

Classified Advertising Notices
Card of Thanks
 95¢ per line with a minimum charge of \$7.00

Rates quoted above are for ads paid with insertion order.

Have you received a postcard in the mail to renew your subscription for another year? Or was the address stamped "SUBSCRIPTION DUE"? Maybe it was circled in red. You don't want to miss the News! Subscription rates are listed on page two.

PLEASE REMEMBER
 We need your "Zip Code + 4".
 Thank You for your assistance.

Dr. Paul M. Lampert
 Optometrist
Family Eye Care
 124 E Wichita Ave • Russell, KS
 (785) 483-2291 or 1-800-401-8098

ADVERTISING WORKS!

Home Oil Service & Convenience Store, Inc.
 5499 K-18 HWY • Lucas, KS

- Airgas welding supplies
- Bait & Tackle
- Cold Beer
- Groceries & Picnic Supplies
- Hunting Supplies
- Hunt's Bros. Pizza
- Licenses
- Matheson welding supplies
- Propane

Open 7 Days A Week
Sunday-Thursday 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Friday-Saturday 7am - 11 p.m.

Kansas Farm Bureau.....Insight
 Kim Baldwin, McPherson County farmer and rancher

Letters from Grandma
 My family recently celebrated the life of my husband's grandmother. We were incredibly lucky to have Grandma Irene in our lives for so many years.

I don't know a lot of people who knew a great-grandparent, but our son and daughter are old enough to remember her. While she lived three hours from us, she was very much aware of what we were all doing between our visits by keeping up with us on Facebook or through reading this column in her local paper.

She kept us up-to-date by writing letters that she'd put into cards and send to arrive just in time for birthdays and holidays. You always knew to be on the lookout for an envelope in the mailbox from her a few days before those special days.

Sometimes Grandma Irene would send a handwritten letter just because and include a news clipping or pages from her daily devotionals that reminded her of us.

She had raised her family on a farm as well and knew what living in the country and raising crops and kids entailed. She loved seeing pictures of her great-grandkids holding lambs, working cattle, riding in a tractor or enjoying a meal in the field during harvest.

A handful of years ago, she moved into an assisted living facility in her small town in Southeast Kansas. She'd write us letters telling us about her days.

She stayed busy with her sewing and piano playing and eating out with family on Sundays. She'd write about the games she and the other residents would play and would mention on occasion that she'd outlived another one of her friends.

Regardless of the topic of her letters, we always knew she was staying active within her church and social circle. We also knew she was always praying for us

*** NOTICE ***

NOTICE: The Russell County Commissioners will host the Annual Township Meeting Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at the Russell Elks Lodge. Registration will be from 5:00 pm to 5:30 pm with the meeting starting at 5:30 pm and dinner to follow.

35n35

BUY - SALE - TRADE - The Classified ads section of this newspaper will help you sell your item. Call us at (785) 525-6355; 1-800-286-7571; FAX (785) 525-6356 or email: lusynews@gmail.com Let the Classified ads work for you.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE - Gold Ornate Heavy Mirror- 30" wide x 55" tall, Price \$65.00. Call 785-571-7035.

35p36

FOR SALE - Muted Green Color - Heavy Tall Garden Water Fountain. 30" x 48" tall. Works Fine. Can be seen at 115 Crawford Ave., Lucas, KS.

35p36

BIDS

HAYING BIDS - Russell County Commissioners will be accepting sealed bids for the haying of Hwy 40. Bids will be accepted until 9:00 a.m., Mon., May 4, 2026. Specifications may be obtained at Russell County Highway Dept., 4288 U.S. Hwy 40, Russell, KS 67665 or call (785) 483-4032.

31,33,35,37,39,41,43n

FOR SALE

ITEMS FOR SALE - Place an item or several items for sale in the *Lucas-Sylvan News*. Up to 8 lines for \$7.00. Call (785) 525-6355.

Answers from Post Rock Extension
 Cassie Thiessen, Post Rock Extension District Agriculture Agent, Horticulture, K-State Research and Extension

All About Potatoes
 Potatoes are one of the world's most important food crops. Grown in more than 100 countries, only wheat and rice are produced in higher quantities for human consumption. If you plan to grow your own potatoes, early spring is the best time to plant them in the garden. If you are a gardener, you probably know the tradition of planting potatoes on St. Patrick's Day. Actually, anytime from mid- to late March is fine for potato planting.

When purchasing potatoes, buy quality seed potatoes that have been inspected and are disease free. You don't want to use potatoes from the produce section of the grocery store because they are often sprayed with chemicals to slow sprouting. Seed potatoes are certified disease free and have plenty of starch to sprout as quickly as the soil temperatures allow. Each pound of potatoes will yield approximately eight to ten seed pieces. One pound should be enough to plant roughly a ten-foot row.

Before planting the potatoes, cut the seed pieces two to three days prior so freshly cut surfaces have a chance to "suberize", or heal, and form a protective coating. Store the seed pieces in a warm location during this process to speed the healing along. Most seed potatoes can be cut into four pieces, though large potatoes may be cut into a few more. Each seed piece should be between one and a half to two ounces to ensure enough energy for germination.

