobody is offering us a penny that doubles every day, the principle applies to long-term investing. The combination of time, consistent contributions, and reinvested earnings can create substantial wealth.

Consider two individuals. One begins investing at age 25 and consistently contributes for 20 years. Another waits until age 45 and invests the same amount each year until age 65. Even though both invest for 20 years, the first investor has an additional 20 years for those early contributions to potentially grow.

The lesson isn't necessarily that you need to invest more money. It's that starting sooner and allowing your investments time to work can make an enormous difference.

Whether you're 25, 45, or 65, it's worth understanding how compounding works. You can't go back and start earlier, but you can make decisions today that benefit your financial future.

Remember, when it comes to building wealth, time can be just as important as money.

Milo@hpyretirement.com





Southwest Medical Staff in Liberal C/O Nancy Wallace Kletecka











Ulysses Photos Huge Thanks To Jessica Morphis

Garden City Propane
1304 N. Massey Ferguson RD, Garden City, KS 67846 | (620) 276-8903

Reunion

Continued from Page 1

following winter brought a devastating 10-day blizzard that claimed much of their livestock, testing the family's determination to make a life on the prairie.

Despite these hardships, the Wingers persevered. John raised cattle and broomcorn, plowed land, carried mail, served as a county commissioner, and remained active in the Methodist church. His contributions helped establish a foundation for both his family and the developing community.

From his first marriage, John had two sons, James and Jonas. Following the death of his first wife from scarlet fever, he married Mary, and together they raised seven children: Bert, Leroy, Stella, twins Charles and May, Clarence, and Pearl. These nine children and their descendants formed the branches of a family whose history would become closely intertwined with that of Stanton County.

Although family gatherings had taken place for years, the organized reunion traces its roots to 1932, when John and Mary celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Forty-two relatives attended the occasion. Later that year, John passed away, and his son Leroy extended a simple invitation to the family: "You're all welcome to my house for a little while." Those few words helped establish a tradition that would continue long after those present had passed away.

During the Great Depression, relatives shared responsibility for caring for Grandma Winger until her death in Pretty Prairie in 1936. In the years that followed, Thanksgiving became the established occasion for the family's annual reunion, a tradition so firmly ingrained that marrying into the Winger family was sometimes jokingly described as accepting an unspoken vow to attend Thanksgiving dinner.

Through the decades, gatherings rotated between Johnson, Ulysses, Dodge City, and Pretty Prairie before finding their longtime home at the 4-H Building in Johnson. Each year brought prayers, introductions, stories of earlier generations, and tables filled with food. Children grew up, married, and brought children of their own. Familiar faces disappeared as new generations took their places, but the tradition remained.

This year, organizers are extending a special invitation to descendants of every branch of the family, including Bert, Leroy, Stella, May, Charles, Clarence, Pearl, and John's two sons from his first marriage, Jim and Joe. While several branches are regularly represented, others have been absent in recent years. The hope is that the 90th anniversary will bring together relatives who have not attended in years, along with younger generations who may be experiencing the gathering for the first time.

The traditional potluck Thanksgiving dinner will be held at noon, with family members encouraged to bring their favorite meat dishes, vegetables, or desserts. Plates, cups, napkins, drinks, rolls, and other table service will be provided. A special afternoon program will begin at 2 p.m., featuring introductions, family stories, and historical recollections.

Each family group is encouraged to bring three or four photographs, or more if available, along with memorabilia and family keepsakes. A display table will be provided, and attendees are asked to label their belongings. During the afternoon program, Tyler Hook, a great-great-grandson of Charles Winger, will share a presentation on the history of John and Mary Winger, including genealogical discoveries that may expand upon stories passed down through generations.

There is something remarkable about a family tradition surviving for nine decades. Since those early gatherings, generations have witnessed the Great Depression, World War II, the transformation of agriculture, and the gradual changes that have reshaped rural America. Families have spread across the country, careers have taken descendants far from their roots, and the demands of everyday life have made gathering together increasingly difficult. Yet, every Thanksgiving, the Winger family has continued to find its way back to the same table.

Perhaps that is the greatest significance of this year's celebration. The anniversary is not simply about remembering those who came before, but recognizing the responsibility of today's generations to carry their stories forward. Photographs fade, memories grow distant, and the people who remember the earliest gatherings are no longer with us. Unless those stories are shared, they can disappear in little more than a generation.

Family members unable to attend the noon dinner are encouraged to stop by during the afternoon. For additional information, contact Melva Jo de Rondon at (303) 514-2542 or Marla Floyd at (620) 492-3152.

