

# A LITTLE BIT OF THE PAST

March 12, 1987

March 19, 1987

LUCAS MOVIES

ROY MILLER

Lawrence and Ralph Gilbreath were co-owners of “The Rex Theatre” which opened 11/23/1913 with “cozy seats, good music, elevated floor, good pictures.” On 5/16/1914 the Gilbreath Brothers opened “The Wonderland Airdome” with special music by Miss O’Brien at the piano and Harold Deeble on drums.

Between 1914 and 1925, movies were shown at “The Paramount” and “Red Arrow Picture Show”. Admission to the latter was gained with “Red Arrow Money” from business sponsors.

When the “Queen Theatre” (opened 1925) burned in 1929, L.R. Richolson and Lawrence Gilbreath owned the equipment. “The New Isis Theatre” opened on the present site in May 1930 by owners Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Gilbreath; the beginning of “talkies”. The Lucas Sunflower Band furnished music for the grand opening attended by approximately six hundred paid admissions. The movie, “Sunny Side Up” was received with “uproarious laughter”.

The theatre was equipped with an Arctic Nu-Air cooling system; described as “refreshing as the sea breeze” and cool as a mountain cavern”. In September 1941, automatic gas heat was installed. Included in the building was a stage used for home talent shows, school and organization presentations.

Fire destroyed the theatre in 1951 and 1959. Loren Cullen reopened the Isis in 1960. Bob and Lola Brant are current owners, purchasing it in 1963. No movies are shown there now; television and home video systems have greatly reduced the demand for theatres.

During the writers youthful movie attendance (40s and early 50s), children were admitted free until they started first grade. From grades 1-8 tickets were nine cents. When you entered high school the adult rate of \$0.29 was paid - rates varied. Attending the first showing of a movie allowed you free admission for any additional run of the same movie.

The Gilbreaths loved to entertain - especially the children of the community. It is impossible to estimate the number of hours they spent “babysitting”. The “rowdy” youngsters were discreetly reprimanded and received “special attention” from Stella: the children loved to tease and Stella responded by sitting with the noisemakers.

Lawrence passed away in 1964. Stella, whom celebrated her 90th birthday last October 6th, is one of our most highly respected citizens... a Lucas treasure.

*Contributor: Carol Blackwell*  
*Source: Russell Library*


August 6, 1930 - “They Like The Water” - “Roy Miller tells us that even in this day of homemade beer, soda pop and all kinds of sweetened ice cold drinks, that lots of people like good cold well water. Recently on an exceptionally hot day he kept a record of the people who stopped at his well by the roadside for a cool refreshing drink and in a period of only three hours there were 165 persons who drank at his well. Roy keeps the windmill at the east side of his lot running constantly and the water goes directly from the mill into the fountain. Above the fountain is a song inviting the passerby to stop and have a drink. In addition to the drinking fountain Roy has a dandy tourist camp at the west of his house with four cabins, a windmill to furnish water and a cook house. He has the park planted to young trees and around each tree is a circle of flowers that are kept growing this hot weather by irrigation from the windmill. He also has a number of apparatus for the youngsters to play on, including a merry-go-round. Many people of Lucas and vicinity avail themselves of the opportunity of going to the Miller Camp for their picnics”.

July 12, 1933 - “Petrified Tree Found” - “The latest addition to the interesting collection of Roy Miller in way of petrified materials is a 2,000 pound petrified tree taken from Spillman Creek northeast of Lucas. Mr. Miller brought it in Saturday. Among the other features of his Rock Garden are some petrified bones secured southwest of Lucas, some Iron rock taken from near the highway between Lucas and Luray and some other rocks of peculiar formation from the Blue Hills.

Anyone interested in geology should visit Mr. Miller’s collection. Mr. Miller also has built out rock of various kinds, a representation of Pike’s Peak with its auto road and the Royal Gorge, south of Colorado Springs.”

July 28, 1948 - “Plenty Of Water For Lucas Citizens Now” - “The last chapter in the solution of Lucas water troubles was written last week when Roy E. Miller, as an outright gift, deeded to the City of Lucas the tract of land upon which stands the new city well. Everyone knew long before this that Roy had the welfare of his fellowman at heart through the construction of the recreation facilities near his home for the use of his neighbors and friends. But the gift of the new well site is further proof of the generosity of this good citizen...”

*Contributor: Carol Blackwell*  
*Source: Russell Library*



# Seeds of Hope

www.SowerMinistries.org

A soldier wrote his dad from a combat zone in a war-torn country. In the upper left-hand corner under his name he wrote, “Not Here for Very Long.”

“True of the soldier - true of each of us. Life at its longest is very short in light of eternity. Wisely Moses advised us to go to God and ask Him to: “Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”

Time has no favorites. We are each given twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week and fifty-two weeks a year. It does not matter who we are or what God has called us to do, none of us can add one second of time to our lives once God has called us home. We must guard our time and use it wisely to honor and glorify Him.

Time can be used to influence others

- one way or another. It would be interesting to keep a record of our time as an accountant does money - what we spent and how we invested it. We could see what we did with our time and discover whether or not we helped or hindered others, led them closer to God or drove them from Him.

Time gives us opportunities to serve the Lord. Jesus said, “All of us must quickly carry out the tasks assigned by the One who sent Me and there is little time left before night falls and all our works come to an end.

