

NEWS

COMMENTS, CONCERNS OR QUESTIONS? Contact Stephanie Jump at (620) 532-3151 or email sjump@kconline.com

OBITUARY

ELEANOR JOAN WORTHINGTON WOOD

Eleanor Joan (Worthington) Wood was born July 7, 1934, on her parents farm east of Seiling, Okla.



She was an only child of Elmer and Mable Worthington. Her parents were loving and kind and nurtured our Mom with a gentle spirit and a firm hand. They taught her about Jesus and church was a large part of their lives. They also put a high premium on education. They taught her the value of hard work. Mom milked her first cow at age 5 and she would have to help milk

before she got on the school bus to head to school. Mom attended a little school called Diamond School that she had to walk one mile to and from each day. She attended there for two years before attending the school in Seiling.

At the age of 7 Mom began to study piano which became a life long gift from God to share with students, family, church and community. She was also known for her singing voice and performed at various events throughout her life. At one point Mom was to audition for the New York Metropolitan Opera but decided that she would rather have a family than a career on the East Coast. So she stayed here. We are glad she did.

During her senior year at Seiling High, Mom was elected President of her Senior class. She graduated as the class Salutatorian of the class of 1952. She then attended Southwestern State College in Weatherford, Okla., graduating in 1956 with a BA degree in Public School Music and Elementary Education. While there, she performed on campus, piano and voice and was a member of a national honorary fraternity, and was chosen to be among the few in Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. She also performed as one of the soloists on a Southwestern Singers Concert tour to Mexico for two weeks. They performed on top of the Pyramid to the Sun.

In the fall of 1956, Mom began teaching elementary music in Tulsa, Okla. at the Irving School. She taught over two hundred students in grades one through six daily. This lasted for fifteen months when she resigned to marry our Dad, the love of her life, Charles Wood on December 22, 1957. They moved to Wichita where she did substitute teaching, while Dad worked at Standard Products Co.

In the summer of 1958, Mom and Dad moved to Anthony. Dad started farming the ground NW of Anthony on the Wood Homestead and he commuted to Wichita to work in the aircraft industry. Mom taught vocal music for grades four through 12 in the Anthony schools for the 1958-1959 school year. In 1959-1960, she taught vocal music at Bluff City School-grades one through 12. She also taught vocal music at Freeport Elementary school in the mid 1960's. Mom served as director of various church choirs. She then began a successful private voice and piano studio in the home and taught intermittently, mainly piano students,

until retirement in her later years. She had several gifted students whom she taught piano and she was very proud of them. She accompanied the Chaparral Singers under Leon Ballenger for a musical at Chaparral High School. She sang in the Anthony-Harper Community Christmas Concerts, and directed a 4-H club choir. She was also a Girl Scout leader when we were younger. Substitute teaching and finally attending WSU Graduate School of Music to earn her Masters Degree of Music Education in 1984. She then taught in USD 361 from 1996-2006 when she retired.

During this time she managed the farm because Dad had a major stroke in 1982. Through all of this her faith remained strong and she always tried to take the opportunity to teach and tell what the Lord was doing in her life. There were many disappointments and hardships, but Mom did not waver in her trust of what God could do and He was always faithful. She was baptised in a creek as a young girl and later as an adult she was baptized again to rededicate herself to God. Her love for Jesus carried her through many trials and gave her many joys as well.

One of Mom's highlights was when she and Dad went on a farm tour in Europe and while they were in Paris, France, on March 7, 1979, Mom was able to meet and visit with Nadia Boulanger. Mom also celebrated her 70th birthday by riding a hot air balloon over Pagosa Springs, Colo., which was quite the experience.

Mom passed away at her apartment at Country Living on March 7, 2026.