What began with a small sod house on the Kansas prairie has grown into a family legacy spanning numerous generations and thousands of miles. Ninety years of Thanksgiving gatherings and 140 years of family history are milestones worth celebrating, but the greatest tribute to those who began this tradition will be found in the people who make the effort to come together.

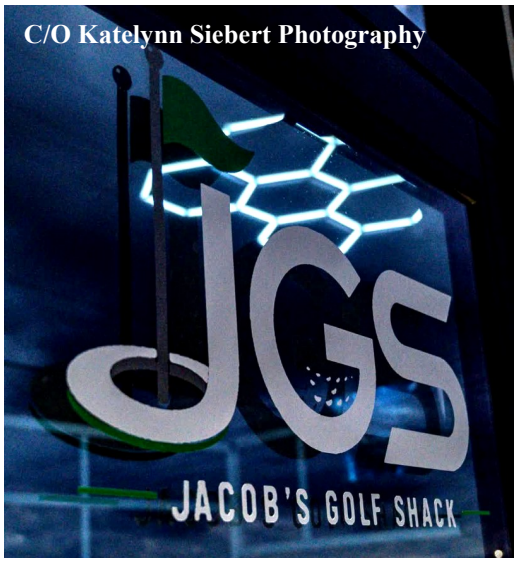
This Thanksgiving, the hope is simple: that every branch of the Winger family tree will find its way home.



Ulysses Adds New Business : Jacob's Golf Shack

By: Tyler Hook

A longtime Ulysses business location has found new life as 29-year-old Jacob Irvin brings his passion for golf and entrepreneurship to his hometown. Jacob's Golf Shack, located at 1105 E. Hampton Road, offers residents an opportunity to enjoy indoor golf year-round, regardless of the weather. A Ulysses native, Irvin attended Fort Hays State University, where he studied finance and competed in collegiate track and field. His competitive nature eventually led him to golf, a sport he came to appreciate for both its challenges and the friendships developed along the way. "I wanted to bring a big city thing to a small town," Irvin explained.



C/O Katelynn Siebert Photography

The business features an indoor golf simulator welcoming everyone from experienced golfers to beginners, with clubs available for those who do not own equipment. However, Irvin envisioned more than simply a place to practice golf. Visitors can enjoy a cold beer, watch sporting events, or spend time with friends and family. Children are welcome with parental supervision, and neighboring Agave Azul Mexican Restaurant offers free food delivery to customers at the Golf Shack. Future plans include additional seating, snack options, golf tournaments, and organized leagues. The building itself holds special significance for Irvin and his family. In 1992, his grandfather, known locally as JR, opened a glass shop at the same location, providing automotive, residential, and commercial glass services to the community for years. More than three decades later, the building has entered a new chapter, with Irvin continuing a family tradition of local business ownership while introducing an entirely different recreational opportunity to Ulysses.

Irvin credits the encouragement and support of friends and family with helping turn his idea into reality. His goal is to create a welcoming environment where residents can gather, enjoy themselves, and make lasting memories. Jacob's Golf Shack represents another investment in the Ulysses community, combining modern entertainment with a longstanding family connection to the property. The business is located at **1105 E. Hampton Road in Ulysses**, with additional information and future announcements available through the Jacob's Golf Shack Facebook page.



From Tractors To Tanks: Jesse Shields



H. Firestone With Shields Rubber Ag Tire

By: Tyler Hook

When we think of the inventions that transformed American agriculture, our minds often turn to the development of the tractor, the combine, or the many mechanical advancements that replaced the horse-drawn implements of earlier generations. Yet, one of the most significant improvements in modern farming came from something considerably simpler: the tires beneath those machines. Behind that advancement was Jesse William Shields, a Kansas-born engineer and inventor whose work helped change agriculture across the nation and whose own experiences included farming in Kearny County, Kansas.

Born in Adrian, Kansas, in 1887, Shields grew up during a period when American agriculture was undergoing tremendous change. Horses and mules still provided much of the power on the nation's farms, while early gasoline-powered tractors were only beginning to demonstrate their potential. After graduating from Ottawa University in Ottawa, Kansas, Shields began his professional career as a teacher in Kearney, Nebraska, before pursuing graduate studies at the University of Chicago.

Although his education and career would eventually take him to some of the nation's largest industrial centers, Shields maintained important connections to rural Kansas. His experience farming in Kearny County would prove particularly meaningful as he worked to solve one of the greatest challenges facing early mechanized agriculture.

The first tractors were powerful machines, but their heavy steel wheels created considerable problems. Equipped with metal lugs or cleats to provide traction, they were hard on both the operator and the land. The wheels compacted soil, damaged roads, and transmitted every bump and irregularity directly through the machine. Traveling between fields was difficult, and the constant vibration placed considerable strain on equipment and operators alike.

The solution would come through the development of a practical pneumatic tractor tire, an innovation that would fundamentally change the relationship between farm machinery and the ground beneath it.

In 1919, Shields and his wife moved to Akron, Ohio, where he joined the Tire Design Department at Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. Three years later, he transferred to Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, also in Akron, where his inventive abilities would help produce some of the most important developments of his career.

At Firestone, Shields worked on the development of balloon tires, which operated at lower air pressures and provided greater flexibility than earlier tire designs. While pneumatic tires were already becoming commonplace on automobiles, adapting the technology to the tremendous weight, pulling requirements, and harsh conditions encountered by farm tractors presented an entirely different engineering challenge.

Shields understood that a tractor tire needed to do more than simply support a machine. It had to provide sufficient traction to pull implements through cultivated soil while reducing slippage, vibration, and damage to the land.

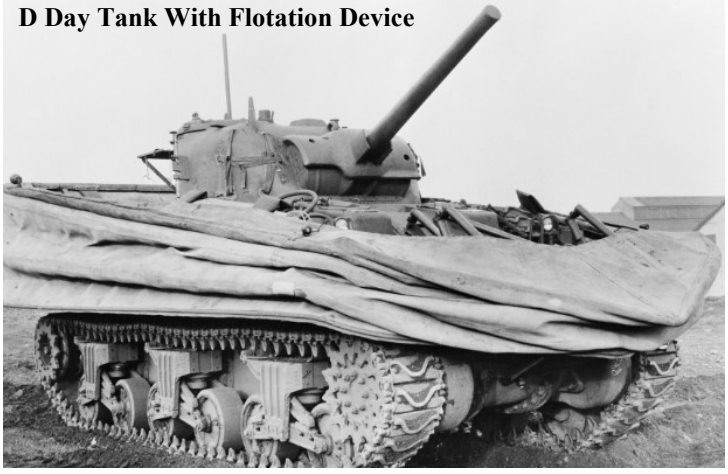
His connections to Kansas helped bring these ideas into practical agricultural use. During a return trip to Radium, Kansas, Shields collaborated with Loyd Ratts and members of his wife's family in developing what would become the modern pneumatic tractor tire. Portions of this experimental work took place in Stafford and Kearny counties, connecting two western Kansas agricultural communities to an innovation that would eventually influence farming throughout the world.

These experiments helped demonstrate that properly designed rubber tires could offer practical advantages over traditional steel tractor wheels. The improvements were considerable. Pneumatic tires allowed tractors to travel more comfortably and efficiently, reduced damaging vibrations, and made it easier for farmers to move equipment between fields and along roadways.

By 1932, Shields had conceived a low-pressure pneumatic tractor tire that would prove a major advancement for American agriculture. His work contributed to the widespread transition from steel wheels to rubber tires, helping make tractors more versatile and practical for everyday farm operations.

The significance of the invention extended well beyond operator comfort. Improved traction and reduced

D Day Tank With Flotation Device



"In this capacity he worked with Army and Navy Ordnance and designed many items that were used on Tanks, Trucks, Gun Mounts, etc. He designed and patented the rubber bushed trucks used on all Armored Tanks in World War II. He also waterproofed the Tanks for the landing in France on D-Day, and designed the Tanks and Floats used in the landing at Okinawa. All U. S. Army Gasoline Trucks are equipped with the Shields Bullet Hole Repair Unit. He designed hundreds of articles used by the Army, including Jettison Gas Tanks for Armored Tanks, Seals for Heavy Artillery, Shock Padding for Tanks, etc. Every GI Kit issued to soldiers in World War II contained Shields equipment."

From "*The Shields Family"* By John A Shields

vibration helped farmers make better use of increasingly powerful machinery, while greater mobility expanded the usefulness of tractors beyond fieldwork alone. As agricultural mechanization accelerated during the following decades, pneumatic tires became an essential component of nearly every major piece of self-propelled farm equipment.

