



Obituaries

Joanna Copeland



Joanna Copeland

Joanna Copeland, 83, of Manhattan, Kansas, passed away peacefully on June 2, 2025. She was born on October 9, 1941, in Great Bend, Kansas, to Howard and Florence Metheny. She was united in marriage to Jimmy on February 21st, 1960, in Russell, Kansas. Joanna was a woman of many talents and an unwavering devotion to her family. After graduating high school, she attended beauty school and proudly opened her own beauty shop. Over the years, she worked side by side with her husband, Jimmy Copeland, as a bookkeeper in the parts stores, he

owned and managed. She also worked as a bank teller and later fulfilled a dream of owning her own bakery in Springfield, Missouri. Joanna’s heart was always with her family. She loved baking treats for and with her children and grandchildren, sewing beautiful quilts, working in her garden, and spending time camping and enjoying the outdoors with loved ones. Her home was filled with warmth, delicious smells from the kitchen, and the laughter of generations. She is survived by her children, Lana Copeland of Manhattan, KS; Jana (Kevin) Baker of Manhattan, KS; and James (Angela) Copeland of La Salle, CO. She was a proud grandmother to Brent (Kallie) Kolterman, Becky (Matt) Marsh, Brandon Baker, Ryan (Megan) Baker, Alyssa King-Copeland, and Jacob (Emily) Copeland, and a cherished great-grandmother to Jenna, Takara, Tarik, Jaden, Kalan, McKenzie, Kanton, and Knox. Joanna is also survived by her siblings: Ruthie (Leonard) Steinle, Bonnie (Leonard) Boys, Frank

(Jana) Metheny, Jeanette (Scott) Wilke, and Annette (Chet) Look. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Jimmy Copeland; her parents, Howard and Florence Metheny; and her grandson, Zachary James Copeland. Joanna’s legacy of love, creativity, and kindness will live on in all who knew her. A celebration of Joanna’s life will be held at 10:30 A.M. on Saturday, June 07, 2025, at the Pohlman-Varner-Peeler Mortuary in Russell, Kansas. Burial will follow at the St. John Lutheran Cemetery in Russell. Visitation will be from 9 A.M. to 7 P.M. on Friday, June 06, 2025, at the mortuary with family greeting guests from 5 P.M. to 7 P.M. Friday evening. Memorials may be given to the Good Shepherd Homecare and Hospice of Manhattan, Kansas, and can be sent to the mortuary. Pohlman-Varner-Peeler Mortuary of Russell, Kansas, is in charge of the funeral service arrangements. (Published in the June 5, 2025 issue of the Russell County News)

Andrew Lee Engling



Andrew Lee Engling

Andrew Lee Engling, 55, of Natoma, Kansas, passed away Friday, May 16, 2025 at the Kansas University Medical Center in Kansas City, Kansas, surrounded by his children and family. Andrew was born April 22, 1970, in Russell, Kansas. He was one of five children to Edward M., Sr. and Clara R. “Pat” (Golembiewski) Engling. He grew up in Natoma and graduated from Natoma High School in the Class of 1988. After graduation Andrew attended Salina Vo-Tech and graduated with his welding degree in 1989 in Salina, Kansas. Many people know him for his Welding; he was talented beyond his abil-

ities. He could envision and fabricate almost anything. Andrew met, fell in love with April Zimmerman on August 21, 1999, and spent over 25 years together. This union was blessed with three children; Shayne, Jayson and Candyce. He also has three children from a previous marriage, Joshua, Shelby and Kylie. They have made their home in Natoma. Andrew was a welder for Tom’s Machine & Welding in Plainville for over 24 years. Before that, he worked with Great Plains, Inc. in Salina and Lucas. He enjoyed the outdoors, especially camping, fishing, and riding motorcycles. He was an avid sports watcher that cheered on his Kansas City Chiefs and the Kansas University Jayhawks. He enjoyed playing pool, listening to all varieties of music, time spent with friends and family, watching Wheel of Fortune and playing Candy Crush Saga, completing his last level of 8905. Andrew’s surviving family include his spouse, April Zimmerman of the home; six children: Shayne Engling of Hays, Kansas, Jayson Engling (Kaitlyn) of Natoma, Kansas, Candyce Engling of Natoma, Kansas, Joshua Engling of Plainville, Kansas,