She was preceded in death by her parents Elmer and Mable Worthington, her father-in-law and mother-in-law, George and Mary Beth Wood, and her beloved husband of 57 years and three months, Charles Scanland Wood. She is survived by her five children and their spouses: Barbara Alison and Dan Muse of rural Anthony, Charilyn Joan and Brian Henry of Hutchinson, Kathryn Anne and Tony Duran of Anthony, Debra Elaine and James Muniz of Augusta, and Jon William Worthington and LaTisha Wood of Wichita. Twelve grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren: Aaron and Kelci Muse and Kya, Kylee and Jener FlyingOut and Drake, Danna, Danae' and Dane, Tisha and John Estep and Myael Williams and Jeremiah Jace Estep, Deven and Julia Wood, Charilyn and Seth Litton and Ellie, Emily, Evelyn, Elyse and baby Litton, Carlie and Nathan Shepard and Clayton, Kavin Hess, Michael and Kaleena Rogers and Amelia and baby Rogers, Matthew Rogers, Jacob and Samantha Wood, Jonah and Hezekiah Wood, Olivia Wood, Micah Wood; two great-great-grandchildren: Adela and Iris Williams. Also several cousins and many friends.

The family would like to express a special thank you to Country Living for the wonderful care they gave to Joan.

Funeral Service was held on Friday, March 13 at the Christian Church in Anthony with Pastor Ron Eden officiating. Burial followed in Spring Grove Cemetery, west of Anthony.

Memorials in memory of Joan should be made directly payable to Anthony Christian Church Mission Fund or to Country Living Inc. and can be sent in care of Prairie Rose Funeral Home, 602 E. Main St., Anthony, KS 67003.

NEWS BRIEFS

COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE

The Public Transportation Service assists all Harper County residents of any age to stay independent with accessible transportation to work, medical appointments, shopping, errands, Patterson Health Center and locations less than 70 miles. Hours of operation: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Equal access is provided to the public. Out of county rides need to be scheduled 24 hours in advance and the bus returns for Harper County by 3 p.m. at the latest. Call (620) 842-5104 for ride reservations and rates. First come, first served. Advance reservations are recommended.

HARPER SENIOR MEALS

March 30: Hamburger steak, baked beans, coleslaw, bread, oatmeal raisin cookie, milk

March 31: Baked chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, spinach salad, biscuit, milk

April 1: Menu not available

April 2: Menu not available

April 3: Menu not available

Please order/cancel by 1 p.m. the day prior. Call (620) 896-2063 for reservations.

HARPER COUNTY JAIL

March 19: Bennett Tylor Hargett, 38, housed for Barber County, criminal damage to property, released March 19, bond N/A.

March 20: Keith Alan Jones, 62, served 48 hours.

March 20: Joshua Newton Smart, 44, housed for Barber County, assault, release date N/A, \$10,000 bond.

March 20: Colton Lee Kitchen, 25, disorderly conduct, released March 22, \$2,500 bond.

March 20: Phillip James Workman, 40, probation violation, release date N/A, \$10,000 bond.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(First published in The Harper Advocate on Thursday, March 12, 2026) 4t

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP): 2026-03 DEMOLITION OF DANGEROUS STRUCTURE 1912 PINE ST. HARPER, KS

The City of Harper is accepting sealed bids for the demolition of the dangerous structure located at 1912 Pine St. Harper, KS. The successful bidder will be responsible for the demolition and removal of the structure, foundation and all other concrete on the lot except for city sidewalks, and the safe disconnection and capping of existing utilities where applicable. The successful bidder is responsible for following all applicable federal, state and local laws related to demolition of structures. For a full list of requirements, bid documents can be picked up at City Hall 201 W. Main St. Harper, KS 67058 or downloaded from the city's website: www.cityofharper.com. All proposals must be SEALED and clearly marked "RFP 2026-03 DANGEROUS STRUCTURE - 1912 PINE ST." Sealed bids will be received until April 13, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall, and opened publicly at the regularly scheduled council meeting on April 13, 2026, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

HARPER COUNTY COMMISSION March 16 Minutes

The Harper County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session. Chairperson McCurley called the meeting to order with Commissioners Struble and Waldschmidt. Ami DeLacerda, County Clerk, & Shonda Larson, Finance Director, were also present.

