

Obituaries

CHERYL LEE (GEORGE) VANWEY

Cheryl Lee (George) VanWey was born in Bloomfield, Nebraska to Ross and Dorthea George on Oct. 11, 1944, and passed away on June 7, 2025.

She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Clyde VanWey and her sons Craig VanWey and wife Jill of Pittsburg, KS, and Chris VanWey and wife Brittany of Webb City, MO; grandchildren Megan VanWey Brown and husband Josh Brown of Kansas City, KS, Logan VanWey of Houston, TX, Kaylee VanWey McMullen and husband Drake of El Reno, OK and Alyssa VanWey and fiancé Jordan Clark of Manhattan, KS; sisters Kathy George Moore and husband Alan of Rosalia, KS, Janet George Oswald of Leon, KS, and Vicki George Penwell and husband Jim Penwell of Leon, KS.

Preceding her in death were her sister Helen George Moore and husband John Moore, and her parents Ross and Dorthea George.



Cheryl attended schools in Augusta, KS, and El Dorado, KS, graduating from El Dorado High School in 1962. She married Clyde on September 25, 1966, in Rosalia Methodist Church while he was in the Air Force stationed in Pakistan. When he returned from the service in December of 1967, they lived in El Dorado, Wichita, Fort Scott, Parsons, and Carl Junction, MO. She worked at JC Penny for 21 years in Fort Scott and Parsons. She babysat her grandchildren often, playing board games and making her famous banana bread. Cheryl and Clyde spent many years traveling the country having visited 47 states along the way. Cheryl kept busy attending many sports activities for her sons and grandchildren.

A Visitation will be held Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 1 pm at Simpson Funeral Home of Webb City, MO. The funeral service will be held following the visitation at 2 pm. Services are under the personal care and direction of Simpson Funeral Home.

The family would like to send a heartfelt “Thank You” to Compassus Hospice and to Charlotte’s Angels Home Care for the exceptional care they provided to Cheryl.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations in Cheryl’s name be sent to St. Jude Children’s Hospital: 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. Cheryl had a history of supporting St. Jude’s and we know this would make her happy.



Augusta’s first hospital

Augusta Historical Society and Museum

A three-story white structure in the 600 block of Santa Fe was built in the early part of this century by J. W. Jennings, a well-known contractor and builder in Butler County, as a home for the family of Warren E. Brown. Brown was the son of George Brown, the prominent early day banker of Augusta. Warren followed his father into the banking business. The home was purchased by the Empire Oil Company when Warren and his family moved to Wichita.

By 1920, 619 Santa Fe was purchased by Dr. Joseph Bunten who soon turned it into Augusta’s first hospital. It had a capacity for 24 beds with a spacious lobby for guests. Dr. Bunten was the chief surgeon, assisted by Dr. G. Kassebaum, an internal medicine specialist. Room, board and general nursing services ranged from \$3 to \$6 with the delivery charge for a baby of \$5. The hospital functioned for 20 years before closing its doors in the spring of 1938.

Originally there was a wraparound porch, an in-ground sprinkler system, a carriage house, a circular staircase, and a tunnel extending into the spacious yard. The daughter of Dr. Samuel Mallison, Dr. Bunten’s second partner,



indicated the tunnel was actually more of a storm cellar and was eventually filled in with dirt for safety reasons.

Dr. Bunten built the brick house just south of the hospital for himself and his wife. He later built a glass aviary between his home and the hospital and filled it with exotic birds. There are reports he also housed a small pet bear in

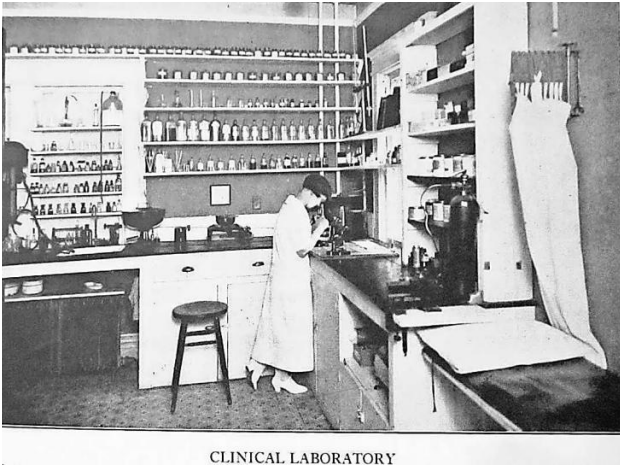


the aviary to the delight of the younger patients. Dr. Mallison lived across the street from the hospital but because of the freight trains throughout the night, Mrs. Mallison convinced her husband to build a home further away. The family moved to upper State Street to the home located on the southwest corner of State and Harrington.

The hospital closed for a period of time later in the 1920s when a rear addition was built onto the structure to increase the patient bed capacity to 32, provide quarters for the nurses above the carriage house and private consultation areas. When the hospital began to lose business to Wichita hospitals, Dr. Bunten tried to sell the hospital but was unsuccessful, so according to his partner, he left town in 1930 leaving many bad debts,

and moved to Wyoming. Dr. Mallison was forced to close down the hospital and open an office in downtown Augusta for a couple of years. When he had enough capital, he was able to reopen the hospital. During the Depression years, Dr. Mallison took in eggs, chickens, and vegetables to wipe away old debts. When Dr. Mallison’s health began to fail, he was forced to close the hospital in 1939. Many of the hospital items were donated to Wichita and ElDorado hospitals.

