



Sherry Sue Schwein, 76, passed away on June 4, 2025. A private family celebration of life will be held at a later date.

W. Leroy Cole, 88, passed away on Monday, June 9, 2025. A viewing will be held at the funeral home from 1-7pm, Thursday, June 12, with the family present from 5-7pm. Funeral services begin at 11am Friday, June 13, at the Wellington Church of the Nazarene. Graveside services will follow at 2pm at the Udall Cemetery in Udall, Kansas.



- Thursday, June 12**
10am, Chamber Coffee at Memorial Auditorium. This week's Host & Sponsor will be USD 353 Wellington District Schools.
- Friday, June 13**
10pm, Friday the 13th Late Show at the Wellington Regent, hosted by NPN Tattoo, 45th Anniversary of the original R-rated 1980's version. Tickets are \$2.50 each - 1980 prices! Get a Killer Couples Combo for \$13. Jason will be available for photos!
- Saturday, June 14**
9am, June Steel Challenge at Trigger Guard
Flag Burning Ceremony with the Honor Guard, the Engle lot at Lincoln and Washington Avenues. Hot dogs available.
7pm, Marc Baker at the NoWhere Grill
- Tuesday, June 17**
6:30pm, City Council Meeting at City Hall
- Thursday, June 19**
10am, Chamber Coffee at Memorial Auditorium. This week's Host & Sponsor will be Ark Valley Distributing..

Member News:
Free meals. USD 353 School District will be offering free meals to all children ages 1-18 through June 27th (Monday through Friday) at Wellington High School. Breakfast will be served from 7:45-8:30am and lunch will be served from 11:15-Noon. This program is not limited to just USD 353 students or students that qualify for free or reduced lunches. Children must be present and meals have to be consumed on site. No application or registration is needed.
Register for the 125th Kansas Wheat Festival Parade! \$5 Entry form at wellingtonkschamber.com or stop by the Chamber Office
Get your buttons! \$5 Each - Available at the Chamber Office, Bank of Commerce, Impact Bank, Panhandle Federal Credit Union, REC Bank, Security State Bank. Register your buttons at Panhandle by June 27th for the Medallion Hunt!
Wellington Humane Society - June Adoption Special: Adult Cats \$20 | Puppies \$175 | Adult Dogs \$100
The Orphan Train Exhibit is now on display daily 1-5pm through July 6th at the Chisholm Trail Museum.

Rick's Rain Report

PRECIPITATION AS OF FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2025
This week:. 5.65"
This month: 10.01"
YTD: 17.36"

Baker Funeral Home

\$799
Cremation

\$2197
Service & Casket

Wichita 6100 E. Central 316-612-1700	Valley Center 100 S. Cedar 316-755-2731	Peabody 114 N. Sycamore (800) 344-2144
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Wellington City Council Meeting – June 3, 2025

By Ally Wysocki



The City Council meeting opened with the call to order and pledge of allegiance. Councilman Kevin Dodds led the invocation. A proclamation for Ruth White for her 104th Birthday was given during audience participation. The council sang “Happy Birthday” to Ruth. During Reports of Mayor and Council, Councilwoman Cindy Antonich asked about whether the City will pick up bags of leaves. Sanitation will pick them up for either \$1 a piece or 6 for \$5. Residents pay for tags at the utility office in City Hall. Councilman Dodds thanked everybody that came to support the bands they had on Saturday, May 31st. They had a lot of visitors during the event and he is hoping that more bands come to rent the venue. Councilwoman Jan Grace thanked all of the people who came to take down the flags after Memorial Day and the baseball team for helping. Councilman Mike

Westmoreland discussed the recent rain raising the lake level. He also discussed being disappointed by the number of applicants that applied for positions on the City Council. Mayor Joe Soria thanked the Heat players, the police department, and fire department for helping take the flags down. In about an hour, the flags were all down. During reports of City Officials, a street closing request for the Kanokla Wheat Run 5K & 1 mile on July 12, 2025, from 6:30-10am was discussed. This street closing request was approved by a 6-0 vote. City Clerk Heidi Theurer discussed a Park Board Appointment and there was one applicant for the time period, Sandra McNevin. This was approved by a 6-0 vote. No public hearing took place during the meeting. There were no ordinances during the meeting. Wellington City Manager Jeff Porter untabled the resolution to execute an agreement with Rohrer & Sons Construction of Wellington, KS for the demolition of a structure located at 514 South F Street in the amount of \$14,750. Councilman Dodds stated he expects progress to continue to be made on the structure and would like to reject this bid due to the recent weather and the progress that has been made. This bid was rejected with a 6-0 vote. A second resolution finding that the structure located on lot 13 and the west half of 14, block 4, Highland Park Addition, City of Wellington, Sumner County, Kansas commonly known as 1101

East Lincoln Ave. is unsafe or dangerous and directing the structure to be made safe and secure or removed was discussed. The property is owned by Steven and Carly Buck. There have been many forced mowings and the city has taken care of things, like limbs falling on the roof. The resolution to remove the home was approved by a 6-0 vote. A third resolution finding that the structure located on lot 13 and the west half of 14, block 4, Highland Park Addition, City of Wellington, Sumner County, Kansas, commonly known as 1105 South Jefferson Ave. is unsafe or dangerous and directing the structure to be made safe and secure or removed was discussed. This home has solar panels on the roof that were never approved by the city and there is a lot of overgrowth. The resolution to remove the home was approved by a 6-0 vote. Future Agenda Items include the 2026 budget. A work session was scheduled for 6:30 pm on Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at City Hall . The City Council meeting was adjourned.

