



Six of retired Holton attorney J. Richard Lake's seven interns under his tutelage at Washburn University School of Law recently signed their names on the "Atticus Finch Commitment To Justice Award," which honors Lake's service as an attorney and hangs at the Jackson County Courthouse. The photo above was taken at a recent gathering with Lake and includes (from left to right) Frank Caro, Maurice Brewer, Kevin Regan, Lake, Paul Morrison, Tom Erker and Thomas M. Warner Jr. The seventh, the late Micheal Ireland, is represented on the award by his daughter's signature.

Photo courtesy of J. Richard Lake

## Lake honor...

Continued from Page 1

Six others who interned with Lake through the years also signed the award, including:

- Paul J. Morrison, former Kansas Attorney General who also served as district attorney for Johnson County.
- Thomas J. Erker, former Johnson County assistant district attorney who opened his own practice in 1985, specializing in criminal and family law cases until his retirement in 2022.
- Frank A. Caro, a Kansas City-based partner in the national Polsinelli Law Firm who specializes in energy and utility law.
- Thomas M. Warner Jr., a Wichita-based trial lawyer and owner of Warner Law Offices, specializing in personal injury and wrongful death litigation.
- Maurice Brewer, a Wyandotte County-based attorney who specializes in criminal defense and has served as that county's assistant district attorney.
- Micheal Ireland, who served as Jackson County Attorney for about 16 years before being named Kansas Second Judicial District Judge, serving in Jackson County District Court from 2006 until his death in 2015. Ireland's daughter, Lisa Rose, signed the award on his behalf.

Erker, who interned with Lake in the summer of 1981 after moving to Topeka from Long Island, N.Y., to attend Washburn, said he learned how to practice law ethically from Lake, who also taught him how to balance family and professional life in a rural setting.

"Dick taught us respect for the court, respect for the rule of law and respect for the other side of the case, no matter what happened. It was an incredible opportunity," Erker said.

After serving four years in the U.S. Navy, where he got his first legal experience defending sailors in disciplinary proceedings, Lake returned to Topeka in 1965 and enrolled at Washburn Law, graduating with his juris doctorate in 1968. He practiced law in Topeka until 1978, when he moved to Holton at the behest of the late Tracy Klingensmith, former Jackson County Attorney and Jackson County District Court judge.

During his time in Holton, Lake served as Jackson County Attorney for seven years, during which time he was a mentor to those seven interns.

"The most valuable part for me is seeing how successful they've all turned out — they've all gone on to have stellar careers," Lake said of the interns.

"I helped them along the way, but they already had a lot of that in them. They drove all the way to Holton to try cases, and that took some initiative on their part. They wanted to be trial lawyers."

During Regan's internship, Lake asked him if he wanted to try the first murder case in the history of Jackson County, even though Regan was still a student at the time. Regan took the opportunity and reportedly was the first law student in the country to try a murder case while still in law school — and he won the case.

Erker's internship under Lake saw him trying cases against top lawyers, all the while guided by Lake through the practicalities of taking a case from its origin all the way through arguing it at the Kansas Court of Appeals.

Of Lake's interns, three of them — Morrison, Regan and Warner — were named fellows of the American College of Trial Lawyers, the most prestigious award in the profession that is given to the top one percent of trial lawyers in North America. Many law firms are lucky to have one attorney with that distinction, said Regan, who added that Lake having three of them as interns speaks to his effectiveness as a teacher.



The above photo was taken recently at the children's playground at Holton's Linscott Park, a popular summer destination for local kids.

Photo by David Powls

## Buck's Grove

By Colleen Reamer

On the beautiful Father's Day morning of June 15, 17 people gathered to worship at Buck's Grove Methodist Church. Mary Ringel lit the candles.

After the call to worship, the congregation sang "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty." Other songs sung on Sunday were "How Great Thou Art" and "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee."

Colleen Reamer had the special. She asked Donna Ashcraft to play the song "Keep It Between The Lines" by Ricky Van Shelton.

