

Looking Back at Years Gone By...

Taken from the pages of the Horton Headlight. Compiled by Susan Higley

100 Years Ago March 23, 1926

The Liberty Sweetshop in the Liberty Theater building opened for business Friday. William Beck and J.P. Berney are the proprietors of the business and John Purdue, formerly of Huron, is the manager. A fountain and complete equipment has been installed.

March 29 there will be a special election in Effingham to vote on the proposition of issuing \$35,000 worth of bonds to provide a waterworks system.

Everest News: The contractors on the Horton-Everest highway have started the work with a force of 15 teams and 25 men. They began work at the county line Tuesday, between the George Andres and J. Crouch farms.

The Kiwanis Club has received a charter for the local Boy Scout troop which was organized last December. The Kiwanis Club is the sponsor for the troop.

Thursday evening the window unveiling will occur in Horton. The evening starts off with a concert by the Horton Community Juvenile band composed of about 60 boys and girls of Horton and the surrounding community. It will be followed by a concert by the Rock Island band. There will be a parade downtown and the unveiling will take place at 8:15. It will be followed by a free street dance.

75 Years Ago March 22, 1951

Daniel C. Knouse, 29, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Knouse of Horton and a veteran on the farm training instructor at Sabetha, met a tragic death Monday afternoon when the 1950 Pontiac sedan he was driving was struck by an east bound Union Pacific motor train at the Sycamore Springs grade crossing, 3 miles west of Morrill.

A new 4-H club was organized last week in the Baker community, 6 miles north of Horton. This brings the total number of 4-H clubs to 16 in the county. No definite name has been selected for the club.

According to Charles H. Browne, Sr., Headlight employees and those who frequent the newspaper office will miss Lassie, Mrs. Irene Brown's purebred collie she brought here from Little Rock over five years ago. Lassie never missed a day at the office and knew the business district thoroughly as well as most people. She was operated on for a serious infection, which caused her death Sunday morning.

Tuesday, March 27th will be Pancake Day in Horton when the project

and finance committee of the Women's Division, Chamber of Commerce begin a fund raising campaign to finance a city rest room for Horton. Serving will be at the Methodist Church.

50 Years Ago April 1, 1976

Powhattan officially became a Bicentennial city at a meeting in the Powhattan School March 29th. Mrs. Rozan Zweifel, Topeka, Executive Secretary of the Kansas Bicentennial committee presented the flag and certificate to Mayor Lester B. Boyer. Mayor Boyer then presented the flag to Donald Meninger, school board president, and will be flown from the top of the school.

According to reports, Brown County farmers had 78,000 acres of corn planted in 1975. Of this amount 77,000 acres were harvested with an average yield of 57.5 bushels an acre.

40 Years Ago March 27, 1986

Members of the Horton High School Future Farmers of America released 125 balloons at 8th and Central at noon on March 20th. The balloons were in honor of Ag Day, which was similarly celebrated across Kansas. The balloons also bore slips of paper commemorating Horton's Centennial.

The Horton Elementary School is helping to celebrate the "Year of Liberty" by filling the sky over the school with red, white and blue balloons. The balloons were released March 28th in conjunction with the Weekly Reader Writing Pals Contest, which encourage the finder to write to the child at school.

30 Years Ago March 21, 1996

Silver Shears, Horton's newest hair, tanning and toning salon held their Grand Opening and ribbon cutting on Friday. Ev Hammersmith is the owner and operator.

Nellie Small received a plaque honoring her as Emergency Coordinator of the Year. Adjutant General Rieger presented the plaque.

Local deaths included: Dennis "Ben" Ashton, 46, Horton, died March 15th.

Charger Players Receive All-League Honors: Four Charger basketball players received DVL All-League honors. Those that were selected were girl's teams-Jolene Thomas, senior; Mindy Shippy, senior; and Julie Holthaus, junior; boy's team: John Crider, sophomore.

HHS Softball

The Horton Chargers Softball Team met Oskaloosa recently.

The Chargers met a tough team from Oskaloosa and fell short in two games. In three innings of the first game, Oskaloosa scored 21 and Horton had 3. Only three innings were played in game two with Horton not scoring and Oskaloosa putting 21 on the board.

