Obituaries

Donald J. Mildrexler

Donald Joe Mildrexler was born in Cawker City, Kan., December 17, 1934, Katherine Barbara (Smith) and Joseph Stanchel Mildrexler. Joe was welcomed with surprise by his two older sisters, Katherine "Kitty" and Josephine Ann "JoAnn" because they had no idea their mother was pregnant, but they loved their little brother all the same.

Joe grew up on Lake Street, often walking down to the water to fish with his father or by himself. As a child, he attended St. Theresa Catholic School through the eighth grade and was an Altar Server at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church. He then attended Cawker City High School, where he played basketball and football while also hunting, fishing and "stealing" watermelons and corn from nearby fields.

As a teenager, Joe's first jobs included selling beer for a nickel each at a local bar, building furniture at an area company, plumbing with his father in the family business and driving a tractor for a local farming family. It was the experiences driving older farm equipment without protective equipment that negatively impacted Joe's hearing at an early age.

However, the most important part for Joe of being a teen and attending Cawker City High School was meeting the love of his life, Mella Jane Ziegenbalg.

In 1952, Joe earned a football scholarship to Fort Hays State University, where he studied Mathematics and Education. He also worked as a custodian in Picken Hall.

Joe joined the Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity, where he lived and joked around with his fellow education "brothers." He was also a member of the Future Teachers of America, the Math Club and played on the 1955 Championship Team of the Organized Football League.

Throughout college, Joe and Mella dated steadily. On August 4, 1956, Joe and Mella were FINALLY married. They drove to Yellowstone National Park for a quick honeymoon, then drove right back to Kensington to begin their teaching careers together.

Joe started his first in a long line of mentoring and teaching positions as the high school Math and Science teacher at Kensington High School. He was a positive influence on students as Assistant Basketball Coach and both Joe and Mella also served as Senior Class Sponsors, taking the students on end-of-year trips to places such as Denver, Colo.

During the summers, Joe continued his education, eventually earning his Masters of Science in Mathematics through FHSU. Around this time, Joe attempted to enlist in the military but was told because of his incredible worth as a Math and Science teacher, and because of his poor hearing, he was ineligible to enlist. His excellence with teaching Math was recognized in 1959, when he was accepted to the prestigious Mathematics Institute sponsored by the National Science Foundation through FHSU.

In November of 1962, Joe and Mella were ecstatic to welcome their daughter Donella (Donald + Mella = Donella) Jane, to the family. At this time, Joe was continuing to earn additional postgraduate hours from the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, and the University of Missouri at Rolla (now known as the Missouri University of Science and Technology.) One of his favorite memories was taking young Donella along for the summer educational symposium at the University of California in San Jose.

In 1963, Joe moved the family to Colby so he could teach Math at Colby High School. Although he continued to teach at CHS until 1965, Joe also began his career at Colby Community College (CCC) as a math instructor. He worked tirelessly to help the entire college create a strong foundation and can be linked to virtually every significant event at the college from the beginning in 1964 until his retirement.

In October of 1972, Joe, Mella and Donella joyously welcomed another daughter, Janella (Jane + Mella = Janella) Dawn (Donald). Joe was still working as a math instructor until 1975, when he was named interim Dean of Instruction from 1975-1977. Joe then became the Dean of Admissions and Registrar from 1977-1979 and was named Dean of Community Services in the fall of 1979.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, Joe stayed physically active by refereeing regional high school football and basketball games. refereeing career slowed when he was crushed by a player, which broke his leg in multiple places. Wearing a cast and using a wheelchair made representing CCC at area county fair events a challenge, but because of his loyalty and commitment to the college, he continued on, even spending a week at the Kansas State Fair.

Joe was a Third Degree Knight with the Knights of Columbus and taught Confraternity of Christian Doctrine classes for several years at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Colby. He joined the Colby High Plains Lion's Club in October 1981 and was a member until May 2002. For many, many years, he was an active member of the Sons of the American Legion, often cooking and serving food at pancake breakfast chicken fried steak "feeds." and he always looked forward to bringing his personal craps table to the annual Pheasant Hunters Stag Casino Games night with his good friend Kenton Krehbiel.

Joe was instrumental in the development and supervision of several programs at CCC. He was the supervisor of the nursing education program and served on the Kansas State Nursing Board. He assisted with the baseball program, established the audio/video program and was responsible for the locations and supervision of the college's 28 outreach centers.

Joe was incredibly active in the Kansas Adult Education Association, serving in several positions with the state group including the presidency in 1980. He was honored with the group's State Achievement Award in 1987. In 1986, Joe received the Kansas Department of Human Resources Certificate of Recognition because he believed in hiring good people, letting them do their job and not constantly looking over their shoulders. He was very proud of the teachers and staff he hired and every holiday season, he brought gifts for the 10-15 staff members who worked with him. He also loved to bake dozens and dozens of cookies for the college students during finals weeks!

