



# OBITUARY

## Victor Lee Zimmerman

A well-known retired farmer/stockman in the Alta Vista community, Victor Lee Zimmerman (99) died December 3, 2025. Vic was born October 24, 1926, on a farm in the Templin Community, northeast of Alta Vista. He was the first child and only son of Arnold and Elsie Brabb Zimmerman, both of whom have preceded him in death.



His early childhood education was in the Templin one-room schoolhouse, and he graduated from Alta Vista High School where he excelled in science and math. He was quarterback of the football team and won many ribbons in track. After three semesters at Kansas State University, he returned home because of his father's illness and continued the family tradition of farming and ranching in Wabaunsee and Morris Counties for the next 70 years.

On June 9, 1948, he married Norma Van Buren at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Alta Vista. They were married 66 years and were blessed with two children David and Susan.

Vic was always active in the community, serving on the Farmers Coop Board and the Young Farmers Association Board. He was a 4-H leader, president of the Alta Vista PTO, president of the Wabaunsee County Farm Bureau, and chairman of the Kansas Farm Bureau Policy Committee.

After their retirement, Vic and Norma traveled extensively, visiting nearly every state in the USA, as well as Canada and Mexico while spending winters in Arizona and Oklahoma.

Besides his family, sports, and traveling, Vic enjoyed painting and fixing up old houses well into his nineties. He liked to stay busy but was never too busy to visit with friends and neighbors.

Surviving Victor are: his sister Betty Johnson of Oskaloosa, KS, his son David Zimmerman and wife Shirley of Salina; daughter Susan Brunkow and husband Bradley of Manhattan; grandchildren Paula Shuck and husband Michael of Edmond, Oklahoma; Aaron Zimmerman and wife Heather of Colorado Springs, Colorado; Nathan Zimmerman and wife Larissa of Frisco, Texas; Eric Brunkow and wife Mollyanne of Olathe; and Kristen O'Shea and husband Gabriel of Topeka; great grand-children Evan Shuck; Ethan Shuck; Aspen Zimmerman; Reece Zimmerman; Hannah Zimmerman; Zion Brunkow, Leland O'Shea, Victoria O'Shea and another great granddaughter due in January.

Victor was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Norma in 2015, and brother-in-law Arthur Johnson.

Funeral services will be held in Alta Vista at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Friday, December 12, at 2:00 pm and interment will follow at the Alta Vista Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Alta Vista, Kansas in care of Sawyer Funeral Home, PO Box 273, Council Grove, Kansas, 66846.

Condolences can be left at [www.sawyerchapel.com](http://www.sawyerchapel.com)

## Kaw Council

(Continued from Page 1)  
complete remodel of both the U.S. Cavalry Museum and the 1st Infantry Division Museum. He retired as the director in August 2024. After hours he teaches military history through Kansas State University for Man program and Kansas University's Osher Lifelong Learning Program. He has coauthored a book on the history of Fort Riley and is the author of numerous articles on military subjects.

**AVON**

**FOR HIM Scented from head to toe!**

Matching hair & body wash in Black Suede or Wild Country

Jan Sciacca 303-775-5901  
Avon Ambassador since 1994

Council Grove Republican  
302 W. Main St.

# LETTERS TO EDITOR

Thanks for the article about Ruth Bacon and her heirloom 100+ year old Amaryllis! It made me smile. Having known Ruth for a while and knowing how much she loves to have her hands in the dirt, I can imagine the joy she gets from her plant. Learning the back story of her Amaryllis was inspiring.

In a world where we are all pushed towards the next big thing, it is inspiring to know that with enough love and care many things, even living plants, can endure and bring joy!

Jason Booker  
Council Grove

This might not make me very popular with my colleagues but at my age I'm not very worried about being popular anymore.

Recently I was talking to the school superintendent and was telling him about how impressed I was with Mr McClintock's editorial in the newspaper on how to use the 1918 school building and hopefully save some money while retaining some of the town's history. I don't think he was very impressed with any idea that might save the building, and it was in my opinion very apparent that only a new building solution was in his favorability as a solution.

I know I use simple math but in my head the numbers don't add up. I'm not sure how you can build new at the price tag of 30 odd million dollars and tear down a building or spend 45 million odd dollars by using some of what you have and building less new. I do know that you can make numbers come out about anyway you want them to if you're creative enough.

