



Obituaries

Jimmy F. New



Jimmy F. New

Jimmy F. New, 82, passed away peacefully at his home in Goltito, Costa Rica, on Friday, May 30, 2025.

Born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on January 25, 1943, and raised in Russell, Kansas, he was the son of Frankie and Reba New. Jimmy was a graduate of Russell High School and Kansas State University. He began his career with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources as a wildlife biologist for northern Indi-

ana and later transitioned to become the state’s wetland biologist. He went on to found JFNew & Associates, based in Walkerton, Indiana, an outstanding firm known for its work in ecological consulting and the Midwest’s largest native plant nursery.

Jimmy was an avid outdoorsman throughout his life. It is an understatement to merely say he enjoyed hunting, trapping, fishing, and bird watching. His talent for spotting all types of wildlife led to a passion for photography in his later years. His love for beautiful places and the animals that called those places home were always a part of his personal life and professional pursuits. The impressive number of fish he caught over his lifetime would only be rivaled by the documented bird sighting in his trusty Peterson’s Field Guide.

Jimmy enjoyed a wide range of outdoor adventures throughout the US and abroad, but nothing made

him happier than sharing his adventures with others. He loved holding court to share one of his thousands of stories, with the occasional embellishment thrown in (“True story!”). He also loved to take family and friends on “field trips.” Countless people saw the outdoors in a different light or gained a new appreciation after experiencing it with Jimmy.

Jimmy is survived by his wife, Judy; his children Dustin (Colleen), Deacon (Jim), Janet (Alan), Julie, and James; his grandchildren Kelsey and Taylor (Ben); and his great-grandchild Emberly. He was preceded in death by his sister, Jennifer.

A private celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to a conservation organization of your choice in his honor.

(Published in the June 19, 2025 issue of the Russell County News)

Brian Richard “Doc” Reddig



Brian Richard “Doc” Reddig

Brian Richard “Doc” Reddig, 61, died on Friday June 13, 2025, at his home in Gorham, Kansas, surrounded by his family.

Doc was born on August 25, 1963 in Russell, Kansas, the son of James Richard and Dianae Lynn (Karst) Reddig. He grew up in Russell and graduated from Russell High School in the class of 1981.

He met, fell in love and was united in marriage to Lea Anna Householter on August 25, 1984, in Russell, Kansas. From this union, Doc and Lea were blessed with two sons Kane and Tad. Doc worked in the oil industry and was owner and operator of Reddig Enterprises, Lightening Well Service, Doc’s Well Service, Central Kansas Well Service, MidKan and Doc’s Tree Service. He was a longtime member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Russell. Brian loved being outdoors, hunting Elk, Deer and fowl and fishing with his boys. Most of all he enjoyed taking care of the family farm and spending his time with his wife, sons, extended family and close friends.

Surviving family includes his wife Lea of the home, son Tad D. Reddig (Mandy) of Russell, Kansas; brothers Scott Reddig and wife Karen of Great Bend, Kansas and Stacey Reddig (Sharon) of

Oklahoma; sister Jennie Dandridge of Russell, Kansas; and stepbrothers Monty Karst and Alan Tempelton both of Russell, Kansas; and two grandchildren, Jaydon and Adrion.

He was preceded in death by his parents and son Kane A. Reddig on September 06, 2013.

A celebration of Doc’s life will be held at 10:30 A.M. on Friday, June 20, 2025, at Trinity United Methodist Church in Russell, Kansas. Family will greet guests the day of the service at the church. Burial will follow at the Russell City Cemetery. Memorials may be given to Trinity United Methodist Church and sent in care of the mortuary. Pohlman-Varner-Peeler Mortuary of Russell, Kansas, is in charge of the funeral service arrangements.

(Published in the June 19, 2025 issue of the Russell County News)

Melva Jo Dortland



Melva Jo Dortland

Melva Jo Dortland, 94, of Gorham, Kansas, died on Monday, June 16, 2025, at the Hays Medical Center in Hays, Kansas.

Melva was born on November 03, 1930, in Luray, Kansas, the daughter of Melvin and Josephine (Shiroky) Schurr. As a young girl she lived in Luray and graduated from Luray High School before moving to Russell, Kansas. She was united in marriage to Herbert J. “Junior” Black on March 05, 1949, in Great Bend, Kansas, from this union they were blessed with 4 children Cathy, Steve, Roger and Beverly. Herbert died on March 27, 1964, in a tragic car accident. Melva found love again and was united in marriage to Elmer Dortland on April 20, 1965, in Gorham, Kansas, and from this union they were

blessed with 2 children JoAnn and Darrell. Elmer preceded her in death on October 12, 2010. She was a longtime member of St. Mary Catholic Church of Gorham. She was very active in her church life. She was a member of the Gorham parish council, the Daughters of Isabella, President of the Salina Diocese Council of Catholic Women (SDCCW) and the first women in the Gorham church to be a lecture and eucharistic minister. Her faith in God was incredible.

