

# Obituaries



**Karen A. Shirk, 74,** passed away Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at her home in Garden City. She was born September 27, 1951 in Hutchinson, Kansas; the daughter of Clement Miles and Leona Margaret (Wilkerson) Shirk.

Karen grew up in Friend, Kansas. She attended school in Shallow Water until her sophomore year; she graduated from Garden City High and continued her education at Fort Hays State University. After her time in college, she returned to the Garden City area where she worked for an accounting firm and later as a computer technician for a local seed company.

Karen played several sports in her youth and enjoyed watching them throughout life. She was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church and spent countless hours reading books.

Survivors include her brother, Layne C. Shirk and his wife Barbara of Great Bend, Kansas; sister-in-law, Elizabeth Shirk of Johnson, Kansas; nieces and nephews, Abby Moos (Adam), Jenny Stous (John), Hanna Brownback (Grant), Mandy Adams (Tyson), Nicholas

Shirk (Cassie), and Myles Shirk; as well as numerous grand nieces and nephews.

Karen was preceded in death by her father, Clement Shirk; mother and step-father, Leona and Glenn Cleveland; brothers, Robert Shirk and David Shirk.

Graveside Services will be held at 11:00 a.m., Friday September 25, 2026 in the Prairie View Church Cemetery of Friend, Kansas, with Reverend Donald Bedore as officiant. The family suggests memorial contributions to St. Mary Catholic Church or the Finney County Senior Center, both in care of Garnand Funeral Home.

Garnand Funeral Home 412 N. 7th Street, Garden City, Kansas 67846 620-276-3219



**Andrew Fira, 67,** passed away September 22, 2026, at Hays Medical Center in Hays, Kansas. He was born August 14, 1959, in Jordanton, Texas to Fidencio & Mary (Corella) Fira. He was raised with two sisters and two brothers.

Andrew found his career working in the agriculture field, starting at Collinwood Elevator and Grain. He then found interest in beef cattle feeding and livestock production at Kinsley Feeders then at Great Bend Feeding.

He went back to agricul-

ture at Great Bend Coop until his retirement. Andrew took a retirement job for the Center for Counseling as a maintenance technician and car cleaner. He gave his time selflessly volunteering for the Salvation Army as a bell ringer. He was a member of Crosswinds of Kansas Biker Church. He was a big fan of dirt track racing whether on t.v. or in person. Andrew loved to visit with people and never met a stranger; you just became a new friend.

Surviving are many friends he made along his journey through life, including Matthew Gerritzen of Hoisington and Lesa Wondra of Great Bend. He was preceded in death by his

parents; and two beloved dachshunds, Jade and Bentley.

Cremation has taken place. Graveside services will be held at 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at Great Bend Cemetery North with Pastor Victor Link presiding. Visitation will be 3:00 to 8:00 p.m., Monday, September 28, 2026, at Bryant Funeral Home. Those attending the service are encouraged to wear their favorite racing attire. In Lieu of flowers, memorials may be made out to Andrew Fira Expense Fund, in care

of Bryant Funeral Home, 1425 Patton Rd., Great Bend, KS 67530.

## Legal Publication

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(First Published in the Johnson Pioneer News on October 1, 2026)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF STANTON COUNTY, KANSAS

|                                 |   |                               |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  | ) | Case No. ST-2026-PR-000010    |
|                                 | ) |                               |
| <u>GALEN LANE, DECEASED</u>     | ) | Title to Real Estate Involved |
| (Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59) |   |                               |

### NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a petition was filed in said Court by Wynn M. Cockrum, Petitioner, praying that the descent be determined with respect to all property or interests therein owned by the decedent at the time of his death; and that such property and all personal property owned by the decedent at the time of death be assigned pursuant to the laws of intestate succession.

You are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before 26<sup>th</sup> day of October at 9:00 AM in the City of Johnson City, Stanton County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. If you should fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said Petition.

Wynn M. Cockrum  
Petitioner

/s/ Lance H. Cochran  
Lance H. Cochran, #19026  
KENNEDY BERKLEY, P.A.  
119 W. Iron, 7<sup>th</sup> Fl.  
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