



Byron Hunter died on June 23

Byron Errol Hunter, 82, of Ness City, Kansas, passed away on June 23, 2025, at the Ness County Hospital, Ness City, Kansas.

He was born on May 29, 1943 in Hill City, Kansas, the son of Robert and Minnie (Saunders) Hunter.

Byron spent much of his career as a skilled mechanic with Clear Creek Trucking before retiring. A true outdoorsman, he had a lifelong passion for hunter-traveling across the United States, as well as to Canada and Mexico, in pursuit of his love for the sport. A devoted bowhunting enthusiast, Byron also sold archery equipment and enjoyed sharing his knowledge with others, especially his family.

He and his beloved wife, Ruth Marie (McDaniel) Hunter, shared a love for the open road, often exploring the country together on his motorcycle. They were married on June 19, 1960, and celebrated 57 years of marriage before Ruth’s passing in 2017.

Byron is survived by his daughter, Mary Kelley and her husband, Ronald of Ness City; sister, Kayleen Zahn of Hutchinson; grandson, Michael Hunter, five great grandchildren, Kelli, Chrissi, Hailey, Justis and L.J.; three great great grandchildren, Hunter, Matthew, and Javier; and three step-great great children.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Ruth; brother, Carrol Hunter; and sisters, Jeanene Kane, Roberta Hendricks, Irene Berry and Rowena Carpenter and step-grandson, Eric.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, July 18 2025, at Fitzgerald Funeral Home in Ness City,

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Honor Flight or the Hunter Family Memorial Fund.

Messages of condolence and support for the family may be shared at www.fitzgeraldfuneral.com

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Letter to the editor . . .

Dear editor,
I wanted to say how much the 2025 Old Settlers Reunion was enjoyed by us.
A big thank you to everyone that worked to make it a wonderful event for all of us. It take so much effort, giving of time, suggestions, and working together to provide the very best Old Settlers.

The parade was the largest I can remember in some time. Thank you to all entrants for interesting floats, many different items handed or given from the floats, cars, trucks, tractors, equipment, horses, businesses. There was representation from each and every town in our area.

Also, the weather! Was it not outstanding for the first week in June, Old Settlers Reunion and nearly time for harvest. We couldn't have asked for better conditions.

Thank you Old Settlers Reunion Committee for a great Reunion. We appreciate everything you did and provided for the rest of us to enjoy this very important event 2025 Old Settlers Reunion.

Thank you,
Sabra Clarke

DEINES & DEINES

E. Jay Deines

Lawyer

110 North Main
785-743-5766

WaKeeney, KS 67672

Mon-Thurs 8:00-4:00 Fri 8:00-12:00

It Pays to . . .

ADVERTISE

FHSU announces Spring 2025 Deans’ Honor Roll recipients

Fort Hays State University has named 1,841 students to the Deans’ Honor Roll for the Spring 2025 semester.

The Deans’ Honor Roll includes undergraduate students only. To be eligible, students must have completed 12 or more credit hours and earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.60 for the semester. Full-time on-campus and FHSU Virtual College students are eligible.

Among the students from Ness County were:
(Bazine) Dylan Bruntz and Betsaida Luna Gomez
(Ness City) Tristen Dean, Amy Foos and Hannah Hair
(Ransom) Ava Reis

Insight

KANSAS FARM BUREAU
The Voice of Agriculture

by Jackie Mundt - Pratt County farmer/rancher

Finding common ground

Good friends can have a good time no matter what they are doing together. That is how I ended up helping with a Yoga on the Farm event at Hildebrand Dairy near Junction City recently. The event was organized by CommonGround Kansas, an organization of farm women in Kansas who share information and personal stories about farming and the food they grow.

Yoga on the farm events have been around for years but this was my first time attended one. I was pretty impressed to see around 50 people show up on a hot June weekend to moo-ve through poses on a lush green lawn next to cattle grazing in a pasture. The cows didn’t make anyone too self-conscious because they only stared at the humans in the strange poses for a little while before they got back to snacking on the grass.

Participants in the event got a lot more than a yoga session. Melissa Hildebrand Reed, one of the farm owners, gave a tour of the farm including a sneak peak of two milking robots they are installing. Participants were also able to learn what the dairy cattle eat by building a trail mix version of the ration, and everyone got delicious soft serve ice cream at the farm’s dairy store.

One of my favorite parts of the day was getting to see Melissa and her staff connecting with curious people. She does such a good job of teaching people about the farm, showing them how they take care of their cows and explaining how they make the dairy products you can buy in their farm store or at grocery stores throughout the state.

Looking around the crowd it was obvious some people were hardcore yoga enthusiasts, others were there for the novelty of a unique experience, a great photo op, to see the cows or for the post-workout ice cream. Regardless of the reason, everyone walked away having met a real life dairy farmer, more clearly understanding of how dairy farms work and having a great story to tell their friends about where dairy products come from.

Events like this are so

powerful because they demystify farms, give people the chance to ask questions and help the public build confidence in how their food is grown or produced. The farm women who volunteer for CommonGround Kansas are really effective advocates because in addition to being farmers, they are wives, mothers, caretakers, grocery shoppers and so many other roles. They have so many of the same concerns, fears and goals as all of the rest of us — we have so much common ground.

One of the most important needs we all have is to be well fed. Meeting a farmer and realizing you have something in common can completely change your perspective. Having the opportunity and comfort to ask questions about how food is grown can lead to confidence and peace of mind. Opening farms to the public creates more informed, loyal consumers.

My first time at Yoga on the Farm was delightful, and I look forward to more opportunities like it in the future. If you have the opportunity to attend yoga or any other event on a farm, I hope you will take advantage because you will likely learn something new, make powerful connections and may even get a cute selfie with a farm animal.