G. B. West of Wichita purchased the building in 1942 and converted the hospital into apartments. Cecil Jacobs and his wife, Sadie, later purchased the building and operated the Jacobs Apartments for 30+ years. Currently, the hospital is sitting idle. The aviary and carriage house are long gone.



A Minute with Madeline: Get Ready for the Butler County Fair!

Fair Preparation Tips for 4-H Members

Madeline Wallace, 4-H Youth and Development Agent
K-State Research and Extension
Butler County

Summer is here, and that means one thing—Fair season is right around the corner! The Butler County Fair is a time to showcase your hard work, meet friends, and take pride in your 4-H projects. Whether you’re entering livestock, photography, clothing, or STEM exhibits, preparation is key to making the most of your fair experience. Here are some helpful tips to get ready:

Know the Deadlines
Stay organized by marking all

fair-related deadlines on your calendar. That includes:

- Livestock Exhibitors
- Double-check your ear tags, tattoos, or registration papers for accuracy.
- Practice showmanship regularly—both with your animal and handling questions.
- Make a fair checklist with grooming supplies, feed, buckets, halters, fans, and bedding.
- Ensure your animal is used to noise and crowds to reduce stress on show day.
- Pre-entry deadline: Monday, June 23 at 11:59 p.m.
- Livestock form deadlines
- YQCA certification for livestock

Check the Butler County 4-H Fair

Book and Extension Office emails for the most current information.

Static Project Tips

- Finish projects early so you have time for final touch-ups.
- Review judging criteria in the fair book to ensure your display meets size or labeling requirements.
- Practice explaining your project as if you’re talking to the judge—what did you learn?

Fair Etiquette & Safety

- Be respectful and courteous to judges, staff, and fellow 4-H members.
- Keep your stall or exhibit area tidy and your project well cared for.
- Drink water, wear sunscreen, and

take breaks—it can get hot!

- Ask for help if you’re unsure—it’s a great chance to learn.
- For your safety and comfort, please wear appropriate clothing and closed-toe shoes.

Final Reminders

- Pack early, not the night before!
- Label your belongings.
- Have a backup plan in case of weather changes or emergencies.
- Most importantly, have fun and be proud of what you’ve accomplished! We can’t wait to see Butler County 4-H members shine at this year’s fair. Your dedication and passion make the event a true celebration of youth development. See you at the fairgrounds!

Butler County Fair update

Erin Burden, President
Butler County Fair Association

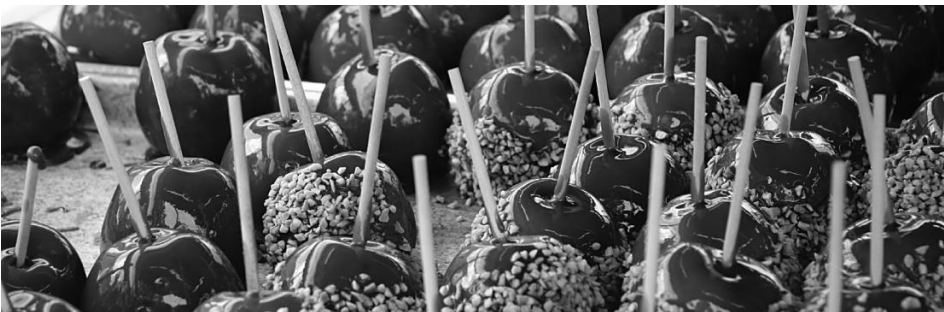
With fair time quickly approaching, I’d like to share the new events planned for this year’s Fair:

- Fair King & Queen Contest, Special Champions Goat Show, and Kids Tractor Pedal Pull.

The Fair King & Queen contest highlights the outstanding youth of our county, promotes youth development organizations involved with the fair, and supports the Butler County Fair. Contestants develop valuable life skills such as public speaking, interviewing, and building confidence through the contest process. The crowned King and

Queen and their attendants will represent the fair at various events, parades, and venues. The crowning will take place July 11, 2025, at the 4-H Fashion Revue.

- The Special Champions Goat Show enables 4-H/FFA meat goat exhibitors to coach individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) on preparing for and exhibiting at the Butler County Fair. This event is open to I/DD individuals aged 14 and older, who will exhibit a goat with the assistance of 4-H/FFA exhibitors on Sunday, July 20th @ 6pm. Entries are due by 5pm on Monday, June 16th, 2025.



Sign up now: <https://forms.gle/Bgq6HMGBCupQsyLq94-H>
FFA Coach: <https://forms.gle/qRpsR6wiH5TRUUMW6>

- Calling all kids ages 4-12, weighing 30-90lbs, you are invited to test your leg strength and endurance at the Kids’ Pedal Tractor Pull during the Butler County Fair on Sunday, July 20. Each child will pedal a tractor and drag a

weighted sled as far as they can. The friction created by the sled makes it harder to pull the farther they go. This Kansas sanctioned event will qualify the top 3 places from each age division to compete at the Kansas State Fair. Registration begins at 1:30pm, and the pull starts at 2pm. Visit <https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4hfair/> for a complete listing of all Fair events.