I would like to see some more creativity go into some ways to incorporate the old building into the plans. It still looks great and is built out of better materials than you will ever find today. Newer isn't always better.

Going back and spending more time memorizing our times tables and spelling I believe would be helpful for our students futures. Learning more history would be very beneficial so the youth of today aren't doomed to make the same mistakes of our past. Just look at the way you see the younger people voting. Millions of soldiers have died fighting to keep the freedoms of what they are voting for.

I hate fractions, always have, but when I was having problems in school with them, my dad decided to build a feed bunk. I used fractions so at least I started to understand them.

If the old doesn't work anymore then it needs to be replaced but I don't believe the old can't be used just because it's old.

Duane Andres

The USD 417 School Board is required to obtain from the State Board of Education advance approval of its proposed school bond election because Kansas law limits the total amount of school bonds at the same time to 14% of the school district's assessed valuation. The 2025 assessed valuation is \$83,913,733.00. Fourteen percent of that is \$11,747,922.00.

The remaining debt on the 2010 high school addition is \$2,260,000.00, which is to be paid in full in 2028. With a new bond issue of \$31,500,000.00, the grand total would be \$33,760,000.00--nearly three times the statutory limit.

I am sure that the Kansas Legislature set that limit to discourage ambitious school boards from getting their school districts into financial waters "over their heads." However the Legislature does recognize that extraordinary circumstances can exist which justify exceptions to the general rule.

K.S.A. 72-5461 grants the State Board of Education the authority to approve school bond elections exceeding the 14% limit for four limited purposes only--none of which appear to apply to the circumstances facing USD 417. One pertains to safety issues identified by the State Fire Marshal, or disability access

**Kay's Quixotry**

"Quixotry" (pronounced KWIK-suh-tree) (noun) A wild, visionary idea, unpredictable, an eccentric notion or act; a quixotism.

### By Kay Roberts

My calendar shows that I began working at the Council Grove Republican 45 years ago today. Good years, and I am blessed.

###

After years of doing news stories, and writing some of my own, I have noticed this...According to new research by Babel, a language-learning software company with headquarters in Berlin, the semicolon appears to be going the way of the pilcrow (a symbol akin to a fancy backward P, to mark a new paragraph or block of text) and percontation point (a reversed question mark, deployed to indicate a rhetorical question). It's in terminal decline like other rare, obsolete or forgotten punctuation marks that have fallen out of common use.

Babel examined books by American writers and discovered that the use of semicolons has dropped by 51% since the early 2000s; today,

semicolons appear once every 378 words compared with once every 187 words in the 2000s. In 1800, semicolons appeared in American English literature at a rate of about once every 110 words.

Not only is the use of semicolons in decline; so is the use of proper spelling. The lack of proper spelling bugs me more than the lack of semicolons, although both are important.

###

There is actually a word for something they know nothing about. An 'ultracrepidarian' is someone who voices thoughts beyond their expertise. Maybe some of us have our own words for that condition!

###

When my sisters and I were in our teens my mom decided to take a break a couple of Sundays a month from making dinner after church. We girls were in charge of the menu, shopping and making the meal. We found some recipes that were keepers and it provided good experience for later in life. I do remember finding a lima bean and sour cream mixture that I thought sounded good at the time. It wasn't, and that was the only time my family had that dish!

And that reminds me of the time Raye made corn bread and used baking soda instead of baking powder. That was the night cornbread and beans became beans and...more beans!

###

I read on Facebook that another way to replace heavy cream in recipes is to add 2 tablespoons of cornstarch to any type of milk (1 cup). It was used to replace the heavy cream in a potato soup recipe.

###

I just watched a video where two black bears in Alaska got locked in an SUV and they started honking the horn to be let out (which was done remotely by police officers). The officers said it looked like they bears were fixing to go joy riding. And I thought "bear on the highway" was a reference to watch out for a police officer!

Wait...that's not the only animal video today. Seems there is a raccoon enjoying himself at a Chicago tavern.

You can't make this stuff up!

###

•On a church bulletin during the minister's illness: GOD IS GOOD - Dr. Hargreaves is better.

