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Republican

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The Coffey County Republican encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

Mail letters to:
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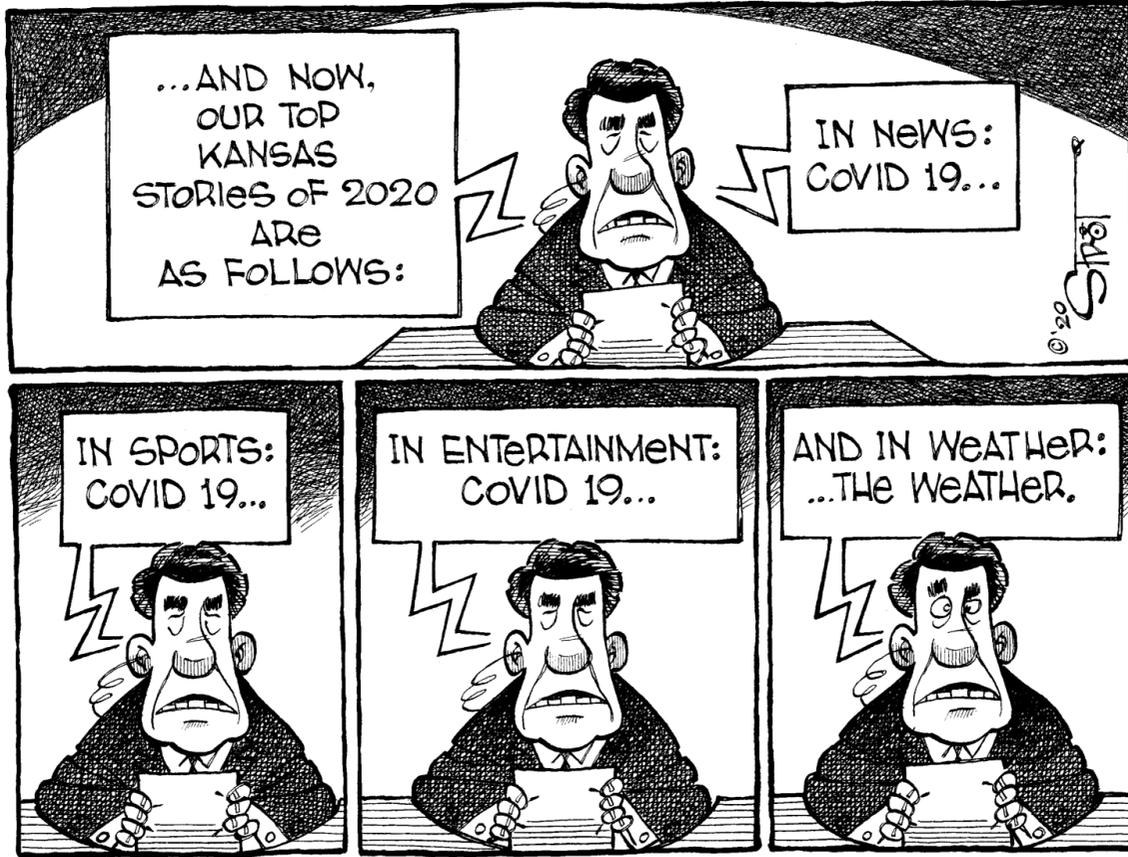
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COFFEY COUNTY DISTRICT COURT

Small Claims

Case action:
20SC13 (12-28-20) The court dismissed an action filed by Chandler Donald against Blake Geiler for improper venue.

Limited Civil

Cases filed:
20LM142 (12-29-20) Discover Bank vs. Gene L. Eccles, debt collection.

Case action:
20LM100 (11-23-20) A suit filed by Discover Bank against Vickie L. Ulrich was dismissed with prejudice.

Civil

Cases filed:

20CV24 (12-28-20) Jason L. Kusel vs. E Cig 4 Inmate, petition seeking relief.

20CV25 (12-28-20) Jason L. Kusel vs. E Cig 4 Inmate, tobacco liability tort claim.

Domestic

Cases filed:
20DM93 (12-10-20) Edith M. Jones vs. Larry D. Jones, divorce.

20DM95 (12-17-20) Shatoshia Barnard vs. Michael Barnard, divorce.

20DM96 (12-29-20) Justin E. Klumpe vs. Jennifer H. Tate, divorce.

Case action:

20DM68 (12-18-20) A divorce was granted to Shane T. Wolford and Vickie A. Wolford.

20DM93 (12-18-20) A divorce was granted to Edith M. Jones and Larry D. Jones.

OBITUARIES

Leta Marie Meats

(March 24, 1935-Dec. 23, 2020)

Leta Marie Meats, formerly of Westphalia, died Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2020. She was 85.

She was born March 24, 1935, in Westphalia, the daughter of Roy and Helen (Roth) Hamilton.

Leta graduated from Westphalia High School and married Gerald Meats on Nov. 13, 1954 in Westphalia.

Leta and Gerald moved to Abilene and were the owners of Abilene Lumber, Inc., and later she owned Leta's Casual Shoppe, retiring in 1996.

Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by her loving husband, Gerald, on May 27, 2010, a son, Lester Meats, a granddaughter, Tenleigh Robison, a grandson, Tripp Robison, and special friend, Max Archer.