Kindergarten Orientation

The students at Horton Elementary school will have Kindergarten Orientation & Screening on Friday, April 24th. Please call Kim Dishon at Horton Elementary School 785-486-2616 to get your child on the list!



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Kansas Profile – Now That's Rural:

Rory and Remington Clements, Clements Welding
By Ron Wilson, director of the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State University

Have you ever tried to stretch a truck? That would take a lot of muscles. In fact, the only real way to stretch or extend a truck chassis is to cut it and weld additional sections into place to lengthen it.

Today we'll meet two rural Kansas craftsmen who can make all kinds of alterations and repairs to a trailer and even stretch a truck – and they can also create artistic designs with their metal.

Rory and Remington Clements are the father-son duo who founded Clements Welding. They live in the Brown County community of Morrill. Remington Clements shared the story of Clements Welding and Supply, or Clements Welding for short.

Rory Clements worked at Jade Millwrights, a grain bin manufacturing company in Hiawatha. His son Remington picked up his mechanical skills. Remington studied machine tool technology at Northeast Kansas Area Technical College, now the Highland Community College Technical Center, in Atchison. He became maintenance manager at ADM Crosswinds.

Remington and his father wanted to go into business for themselves. A local man in Morrill had a one-man welding shop that Rory and Remington purchased in 2022. They named it Clements Welding and Supply and expanded the business.

Clements Welding and Supply is a metal fabrication business. "Our main focus is on trailers and trucks," Clements said. "We do a lot of work on grain trailers and end dump trailers."

Often, they work with the tarp systems that cover those trailers. Clements Welding is a dealer for such tarp companies as Shurco and Thunderstone Manufacturing. It is also a parts and service dealer for the trailer company Timpte.

Clements Welding can stretch or shorten trucks. This means cutting the chassis and then adding or taking out some of the frame.

"We can stretch or shorten a semi," Clements said. "We also do axle work, suspensions, and bedliners. We can work on stock trailers and can do the wiring."

The Clements have ongoing projects, but they also know the importance of urgent repairs during harvest time, for example.

"If somebody has a need, we get it done," Clements said. "We're here for anybody who needs us. We try to get everybody what they need to get their job done."

Not only do they keep parts on hand, they can also rebuild a particular part that has been discontinued. "We can refabricate your part," Clements said.

Three full-time workers have been added to the crew. "They are our extended family," Clements said. "We couldn't do this without them."

In the wintertime, when farmer's fieldwork is not as active, Clements Welding will create small metal designs for sale as artwork or signage. These have proven popular when displayed at farm shows in Topeka and Kansas City.

"These signs catch people's eye," Clements said. These are metal cutouts displaying team or business names, logos, outdoor or patriotic scenes, and more. They can also be customized or personalized. Once a design is converted into a file, the cutting is done on a plasma table. Painting and coating is done using a metal dye.

"We enjoy the creative side," Clements said. "It's fun to see what we can come up with. We've always been able to do artsy things. We do quite a few of these during the winter."

Clements' personal favorites are the designs with the red, white, and blue American flag. "They stand out," he said. "We've shipped items to California, Odessa, Texas; Michigan and Minnesota."

It's an impressive record for a business in the rural community of Morrill, population 218 people. Now, that's rural.

For more information, search for Clements Welding and Supply on Facebook.

Have you ever tried to stretch a truck? It sounds like something Superman would do, but in this case no superpowers are needed. Instead, what is needed are the abilities of skilled craftsmen such as we've learned about today.

We commend Rory and Remington Clements of Clements Welding for making a difference with their skills and entrepreneurial abilities. They are building a quality business, and that's the truth: No stretch.

Audio and text files of Kansas Profiles are available at <https://www.huckboydinstitute.org/kansas-profiles>. For more information about the Huck Boyd Institute, interested persons can visit <http://www.huckboydinstitute.org>.

Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you.
—Saint Augustine

Senior Moments

By Mary Patterson

The Horton Senior Center Members are happy to announce that we have 38 members this year. We always welcome new members to join in our activities. If anyone wants information about the center and our activities, feel free to call the Senior Center at 785-486-2341, or check out our Facebook page-Horton's Senior Citizens Center, or stop in at 116 West 8th St. in Horton. We are open Tues, Wed, Thurs, from 9 to 3.