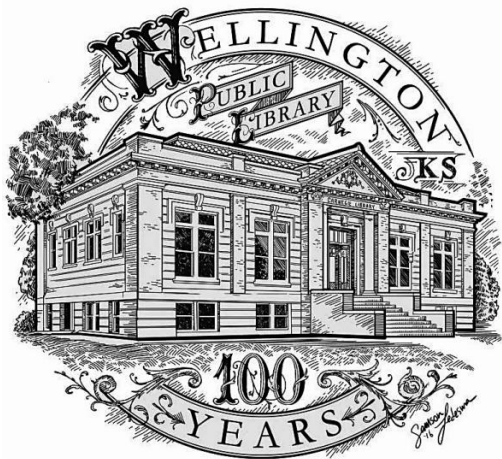
STEWART Continued from page A1

student at Hutchinson Junior College (now Hutchinson Community College). Because the threats were mailed, the case fell under federal jurisdiction. He was arrested in Wellington on Sunday, January 23, 1938. While in custody, he signed a confession. With his tearful wife, Genevieve Virginia Almack Silknitter, at his side, Grant Silknitter appeared before the court. Despite the serious extortion charge, bond was set at \$5,000 (roughly \$113,000 today), thanks to his previously clean record. He was released when relatives posted a bond using their homes as collateral. His wife was asked whether he would return for the grand jury appearance. “He will be here,” she replied. Silknitter echoed her confidence, telling the judge, “I’ll be here. I have too much to live for.” According to the newspaper, Silknitter appeared visibly shaken. He admitted he hadn’t realized the seriousness of the charges, adding, “The publicity is too big a price to pay.”

The Mysterious Want Ad
An odd twist added to the intrigue. On December 31, 1937, The Wellington Daily News received a typewritten want ad in the mail, along with cash for its publication. It read: “WANTED – BOY or MAN few days work with good pay. Call 319 or inquire at Stewart Estate, Stewart Building.” No one from the Stewart family had submitted the ad. After digging through the trash, the newsroom staff found the original copy. Investigators concluded that the same typewriter used to write the extortion letters had been used to type the ad—likely an attempt to muddy the investigation and create a distraction. Sentencing and a Surprising Letter On September 19, 1938, U.S. District Judge Richard J. Hopkins

sentenced Silknitter to three years in the federal penitentiary in El Reno, Oklahoma. The sentence was considered light, influenced by letters from Wellington residents speaking to Silknitter’s character. Among the letters was one from John T. Stewart Jr. himself, who wrote that he and his family held no malice toward Silknitter. “But for the sake of an example in such cases, I would recommend great leniency,” he said. Still, he felt the crime was serious enough to warrant punishment. Grant Silknitter came from a respected Wellington family. His father, Edgar Glenn “Ed” Silknitter, worked his way up from railroad fireman to locomotive engineer with the Santa Fe Railroad. His mother, Elizabeth Lohmeyer Silknitter, was active in the Ladies’ Society of the B. of L. F. and E. and vice-president of the Women’s Foreign Missionary Society. The couple raised three children, including Grant, in a house in the Godfrey Addition in Wellington which they purchased in 1924. Grant graduated from Wellington High School in 1933—part of the school’s largest class to date. He enrolled in Hutchinson Junior College the following fall, but records show he left in January of 1936. After serving his prison sentence, Grant and Genevieve settled in Wichita. In 1944, they welcomed a son, Stephen, who sadly passed away the next day. They went on to have two more children, Vance and Sonya. Grant worked as a welder at Boeing until retirement. He died in June 1991.

A Final Glimpse
Years later, at a funeral for a friend, John Thomas Stewart III noticed a man he didn’t recognize staring at him throughout the service. When he asked others about it, he learned the man was Grant Silknitter—the person who had once threatened his life.



- Thursday, June 12**
YA Robot Fun at 11:30 a.m.
Family movie at 2 p.m. Free popcorn and drinks!

Friday, June 13
Colorful Crusaders “Messy Art Day” at 9:30 a.m.
Fearless Fireflies “Messy Art Day” at 2:30 p.m.

Monday, June 16
Adult \$Tree Crafts at 5 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 17**
Fearless Fireflies “Cardboard Kaleidoscopes” at 9:30 a.m.
Colorful Crusaders “Cardboard Kaleidoscopes at 2:30 p.m.
Adult Origami Workshop at 4 p.m.
Adult Book Club “The Bookies” at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 18
Raising Readers Storytime at 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, June 19
Library closed for Juneteenth

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