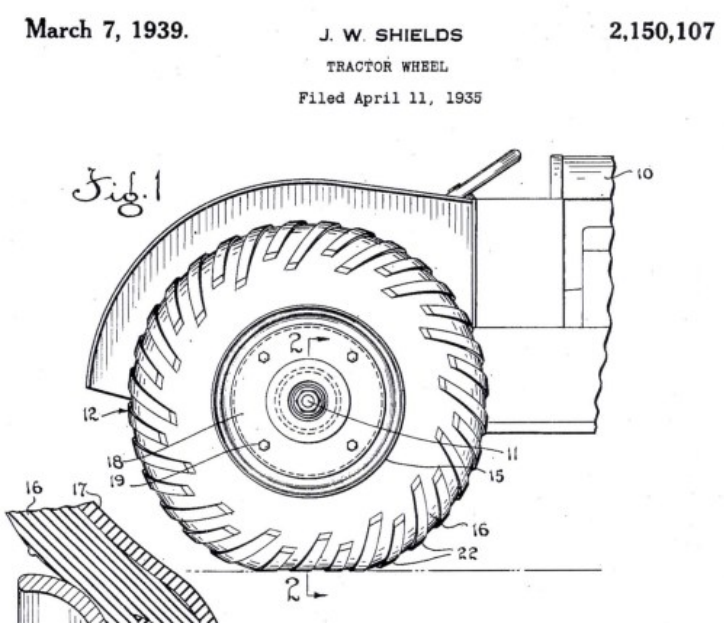
Shields' inventive work was recognized through the United States patent system, including Patent No. 2,150,107, associated with his tractor wheel development. His contributions reflected a broader career devoted to understanding how rubber and other materials could be adapted to solve practical engineering problems.

In 1937, Shields joined the United States Rubber Company in Detroit, Michigan, where he continued his research and development work. However, the outbreak of World War II would soon redirect his talents from agricultural machinery toward the urgent demands of military production.

During the war, Shields developed specialized rubber components for American and Allied military vehicles. Among his contributions were hard-rubber tracks and bushings used in armored tanks, helping improve the performance and reliability of equipment operating under punishing battlefield conditions.

His wartime innovations also extended to amphibious operations. Shields worked on waterproofing technologies and flotation equipment intended to help military vehicles reach shore during major Allied landings. His developments included a foam-plastic flotation device used to transport vehicles ashore during the 1945 invasion of Okinawa.

These inventions represented an extraordinary expansion of the same engineering principles that had guided his

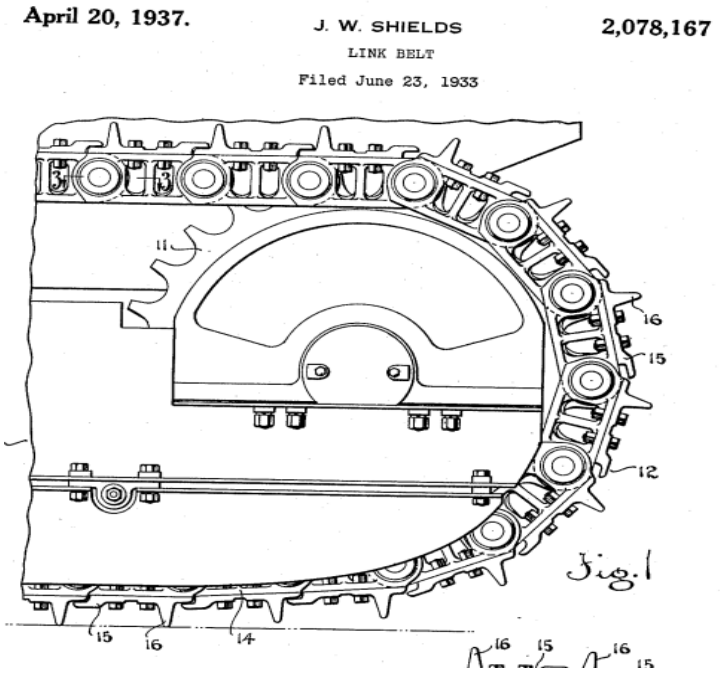


agricultural work. Whether helping a tractor move across a Kansas wheat field or enabling military equipment to operate under difficult wartime conditions, Shields sought practical solutions through the innovative use of rubber and related materials.

His career ultimately included hundreds of inventions and engineering developments, earning him recognition as one of the American rubber industry's most inventive engineers. He directed physical research at both Goodyear and Firestone, placing him among the influential figures in an industry that helped transform transportation, agriculture, and military technology during the first half of the twentieth century.

Shields died in Wilmington, Delaware, in 1965 at the age of 78 following chronic lung disease. He was laid to rest in Holton, Kansas, returning in death to the state where his life and much of his inspiration had begun.

Today, the results of his work can be found on farms throughout the world. From small utility tractors to enormous four-wheel-drive machines pulling implements across thousands of acres, pneumatic tires remain indispensable to modern agriculture. Although tire technology has continued to advance through improved materials, radial construction, and specialized tread designs, the fundamental principles behind the low-pressure agricultural tire remain as important as ever.