Many thanks to our media member for posting information about the center and our activities and also adds some fun videos on Facebook! Happy Spring everyone! Get out there and enjoy the fresh air and sunshine!

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HHS Powerlifting Results

Women's Team-3rd Place

Tori Jelks: Overall State Champion, State Champion Squat*, 5th Clean; Ellah Stirton: 4th Overall, 2nd Bench, 4th Clean, 6th Squat; Tabitha Rice: 3rd Overall, Clean, Squat, Bench; Kennedy Stevens: 4th Overall, 2nd Bench, 5th Squat; Emberlyn Howell: 3rd Overall, Clean, Squat, Bench; Carly Paden: 6th Overall

Men's Team

Jonas Christmas: 3rd Overall, State Champion Clean, 2nd Squat, 5th Bench; Damion Brown: 4th Clean; Austin Gaskell: 5th Overall, State Champion Clean, 5th Bench; Lucas Oaks: 4th Overall, State Champion Squat, 4th Bench; Ben Selland: 3rd Overall, 4th Bench, Squat, Clean *New State Record. Congratulations Powerlifters!

Six Kansas couples named Master Farm Families

Six couples were honored on March 13 as the 2026 class of Kansas Master Farm Families in recognition of their leadership in agriculture, environmental stewardship and service to their communities.

The statewide awards program is in its 99th year and is sponsored by K-State Extension and Kansas Farmer Magazine.

This year's honorees are: Dean and Marlene Davis, Maple Hill, David and Sheila Govert, Cunningham, and Kathy Holloway, Kincaid, Caleb and Shanda Mattix, Colby, Keith and Connie Miller, Great Bend, Roger and Elizabeth Ploeger, Morrill.

Roger and Elizabeth Ploeger, Morrill (Brown County)

Roger and Elizabeth Ploeger have achieved plenty in their half-century in production agriculture.

Roger is a fourth-generation farmer, and he and Elizabeth operate Sunshine Farms. The family farm began with his great-grandfather in the 1880s, and was given its name by Roger's parents, Warren and Rosalie, in 1940.

The operation resides near Morrill in Brown County. Roger bought his first acreage entering his senior year in high school. He went on to Kansas State University and earned his animal science degree there in 1976.

That's where he met Elizabeth, who also earned a degree in animal science in 1977. After they married, they joined his parents as farming partners. Upon his father's passing in 1995, Roger and Elizabeth became the sole operators of Sunshine Farms, along with their three sons, Jesse, Wade and Miles.

After a year at technical school, Jesse returned to farm full-time with Roger and Elizabeth. Today, Sunshine Farms is prolific in beef cattle and sheep production, with a heavy accent on superior genetics. They also produce several hundred acres of corn, soybeans and alfalfa in addition to their sheep and cattle pastures.

The Ploegers are committed to sustainable farming based on good conservation practices. They cooperate with local crop seed distributors in establishing test plots for crop genetic evaluation.

Roger has served as an officer of two rural water districts in the Morrill area, and both he and Elizabeth are deeply involved in the activities of the Kansas Sheep Association and the Kansas Sheep Council. Elizabeth has served on the Brown County Extension Board. Roger and his sons are active in the Northeast Kansas Tractor Club, where they engage their affinity for antique tractors and farm implements.

NEK-CAP, Inc. – All Aboard the Head Start Express

NEK-CAP, Inc. Head Start is now accepting applications for the 2026-2027 school year! Applications are being accepted for Preschool/Center-Based children, ages 3-5 years old and Home-Based/ Early Head Start children, prenatal to 2 years old.

All Aboard the Head Start Express Preschool Preview:

Monday, April 6, 2026. No tickets needed, just hop on by our Head Start Center, Anytime between 2:00PM – 6:00PM. NEK-CAP, Inc. South Brown County Head Start, 444 E. 15th Street, Horton, KS, 785-486-2965.

There will be crafts available, visit with staff, explore our Head Start Center and enroll your child in our free Head Start Program! Check out our Facebook page or visit our website (www.nekcap.org) for more program information.



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