

NEWS



Dorothy and Dennis Knudsen

Couple marks 70th anniversary

Dorothy Hannah and Dennis Knudsen were married Aug. 31, 1956, in Oskaloosa. Two children, Darla Knudsen and Darren Knudsen, came along. Then four granddaughters, then 10 great-grandchildren. Suddenly, 70 years have



passed by. Help them celebrate this milestone by stopping by the Perry American Legion Aug. 29 from 2 to 4 p.m. or send your well wishes to Dennis and Dorothy Knudsen, Celebration Villa Apt. 337, 3515 SW 6th Ave., Topeka, KS 66606.

KU announces summer-fall 2025, spring 2026 graduates

The names of more than 6,800 graduates at the University of Kansas for summer and fall 2025 and spring 2026 have been announced by the University Registrar. Many graduates and candidates for degree celebrated by participating in KU Commencement, which took place May 17. Graduating from Jefferson County are: McLouth—Kendall Conway, Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science; Jonathan Johnston, Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Computing; Brakson Ping, Master of Arts in Linguistics; Summer Ping, Bachelor of Music Education; Christopher Raithe, Master of Accountancy; Meriden—Cole Burk, Bachelor of Arts in Biology; Kierstyn Sutton, Bachelor of Science in Business in Accounting; Logan Wheeler, Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering; Nortonville—Carson Fowler,

Juris Doctor; Katherine Hoskam, Bachelor of General Studies in Psychology; Oskaloosa—Machala Coons, Bachelor of Social Work; Cannon Cramer, Bachelor of Arts in Biochemistry; Marek Skeebea, Bachelor of Arts in Theatre; Ozawkie—Dalton Hammon, Bachelor of Arts in Political Science; Riley Morrow, Bachelor of Science in Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology; Stacey Peterson, Doctor of Nursing Practice; Perry—Laikyn Coursen, Bachelor of Science in Geology; Riley Ellis, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology; Jillian Schuler, Bachelor of General Studies in Political Science; Valley Falls—Emma Gibbens, Bachelor of General Studies in Communication Studies; Noah Hefty, Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering; and Serena Toll, Bachelor of Social Work.

Election . . . Fire camp . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Kansas House, 42nd District—Brandon Wendt, 154. Kansas House 47th District—Mary Williams, 945. Jackson County added 185 votes and Douglas County, 479. State BOE, 1st District—Jennifer Lloyd, 1,097. **Republican Ticket** U.S. Senate—Roger Marshall, 2,377, Pond Naramore, 545. U.S. House, 1st District—Tracey Mann, 2,231, Craig Musser, 594. Governor/Lt. Governor—Ty Masterson and Jeffrey Klemp, 1,255, Philip Sarnecki and Joy Eakins, 743, Vicki Schmidt and Joe Newland, 514, Scott Schwab and Ken Rahjes, 315, Charlotte O'Hara and Michelle Dombrosky, 63, Stacy Rogers and Michael Smith, 61, Nick Reinecker and Katy Reinecker, 59.

Secretary of State—Pat Proctor, 2,377.

Attorney General—Kris Kobach, 2,516. State Treasurer—Steven Johnson, 2,406. Commissioner of Insurance—Daniel Hawkins, 2,390. Kansas House, 42nd District—Lancy Neelly, 179, Mike Stieben, 164. Kansas House 47th District—Paula Ellis, 1,171, Christopher Feuerborn, 995, and Steven Scott, 409. In Jackson County it was Ellis, 275, Feuerborn, 176, and Scott, 130. The vote in Douglas County was Ellis, 188, Feuerborn, 182, and Scott, 124.

State BOE, 1st District—Amy Cawvey, 2,369.

County Commissioner, 1st District, Doug Walbridge, 861.

The trailer is located at 10904 Navajo Lane, Ozawkie, on a county-owned lot.

Health Department Administrator Wanda Agnew announced that her office in Oskaloosa would be hosting two back-to-school immunization clinics, the first that Thursday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and the second the following Monday from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

She also announced that a Community Baby Shower would be held Saturday, Aug. 15 at Oskaloosa City Hall and that

PUBLIC NOTICE

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, KANSAS SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

In the Matter of) the Estate of) AMY BLAUFELDER,) deceased)

Petition Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59 Case No. JF-2026-PR-000029

NOTICE OF HEARING THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in the Court by Kyan Blaufelder and August Blaufelder, heirs of Amy Blaufelder, deceased, requesting the Court distribute property of the decedent including the following real estate in Jefferson County, Kansas:

Being a tract of land located in the East Half (E ½) of the Northeast Quarter (NE ¼) of Section Twenty-two (22), Township Ten South (T10S), Range Eighteen East (R18E) of the 6th P.M., Jefferson County, Kansas, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Southeast corner of the Northeast Quarter (NE ¼); thence South 89 degrees 50 minutes 11 seconds West a distance of 401.1 feet (deed), said point being on the South line of the Northeast Quarter (NE ¼); thence North 10 degrees 24 minutes 49 seconds East a distance of 391.08 feet to the point of beginning; thence South 89 degrees 57 minutes 06 seconds West a distance of 998.39 feet, said point being on the West line of the East half (E ½). Of the Northeast Quarter (NE ¼); thence along a distance of 419.25 feet; thence North 89 degrees 57 minutes 06 seconds East a distance for 1079.73 feet; thence South 10 degrees 24 minutes 49 seconds West a distance of 426.32 feet to the point of beginning, containing 10 acres, more or less.

