



# Obituaries

## William Austin "Bill" Murphy



**William Austin "Bill" Murphy**

William Austin "Bill" Murphy, 84, of Waldo, Kansas, passed away Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at the Russell Regional Hospital in Russell, Kansas.

Bill was born May 6, 1941 in Hays, Kansas. He was one of five children born to L. Earl and E. Bernadine (Fiensy) Murphy. He grew up in the Covert, Kansas area and graduated from Waldo High School in the Class of 59.

Bill met, fell in love, and was united in marriage to C. Marlene Day on October 4, 1959 in Waldo. This union was blessed with three children; Debbie, Rhonda and Brad. They made their home in Salina, Kansas for a short time before moving to Covert. Then a few years later, they moved out into the country near Waldo. Then in 2022 they moved into Waldo.

Bill was a Farmer/Rancher his entire life and sold seed products for over ten years.

He also was very active as a school bus driver for the local schools for many years, before retiring in 2019. When they lived in Salina, he worked at a local service station. He was a member and trustee of the Waldo United Methodist Church. He served on the High Plains Farm Credit Board for 12 years, and did data collection for the National Weather Services in Hastings, Nebraska for over 50 years. Bill was a life member of the Waldo/Paradise Lions Club, he served on the Victor Township Board, was a Boy Scout Leader when his son was in Boy Scouts.

Bill had a deep love for sports and rarely missed the chance to cheer on his favorite teams, including the Kansas City Chiefs, the Kansas City Royals, and KU basketball. He especially enjoyed supporting the Natoma Tigers, taking great pride in watching his children and grandchildren play. Farming and ranching were more than just work to Bill—they were a way of life, and some of his most cherished moments were spent working alongside his kids and grandkids.

Bill was known for the way he supported his friends and family and for the joy he brought to those around him. He had a wonderful sense of humor and a gift for storytelling. Many will remember the laughter shared while listening to his stories about hunting coyotes, deer, and elk, and the way he could always bring a smile to a room. His love for family, the

land, and the people in his life will be remembered by all who knew him.

Bill's surviving family include his wife of 66 years, Marlene of the home; daughters, Debbie Murphy of Natoma, Kansas and Rhonda Murphy of Waldo, Kansas; son, Brad Murphy (Jenjer) of Waldo, Kansas; sisters, Janice Lund of Waldo, Kansas and Sandy Boldridge (Leon) of New River, Arizona; five grandchildren, Jodi Wayland (Scott), Phillip Murphy (Taylor), Austin Murphy, Jacob Murphy and MaKayla Murphy; and four great grandchildren, Waylon Murphy, Wryatt Murphy, Wiley Murphy and Jemma Wayland.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Keith Murphy; and sister, Bee Hawley.

Celebration of Bill's Life will be held at 10:30 AM, Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at the Waldo United Methodist Church. Burial will follow at the Natoma City Cemetery in Natoma, Kansas. Visitation will be held from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday, March 9, 2026 at Pohlman-Varner-Peeler Mortuary in Russell, with the family present to greet friends from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Memorials have been established with the Waldo United Methodist Church or Waldo Fire Department. Contributions and condolences may be sent to Pohlman-Varner-Peeler Mortuary, who is in charge of the arrangements.

(Published in the March 12, 2026 issue of the Russell County News)

## Chad Allen Schuster



**Chad Allen Schuster**

Chad Allen Schuster, age 47, of Russell, Kansas, passed away Saturday, February 28, 2026, at Clara Barton Medical Center in Hoisington, Kansas. He was born June 30, 1978, in Russell, Kansas, to Laverne and Barbara (Wiesner) Schuster.

Chad was the kind of person who put his whole heart into everything he did—steady, hardworking, and always happiest when he was around people, animals, and the everyday routines that made life feel full. He attended grade school and high school in Russell until his junior year, then graduated from Hays High School in 1997.

From a young age, Chad showed commitment and determination. He was a member of Coronado Area Council Boy Scout Troop 118 and reached the rank of Life Scout. He attended meetings regularly and enjoyed camps in Osborne and Kirwin, Kansas. Chad earned 16 merit badges and was proud to receive his ADALTARE DEI Catholic Boy Scout medal.

Chad also participated in the Kansas Special Olympics, where he earned 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place medals in basketball, track & field, and bowling. One of his favorite parts of the year was the Special Olympics banquet and dance—especially the music. Chad was often right next to the

DJ, picking out the tunes and soaking up every minute of it. He was also a 3rd degree member of the Knights of Columbus Council 3034.

More than anything, Chad loved animals—especially cows. Thursdays at the Russell livestock sale barn were a highlight of his week, and he rarely missed them. The owner at the time, Jay Sweeney, thought the world of Chad and invited him to come out on Wednesdays to help count and sort cattle. On sale day, Chad sat with Jay and the auctioneer, raising his hand to bid on the cows. On Fridays, he helped clean the pens. Chad didn't just enjoy the sale barn—he belonged there. It was nothing for him to spend \$40 on sale day at the restaurant, visiting with friends and enjoying the day. He also attended the yearly bull sale at Bar S Ranch in Paradise, Kansas. Chad knew just about everyone, and everyone knew Chad—so much so that people would call if he wasn't at the sale on Thursday. When Jay Sweeney passed away and the Russell sale barn closed, Chad deeply missed his three-day-a-week "fun job" (no pay), and the days felt longer without it.

Chad worked part-time at Dollar General, helping unload trucks and stock shelves under the supervision of DSNWK of Russell. For a brief time, he moved to Great Bend and lived at Rosewood Services. Later, his younger brother, Brad Schuster, moved to Galatia, Kansas, and Brad and Laura Schuster became his full-time caregivers. Chad continued attending Rosewood Services during the day, where he worked on the lawn crew and detailing car crew.