For western Kansas, Shields' story offers a particularly meaningful connection to the history of agricultural innovation. His time farming in Kearny County and his experimental work in Kansas serve as reminders that some of the nation's most consequential technological advancements were shaped not only in laboratories and factories, but also through the practical experiences of people who understood the challenges of working the land.

It is easy to overlook the significance of something as ordinary as a rubber tractor tire. Yet, before its widespread adoption, farmers struggled with machines that were cumbersome, uncomfortable, and often destructive to the very surfaces they traveled. Shields helped change that reality, making mechanized agriculture more efficient and opening the door for generations of improvements that followed.

Jesse William Shields may not be a household name today, but his influence remains visible wherever tractors turn the soil, plant a crop, or bring in a harvest. His story is another reminder that the ingenuity found on the Kansas plains has helped shape far more than the communities within its borders.

From the farm fields of Kearny County to the factories of America's industrial heartland, Jesse Shields helped put modern agriculture on rubber tires, leaving a legacy that continues to roll across the nation's fields more than six decades after his death.

Freedom Has A Heartbeat

By Tyler Hook

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." — John 15:13

There are certain things in life whose true value we seldom recognize until we face the possibility of losing them. Freedom may be the greatest of them all.

We wake each morning, go about our work, gather with family, speak our minds, and make plans for tomorrow. These are ordinary moments in the lives of ordinary Americans. Yet the freedoms we enjoy have never been ordinary accomplishments, nor have they come without an extraordinary price.

That price has been paid by generations of men and women whose names we may never know, whose faces we may never see, and whose sacrifices we may never fully understand.

From the frozen encampments of Valley Forge to the beaches of Normandy, the jungles of Vietnam, and the deserts of the Middle East, Americans have answered the call to serve. They came from cities and small towns, farms and factories, wealthy families and humble beginnings. They carried different beliefs and ambitions, but shared a willingness to place something greater than themselves ahead of their own comfort.

Some were barely old enough to understand the world they were entering. Others left behind spouses, children, careers, and lives they had worked years to build. Many volunteered. Others were drafted. Not all agreed with the conflicts in which they served, but each shouldered the responsibilities of military service.

It is easy to remember history through presidents, generals, and great battles. Yet history was also shaped by the young soldier standing watch through a freezing night, the sailor thousands of miles from home, the medic tending to the wounded, and the families waiting anxiously for a letter that might never arrive.

Behind every uniform is a human story.

Some returned home to celebrations and grateful communities. Others came back to a country that struggled to understand what they had experienced. Some carried visible injuries, while others carried memories that remained hidden for decades.

And some never came home.

Their absence was felt around kitchen tables, at birthdays, graduations, holidays, and countless ordinary moments that would never be quite the same. For those families, sacrifice was not confined to a battlefield. It became part of everyday life.

Kansas has a particularly meaningful connection to that legacy. Dwight D. Eisenhower, raised in Abilene, rose to command Allied forces in Europe before becoming President of the United States. Having witnessed the tremendous human cost of war, he understood that peace and freedom demanded more than speeches and ceremonies.

"History does not long entrust the care of freedom to the weak or the timid," Eisenhower once observed.

Those words deserve consideration, particularly in a world where disagreements so easily overshadow the values we share.

Veterans Day is not an occasion to celebrate war. It is an opportunity to recognize those who answered their nation's call, often without knowing what would be asked of them or how profoundly their lives might change.

Across Western Kansas, we know many of these individuals personally. They are our neighbors, coworkers, teachers, farmers, business owners, and friends. Some speak openly about their years in uniform. Others say very little. Often, those who have experienced the most are the least inclined to draw attention to themselves.

Perhaps that is why a simple conversation can mean so much. Ask a veteran about their service, if they are comfortable sharing. Listen without assuming you understand, and recognize that their experiences may have shaped them in ways words cannot adequately explain.

But gratitude should never be limited to one day in November.

We honor our veterans not only through ceremonies, flags, and words of appreciation, but through the communities we build. We honor them when we look after our neighbors, respect our differences, fulfill our responsibilities as citizens, and recognize that the freedoms we enjoy carry obligations of our own.

Our country has never been without struggles or shortcomings. The promise of liberty has not always been extended equally, and every generation has faced the responsibility of bringing our actions closer to our ideals. That work remains unfinished.

Perhaps the greatest tribute we can offer those who served is to ensure their sacrifices are not met with indifference. That we do not take our liberties for granted, forget the lessons of history, or allow our differences to erase our common humanity.