You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before Friday, September 11 at 8:30 am in this Court, in the City of Oskaloosa, in Jefferson 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. Kyan Blaufelder, August Blaufelder Petitioners

/s/ Doni L. Mooberry Supreme Court # 17829 901 Kentucky St., Suite 202 Lawrence, KS 66044

the 2026 version of “A Taste of Elegance” would take place at the county fairgrounds in Valley Falls on Saturday, Oct. 3.

The hours for the Community Baby Shower are 9 a.m. to noon.

Richard Quimby of Oskaloosa appeared before the board to inquire about the status of the request he made earlier under the Kansas Open Records Act and used the opportunity to describe the county's process for dealing with KORA requests as “pretty lax.”

Quimby told Christy and Walbridge that he had received some information from Information Technology Administrator Scott Ribordy only, and he went on to criticize the county for using two different providers of internet service, one for just the Sheriff's Office and the other for the rest of the departments.

It was Quimby's view that the county could realize “substantial savings” by combining the system employed by the Sheriff's Office with the system being used by everyone else.

Walbridge encouraged Quimby to discuss the matter with Sheriff Tim Bacon and Emergency Services Director James Tweed.

Answering a question one of the commissioners had asked at a previous board meeting, County Treasurer Douglas Bond said four lots in the campgrounds section of Lakeside Village and one lot in Block T of Lake Shore Estates would be included among the tax-delinquent properties to be made available to prospective bidders during the tax sale to be held later this year.

The board OK'd the proposed issuance of a proclamation designating that Friday, Aug. 7, as Purple Heart Day in Jefferson County.

According to information made available to the commissioners and the paper by County Clerk Julie Dunkle, it was on Aug. 7, 1782, that Gen. George Washington established the Badge of Military Merit to honor soldiers who had shed their blood in defense of the 13 American colonies.

Washington is purported to have said on this occasion, “Let it be known that he who wears the military order of the Purple Heart has given of his blood in the defense of his homeland and shall forever be revered by his fellow countrymen.”

The board passed Resolution 2026-022, a resolution amending Article 4.2 and Article 4.3 of the “Jefferson County Land Bank Policy.”

What is referred to as policy 4.2.1. now reads as follows: “Following the receipt of the first qualified offer for a property in the Land Bank, staff shall publish notice of the sale in the official county newspaper. The notice of the sale shall be valid for a period of 90 days.”

What is referred to as policy 4.2.7., a new policy, reads as follows: “Applicants who amend a qualified offer after notice has been made according to policy 4.2.1. shall be required to reimburse the cost of publication for the amended offer.”

What is referred to as policy 4.3.4., another new policy, reads as follows: “The Land Bank Board of Trustees/Land Bank staff may waive any application fees for yard extensions in the following situations: a. Applicant is purchasing lots adjacent to lots purchased through the Land Bank by the applicant within the preceding two (2) months. b. Applicant is purchasing an isolated lot within limited road frontage, difficult terrain, or other features that create significant barriers to the development of the single lot.”

The board passed Resolution 2026-023, a resolution establishing fees and policies for the seven sewer districts

operated by the county, Sewer District No. 2 (the Indian Ridge subdivision), Sewer District No. 3 (the Hilldale subdivision), Sewer District No. 5 (the Hickory Acres subdivision), Sewer District No. 6, Sewer District No. 10 (the Three Hills subdivision), Sewer District No. 11 (the Hilldale South subdivision), and Sewer District No. 12 (Westshore Estates).

The resolution sets the base connection fee for a single-family residential structure at \$2,000, the connection fee for a residential structure with multiple units at \$2,000 plus \$1,000 per unit, the base connection fee for a single-tenant commercial structure at \$2,000, the connection fee for a commercial structure with multiple tenants at \$2,000 plus \$1,000 per tenant, the connection fee for a new building that utilizes an existing connection at \$1,000 as long as the special assessments levied on the property continue to be paid and that new building is of the same classification as the building it replaced, the connection fee for an accessory residential structure with plumbing at \$500, the connection fee for an accessory commercial structure with plumbing at \$1,000, and the connection fee for miscellaneous structures with plumbing at \$500.

But the resolution also calls for property owners with an established connection to one of the sewer districts, but who don't live within the boundaries of that district, to be assessed a user fee equal to the special assessments being paid by the residents of that district.

The resolution is scheduled to take effect Sept. 1.

The board authorized Christy to sign on its behalf a Quit Claim deed transferring Lots 1-3 in Unit I of Lakewood Hills from the Land Bank to Wyatt Hendrix, 6699 Crescent Rim Drive, Ozawkie.

Metzger reported that a number of lots were to be sold during the Land Bank session slated to take place the following Monday.

Christy and Walbridge signed Certificates of Appreciation for three county employees, all of whom have worked for the county for five years.

The certificates will be going to Stephen Hale, Geoffrey Waters and Jacquelyn Casto. Hale is employed by Auxiliary Services, Waters by 911 Communications, and Casto by the Sheriff's Office.

Executive Sessions

At the request of Domann, the commissioners ultimately met privately with him, Bacon and County Counselor-designate Jonathan Ehrlich for 13 minutes so that the client group could be given legal advice under the attorney-client privilege exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act. “Pending litigation” was identified as being the subject that was to be discussed. At the request of Christy, the commissioners met privately with Agnew for 10 minutes for the stated purpose of discussing personnel matters relating to non-elected personnel. “Inter-agency issues” was identified as being the subject that was to be discussed. Ehrlich was invited to remain in the room for the closed-door conversation and did.

At the request of Ehrlich, the commissioners met privately with him and Domann for 10 minutes so that the client group could be given legal advice under the attorney-client privilege exception to KOMA. “Pending litigation” was identified as being the subject that was to be discussed.

When the meeting reopened to the public, Christy announced that no binding action had been taken behind closed doors.

The meeting adjourned at 2:24.

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