

STEPS to change lives

provided by StepMC

Steps to End Poverty of McPherson County (STEPMC) is a local nonprofit committed to building relationships that transform lives and move our community beyond poverty. One small step in that direction is sharing the stories of folks who are working hard to bring themselves and their families out of poverty. Our hope is that by hearing the

stories of our neighbors in McPherson County, we might all gain a better understanding of how we can work together to end poverty in our community. My name is Nicholas Hinnergardt, and I am a proud leader from STEPMC. I was born in Dodge City in 1989 and have lived in 14 different towns across Kansas and Colorado. In my teenage years I rebelled and ended up

starting a 20-year battle with addiction. In 2023 I was arrested and spent 2 months in Reno County jail. When I was arrested, I lost my daughter to the State of Kansas. On March 11th 2023, I made the choice to change my life and got into Oxford House in Hutchinson. In November 2023, I moved back to McPherson to open an Oxford House, then I started going back to college, got involved with STEPMC,

and moved into the Oak Harbor Cottages in January of 2024. By March 1st I had regained residential custody of my daughter and started doing the Getting Ahead class which I graduated from in August 2024. While participating in the Getting Ahead class, I learned that there are 11 resources ranging from financials to social capital to language. Some of the resources are common knowledge, but until I

took the class, I didn't realize how vital they were. You could have all the financials in the world and still be in a state of poverty without other resources. Through the combination of the 11 resources, you find a way to survive through times of hardship and eventually get out of poverty. My favorite resource out of all of them is language. It feels good to know that I can go from a room of middle-class individuals to a room full of people in poverty and be able to talk to them all. STEPMC has really

made an impact on my life and taught me a lot about what it means to exit poverty and how to make it happen. The people involved in the program have some of the kindest hearts I have ever known, and they would do everything in their power to help people grow and get a handle on exiting poverty. All around, I believe that STEPMC is a vital part of this community. If you would like to know more about STEPMC, visit our website at <https://www.stepmc.org/>

Babysitting course teaches skills

by Tammy Johnson
tjohnson@cherryroad.com

McPherson youth can gain the skills they need to babysit safely and confidently, thanks to an upcoming course offered by the McPherson Recreation Commission.

The Red Cross Babysitter Training is a fun hands-on class for kids ages 11 to 17. It teaches important caregiving skills like how to take care of kids, keep them safe, and handle emergencies. Participants will also earn certifications in Pediatric CPR, First Aid, and AED use. These are lifesaving skills that every babysitter should know.

The course uses group activities, real-life examples, and expert instruction to help the students build confidence, leadership, and smart

decision-making skills. It also covers how to understand kids' behavior and how to handle tricky situations calmly.

According to the Red Cross, trained babysitters are more likely to be trusted by parents because they know what to do and how to help in an emergency. This class helps young people feel prepared and responsible, whether they're watching younger siblings or looking for babysitting jobs.

The training is scheduled for June 18 and 19 at Lakeside Cabin located at 300 N. Lakeside Dr. On June 18, the class will run from 9 a.m. to noon with snacks provided. On June 19, it will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and lunch will be served. To sign up, go to the McPherson Recreation Commission Facebook page.

Library brings Mad Science to town

by Tammy Johnson
tjohnson@cherryroad.com

The McPherson Public Library is bringing a thrilling evening of fun experiments and exciting discoveries to town. Mad Science of Kansas City promises an energetic fusion of art and science, engaging the audience with hands-on experiments and interactive demonstrations.

Mad Science is known for its high-energy performances and educational entertainment and for turning everyday science into amazing experiences. Their shows use cool experiments, surprising reactions, and hands-on demonstrations to make learning exciting. Whether it is watching liquids change

color, seeing objects float, or learning how science connects to art, there will be plenty of exciting moments for all ages.

Audience members will get the chance to participate in the experiments instead of just watching the show. The show is loved by kids, families, and anyone curious about how things work.

Mad Science of Kansas City is scheduled for June 26 from 6 to 7 p.m. at the McPherson Community Building, at 122 E. Marlin St. It is free to attend, and no science experience is needed. Just bring your curiosity.

For more details and information about other upcoming events, visit the McPherson Public Library's website at macpl.org.

Obituaries

AGNES JENNINGS

Agnes Kathleen Jennings, 85, of Lindsborg, Kansas, passed away on June 12, 2025.

Agnes was born on January 24, 1940, in New Haven, Connecticut, to Gustav Brynolf Johnson and Alice Kathleen (McCullough) Johnson. On June 8, 1957, Agnes was united in marriage to Nyal Arlyss Jennings in Raleigh, North Carolina. She lived a life grounded in faith, family, and love, and was known for her strength, warmth, and unwavering devotion to those she held dear.

A devoted Lutheran, Agnes's faith was central to her life and guided the way she loved and served others.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 68 years, Nyal Arlyss Jennings of Lindsborg, KS; her three daughters, Kathleen Renee Williams of Laurel Hills, FL, Dawn Eileen Jennings of Lindsborg, KS, and Lisa Ann Rutter (Scott) of Round Rock, TX; 13 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her son, Nyal Scott Jennings.

Agnes's legacy lives on in each of her loved ones, through the kindness she modeled and the values she instilled.

She will be dearly missed by all who knew her. A funeral service will be held on Monday, June 16, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at Grace Lutheran Church in McPherson, KS with Pastor Dale Dumperth officiating. The family will receive friends from 9:00 a.m. until service time on Monday at the church. Burial will follow the service at Elmwood Cemetery in Lindsborg, KS. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Agnes's life.

Memorial donations can be made to Grace Lutheran Church in care of Stockham Family Funeral Home, 205 North Chestnut, McPherson, KS 67460.

Personal condolences may be sent to the family at www.stockhamfamily.com.