Joe was a significant leader in the establishment of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). For several years, he and Mella engaged with the RSVP community by working at the concession stand at the Thomas County Fair and by dressing up as Mr. and Mrs. Santa at the holiday party. Mella would tell everyone how much she enjoyed when Santa winked at her while they were dancing!

Joe established the computer program at and secured many grants for the radio and television programs at CCC. He was also a member of the team who maintained the college's first mainframe computer. Many evenings when a thunderstorm or electrical surge would knock out the computer system, he and daughter Janie would head up to the college to reboot the giant, room-sized computer named "Katie" and play programming games.

In recognition of his remarkable commitment to adult education, Joe was President of the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association from 1991-1992 and was awarded the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association Founder's Award and Scroll in 2000. This award is the highest honor which the association bestows on one of its members. He was also awarded the Kansas Adult Education Association Distinguished Service Award in 1992.

Joe retired in 2006 after rocking all of his positions hard for 42 years at Colby Community College. His efforts and dedication to the college were highlighted in 2008 when he was selected as the CCC Honorary Associate Degree recipient. He reminded everyone in the audience of a quote by one of his dearest friends, Dr. Max Pickerill: that those in education do not teach subject matter, they teach students

Almost immediately into retirement, Joe had a highly concerning health emergency involving infection and necrotizing fasci-This impacted his long term health by causing him to have a weakened immune system and muscular structure. As he tried to maintain his quality of life while handling his health concerns, he was grateful for the tender care and support of close friend Shawna Petersen and the amazing Nurses, Aides and Therapists at L&C Home Health Agency. He loved and appreciated Shawna so much, he considered her an honorary grandchild and joked around with her often, especially about their favorite sports teams.

Joe spent his free time golfing, playing poker with his buddies and hunting. He was known as "Referee" or the "Snickers Bar Kid" to

Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

his fishing buddies. A story he and Mella told for years was how he lost his wedding ring out in a field while on a pheasant hunting trip! They enjoyed taking many trips to visit area casinos and historical sites and he was often at the Meadow Lake Golf Course on a Saturday afternoon playing Texas Hold 'Em. He loved being with his family, going camping, fishing and boating with his girls and then his grandsons. His love of fishing was so great, he went to the fishing hole with his grandson until

2023.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents, his sisters, and a nephew Gregory Aultman.

The love of his life, Mella, died in 2011 and he missed her every day since.

He is survived by his daughter, Donella (Jack) Mildrexler-Morris, grandsons, Chris (Crysta) Weiss and Chase Weiss; daughter, Janella "Little Stinker" Mildrexler (Brian Gerstner), grandson, Maxwell Mildrexler-Gerstner; niece, Joni (Neil) Fawbush, nephews, Stan (Jayne)

Kohn and Eric (Deb) Kohn.

A graveside service was at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, August 7, 2025, at Beulah Cemetery, Colby. In lieu of anything for the family, memorials may be made to the Colby Community College Endowment Fund for the Mildrexler Family Scholarship and can be sent in care of Baalmann Mortuary, PO Box 391, Colby, KS 67701. For information or condolences visit baalmannmortuary.com

(Published Thursday, August 14, 2025 in the Osborne County Farmer)

Glenda R. Anderson

Glenda R. Anderson was born October 10, 1933 to Norris and Florence (Hand) Eller in rural Smith County. She went to be with her Heavenly Father August 2, 2025 at the age of 91.

She graduated from Gaylord High School.

She met the love of her life, Francis "Frank" in March 1952 and they married on January 8, 1955. Three daughters and one son were born to this union.

In 1959, they dedicated their lives to the Lord and served him faithfully while helping to start the Osborne Church of the Nazarene.

Glenda enjoyed her family and circle of friends. As a teen, she taught herself to play by ear the guitar, accor-

dian and piano. She enjoyed sharing her many talents with others which included crocheting, her doilies were very intricate. She had a knack for cooking, making a lot out of a little was her specialty. On family trips, pulling into a roadside area, she'd put together a picnic that resembled a feast. She put on numerous family dinners and holiday get togethers.

She leaves daughters Linda Seeger, Hutchinson, Kan.; Janice Wolters (Gary). Portis, Kan.; Cheryl Lawson (Rick), Canon City, Colo.; and son, Rodney Anderson (Lynda), Gardner, Kan.; and one sister, Dorine Wood to mourn her passing. There are also eight grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren and

seven great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband Frank; her parents; two sisters and one brother.

Memorials may be given to Gaylord Church of the Nazarene.

Celebration of life services was held at 1 p.m. Saturday August 9, 2025 at the Gaylord Church Of The Nazarene in Gaylord, Kan.

Burial will follow in the Osborne Cemetery, Osborne, Kan.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Rentschler Family Mortuaries.

www.rfmortuaries.com (Published Thursday, August 14, 2024 in the Osborne County Farmer)

Lowell D. Cornwell -

Lowell Dean Cornwell, longtime resident and beloved member of the Osborne, Kansas community, passed away peacefully on August 1, 2025. He was 92 years old.

Born in 1933 in Osborne, Kansas, Lowell was the son of Marie Sophia Hachmeister Cornwell and Guy Diment Cornwell. He graduated from Osborne High School in 1951 and went on to attend Fort Hays State University, where he earned his undergraduate degree in 1955. During his time at Fort Hays, Lowell stood out not only in academics but also in athletics, fraternity life, and campus organizations.

In 1954, Lowell married the love of his life, Donna Jean Miller of Otis, Kansas. The couple recently celebrated an extraordinary 70 years of marriage —a testament to their deep and enduring partnership.

Driven by a passion for animal care and service, Lowell continued his education at Kansas State University, where he earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1959. He returned to his hometown of Osborne to open a veterinary practice, which he operated with dedication for 50 years. His work in both large and small animal medicine left a

(Published Thursday, August 14, 2025 in the Osborne County Farmer)

lasting impact on countless families, farmers, and pet owners across the region.

Lowell was deeply involved in the Osborne community beyond his profession. He served on both the local school board and the Osborne Memorial Hospital board for many years, contributing his leadership and care. He was also a committed member of the Masons and Shriners.

A man of many passions, Lowell was an avid fisherman, hunter, steward of the land and a proud Kansas State Wildcat fan. In his retirement, he found joy in simpler pleasures — driving around town in his ranger, sharing coffee and stories with friends at the Hideout, and cherishing time with his family.

Lowell will be remembered for his sharp wit, generous spirit, steady presence, and his unwavering dedication to the people and animals of Osborne.

Lowell is survived by his wife Donna; sister-in-law Pat Brock of Clinton, Missouri; daughter Dana Koehn of Overland Park, Kansas; son Dean and wife Kathy of Frisco, Texas; son Chris of Kansas City, Missouri; grandchildren Adam and wife Kayla of Lake Dallas, Texas; Sam Koehn of Dallas, Texas;

and Gabriel of McKinney, Texas, as well as numerous extended family members and friends.

Funeral services were held Thursday, August 7th at 10 a.m. at the United Christian Church in Osborne, Kansas. In lieu of flowers, the

als be given to the United Christian Church, Osborne Memorial Hospital, or Shriners Children's Hospital. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Rentschler

family requests that memori-

Family Mortuaries. www.rfmortuaries.com
The family extends heartfelt thanks to friends and rel-

felt thanks to friends and relatives for the many cards, phone calls, and kind words of comfort during this time.

The family of LowellDean Cornwell

(Published Thursday, August 14, 2025 in the Osborne County Farmer)



(First published Thursday, August 7, 2025 in the Osborne County Farmer) IN THE DISTRICT COURT

OF OSBORNE COUNTY, KANSAS.

In the Matter of the Estate of

In the Matter of the Estate of Norma Jane Johnson, Deceased.

Case No. OB-2023-PR-13

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO

L PERSONS CONCERNED:

ALL PERSONS CONCERNED: You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Dawn Marie Johnson, the duly appointed, qualified and acting Administrator of the Estate of Norma Jane Johnson, deceased, praying Petitioner's acts be approved; account be settled and allowed; the heirs of decedent be determined; the Estate be assigned to the decedent's heirs at law; fees and expenses be allowed; costs be determined and ordered paid; the administration of the Estate be closed; the Administrator be discharged and Petitioner be released

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before September 3, 2025, at 2:00 P.M. in the Osborne County District Court, Osborne County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

Dawn Marie Johnson

from further liability

Administrator
Richard E. Dietz
Dietz Law Office
115 South First Street
P.O. Box 326
Osborne, Kansas 67473
(785) 346-2157
staff@dietz-law.net
Attorney for Administrator
(8-C39-21)

NOTICE OF HEARING TO EXCEED REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE AND BUDGET HEARING Post Rock Extension District #1
Mitchell County
will meet on September 10, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at Mitchell County Fairgrounds, Beloit, KS for the purpose of hearing and ing objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to be leviced and Revenue Neutral Rate

Detailed budget information is avaiable at Post Rock District - Mankato Office and will be available at this hearing. SUPPORTING COUNTIES Mitchell County (home county) Jewell Co BUDGET SUMMARY Proposed Budget 2026 Expenditures and Amount of Current Year Estimate for 2025 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limit of the 2026 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final ass Actual Tax Actual Tax Budget Authority 2025 Ad Tax Rate* FUND 1.074.000 1,411,000 ess: Transfer Net Expenditure otal Tax Levie G.O. Bonds