Lay Pastor Hefty read the scriptures. The first scripture read was Proverbs 8:1-4 and 22-31. In these verses, Wisdom in speaking, Wisdom wants you to understand what is right so she speaks in a loud voice. She stands where people will hear her, on the hills along the road and where different paths meet. She also stands near the gate where people go into the city.

The second scripture read

was Romans 5:1-5. These passages tell of how Paul is saying that we have been justified through faith and we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ through whom we have gained access by faith into the grace in which we now stand. We glory in our suffering because it produces perseverance, character and hope, and hope does not put us to shame.

Lay Pastor Hefty then read from John 16:12-15. This gospel reading tells of how Jesus is telling people that when the spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own, he will speak only what he hears and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify Jesus because it is from Him that he will receive what he wants to make known to you. Jesus tells them that all that belongs to the Father is His and that is why He said the Spirit will receive from Him what he will make known to them.

Lay Pastor Hefty's message

was about wisdom. He spoke about how we send our children off to college so they can get the knowledge they need to be successful in life. So must we be sent to school to know what it is that God has for us.

He said there are many things out there calling themselves wisdom but it is the Spirit of God to reveal the truth. To be able to sort out the wisdom from everything else God has for us, we must be seekers of God and connected to God to know exactly what it is that God would have for us as truth and would have for us as wisdom. He said the challenge is being connected to God and knowing what it is that God wants.

Prayers are asked for David Allen as he is experiencing some health concerns. Theresa Rieschick reported that Linda and Leroy Rieschick were attending their newest grandson's christening.

Services ended with the benediction and the song "Come, O Lord."

## Family and Consumer Sciences

# A general homeownership checklist

By Cindy Williams  
Meadowlark Extension  
District Agent, Family and Consumer Sciences

June is National Homeownership Month. Homeownership plays a vital role in our economy and can help build individual wealth, promote community stability and improve overall health. But like any investment, a home requires regular maintenance to keep it in good condition.

As we enter the summer months, here are a few maintenance tips to keep your home in top condition.

**Indoor Maintenance Tips:**

- Ensure windows and doors open and close smoothly.
- Replace your air conditioner filter.
- Test ceiling fans for proper operation.
- Clean dryer vents and screens.
- Check smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms.
- Look for signs of leaks around windows and door sills.

**Outdoor Maintenance Tips:**

- Confirm water drains away from the house.
- Clean gutters and downspouts.
- Inspect shingles for damage or signs of leaks.
- Service your air conditioning unit before the heat hits.
- Check for peeling paint and make touch-ups as needed.

By addressing maintenance issues early, you can help prevent costly repairs down the road.



## Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Bob Carson!

Please join the family in celebrating Bob's birthday!

Wednesday, June 25  
3 p.m. - 5 p.m. at  
Dinner Bell Cafe  
(404 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Wetmore)

Cards can reach Bob at:  
PO Box 250  
Wetmore, KS 66550



## CCF announces 2025 scholarships

The Caring Community Foundation (CCF) recently announced the names of its 2025 scholarship recipients.

The CCF is a 501 (c)(3) charitable public foundation serving the Kansas counties of Potawatomi, Marshall, Nemaha and Jackson. The foundation currently offers scholarships to area graduating seniors from Rock Creek, Onaga, St. Marys, St. Mary's Academy and College, Holton, Jackson Heights, Frankfort and Centralia.

Local students receiving scholarships included:

- Clara Will, Jackson Heights: CHCS Healthcare Scholarship, \$1,000.
- Jace Huyett and Jacob Huyett, Holton High School: Walter Byers Scholarship, \$1,000.

## Happy 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary To Bob & June Carson!



Join the family for cookies and drinks to celebrate!



Wednesday, June 25 • 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Dinner Bell Cafe (404 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Wetmore)

Send cards to: PO Box 250, Wetmore, KS 66550



# BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF THE PRAIRIE BAND POTAWATOMI NATION

# FIREWORKS



# OPEN

## June 25<sup>th</sup> - July 5<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Daily

### Air Conditioned Shopping

### 19075 US Highway 75 next to Prairie Band One Stop



All proceeds benefit the Boys & Girls Club of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation