

OBITUARIES

Douglas L. Kaiser

Douglas L. Kaiser, age 79 1/2, of Plano, Texas, passed away on March 8, 2026 surrounded by his family.

He was born on September 8, 1946 in Great Bend, Kansas to Ronald R. Kaiser and Dorothy (Rankin) Kaiser (later Peters and Hemken). He grew up in Otis, Kansas and graduated from Otis Rural High School where he played football, played the trombone in band, and sang in choir.

He then attended Kansas State University, where he continued singing in the choir and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics in 1968.

Doug and Mary met in high school and married on September 3, 1967, beginning an abiding and devoted life together. Their daughters were born in Denver, Colorado, and they moved to Austin when their daughters were young. After Doug retired, Doug and Mary moved to the Dallas area to be close to their daughters and their families.

Doug worked in technology for 39 years, most recently for the Department of Vet-



erans Affairs until he retired in 2007 after 28 years. He was known for his work ethic, loyalty, and determination. His family was especially proud of how he persevered even with his physical limitations.

He grew up attending church, which he continued throughout his life, singing in the church choir and occasionally playing his trombone for holiday services. He was a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather who will be greatly missed. He will be remembered for his tenacity, his keen sense of humor, his faith, and his love for his family.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Kuhlmann Kaiser; his daughters Laura (Vernon) Wallace of Murphy, Texas and Sarah Benes of Dallas, Texas; his grandchildren Cameron, Christian, Luke and Sophia; his sisters Janice Higgason and Linda Kenyon, aunt Leona Kraus, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A celebration of life service will be held on April 25, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. at St. Luke's Lutheran Church at 1210 W Belt Line Rd., Richardson, TX 75080.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Luke's Lutheran Church and the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Wendy Beth Fujimori

11/27/1957 – 3/18/2026

Wendy Beth Fujimori was born in Chicago, Illinois to George and Esther Fujimori, Americans of Japanese ancestry. Her father volunteered from Manzanar Internment Camp to fight against the Japanese in WWII. That legacy was a tremendous source of pride for Wendy.



She graduated from Sullivan High School, tried college but decided to enter the working world.

She left Chicago for Los Angeles where she became a production assistant in the film industry which led her into advertising. She developed an artistic eye working with photographers – especially loved the food shots because she was a foodie, calling herself "The Flavor Queen". She was an excellent cook. Her udon was a signature dish.

She kept a lifelong friendship with Shel-

ley Goldstein, a professional entertainer who she met when she was 2 and Shelley was 3. Wendy was married twice and is survived by her former husband Richard Hawkins, her brother Glenn and wife Carol, and a host of extended family.

Wendy developed scoliosis at the age of 12 but was high functioning in her youth - loved to dance, loved music and the disco scene. As the years and the scoliosis advanced, they left her debilitated and in great pain. She died March 18, 2026, at HaysMed. She was a member of the McCracken Kansas community for the last decade.

Wendy's family has chosen cremation through Keithley Funeral Homes and Crematory, 2509 Vine, Hays, Kansas, 67601. At this time, no formal services are planned.

All who knew and loved Wendy are invited to share their memories and celebrate her life on her tribute page at www.keithleyfuneralchapels.com.

Memorials are suggested Humane Society of the High Plains in Hays, Kansas.

-City of Liebenenthal Council Minutes-

The Council of the City of Liebenenthal met in public hearing in the city building at 6:00 p.m. on February 9, 2026. Presiding was Mayor Darrell Warner, council members present were Barb Matal, Renee Legleiter, Stephanie Schmidt-Koerner, William Stark, Kathy Herrman, Clerk Beverly Stark, Water/Wastewater and Maintenance Operator Kelly Koerner.

City council member Kathy Herrman was sworn in to office and signed her oath of office.

The minutes of the meeting held January 12, 2026, were read. Stephanie Schmidt-Koerner moved to approve the minutes as read, Barb Matal seconded, the vote was unanimous, motion passed.

