

THOUGHTS: Finish It!

By LeAnn Hodson

Do phrases, sentences, verses, poems, songs just pop in your head and then there they are for the day, sometimes days? In the middle of the night, as I was contemplating my THOUGHTS for this week, I heard-Who ya gonna call? (You finish it) _____!

So that led me down a _____ How many of the following can you FINISH? A stitch in time _____ Break a ____ Don't take any wooden _____ Amazing _____ Haste makes _____ Keep your _____ up. Do unto others _____ A bad _____ always turns up. (This one may be obsolete soon :) Remember the _____. If at first you don't succeed _____ You can't take _____ Stand up, stand up for _____. You are my _____ to you. _____ went to town riding on a pony, stuck a _____ in his _____ and called it _____. No man is an _____. I think I shall never see a poem as lovely as a _____. One Fish Two

Fish _____ the Beautiful. _____ on the Range. Spring _____, _____ back (if you know me at all you know this is not one of my favorite things to do). I could go on and on but that should give you a bit of fuel for your THOUGHTS for the next few days. Hopefully these do not keep you up at night or worse yet-more and more phrases, sentences, verses, poems, and songs get stuck in your head. If they do just remember-an _____ a day keeps the _____ away. I would hate to think that you might have to make an appointment to try to get your THOUGHTS and sleep rhythms realigned. Hey, maybe a better idea would be to dwell on Philippians 4:8-Finally, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, _____ about these things. Blessings to _____ and _____, always.

**Remember, we would love to have you submit a few THOUGHTS of your own as a guest writer. Send it to: anthonyrepublican@att.net*

The Rural Advantage: Why SCTelcom's Customer Experience Outpaces The Industry

By Carla Shearer
CEO & General Manager
SCTelcom

In rural America, connection is more than a technical term. It's the bond between people, the tie to the land, and the shared belief that community matters. At SCTelcom, this understanding shapes every decision, from the technology we deploy to the way we serve those who depend on us.

I shared SCTelcom's story during a Fireside Chat at the Broadband Nation Expo, produced with the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA). It was my first opportunity to meet Kimberly Maki, who moderated our discussion. Kimberly brings industry insight, communication leadership, and something I deeply appreciate: she understands rural America because she grew up in it. Her commitment to lifting women leaders, especially those serving rural communities, made the conversation even more meaningful.

Together, we explored how SCTelcom is redefining client expectations in rural broadband and why rural so

often means first to adapt. *Growing with and learning from community*

My career began in my family's telecommunications business, working outside in the field long before I ever sat at a boardroom table. Those experiences taught me that a title does not define leadership, but by how you treat people, listen, and consistently show up. When I moved into cooperative leadership, that mindset guided me as we built a team reflecting our values. Today, the co-op's leadership team is evenly split between women and men, which is not necessarily common in rural areas telecom. In our communities, trust is earned every day.

Customer experience as strategy, not a department

At SCTelcom, customer experience is our strategy. We don't simply provide Wi-Fi; we manage it as a service. Proactive diagnostics help us identify issues before customers feel them. We invest in whole-home performance, reliability, and security because that's what our neighbors count on. This year, our customer loyalty

reached a new milestone: an NPS score of 85. In an industry where many operators struggle to break out of the low twenties, this number stands out. To us, it reflects the care behind every connection.

Innovation that meets people where they are

In rural America, innovation must meet practical needs. One of our most significant efforts has been expanding community-wide wireless coverage in areas where cell service is unreliable. In one town, our network increased usable coverage by 76 percent. This improvement allows teachers, families, and first responders to stay connected in moments that matter most. A local teacher shared that if there ever is a school lockdown, she knows she can rely on our network to reach loved ones and emergency services. In moments like that, broadband becomes reassurance and safety.

Connecting students and strengthening opportunity

We've extended managed connectivity to students, including those in lower-income households, to ensure access to learning wherever their device can see our network. In some rural towns, libraries were once the only hotspot. Today, learning can happen from home, the car, or anywhere in the community.

Honoring the land while expanding access

In rural communities, the land carries memory, cul-

ture, and identity. Sustainability is essential. We've expanded access in places with no traditional infrastructure, including protected or sacred locations like the Medicine Lodge Peace Treaty Park in Kansas. Through alternative energy solutions and thoughtful network design, we support tourism, educational trails, and community engagement while preserving what must be honored.

Fiber as the foundation for rural growth

SCTelcom is now 100 percent fiber to the home and business, and the impact is profound. More than half our customers now work from home, and many families who once believed they had to leave rural communities to build a career are returning. Fiber has made it possible to choose both opportunity and home.

Looking ahead

As I shared with Kimberly on stage: Start with service. Lead with care. Everything else follows. When innovation is grounded in people, rural broadband does not just catch up; it leads.

Carla has been CEO/General Manager of SCTelcom since 2017. With over 35 years experience, Carla has deep roots in the telecommunications industry. Carla has been engaged in a range of operations, including CLEC, cable TV, IPTV, cellular services, and broadband. She holds a B.S. in Business from Kansas State (2016), and lives in rural Kansas with her husband, managing a seedstock cattle enterprise.