Potatoes thrive in loose, easily tilled soils high in organic matter. Avoid heavy, "sticky" soils and areas where water drains slowly or stands for a long time. If this isn't possible in your backyard garden, consider planting in a large

container or grow sack.

Plant each seed piece about one to two inches deep and eight to twelve inches apart in rows. Plant the seed piece of potato with the eye facing upward. Though planting potatoes in early spring is important, emergence is slow. Plants typically begin emerging in early to mid-April. As the potatoes grow, pull soil up to the base of the plants. New potatoes will grow above the planted seed piece, and it is important to keep sunlight from hitting the new potatoes. Exposed potatoes will turn green and can't be eaten. Keeping the potatoes covered with soil will prevent this from happening.

Potatoes should not be grown in the same location year after year. A three-year rotation reduces pest problems that may accumulate with continual potato crops and uses soil nutrients not used by other garden crops.

Harvest the potatoes when vines begin to die, ideally when vines are half dead. Potatoes dug earlier than this should be handled carefully to prevent scarring the tender skins. Potatoes planted in mid-March should be ready to harvest in early to late July, depending on the planting date, the earliness of the variety, and the growing conditions.

If you plant a potato patch this spring, you will likely taste a difference from those store-bought spuds. If you have any questions about growing potatoes, contact your local Post Rock District Extension Office.

Post Rock Extension District of K-State Research and Extension serves Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Osborne, and Smith counties. Cassie may be contacted at cthiessen@ksu.edu or by calling The Beloit Extension Office (785-738-3597).

EXTENSION FOCUS
 Craig Dinkel, K-State Research and Extension, Crop Production & Horticulture Agent, Midway District

Time to plant potatoes in Kansas
 For Kansas gardeners, St. Patrick's Day means something much more than donning a favorite green outfit and heading to local celebrations. Traditionally, the Irish holiday signals the date for planting potatoes.

"Actually, anytime from mid- to late-March is fine for potato planting," said Kansas State University horticulture expert Matt McKernan, "as long as soil temperatures are above 45 degrees Fahrenheit."

"Be sure to buy seed potatoes rather than using those intended for cooking. Potatoes from the grocery store shelves may grow but should be avoided as they often require a longer growing season, and result in a smaller harvest. Instead, look for seed potatoes that are certified disease free and have plenty of starch to sprout as quickly as soil temperatures allow."

McKernan notes that most seed potatoes can be cut into four pieces – "though large potatoes may yield more," he said. Each seed should weigh between 1 ½ to 2 ounces, and likely have more than one eye. Each pound of seed potatoes should yield 8 to 10 pieces, according to McKernan.

"Cut the seed potatoes 2 to 3 days before planting so that freshly cut surfaces have a chance to suberize, or toughen, which provides a protective coating that prevents the seed pieces from rotting when planted," McKernan said. "Storing seed in a warm, humid location during this time will speed the process."

McKernan recommends planting each seed piece 1 to 2 inches deep and 8 to 12 inches apart in rows. "Though it is

important to plant potatoes in March, they emerge slowly," he said. "It is often mid- to late-April before new plants poke their way through the soil. Protect plants from any late frosts that may occur. As the potatoes grow, pull soil up to the base of the plants. New potatoes are borne along the main stem of the plant, above the planted seed piece. It is also important to keep sunlight from hitting the new potatoes."

McKernan said exposed potatoes will turn green and produce a poisonous substance called solanine. Keeping the potatoes covered with soil and out of direct sunlight while growing will prevent this.

If you have any additional questions or need more information, contact your local Midway District Extension Horticulture Agent, Craig Dinkel. Dinkel can be reached by email at cadinkel@ksu.edu, or by phone at 785-472-4442, or 785-483-3157.

Information sourced from Matthew McKernan, Consumer Horticulture Extension Associate, Department of Horticulture & Natural Resources, Kansas State University

Post Rock Aviation, Inc.

All types of Aerial & Ground Application



(785) 524-5240 BOX 444 • Lincoln, KS 67455
Clay Haring, Owner

Advertising needs call
1-800-286-7571
lusynews@gmail.com

LUCAS-SYLVAN NEWS
Covering rural communities built on farming and ranching with a vision of the arts.

Lucas Publishing Company Phone (785) 525-6355
 Home of the *Lucas-Sylvan News* Toll Free (800) 286-7571
PO Box 337 FAX (785) 525-6356
Lucas, KS 67648 email: lusynews@gmail.com

NAME _____
 MAILING ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____
 Amount enclosed _____ New _____ Renewal _____

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

\$21.00 - 6 months in state \$23.00 - 6 months out of state
 \$42.00 - One year in state \$46.00 - One year out of state
 \$32.00 - One year On-Line FULL COLOR

Print and Online Combo Subscriptions available. Call the office for price!

ULTRA FAST
1Gig
SERVICE

WILSON COMMUNICATIONS
(800) 432-7607

This establishment is an equal opportunity provider and employer.