Clerk's Comments: The clerk reminded all council members to get the tax-exempt paperwork before paying for any purchase for the city. Ben Rogers had complained about untagged vehicles at residences in Liebenenthal, referring to the city's ordinance. The mayor received a quote of \$15,000 from an engineering firm to complete necessary drawings to install secondary chlorination equipment at Well House 3 and 5, etc. Reuben Martin of Midwest Assistance Program (MAP) suggested the city forego installing chlorination capability to Well House 3 and 5 citing new requirements from KDHE for this work. Bill Stark suggested waiting until the expenses for repairing the water tower are more manageable before undergoing the expense of installing accessory chlorination equipment. The mayor received a quote of \$15,000 from an engineering firm to complete necessary drawings, etc. The clerk reported that a citizen had a leak in their water line which used a large quantity of water on one bill. Bill Stark discussed the policy of assisting the resident by averaging the water use of that resident for the previous 6 months plus 20% as a "goodwill gesture because of the recent increase in water rates." The person receiving this will also be required to repair the leak within a month or must pay the actual cost of the leak in the future. Renee Legleiter suggested we have a three-day window to read the meters, such as the 15th to the 18th, and then report the overuse to the resident so that the overuse can be quickly repaired. Bev received an email from a man offering to buy old water equipment. This was noted as a means of recycling meters the city intends to replace with the upcoming grant from KDHE.

Old Business: Mayor Warner suggested keeping new projects to a minimum noting the need for thrift given the city's financial circumstances. Any infrastructure grants available should be reported to the mayor.

New Business: The water well in Well 2 failed and has been replaced along with new PVC pipe, meter, and chlorinator. The old pump had been in operation 52 years.

Beverly also reported a person having bought a parcel of land along East 4th Street for a proposed used car lot. Once the council were familiar with the area in question the council tabled discussion until the exact lot could be determined.

Darrell Warner and Kelly Koerner have made plans to attend the KS Rural Water Association 57th Conference and Exhibition this March. Bill Stark moved to send these two to attend the meeting and to pay the fees associated with entrance and lodging, Renee Legleiter seconded, the vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

City Utilities and Maintenance Updates: All utilities have been working well. Kelly Koerner has been down for over two weeks after knee surgery. Bev ran the required fluoride tests for January that were put off until Well 2 was repaired, noting that the fluoride tests were still required for February.

Calendar / City Events: Renee Legleiter suggested the city plan for the next city-wide clean-up day. It was discussed whether the city would have one or two cleanups in 2026. This was tabled for further discussion.

Approval and Payment of Bills: Bill Stark moved to pay the bills as presented, Stephanie Schmidt-Koerner seconded, the vote was unanimous, the motion passed. The next meeting will be held March 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the city building. Stephanie Schmidt-Koerner moved to adjourn the meeting, William Stark seconded, the vote was unanimous, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

City Clerk Beverly Stark

Mayor Darrell Warner

From The Home Front...

by Linda Kenyon



Photos carry a story

I dug through some old photos this weekend, looking for a specific photo, and found a treasure I wasn't expecting. It is a black-and-white photo of me as a tiny baby laying in a basket skirted with lace. Think bassinette without the legs. I'd seen the photo before, I'm sure, but I never noticed the basket before. I recognized it this weekend as the basket my children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren have slept in when they were tiny.

The first I knew of the basket was when my sister used it for her oldest child, John. I presumed it came from my mother, since she lined it with plastic Contact paper. Mother never sewed, so that was the best way she knew to refurbish the basket.

The basket came to me when I had children, and I know I used it, but I don't remember with what I lined it. By the time my first grandchild came along, I was craftier and lined the basket for Max with Noah's Ark-themed fabric. With the twins, I used pink gingham. One of my favorite photos is of them both laying in the basket, one at each end.

I followed through with each grandchild, each one getting their own pattern of fabric. We even hauled it to Tennessee when Benny was born, and it came back when they moved back to Kansas. All eight grandchildren used it for just a little while because it is easy to move around to where you want it when they are tiny. Now I'm putting new fabric in it for my great-grandchildren, with little Miley Sue in it right now.