Shelby Engling (Kayley) of Salina, Kansas and Kylie Engling of Natoma, Kansas; two brothers, Edward Engling, Jr. of Natoma, Kansas and Anthony Engling (Lori) of Salina, Kansas; sister, Christine Hoffman (Ken) of Hays, Kansas; sisters-in-law, Dee Engling of Phillipsburg, Kansas and Monica Martinez of Natoma, Kansas; brother-in-law, Manuel Martinez of Hays, Kansas; in-laws, James and Deborah Christopher of Natoma, Kansas, and seven grandchildren, Harper, Alexis, Aiden, Bindi, Haven, Aubriella and Drew; and many nieces and nephews. Andrew was preceded in death by his parents and brother Michael Engling. A Memorial Service celebrating his Life will be held at 11:00 AM, Friday, June 13, 2025, at the Natoma Auditorium. Burial of ashes will follow at the Natoma City Cemetery. A Memorial has been established as the Andrew Engling Memorial Fund. Contributions and condolences may be sent to Pohlman-Varner-Peeler Mortuary, who is in charge of these arrangements. (Published in the June 5, 2025 issue of the Russell County News)

Legal Notice



(First published in the Russell County News Thursday, June 5, 2025)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF RUSSELL COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE

OF

ROBERT TORRES, DECEASED,

CASE NO. RS-25-PR-30

NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified that on May 28, 2025, a Petition was filed by Deborah J. Torres, an heir at law, praying for the appointment of Petitioner as Administratrix of the above estate and for the issuance of Letters of

Administration under the Kansas Simplified Estates Act.

You are further advised under the provisions of the Kansas Simplified Estates Act the Court need not supervise administration of the Estate, and no notice of any action by the Administratrix or other proceeding in the administration will be given, except for notice of final settlement of the decedent’s estate.

You are further advised if written objections to simplified administration are filed with the Court, the Court may order that supervised administration ensue.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 30th day of June, 2025, at 8:30 o’clock A.M. in said Court, in Russell County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due

course upon the Petition.

All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the estate within the latter of four (4) months from the date of the first publication of notice under K.S.A. 59-2236 and amendments thereto, or if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, 30 days after the actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

DEBORAH J. TORRES, Petitioner

KENNETH L. COLE - 11003 Woelk & Cole P.O. Box 431 Russell, KS 67665 (785) 483-3711 Attorneys for Petitioner

June 5, 12, 18

Alma Jean Keller



Alma Jean Keller

Alma Jean Keller, 97, of Denver, Colorado and former Russell, Kansas, resident died on Saturday, December 21, 2024, at the Woodland Estates Assisted Living in Denver. Jean was born on January 22, 1927, in Hays, Kansas, the daughter of Paul and

Clara (Koehler) Rostocil. She grew up on the family farm near Stockton, Kansas and graduated from Stockton High School. After high school she graduated with a bachelor’s degree of education from Kansas State University. She was united in marriage to Paul Keller on December 30, 1954, in Russell, Kansas. She worked as a Home Economics teacher and Para for 47 years in Russell with the USD 407 School District. From this union Jean and Paul were blessed with a daughter Dea Ann. She was a longtime member of Otterbein United Methodist Church in Russell. She was also a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, Russell County Fair Board, Round Robin, Russell Garden Club. She was a very proud supporter and campaign worker for Bob Dole. She enjoyed making quilts,

gardening, playing bridge, reading and researching family history. Surviving family include her daughter Dea Ann Roark and husband Clay of Denver, Colorado; 3 grandchildren Brooke Woodward (Brett), Anna Madsen (David) and Andrew Friesen and 6 great grandchildren Mindzie, Scarlett, Raef, Sydney, Sienna and Alexzy. She was preceded in death by her parents and husband Paul and sister Edith Bouchey. Cremation has been selected by Jean. A graveside memorial service of Jean’s life will be held at 10:30 A.M. on Thursday, June 12, 2025, at the St. John Lutheran Cemetery in Russell, Kansas. Pohlman-Varner-Peeler Mortuary of Russell, Kansas, is in charge of the funeral services. (Published in the June 5, 2025 issue of the Russell County News)

Legal Notice



(First published in the Russell County News Thursday, June 5, 2025)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF RUSSELL COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE

OF

KENT A. FOSTER a/k/a KENT ALAN FOSTER, DECEASED

NO. RS-2025-PR-000031

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 Brenton S. Foster, an

heir-at-law of Kent A. Foster a/k/a Kent Alan Foster, deceased, praying for the Determination of the Descent of the following described real estate, situated in the County of Russell and State of Kansas, to-wit:

Lots SEVENTEEN (17) and EIGHTEEN (18), in Block THREE (3), FAIVEW ADDITION to the City of Russell, Russell County, Kansas (commonly known as 763 E. 3rd, Russell, Kansas).

and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by Decedent at the time of death; and that such property and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by Decedent at the time of death be assigned pursuant to the laws of intestate succession. You are required to file

your written defenses thereto on or before the 1st day of July, at the hour of 9:00 o’clock A.M. of said day, in the District Court of Russell 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.