Chad had a big love for music, and Brad and Laura made sure he got to enjoy it. They took him to see Sunset Sinners, Warrent, Pantera, and Lamb of God. He had a great time at the concerts, and

he also loved shopping—especially buying CDs and jeans. Chad was a fan of Michael Jordan, and when he could get a pair of his favorite shoes and watch him play basketball, he carried a proud smile that said it all. And while Chad enjoyed his fun, he also knew the value of work. On weekends, he helped Brad with his lawn mowing and wood cutting business and took pride in his chores around the house.

Chad will be remembered for his sweet smile, infectious laugh, and the many hugs he freely gave. He had a gift for making people feel noticed and welcomed, and his presence brought warmth wherever he went.

Chad is survived by his mother, Barbara of Russell; his brother, Bradley Schuster and wife Laura of Galatia, Kansas; his sister, Amanda Jackson of Russell; nephews, Wyatt and Waylon Harmon and Stephaun Jackson; as well as numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father, Laverne, who passed away November 5, 2024.

Funeral services will be 10:00 AM Monday, March 9, 2026 at the St. Mary Queen of Angels Catholic Church in Russell, Kansas. Burial will follow in the St. Mary's Cemetery in Ellis, Kansas at 2:00 PM.

A rosary service will be at 6:30 PM Sunday led by the Russell 3rd Degree Knights of Columbus Council #3034 followed by a parish vigil service.

Visitation will be Sunday 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM and Monday 9:00 AM until service time all at the church.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the Humane Society of the High Plains or St. Mary's Cemetery Fund.

Please share memories on Chad's tribute page at [www.keitheyleyfuneralchapels.com](http://www.keitheyleyfuneralchapels.com)

(Published in the March 12, 2026 issue of the Russell County News)

## Legal Notice



(First published in the Russell County News Thursday, Feb 26, 2026)

IN THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT, RUSSELL COUNTY, KANSAS PROBATE DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

Delores J. Hanhardt, Deceased.

Case No. RS-2026-PR-000007

PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 59 OF K.S.A.

### NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF DESCENT

#### THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition for Determination of Descent has been filed in this court by Debra J. Wilson, an heir of Delores J. Hanhardt, deceased, praying that the Petition be approved by the Court. You are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before March 23, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. of said day, in said court, in the City of Russell, in

Russell County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition.

Debra J. Wilson, Petitioner

BRENT A. MITCHELL, #15629 Attorneys for Petitioner MARTIN, PRINGLE, OLIVER WALLACE & BAUER, L.L.P. 645 E. Douglas Ave., Suite 100 Wichita, KS 67202 bamitchell@martinpringle.com (316) 265-9311 Feb. 26, March 5, 12

## Legal Notice



(First published in the Russell County News Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF RUSSELL COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of BRET ALDEN LUCAS, Deceased.

Case No. RS 2026-PR-000010

### NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on February 20, 2026, a peti-

tion was filed in this Court by Jennifer Lynn Barnhill Lucas, an heir of Bret Alden Lucas, deceased, praying that Letters of Administration be issued to Jennifer Lynn Barnhill Lucas as administrator of the Estate.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before March 23, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the District Court, Russell, Russell County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate within the latter of four months from the date of

the first publication of this notice under K.S.A. 59-2236 and amendments thereto, or if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, 30 days after actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

JENNIFER LYNN BARNHILL LUCAS PETITIONER

Thompson, Arthur, Davidson & Katz 525 Main Street, P.O. Box 111 Russell, Kansas 67665-0111 (785) 483-3195 Attorneys for Petitioner Feb. 26, Mar. 5, 12

## Gary Kenneth Liederbach



**Gary Kenneth Liederbach**

Gary Kenneth Liederbach, 79, of Russell, Kansas, died on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at the Russell Regional Hos-

pital in Russell, Kansas.

Gary was born on September 20, 1946, in Vallejo, California, the son of Kenneth Gary and Mildred (Proctor) Liederbach. He grew up in San Leandro, California and graduated from Pacifica High School. He was united in marriage to Delores Ann Crow on August 14, 1970, in Nevada. From this union Gary and Delores were blessed with two sons Randy and Jason. They moved to Russell in 1978 and Gary worked as a general manager of Abco Wire.

Surviving family include his wife Delores of the home and son Randy

Liederbach of Russell, Kansas; sisters Joy Knudson of Redlands, California and Sue Williamson of San Leandro, California and 5 grandchildren Ainsleah, Kenzie, Porter, Adler and Trace.

He was preceded in death by his parents and son Jason A. Liederbach in 2024.

Cremation has been selected by the family, and they will have a private family service at a later date. Pohlman-Varner-Peeler Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

(Published in the March 12, 2026 issue of the Russell County News)

**Legal Notice**

(Published in the Russell County News Thursday, March 12, 2026)

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public testing of the vote counting equipment used in the March 3, 2026, Special USD 407 Bond Election will be held in the County Clerk/Election Office, Courthouse, 401 N Main St, Russell, Kansas, on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 10:00 am in accordance with KSA 25-4610.

March 12

**Legal Notice**

(First published in the Russell County News Thursday, March 12, 2026)

The Russell County Commissioners will canvass the election results of the March 3, 2026, Special USD 407 Bond Election on Monday, March 16, 2026, at 10:00 am at the Russell County Courthouse, Commissioners Chambers, 401 N Main St., Russell, KS 67665. March 12

**Legal Notice**

(Published in the Russell County News Thursday, March 12, 2026)

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. March 12

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