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LEGAL NOTICE

(First Published in The Anthony Republican, Wednesday, March 11, 2026) 3t

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT, HARPER COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:)
SYLVIA E. RANSON, deceased.) Case No. HP-2025-PR-05

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on February 23, 2026, a Petition was filed in this Court by Gena M. Ricker, an heir, devisee and legatee of the Decedent, requesting that Letters of Administration be issued to her, without bond.

You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before April 2, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. in the District Court of Harper 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.

Gena M. Ricker, Petitioner

Mandi J. Stephenson, #24694
Attorney for Petitioner
STEPHENSON LAW OFFICE LLC
PO Box 204
Kingman, KS 67068
620-532-5156 telephone
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CITY

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to draft a revised ordinance to align with current state requirements.

In another matter, Josh Teel received approval to temporarily use the former high school lot on Anthony Avenue for storage of roofing materials and equipment during courthouse renovations. The agreement requires the property be maintained in its current condition and covered by insurance.

The commission rescinded a previous decision to retain its Blue Cross Blue Shield dental plan through HUB after determining the city would still incur a \$300

monthly broker fee. Instead, members approved Scott Day of Day Insurance as the new agent of record, allowing the city to maintain the same dental coverage without the additional fee.

Discussion also took place regarding the city's Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) benefit. With lower insurance deductibles now in place, commissioners asked for further review of reimbursement levels before making a decision.

Commissioners approved a \$5,002 upgrade to the city's office phone system, including installation and 18 new VOIP phones for city facilities and the police department.

A request related to a temporary construction easement tied to a Kansas Department of Transportation project was tabled pending further review of whether a new or amended agreement is required.

Additional actions and discussions included: Directing staff to draft rules for the city's lake trail system. Approving a new compensation study, the first since 2022. Discussing the handling of donations for a proposed 9/11 memorial, with direction to establish a dedicated city-managed fund.

Approving Ewertz as a signatory on all city public relief funds and investments.

The meeting concluded with all motions passing unanimously.

LEGAL NOTICE

(First Published in The Anthony Republican, Wednesday, March 25, 2026) 3t

IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT, HARPER COUNTY, KANSAS
DIVISION NO. 4

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF)
) Case No. HP-2026-PR-07

Bill G. Starks, Deceased)
Filed 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 has been filed in this Court by Elizabeth Rae Starks, wife and one of the heirs of Bill G. Starks, deceased, praying: Descent be determined of decedent's interest in the following described real estate, in Harper County, Kansas to-wit:

One half interest in
The East Half (E/2) of Section 30, Township 33 South, Range 7, West of the 6th P.M., Harper County, Kansas, less and except a tract described as: Commencing at the N/4 corner of said Section 30, thence South 00degrees13'57" East on the West line of said NE/4, 59.30 feet to the South line of Kansas State Highway 2 Right of Way; thence North 89degrees59'40" East on the South line of said State Highway Right of Way, 40.00 feet to the Point of Beginning; Thence continuing North 89degrees59'40" East on the South line of said State Highway Right of Way, 660.00 feet; Thence South 00degrees13'57" East parallel with said West line 645.00 feet; Thence South 89degrees59'40" West parallel with South line of said State Highway Right of Way, 660.00 feet; Thence North 00degrees13'57" West parallel with said West line, 645.00 feet to the Point of Beginning.

And all other real estate and personal property, if any, owned by the decedent At the time of death be assigned pursuant to the laws of intestate succession.

You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition thereon on or before April 16, 2026 at 9:00 o'clock a.m. in the District Court, City of Anthony, Harper County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein to file Your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

Elizabeth Rae Starks
Executor

Jim Forsyth, #13123
NEWTON and FORSYTH
112 E. Main - P.O. Box 68
Anthony, Kansas 67003
Attorney for Petitioner
newtonandforyth@att.net
620-842-5101

KANSAS LIFELINE PROGRAM

The Lifeline Program helps low-income families and individuals stay connected so they can access healthcare, find jobs, attend classes, stay in touch with family, and call for help in an emergency.

Eligible Services:

- Residential phone service
- Broadband Internet

You may be eligible for Lifeline if you receive any of the following benefits or your income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FHPA)
- Veterans Pension & Survivors Pension Benefit
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Head Start Tribal Programs (only those meeting its income qualifying standard)
- The Food Distribution Program on Tribal Lands.

For more information about Kansas Lifeline,

visit <https://www.lifelinesupport.org>

visit <https://kcc.ks.gov/telecommunications/lifeline> or call

the Kansas Corporation Commission 800.662.0027

*The Kansas portion of the discount may only be applied to phone service.
The federal discount may be used for Internet or phone service.

sctelcom



Harper County General Public Transportation

NEED A LIFT?



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✓ Grocery Store ✓ Hair Appointment

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Member of the South Central Coordinated Transit District #9. Equal Opportunity Access.