BRENTON S. FOSTER, PETITIONER

DRISCOLL LAW OFFICE JERRY E. DRISCOLL, #09530 Driscoll Building 726 Main, P.O. Box 226 Russell, KS 67665 jedriscol@ruraltel.net Phone: (785) 483-5325 Attorney for Petitioner

June 5, 12, 19

Lillian Marlane “Lily” Akings



Lillian Marlane “Lily” Akings

Lillian Marlane “Lily” Akings, 77, passed away May 30, 2025, surrounded by family at her home in De Soto, Kansas. She was born on November 22, 1947, in Russell, Kansas, to Alvin and Theresa (Deutsch) Dumler. Lily grew up in Milberger, Kansas, graduating from Russell High School. She continued her education at Fort Hays State University, graduating with a master’s in science degree with an emphasis in nursing. Lily earned her BSN and practiced many years in public health. She married Landon Dean Akings in 1965 and was blessed with two children: Randall Dean Akings and Melissa Marlane (Akings) Schuman. Lily taught nursing courses at Barton Community College and worked as coordinator for the Association for Continuing Education in Great Bend. She belonged and served in vari-

ous positions for the Kansas Public Health Association, Kansas Association of Local Health Departments, as well as an adjunct professor at Fort Hays State University and director of the Barton County Health Department. Lily served in many roles in Barton County. She was also a dedicated and talented church organist. Survivors include her husband, Dean Akings, of the home; son, Randall “Randy” Akings of Lenexa; daughter, Melissa “Missy” Schuman (John Skolaut) of De Soto; grandchildren, Carson Rae Schuman and Hugh Isaac Riley; brother, Marlin A. Dumler (Lori) of Russell; and sister, Sylvia J Dumler of Milberger.

She is preceded in death by her parents. Visitation will be held from noon to 8:00 p.m. Monday, June 2, 2025, with family receiving guests from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., all at Bryant Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at United Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Milberger, with Nancy Mitchell, PMA, presiding. Interment will follow at Milberger Cemetery. Memorials have been designated to Milberger Cemetery Fund, in care of Bryant Funeral Home, 1425 Patton Rd., Great Bend, KS 67530. (Published in the June 5, 2025 issue of the Russell County News)

Legal Notice



(First published in the Russell County News Thursday, May 29, 2025)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF RUSSELL COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE

OF

MARTIN R. BECKER, DECEASED,

CASE NO. RS-2025-PR-29

NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that

on May 21, 2025, a Petition was filed in this Court by Susan R. Becker, the Executrix nominated under decedent’s will, praying that the Will dated March 5, 2024, and filed with the Petition be admitted to probate and record; that Susan R. Becker be appointed Executrix without bond and that Letters Testamentary be issued to her. You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 23rd day of June, 2025 at 8:30 o’clock A.M., in the District Court of Russell County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said Petition. All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the

estate within the latter of four (4) months from the date of the first publication of notice under K.S.A. 59-2236 and amendments thereto, or if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, 30 days after the actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Susan R. Becker, Petitioner

WOELK & COLE P.O. Box 431 Russell, KS 67665 (785) 483-3711 Fax No. 785-483-2983 woelkandcole@hotmail.com Attorney for Petitioner

May 29, June 5, 12

At Pohlman-Varner-Peeler Mortuary you get ...

- A fully licensed staff of Funeral Directors and Embalmers with over 75 years of experience.
- A mortuary that will help your family create a cherished memory not just a funeral service.
- A mortuary that is locally family owned and is actively involved in giving back to the community.
- Continuing the Pohlman tradition of excellence, established since 1898.

Pohlman-Varner-Peeler Mortuary & Monuments

483-2212

“Continuing the Pohlman Tradition established in 1898”

**610 N. Maple St., Russell
701 N. 1st St., Natoma**

Your locally owned, family owned mortuary