Somewhere tonight, a veteran will sit quietly with memories of people the world has forgotten. Somewhere, a family will look at an old photograph and remember a loved one who never returned. And somewhere, a young American in uniform will stand watch while the rest of us sleep.

This Veterans Day, take the time to offer your thanks. But more importantly, consider what that gratitude represents.

We cannot repay every sacrifice or restore the years, opportunities, and lives that service has sometimes taken. What we can do is live with a greater appreciation for what has been entrusted to us.

Freedom is more than a word written into our history. It is a responsibility carried from one generation to the next, sustained by sacrifice and strengthened by the way we choose to live.

Freedom has always had a heartbeat. It is heard in the courage of those who served, remembered in the lives of those who never returned, and carried forward by the generations who inherit what they defended.

May we never allow that heartbeat to fade.

Ulysses High School To Present Legally Blonde

Courtesy of Soila Ochoa

Ulysses High School Theater Productions will present *Legally Blonde the Musical* Nov. 12-14 at Kepley Auditorium in Ulysses.

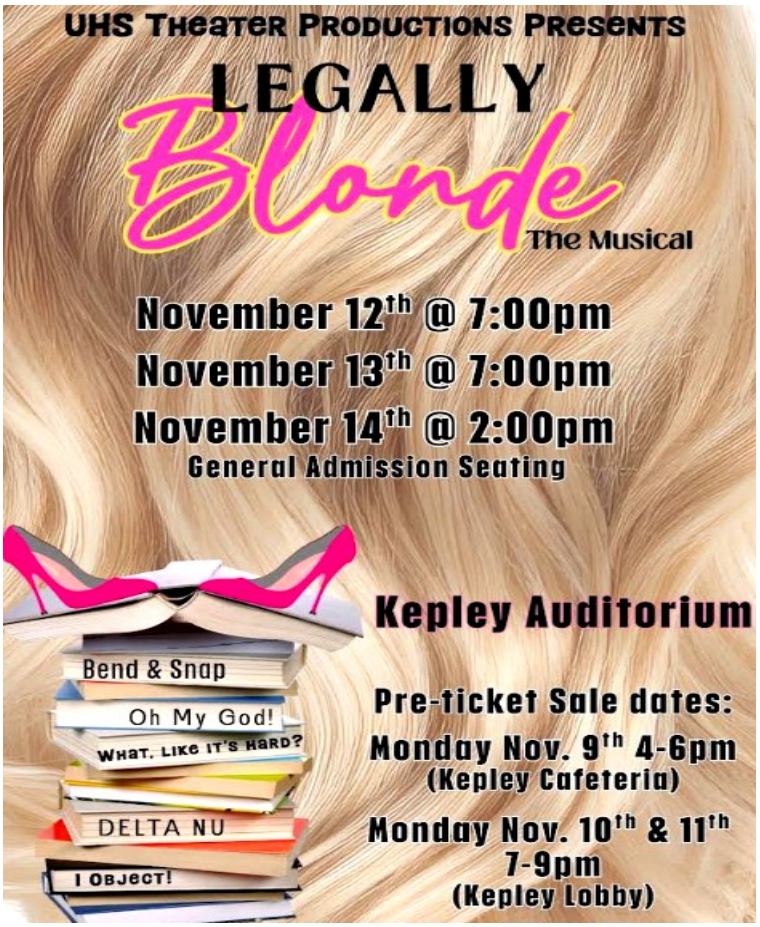
The musical features UHS students bringing the popular story of Elle Woods to life through acting, singing and dancing.

Seniors Miranda Vazquez (Elle Woods), Summer Breese (Paulette Bonafonte) and Blain Coffey (Emmett Forrest) will take on leading roles. All three have participated in UHS musicals throughout their four years of high school.

Performances are scheduled for Nov. 12 and 13 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 14 at 2 p.m.

Presale tickets will be available Nov. 9 from 4-6 p.m. in the Kepley Cafeteria and Nov. 10-11 from 7-9 p.m. in the Kepley Lobby.