• Tuesday at 4:00 PM there will be an ice cream social. All ladies giving milk will please come early.

• Don't let worry kill you off - let the church help.

###

All clown fish are born male. They can become female later in life. I don't know if they have a say in the matter or not!

issues determined by an ADA inspection. One pertains to enrollment growth and imminent overcrowding. One pertains to energy usage or other operational inefficiencies determined by a district-wide energy usage analysis or architectural analysis.

The fourth exception reads as follows: "impact on the delivery of educational services as demonstrated by restrictive inflexible design or limitations on installation of technology." In reviewing the School Board's application to exceed the limits imposed by the Legislature, I find no description as to how "restrictive inflexible design" is adversely affecting the installation of technology.

The School Administration has bemoaned the classroom sizes in the 1918/1983 high school building as impairing reconfiguration of school desks to permit "collaborative spaces"--but school desks are not "technology."

Even if a school district does have problems with fire safety, ADA non-compliance, energy inefficiencies, or installation of technology, those conditions do not justify a school board in tacking on a grandiose list of desirable improvements, the cost of which would grossly exceed the cost of solving their problems related to the four limited circumstances identified by the Legislature.

I again ask that the School Board rescind their resolution calling for a March 3, 2026, election to approve \$31,500,000.00 in 30-year school bonds. They should vote to retain the 1918/1983 high school building as an important contributor to our historic heritage. It is in sound condition. They should review the many proposed district-wide improvements to establish an order of priorities and use our present over-accumulation of capital outlay funds to accomplish the most critical, immediate needs. Then they should determine the next highest priorities to be accomplished within our bond limitations.

Kenneth W. McClintock

In 2024, Council Grove ranked 6th in the entire state in Math proficiency and 41st in ELA. According to the KS Open Gov website, 267 schools reported test results for Math and 265 schools for ELA. That places our Math scores in the top 2% of Kansas schools and our ELA scores in the top 15%. With the addition of our new ELA enrichment class for sophomores, there is every reason to expect our ELA performance to

continue rising and eventually mirror the success we are already seeing in Math.

The data clearly shows that our current system is working, and the biggest structural difference between us and almost every other district is the trimester schedule. Only two schools in Kansas use a trimester system. Nearly every school ranked below us is on a semester schedule, and the number of schools below us isn't even close to the number above us. The results speak for themselves. Trimesters are not holding us back, they are helping us excel.

Trimesters don't just support academics, they support our athletics as well. Because we have longer class periods, our athletes get more consistent and meaningful time in the weight room during the school day. You can see the impact directly. The male class of 2025 is one of the most dedicated weight room classes we've had, and our sports programs began to turn a corner during their sophomore year. Council Grove has become a contender in nearly every male sport, and that momentum began when consistent access to weights became the norm rather than the exception.

Colton Elsen  
Sophomore Class President  
Council Grove Junior  
Senior High School

EMAIL YOUR NEWS TO  
[cgnews@cgtelco.net](mailto:cgnews@cgtelco.net)

there's a **bee** champion at every school.

Enroll your school in the Scripps National Spelling Bee before December 31.

Visit [spellingbee.com/enroll](http://spellingbee.com/enroll) to learn more!

**Sunflower State Spelling Bee**

School Bee Deadline: January 31, 2026  
schools advance to county level

Final State Bee: March 21, 2026

Learn More At: [kspress.com/competitions/sunflower-state-spelling-bee](http://kspress.com/competitions/sunflower-state-spelling-bee)

Unequaled **Paint Finish Protection**

70% PVDF Top Coat  
Primer Coat  
Pretreatment Layer  
Protective Metallic Coating  
Steel

Hundreds of design ideas @ [MortonBuildings.com](http://MortonBuildings.com)

**MORTON BUILDINGS**

LOCATIONS ACROSS KANSAS | 800-447-7436

©2024 Morton Buildings, Inc. A listing of GC licenses available at [mortonbuildings.com/licenses](http://mortonbuildings.com/licenses)

Honesty & Fair Prices  
Built To Last Generations

Sold by local reps, built by skilled local crews

Garages | Shops | Ag Buildings

Sold by local reps, built by skilled local crews

800-374-6988 // [QualityStructures.com](http://QualityStructures.com)