**DIVE INTO
THE CLASSIFIEDS . . .
AND COME UP
WITH A BARGAIN!**

USD 303 - Ness City Schools: Surplus Equipment for Sale by Sealed Bid

USD 303 - Ness City Schools is accepting sealed bids for the following surplus copiers and related items:

- Ricoh MP C4503 – Color Copier (Library)**
 - 45 ppm, Finisher, Large Capacity Tray (1500 sheets)
 - Approx. 1,064,000 copies
 - Includes 4 extra toner cartridges
- Ricoh MP C5503 – Color Copier (High School)**
 - 55 ppm, Finisher, Large Capacity Tray (1500 sheets)
 - Approx. 691,000 copies
 - Includes 6 extra toner cartridges
- Ricoh MP C6003 – Color Copier (District Office)**
 - 60 ppm, Finisher, Large Capacity Tray (1500 sheets)
 - Approx. 892,000 copies
 - Includes 4 extra toner cartridges
- Ricoh MP 5002 – B&W Copier (Pre-Kindergarten)**
 - 40 ppm
 - Approx. 1,309,614 copies
- Ricoh MP 5002 – B&W Copier (Elementary School)**
 - 50 ppm, Finisher, Large Capacity Tray (1500 sheets)
 - Approx. 1,154,070 copies
 - Includes 2 extra toner cartridges

Bids must be received in the USD 303 District Office by 4:00 PM on Monday, July 7, 2025.

Bids will be opened and prepared for presentation to the Board of Education on Wednesday, July 9, 2025. Final decisions will be made during the Board of Education meeting on Monday, July 14, 2025.

☐ To submit a bid, please include:

- The **item(s)** being bid on
- The **bid amount**
- Your **name, address, and contact information**

Submit in a sealed envelope clearly marked **“Sealed Bid – USD 303”** to: USD 303 District Office
414 E Chestnut St
Ness City, KS 67560

All items are sold as is/where is, with no warranty expressed or implied. Successful bidders will be notified on Tuesday, July 15, 2025. All equipment must be removed no later than 4:00 PM on Monday, July 21, 2025.

USD 303 reserves the right to refuse any or all bids.

For questions or to schedule a viewing, please contact the District Office at (785) 798-2210.

Ness County Hospital

Ness City Medical Clinic

316 Custer Ness City, KS 67560

PHONE: (785) 798-2233

FAX (785) 798-3302

Hometown Healthcare in Ness City!

Looking for compassionate, high-quality medical care without the drive? Look no further than Ness City Medical Clinic, part of Ness County Hospital. Our experienced and dedicated providers are here to serve you and your family with personalized care, close to home.

Clinic Providers:		
William McDonald APRN-BC	Monday-Thursday	Joined in 2010
Sarah Kreger APRN	Monday-Thursday	Joined in 2015
Jordyn Flores APRN FNP-C	Monday-Thursday	Joined in 2024
Dr. Eric Easey MD	Tuesday-Friday	Joined in 2020
Andrew Campfield APRN FNP-C	Tuesday-Friday	Joined in 2024

We offer a full range of family medicine services, preventative care, and chronic disease management. Whether you’re in need of a routine checkup or ongoing treatment, our team is here for you. So give us a call Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00 to schedule an appointment, because your health deserves hometown care!

The Military Man

The average age of the military man is 19 years.

He is a short haired, tight-musclcd kid who, under normal circumstances is considered by society as half man, half boy. Not yet dry behind the ears, not old enough to buy a beer, but old enough to die for his country.

He never really cared much for work and he would rather wax his own car than wash his father’s; but he has never collected unemployment either.

He’s a recent High School graduate; he was probably an average student, pursued some form of sports activities, drives a ten year old jalopy, and has a steady girlfriend that either broke up with him when he left, or swears to be waiting when he returns from half a world away.

He listens to rock and roll or hip-hop or rap or jazz or swing, and 155mm Howitzers.

He is 10 or 15 pounds lighter now than when he was at home because he is working or fighting from before dawn to well after dusk.

He has trouble spelling, thus letter writing is a pain for him, but he can field strip a rifle in 30 seconds and re-assemble it in less time in the dark.

He can recite to you the nomenclature of a machine gun or grenade launcher and use either one effectively if he must.

He digs foxholes and latrines and can apply first aid like a professional.

He can march until he is told to stop or stop until he is told to march. He obeys orders instantly and without hesitation, but he is not without spirit or individual dignity.

He is self-sufficient. He has two sets of fatigues: he washes one and wears the other. He keeps his canteens full and his feet dry.

He sometimes forgets to brush his teeth, but never to clean his rifle.

He can cook his own meals, mend his own clothes, and fix his own hurts. If you’re thirsty, he’ll share his water with you; if you are hungry, his food. He’ll even split his ammunition with you in the midst of battle when you run low.

He has learned to use his hands like weapons and weapons like they were his hands. He can save your life – or take it, because that is his job.

He will often do twice the work of a civilian, draw half the pay and still find ironic humor in it all. He has seen more suffering and death than he should have in his short lifetime.

He has stood atop mountains of dead bodies, and helped to create them. He has wept in public and in private, for friends who have fallen in combat and is unashamed.

He feels every note of the National Anthem vibrate through his body while at rigid attention, while tempering the burning desire to “square-away” those around him who haven’t bothered to stand, remove their hat, or even stop talking. In an odd twist, day in and day out, far from home, he defends their right to be disrespectful.

Just as did his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, he is paying the price for our freedom. Beardless or not, he is not a boy.

He is the American Fighting Man that has kept this country free for over 200 years. He has asked nothing in return, except our friendship and understanding. Remember him, always, for he has earned our respect and admiration with his blood.

**For our Military:
Prayer Wheel**

“Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us.

Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Amen.”