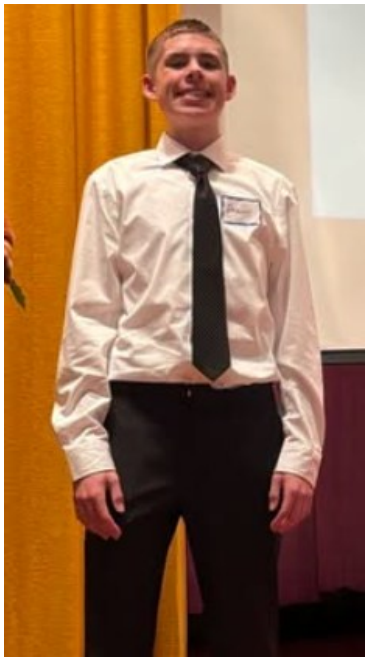
Local Principals Honored


C/O USD 214


C/O USD 226

Two Kansas school administrators have received statewide recognition for their dedication and leadership in education. Mr. Rietcheck of Ulysses High School was honored as the **2026 Kansas Assistant Principal of the Year** during a special reception in Wichita, recognizing his commitment to students, staff, and the community. Meanwhile, Mrs. McDowell, an administrator with Meade Middle School, was selected as one of two recipients of the **2026 Kansas Middle School Principal of the Year** award. Both educators were recognized for their outstanding contributions to their respective schools and their continued commitment to student success. Congratulations!

Satantan Named KAY Club President


C/O Satanta High School

Deacon Hockett has been selected to serve as Area 5 President of the Kansas Association for Youth (KAY) for the 2026–2027 school year. As part of his leadership responsibilities, Hockett will attend a Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) meeting in Topeka in January, speak at the KAY unit conference in February, and address next year's regional conference. The position provides Hockett an opportunity to represent his area while developing leadership skills and promoting youth involvement across Kansas.

Southwest Medical Names CFO



Southwest Medical Center (SWMC) in Liberal has announced the promotion of Trisha Potter to Chief Financial Officer, effective September 2026. A Liberal native, Potter began her career at SWMC in 2009 as a Payroll Specialist, advancing through several accounting positions before relocating to Texas in 2021. She returned to SWMC in October 2025 as Controller. Potter holds degrees in Computer Information Systems and Accounting, along with an MBA in Healthcare Administration. In her new role, she will oversee the hospital's financial operations while supporting its commitment to providing quality healthcare to Liberal and surrounding communities. *PHOTO Courtesy of Southwest Medical*

Main ARTery
We're More Than Just a Gallery...!
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620-424-3828
MainARteryKansas@gmail.com
facebook.com/mainarterykansas
T-F 10-5:30 Sat 10-2 Closed Mondays

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 13 - 20, 2026

FINNEY COUNTY

FRI 13
10am American Implement apprenticeship showcase
4pm Library Anime Night
5pm GCCC Mercer Gallery artist reception
6pm Garden City Arts Open Studio
7:30pm GCHS Buffs Got Talent
SAT 14
9am MM Fitness Turkey Trot
10am Veterans Day Parade, downtown
1pm Sip N' Shop, downtown
3pm GCCC Buster Trot 5K
SUN 15
2:30pm Library Sunday FunDay
MON 16
8:30am County Commissioners
6pm GCCC Come From Away auditions
TUE 17
1pm City Commission
6pm GCCC Come From Away auditions
7pm Evening at the Museum
WED 18
Holcomb school early dismissals
4:30pm Library Pokémon Club
6:30pm MakerSpace stained glass
THU 19
4pm Holcomb Scholars Bowl at Ulysses
6pm Crystal Apple Awards
FRI 20
4pm Library Anime Night
5pm Air Dry Wreath Ornaments

GRANT COUNTY

FRI 13
UHS Legally Blonde musical
Chamber Coffee, Extension Office
SAT 14
UHS Legally Blonde musical
9am KMS boys wrestling, Dodge City
MON 16
3pm Ulysses Municipal Court
4pm KMS girls basketball vs. Cimarron
Winter sports practices begin
Operation Christmas Child collection begins
TUE 17
9am County Commissioners
7pm UHS winter sports parent meeting
Mobile mammography, Health Department
WED 18
10am GWAC AD meeting, Scott City
THU 19
4pm KMS girls basketball vs. Hugoton
7pm Fifth-grade concert, Kepley
FRI 20
Grant County Gives Chamber Coffee, Bear Creek

HASKELL COUNTY

FRI 13
2pm Sublette schools early release
7pm Sublette Theatre Night
SAT 14
7pm Sublette Theatre Night
MON 16
4:30pm Sublette MS basketball vs. Stanton
6:30pm Satanta NHS induction
Winter sports practices begin
TUE 17
4pm Sublette Scholars Bowl at Rolla
4pm Satanta Scholars Bowl at Rolla
4pm Satanta JH basketball vs. Ingalls
6:30pm Sublette winter sports parent meeting
WED 18
9am Sublette FFA event
9:30am Satanta Big Read event
12:30pm Satanta Art Club
THU 19
11am Satanta Thanksgiving Dinner
4pm Sublette Scholars Bowl, Hodgeman
4:30pm Sublette MS basketball vs. SWH