I lucked out on fabric for her, because I had girly fabric on hand that I didn't use before. My youngest daughter was first told the wrong gender for her second child, so she purchased fabric for "Alice." Fortunately, she discovered the mistake before Arthur was born, but I still had "Alice's" fabric. I showed it to Miley's mom, and she pronounced it perfect. See, it pays to keep everything! Well, sometimes it does any way. After all, I'm sure my mother never suspected this basket would be used for four generations. Now I'm just kicking myself that I never asked her where SHE got it!

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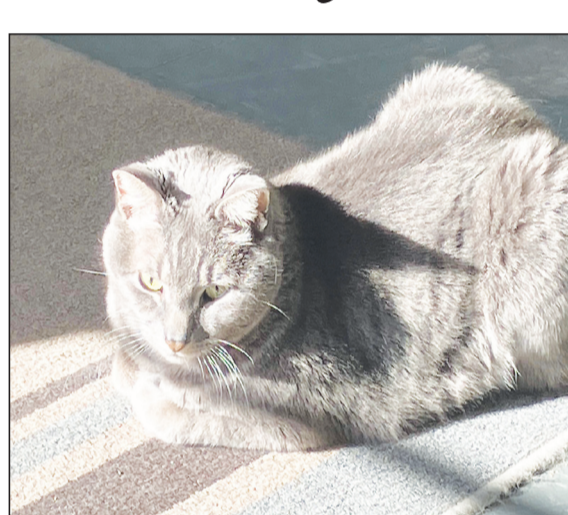
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Comments from CC



I'm a little aggravated right now. Well, maybe more than a little. Can you see how I'm glaring at the door? Those pesky birds are back this morning, making a lot of noise as they build their nest right outside the News' front door. I tried talking to them this morning about maybe moving somewhere else, preferably far away from me, but they didn't listen. I'm not going to risk going outside and trying to catch them. Main Street is always busy and I don't want to take my life in my paws just for some irritating birds!

Carbon Copy (CC) is a News office cat who has agreed to give us his opinion on things. He can be emailed at rcn@gbta.net.

County Happenings

MARCH

March 26 - Happy Age Club, noon, Otis Senior Center, 105 W. Fisher.

March 28 - Timken Easter Egg Hunt, 11 a.m., Timken City Park.

March 28 - Bison Easter Egg Hunt, 1 p.m., North City Park.

APRIL

April 1 - Lenten Lunch, noon, St. Michael Parish Hall, La Crosse.

April 2 - Bison JOY Club, noon, Bison Community Building. (1st Thursday of the month).

April 3 - Good Friday.

April 4 - Rush Center Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m., Walnut Valley Senior Center, 220 Washington.

April 4 - La Crosse Easter Egg Hunt, 1 p.m., Grass Park, La Crosse.

April 4 - Otis Easter Egg Hunt, 1:30 p.m., in front of Peoples Bank, Main Street.

April 4 - McCracken Easter Egg Hunt, 3 p.m., McCracken City Park.

April 5 - Easter.

April 7 - Walnut Valley Senior Center Member Appreciation Night, 5:30 p.m., 220 Washington, Rush Center.

April 13 - VFW meeting, 7 p.m., Fred

Lohrey's Shop. (2nd Monday of the month)

April 14 - Kansas Mobile Food Bank, 4-5 p.m., La Crosse City Auditorium.

April 19 - Walnut Valley Senior Center Potato Bar, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., 220 Washington, Rush Center. Last potato bar of the season.

April 20 - American Legion meeting, 7 p.m., Fred Lohrey's Shop. (3rd Monday of the month)

April 24 - American Red Cross Blood Drive, noon-6 p.m., La Crosse City Auditorium.

ONGOING HAPPENINGS

TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) - 5:30 p.m. every Thursday at Barnard Library, 521 Elm St., La Crosse. Everyone welcome. First meeting free.

Friendship Meals at 60 Plus, 704 Main, La Crosse. Call 785-514-5046 to order a meal or for more information.

Bingo and Cards at 60 Plus, 704 Main, La Crosse, every Thursday, 1-4 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Barbed Wire, Historical, Post Rock, Nekoma Bank and Pleasant Point School museums. Closed for the season. To schedule a tour call 785-222-2808.

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