Time ends with an interview. Each of us will stand before God one day and have an opportunity to review our record with Him. What will matter most is whether or not there will be a day when we surrendered our life to Him.

## USD #299

### Event Calendar

Dec. 4.....JH BB vs St. John’s Tipton @ Sylvan 4pm

Dec. 5....(G) Wrestling Trego Community @ 3pm

HS BB @ Bennington 4pm

Dec. 6.....HS-JH/Ele KMEA Performance @ Hays

(B) Wrestling Trego Community 10am

Dec. 8-13.....Russell BB Trny @ Russell

Dec. 8.....B.O.E. @ 1pm

Dec. 11.....JH BB @ Lincoln 4pm

Dec. 13.....Wrestling (G) (B) Hesston Tournament 9am

Dec. 15.....JH/HS Winter Program 7pm

Dec. 16.....(G)(B) Wrestling Republic County 1pm

HS BB @ Lincoln 4pm

Dec. 18.....HS BB JV (B) (G) vs Great Bend

JH BB @ Osborne 4pm

Dec. 19.....End of 1st Semester

HS BB vs Pike Valley 4pm

Dec. 20.....(G)(B) Wrestling Russell Tourney 10am

Dec. 22-Jan 5.....No School

Dec. 23-26.....Winter Moratorium

Jan. 6.....School Resumes

HS BB @ TMP-Marian Hays 4pm

For updated info go to [www.usd299.org](http://www.usd299.org) or Facebook: Sylvan-Lucas Unified Schools

### RUSSELL CO. HEALTH NURSE TO BE IN LURAY AND LUCAS

The Russell County Health Nurse will be in the northern half of the county on **Thursday, December 4, 2025**


The Luray Clinic will be held at the **Luray Community Center** from **10:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.** In Lucas the clinic will be held at the **Lucas Golden Age Center** (Senior Center) from **1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

## Area Blood Mobiles

Help the Red Cross by donating at the following area blood mobiles:

**Monday, December 29, 2025**  
Hunter Community Building  
109 1st ST • Hunter, KS 67452  
9:00 a.m. - 03:00 p.m.

**Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to schedule your appointment.**



## Senior Center Menu

Lucas & Luray

**Monday, December 8, 2025**  
Taco Burger, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Mixed Vegetables, Bun, Mixed Fruit

**Tuesday, December 9, 2025**  
Ham Slice, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Winter Blend Vegetables, Dinner Roll, Cranberry Fluff

**Thursday, December 11, 2025**  
Liver & Onions in Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Winter Blend Vegetables, Bread, Pears

**EVERYONE** (all ages) is welcome to stop by for coffee 8:30 a.m. and for activities (cards & games) at 1pm-4pm Monday through Friday.

For a meal at the Lucas Golden Age Center contact Marlys (785) 525-6286 at the center or her home (785) 525-6292 before 11am the day before. For a meal at Luray Senior Center call Teri at (785) 698-2405 or (785) 324-2241. Please call a day **(11am)** in advance.

**Requested Contribution: \$3.75 per meal. Guests under 60 must pay full cost of meal, which is \$6.75.**

## NOTICE

RUSSELL COUNTY LANDFILL WILL BE CLOSED FRI., DEC. 12<sup>TH</sup> FOR EMPLOYEE SAFETY TRAINING

Landfill CLOSED Sat., Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>

## PANTHER PAWS

*Of Luray*

We believe that every child deserves a bright and healthy future. That's why our child and daycare center offers a safe and nurturing environment for young minds to grow and learn. Breakfast, snack, and lunch provided. We are a DCF provider.

7:00 am-6:00 pm  
400 Russell County Avenue  
Reserve your child's spot today!  
**785-698-2500**



Ages 4 -12 - \$ 5 (3D-\$ 6)

PG



**NATIONAL PREMIERE!**

Adults - \$ 6 (3D - \$ 7)

*Lucas Area Community Theater* Final Weekend!

# ZOOTOPIA 2

Dec 6 & 7  
7 Fri, Sat, 5 Sun Disney

Showing Dec 13, 14 & 20, 21 - "Wicked For Good"

116 S. Main - Lucas KS - 785-525-7747  
[www.LucasTheater.org](http://www.LucasTheater.org)

# NEED A BUSINESS CARD?

Let Lucas Publishing Company design your business cards. The design is FREE with purchase of cards. Also offering FULL COLOR postcards, brochures, rack cards, note cards, flyers, announcements, door hangers, etc.



**Lucas Publishing Company**  
203 S Main ST • Lucas, KS 67648  
(785) 525-6355 • [lusynews@gmail.com](mailto:lusynews@gmail.com)

## Lucas Santa Claus Day - Dec 13

### 1pm at the Lucas Theater

**1pm - Business Drawings with Free Small Pepsi & Popcorn - Register at Lucas Businesses for their Drawings.**

**At 1:15pm - Free Movie TBA**

**At 3pm - Visit with Santa and get a treat!**

*Sponsored by City of Lucas, Lucas Area Chamber of Commerce, Lucas PRIDE, Great Plains Mfg/Land Pride, Bennington State Bank of Sylvan Grove & Lucas, Brant's Market, Lucas Lions Club, Home Oil Service & Convenience Store, K-18 Café, Garden of Eden, Grassroots Art Center, Insurance Smart of Luray & Lucas, Lynn's Glass Works & Laser Engraving, Kansas Originals Market & Gallery, Lucas Publishing Co., & Lucas Area Community Theater.*