She is survived by her daughters, Linda, and husband, Terry Ingemannson, and Yvonne, and husband, Tracy Turner, all of Solomon; grandchildren, Kyle (Lana) Robison, Aurora, Colo., Kalen (Tara) Robison, Abilene, Connie Jacobs, Salina, Trevor (Casey)



Leta Meats

Turner, Falun, Stacie (Patrick) Lundquist, Brookville; great-grandchildren Rowan, Ryder and River Robison, Kipton Robison, Peyton and Brayden Jacobs, and Reid Lundquist; a sister, Esther Ludolph, Westphalia, and brother, James Hamilton, Spring Hill.

A Parish Rosary will be 5:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8, at the Martin-Becker-Carlson Funeral Home, Abilene, with the family receiving friends 6 to 7 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, at St. Andrew's Catholic Church, with Fr. Randall Weber as Celebrant. Please observe COVID-19 practices.

Following Mass, cremation is planned and private inurnment will be at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Daughters of Isabella Mary Rose Circle #393, and may be sent in care of the funeral home, 414 NW Third St., Abilene, KS 67410.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.martin-becker-carlson.com.

Derold Calvin Metzler

(July 19, 1934-Jan. 1, 2021)

EMPORIA — Derold Calvin Metzler died Friday, Jan. 1, 2021, due to COVID-19, at Newman Regional Hospital, Emporia. He was 86.

He was born July 19, 1934, at the family home in Ottumwa (on a day that set the record for the highest temperature for that date) to Glee Emerson and Effie Emma (Ferris) Metzler. He attended the one-room school house in Ottumwa until the Depression forced his parents to go to Washington State in order to find work for his father. They later returned to Emporia and Derold graduated from Emporia Senior High School in 1953.

He married Alyce Marie Hayes on June 27, 1958, and she survives, along with a daughter, Dr. Megan Whitley, and a grandson, Jack Whitley, both of Juneau, Alaska.

Derold was preceded in death by his parents. He was a member of the medical unit of the 137th Infantry, 35th Division of the Kansas National Guard for eight years. He was an avid hunter and had taken many trophy deer with a bow and arrow. He had a lifelong love for horses and spent many hours riding his horses and later his mules. He loved to read and



Derold Metzler

spent a considerable amount of time reading books on the history of the Wild West and Indian history.

Derold was an award-winning pitcher for the Junior Legion Baseball Team and an accomplished track star at Emporia High School. As a young man, he rode his bicycle many miles after school to deliver prescriptions for the Red X Pharmacy and to deliver papers for the Emporia Gazette. Later, he went to work for the Rainbo Bakery and then Dide-Glaser. Dide-Glaser was just getting started at that time and were in a building in the 400 block on Merchant Street in Emporia. Derold was employee #11. He started as an assembler and was soon promoted to an inspector. He retired from Dide in 1981 and spent his time after that working around his horses and investing in the stock market.

Private graveside services will be held at Alpine Cemetery, Osage City. Memorial contributions to the Lyon County Humane Society can be sent in care of Roberts-Blue-Barnett Funeral Home, P.O. Box 175, Emporia, KS 66801. Online condolences may be left at www.roberts-blue.com.

Legislative priorities

With the new year upon us, attention will soon turn to the legislative session beginning Jan. 11 in Topeka. I'm incredibly grateful

for the elected officials we have. Legislative sessions are always about making tough choices on allocating resources that are too few to address problems that appear unending.

This upcoming one is set to be one of the toughest.

One reason is because we're just beginning to emerge from the pandemic that's upended life as we once knew it. The continued need for social distancing will severely limit floor passes, building access and other interactions legislators have with the public in the Capitol.

Technology will allow the public and lobbyists to participate in the process of drafting laws, but we know it's just a stopgap measure. The business of the state will still get done, but there might be a few more bumps in the road. That's why it's more important than ever to open a dialogue with your Kansas representative and senator.

In addition to access in the Capitol, there will likely be fewer legislative coffees, forums and other chances to interact with our leaders until there's widespread inoculation. Sending emails, making phone calls and writing letters will be the only reliable way to ensure your voice is heard on the subjects that matter to you.

At Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) we have three priorities in this year's session: broadband, taxes and water. Our advocacy staff will still weigh in on any proposed legislation important to our members, but those are the big three this session.

Access to a vibrant, high-speed broadband network is essential to the future of both rural and urban Kansas. One of the few bright spots of the pandemic has been the ability for a significant portion of our population to work wherever there's adequate signal. Moving forward, broadband will provide new opportunities for the delivery of health care, education, entertainment, business development and enhance the capabilities of precision agriculture.

Of course, deploying broadband access to every Kansan will take time and money, which is why taxes make our list. The state's tax coffers aren't quiet as full as they otherwise would be because of the pandemic. After digging through the couch cushions, legislators might get the idea to start tinkering with the tax code to fill in the gaps.

Such changes are always fraught and with the public limited in how it can interact with legislators, this session is especially prone to any tinkering having unintended consequences. KFB will continue to advocate for the use-value system in place now that accurately and appropriately values agricultural lands. Agricultural operations are businesses and sales tax exemptions are necessary to continue fair and equal tax treatment for business-related purchases.

Finally, KFB will continue its support for the basic tenets of Kansas water law. Knowing, understanding and implementing these principles provide our members the ability to plan, invest and defend their private property rights for one of the state's most valuable resources.

I know these aren't the only issues legislators will face in the upcoming session, but they're vitally important for all Kansans. I thank all of our elected officials for their service and wish them well in the endeavor they will soon embark on.

—*"Insight" is a weekly column published by Kansas Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm organization whose mission is to strengthen agriculture and the lives of Kansans through advocacy, education and service.*

Insight



Greg Doering
Kansas Farm Bureau