KEARNY COUNTY

FRI 13
Lakin football sectionals (TBD)
Lakin HS musical
SAT 14
Lakin HS musical
MON 16
4pm Deerfield MS basketball vs. Syracuse
4:30pm Lakin MS basketball at SWH
6:30pm Deerfield Board of Education
Winter sports practices begin
TUE 17
4pm Lakin Scholars Bowl, Wichita County
4pm Deerfield Scholars Bowl, Rolla
7pm Lakin grades 6–12 vocal concert
WED 18
9am Lakin FFA, Dodge City
6pm Lakin City Council
THU 19
4pm Lakin Scholars Bowl at Ulysses
4pm Deerfield MS basketball vs. Elkhart
4:30pm Lakin MS basketball vs. Stanton
FRI 20
Lakin football sub-state (TBD)
Deerfield fall break begins

MORTON COUNTY

FRI 13
2:30pm Elkhart HS musical matinee
Rolla schools closed / in-service
SAT 14
Elkhart HS musical
Elkhart football sectionals
SUN 15
Elkhart Booster Club sports awards
MON 16
Elkhart MS basketball vs. Leoti
Rolla MS basketball at Elkhart
6:30pm Rolla City Council
Winter sports practices begin
TUE 17
4pm Rolla Scholars Bowl
Elkhart Booster Club chili cook-off
Elkhart Scholars Bowl at Leoti
5:30pm Rolla Municipal Court
THU 19
Elkhart / Rolla MS basketball at Deerfield
5:30pm Rolla Board of Adjustment
FRI 20
Elkhart HS Mental Health Day
No school at Rolla

STEVENS COUNTY

FRI 13
10am Pioneer Manor Men's Group
4:30pm Pheasant Heaven Calf Fry
7pm Hugoton HS musical
SAT 14
Moscow JH basketball, Yarbrough
5pm Moscow Christian Fellowship Bazaar
6pm High Plains Theatre: Jimmy
7pm Hugoton HS musical
SUN 15
3pm Hugoton HS musical
MON 16
Winter sports practices begin
Library escape room begins (through 25th)
TUE 17
1pm Library Mah-Jongg
4pm Scholars Bowls: Hugoton / Moscow
6pm Library acorn painting
WED 18
9am Hugoton FFA at Dodge City
THU 19
4pm Moscow JH basketball (home)
6:30pm Hugoton Senior Center Bingo
FRI 20
6:30pm Gilligan's Island Christmas, Memorial Hall
7pm High Plains Theatre: I Play Rocky

STANTON COUNTY

FRI 13
Johnson HS football sectionals (TBD)
MON 16
8:30am County Commissioners
4:30pm Johnson JH basketball at Sublette
Winter sports practices begin
TUE 17
4pm Johnson Scholars Bowl, Wichita County
WED 18
9am Johnson FFA, Dodge City
THU 19
4:30pm Johnson JH basketball at Lakin
FRI 20
7:30am Johnson Schools Resist meeting
Johnson HS football sub-state (TBD)
6pm Boys Basketball Family Fun Night

SEWARD COUNTY

FRI 13
8am SCCC Defensive Driving, West Campus
1pm Library Mahjong
3pm Library Magic: The Gathering
7pm Liberal football sub-state
SAT 14
8am SCCC Concealed Carry
9am SCCC Inkscape Basics
2pm Baker Arts Junk Journaling
5:30pm Ducks Unlimited Banquet
SUN 15
Robotics, Liberal Recreation Center (TBD)
MON 16
3pm SCCC Google Calendar class
5:30pm County Commissioners
6pm Baker Arts Art on a Budget
TUE 17
1pm SCCC PowerPoint Basics
1pm Library Explorer Tots
4pm Recreation Center LEGO Robotics
WED 18
11:45am SCCC Leadership vs. Management
5:30pm ADHD Caretaker Support Group
THU 19
1:30pm CVB Advisory Board
4:15pm Library Board
6:30pm Arkalon Council
FRI 20
8am Keating Tractor Christmas Open House
1pm Library Mahjong

HAMILTON COUNTY

FRI 13
No school, Syracuse
HS football sectionals
MON 16
Junior high basketball at Deerfield
TUE 17
8:30am County Commissioners, courthouse
WED 18
FFA at Dodge City
THU 19
Health Care Facility Board meeting
Junior high basketball at Wichita County
FRI 20
No school, Syracuse
HS football sub-state