CONNIE BROOKS

Connie Jo Brooks (Gustus), 63, of McPherson, Kansas passed away peacefully with her three daughters by her side at home on May 10, 2025 after a long battle with cancer. Connie was born in Lyons, Kansas on June 28, 1961 to Leta Pedigo (Robinson) and Calvin Gustus. She is survived by her husband, William Andrew Brooks of McPherson; daughters, Misty Record (Wayne) of McPherson, Kansas, Kristi Shuttleworth and Billie Jo Shuttleworth of Topeka, Kansas. She has three grandchildren, Dakota Record (Katelyn) McPherson, Kansas, Savannah Record (Levi) of McPherson, Kansas and Ryan Kramer of Topeka, Kansas. She had two great-grandchildren, Dylan Record and Greyson Record of McPherson, Kansas. Connie attended grade school and graduated high school in Geneseo, Kansas. Connie had 5 siblings, Calvin, Duane, Rae, Curtis and Victor Gustus. Connie was a homemaker who loved taking care of the home and her children and her grandchildren. Connie enjoyed fishing and spending quality time with her friends and her family. She loved her dogs and taking drives in the country. Connie was preceded in death by her son, Dusty Shuttleworth, her parents, her brother, Duane and her sister Rae.

A Celebration of Life will be held for Connie on her birthday, Saturday, June 28, 2025 at The Cedars, Wellness and Conference Center, 1021 Cedars Drive, McPherson, KS 67460 from 12pm-4pm. The family would like to gather to celebrate Connie and have a light lunch.

Misty, Kristi and Billie Jo would like to express their gratitude for the nurses and the staff at Gentiva Hospice for their care and support during this challenging time.



KENT HOWELL

Kent Nolan Howell, 58, of Topeka, KS, passed away Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at Countryside Mental Health, Topeka, KS.

Kent was born in Garden City, KS on December 7, 1966, the son of Nolan G. and JoAnn (Reed) Howell.

Kent attended Garden City and McPherson Grade Schools, and attended Junior High School and his freshman year at Great Bend High School, Great Bend, KS. He graduated from Larned High School, Larned, KS in 1984.

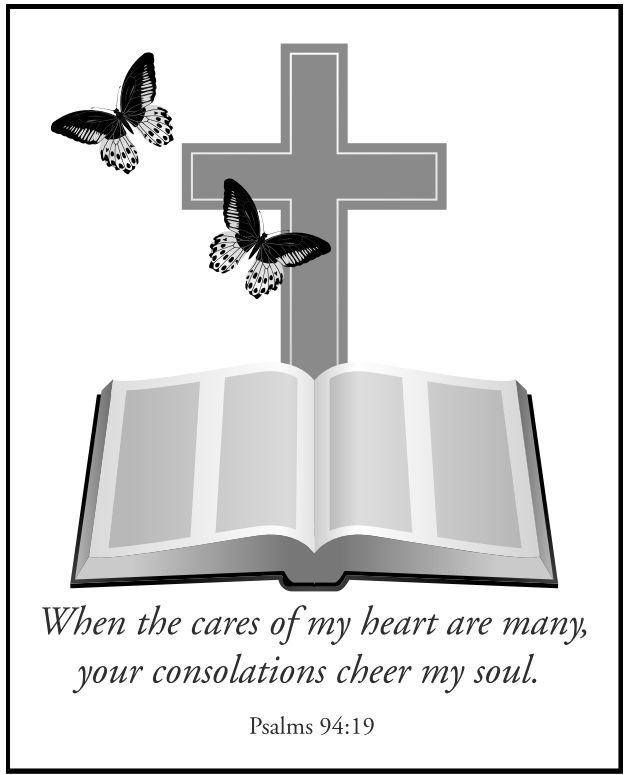
He was a member of Protestant Faith. Kent enjoyed sports, especially the Kansas City Chiefs and Kansas City Royals. He was very good at sport statistics and enjoyed reading and spending time with his friends and family.

He is survived by his loving mother, JoAnn Howell, of McPherson, KS and his sister Angela Howell.

He was preceded in death by his father, Nolan Howell and his grandparents, Weldon and Mildred Howell and Olin and Laurene Reed.

A Graveside Service will be held Thursday, June 19, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. at McPherson Cemetery in McPherson, KS with Pastor David Kincaide officiating.

Family requests donations to First Presbyterian Church of McPherson and they can be sent to Glidden-Ediger-Wiggins Funeral Home, 222 W. Euclid St., McPherson, KS 67460.



STOCKHAM
FAMILY
FUNERAL HOME

Helping Families and Friends
Honor Their Loved Ones

Owners
Kevin and Tammie Stockham
www.stockhamfamily.com
(620) 241-2442

205 N. Chestnut
McPherson, KS

McPherson Sentinel

Published by CherryRoad Media
116 S. Main St., Mcpherson KS, 67460
Phone: 620-504-9885

PUBLISHER
Jeremy Gulban
jgulban@cherryroad.com

EDITOR Jeff Gulley
jgulley@cherryroad.com

REPORTER Tammy Johnson
tjohnson@cherryroad.com

REPORTER Joel Muhs
jmuhs@cherryroad.com

LEGAL NOTICE
legals@mcphersonsentinel.com

ADVERTISING: Connie Wallace
cmwallace@cherryroad.com

(USPS 590-180)
Published Wednesdays by CherryRoad Media.Periodicals postage paid at Pratt, Kan., and additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to
Circulation Department,
116 S. Main St.
McPherson, KS 67460

By submitting your address and/or email, you understand that you may receive promotional offers from CherryRoad and its related companies.
You may cancel your subscription at any time for a refund of the unused portion of your subscription. For more information, call 316-804-7720.

CherryRoad
Media