Mike Bennett & Janet Slankard, Public Works, met with the Board. There was discussion on using railroad flat cars to repair various bridges in the county, and the decision was made to leave a bridge on SW 170 Ave, closed rather than repair, due to low traffic. The proposals for sealed bids to seal various roads has been submitted to Kaw Valley for review. Commissioner Struble moved to approve fuel contract bids from Astra for the period of 4/1/2026 - 9/30/2026, #2 dyed diesel - \$3.529; #2 clear diesel - \$3.829; 87e10 gas - \$3.139; the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Struble complimented the work done on Pilot Knob Road, and the group discussed other roads in need of attention. There was also discussion on the federal sign program, and a recommendation not to participate in the future.

Josh Teel, IT/Building & Grounds, met with the Board. Commissioner Waldschmidt moved to approve an Inordinate Spending Request to close the various AEDs located in County facilities in the amount of \$1,739.89; the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Teel is also researching

options for service on the detention center doors.

Ms. Larson confirmed a grant awarded by Wheatland Electric in the amount of \$2500.00 to use for the 5th floor Clocktower access project. Due to the cost for full renovations, the Board and Mr. Teel elected to complete the project as funds are available, rather than all at once.

Jan Harding, EMS, presented an Inordinate Spending Request to Zoll for a ventilator and case, using opioid grant funds. Commissioner Waldschmidt moved to approve the request in the amount of \$11,301; the motion passed unanimously.

The Board approved travel requests, agreed to increase the monthly compensation for the EMS Medical Director to \$1200.00 per month, and discussed plans for the flower bed in front of the Anthony EMS station.

At 9:22 a.m., Commissioner Waldschmidt moved to recess for five minutes; the motion passed unanimously. The meeting reconvened at 9:27 a.m.

Commissioner Struble moved to sign titles for two new vehicles in Public Works; the motion passed unanimously.

At 9:32 a.m., Commissioner Struble moved to enter Executive Session. The justification for closing the meeting is to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel. The open meeting will resume at 9:45 a.m. in this room; the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. DeLacerda remained in the meeting, and was joined by Audrey Anderson, Register of Deeds, and Cynthia Hekel, Treasurer. At 9:45 a.m., Commissioner Struble moved to extend the Executive Session for 10 minutes; the motion passed unanimously. At 9:48 a.m., Joe Pennycuff, County Appraiser, entered the meeting. At 9:55 a.m., Commissioner Struble moved to extend the Executive Session for 5 minutes; the motion passed unanimously. The regular meeting resumed at 9:57 a.m. with no binding action taken.

The group discussed challenges of maintaining property ownership changes in multiple departments and software, and resources available.

Commissioner McCurley reminded Mr. Pennycuff of the County policy that if a fleet vehicle is available, and an employee opts to use their personal vehicle for business travel, they will not be reimbursed for mileage, and advised that they were denying an Appraiser's Office accounts payable voucher for mileage.

Ami DeLacerda, County Clerk, met with the Board. Commissioner Waldschmidt moved to approve 3/9/2026 meeting minutes; the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Struble moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$168,207.61; the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Struble moved to approve accounts

payable in the amount of \$126,437.77; the motion passed unanimously.

The group reviewed Workers Compensation rate history, and approved Personnel Status Forms.

Commissioner Waldschmidt moved to approve Personal Property abatements resulting in a reduction of taxes of \$67.16; the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Struble moved to approve a Gas correction resulting in a refund of \$799.12; the motion passed unanimously.

Oleg Alba, Acre Strong, met with the Board to introduce their Advisory Service and discuss how Harper County might benefit from engaging their services while negotiating with the various energy companies potentially entering the County. Commissioner McCurley expressed her preference to not allow any more facilities into the county, and Commissioner Waldschmidt expressed his preference to allow it. Commissioner Struble stated that he is not for or against them, but if they are allowed, the county must be fairly compensated.

Mr. Pennycuff shared that water availability & the number of abandoned oil and gas leases were concerns shared by the Steering Committee. He believes they are not in favor of wind and solar farms, but feel it could significantly impact the mill levy.

At 10:54 a.m., Commis

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(USPS #235-740) CONTACT US
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Jason and Stephanie Jump
OWNERS
Jason Jump
PUBLISHER/EDITOR
jjump@theharperadvocate.com

Billing/Classifieds/Notices
Subscriptions
sjump@theharperadvocate.com
Classified and notice deadlines
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