Later in life she enjoyed visiting with family and friends, she loved to talk, watching news and sports on TV, playing cards, doing puzzles, and her favorite getting Dairy Queen. Most of all she loved her family. She was a strong woman who was there to support her family through every step of life. She loved to cook, care, play, listen, and watch them. She was proud of her children and the their families.

Surviving family includes her daughter Cathy Jacobs (Steve) of Gorham, Kansas, son Roger Black (Trudy) of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, daughter Beverly Driscoll of Hoisington, Kansas, daughter JoAnn Kilian (Stuart) and son Darrell Dortland (Kayla) all of Gorham, Kansas; brother George Schurr (Pat) and sister Donna Frederick all of Salina, Kansas and sister Eva Jean Hackerott of

Topeka, Kansas; 13 grandchildren Brenda Slattery, Kevin Jacobs, Stacey McKenna, Kyle Jacobs, Jaime Liudahl, Sarah Rosa, Ben Black, Chris and David Driscoll, Cameron Kilian, Joseph, Tiffany and Camille Dortland and many great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, 2 husbands, son Steve Black, brother Richard Schurr and granddaughter Valerie Boomhower.

A celebration of the funeral mass will be held at 10:30 A.M. on Saturday, June 21, 2025, at St. Mary Catholic Church in Gorham, Kansas. Burial will follow at the St. Mary Catholic Cemetery in Gorham, Kansas. Visitation will be from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. on Friday, June 20, 2025, at the mortuary. The vigil and rosary will be held at 7 P.M. on Friday evening, June 20, 2025, at St. Mary Catholic Church in Gorham with family greeting guests from 6 P.M. to 7 P.M. In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials be given to St. Mary Catholic Cemetery in Gorham, Kansas. Pohlman-Varner-Peeler Mortuary of Russell, Kansas, is in charge of the funeral service arrangements.

(Published in the June 19, 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 INTEREST OF: Case No:RS-2025-AD-000003 E.M. DOB:05/30/2008; a male

NOTICE OF HEARING You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in the

District Court of Russell County, Kansas, praying for an order allowing the adoption of E.M., a male minor. You are hereby required to write your written defenses thereto on or before the 14th day of July 2025, at 11 AM via ZOOM. On said day in said court, 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.

/s/ Mackenzie K. McCoy Mackenzie K. McCoy, #28893 McCoy Law, LLC PO Box 66 WaKeeney, KS 67672 785-425-0344 m.mccoylawoffice@gmail.com Attorney for Petitioner

June 5, 12, 19

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

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 writ-

ten 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, 19

Legal Notice



(First published in the *Russell County News* Thursday, June 12, 2025)

IN THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT, RUSSELL COUNTY, KANSAS PROBATE DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF KENNETH EDWARD BLANKE, deceased Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59

Case No. RS-2025-PR-000032

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified on the 4th day of June, 2025, a Petition for Probate of Will and Issuance of Letters Testamentary under the Kansas Simplified Estates Act was filed in this Court by Star E. Blanke, executrix and an heir of Kenneth Edward Blanke, deceased.

All creditors of the decedent are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate

within the latter of four months from the date of 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 actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Star E. Blanke, Petitioner

Submitted by: Kari S. Schmidt, #11524 Attorney for Petitioner

June 12, 19, 26

Thomas Edgar Blake



Thomas Edgar Blake

Thomas Edgar Blake of Buffalo, MN passed away peacefully on June 9th, 2025 at his home surrounded by family after a long battle of cancer. He was born July 12th, 1945 in Brush, CO to James and Faye Blake. Tom was a dedicated Oilfield Tool Pusher for many oilfield companies all over the US. He took some time away from the oilfield to enjoy farming for Kerkсие Farms in Strasburg, CO. He could not stay away from the oilfield life so he returned and continued his love for the rigs until retirement. He retired from Royal Drilling, Inc. of Russell, KS. He enjoyed visiting with all of his past employees whom worked

under him, spending time with his family and friends, mowing and gardening. His humor and wisdom left an unforgettable mark on everyone he met.

He is survived by: his brother: John Blake, sisters: Margaret Brown and Carol Miller; his sons: James Blake, Terry Blake and daughter: Sheri Strehlow; step sons: Travis Snyder, Matthew Crawford and Chris Crawford; his many grandchildren of with which Two included Arthur (AJ)

Bartik and Trista Bartik; step grandchildren, great grandchildren and step great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents: James and Faye Blake; his wife: Melody Blake; brother: Joseph Blake; sisters: Doris Styært, Joyce Wong, Neva Miller, Dorthy Vondy, Shirley Covey and Mary Styært; his daughter: Tracy Blake and step daughter: Vanessa Hutchins.

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