

Deaths

Melinda Dee Trecek

Melinda Dee (Wolfe) Trecek of Concordia, Kansas, the daughter of Vladimer (Vladie) and Arlene (Jorgensen) Wolfe was born January 21, 1967 in Concordia, Kansas and passed away February 25, 2026 at the age of 59 years, 1 month, and 4 days.



Melinda graduated from Glasco High School in 1985, going on to earn her Associates Degree in Early Education at Cloud County Community College in 1987. After graduation, she started her lifelong career of nurturing children at CCC Children's Learning Center. After working there for 14.5 years, she decided to open a daycare in her home where she was the proud owner and the heart of Momo's Early Learning Home in Concordia, Kansas where she operated for 24 years. She cared for generations of children as if they were her own. Her daycare was more than a place of supervision; it

was a space filled with learning, laughter, and love. She touched many lives throughout those 38 years.

When Melinda met Bret Trecek, they embraced life with enthusiasm and a little mischief. Then on July 8, 1998, she and Bret eloped to Las Vegas, Nevada. From this marriage came their three beautiful daughters, Lauren, Katelyn, and Shea. The girls were Melinda's whole world, and she poured her heart into raising them, always showing them the support and love they needed.

Melinda is preceded in death by her father Vladie Wolfe, brother Bradley Wolfe, father-in-law David Trecek and sister-in-law Amanda Trecek.

She is survived by her husband Bret of the home, daughters Lauren Trecek of Manhattan, Kansas, Katelyn Trecek of Salina, Kansas and Shea Trecek of Lovewell, Kansas. Melinda will also be remembered by her mother, Arlene Wolfe of Hays, Kansas, mother-in-law Marilyn Trecek of Agenda, Kansas, brother Curtis Wolfe of Hays, Kansas, brother-in-law Kevin Trecek

of Agenda, Kansas, sister Debra Michels of Hays, Kansas, sisters-in-law Angela (Jason) Becker of Herington, Kansas, Melinda Wolfe of Minneapolis, Kansas, lifelong friend Lanette Zenger-Schmidt and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Celebration of Life Services will be held Friday, March 6, 2026 at 2:00pm at the Cuba Community Hall, Cuba, Kansas with Randy Paugh officiating. Inurnment will be held at a later date at National Bohemian (Kopsa) Cemetery.

Friends may sign the register book Thursday, March 5, 2026 from 1:00-7:00pm with the family greeting friends from 5:00-7:00pm at Bachelor-Surber Funeral Home, 1322 19th St, Belleville, KS.

Memorials are to be designated at a later date and can be made direct to the funeral home at PO Box 326, Belleville, KS 66935.

Online condolences can be shared at www.bachelor-surber.com

Bachelor-Surber Funeral Home, Belleville, Kansas is assisting the family with arrangements.

Roger D. Rizek

Roger Dean Rizek, was born to Alphonse (A.L.) and Violet (Shema) Rizek on July 7, 1950 in Belleville KS and died on February 26, 2026 at Stormont Vail Hospital at 75.



He grew up in Belleville, graduating from Belleville High School in 1968 and went on to Beloit Vo-Tech and graduated in Electronics and Electricity. He was then in active duty in the US Army Engineers as a Heavy Equipment Mechanic for 1 year and then went on to serve in the Kansas National Guard, Company D, 169th Support Battalion for 5 years and was then honorably discharged.

He worked with his dad, A.L., at Rizek

Plumbing and Heating from about the time he could walk. He started his own excavating business in high school. He also farmed and raised a small herd of cattle. He continued to operate Rizek Plumbing and Heating all his life, still working at the time of his death.

Rizek was a member of St. Edward Catholic Church and Council 2609 Belleville Knights of Columbus and was a 4th Degree Knight.

He married Sharon Grennan on February 14th, 1971 and they had three children. He later married Kathleen (Kathy) Mansfield on January 2, 1987.

He is preceded in death by his parents, and wife Kathy Rizek.

He is survived by his children Kristy Rizek (Andy Phillips) of Topeka KS, Kevin Rizek of Belleville KS, and Philip Rizek of Topeka KS, grandchildren Kaylin

and Caley Phillips of Topeka KS sister Kayleen Herrema of Goodyear AZ, and other relatives.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 AM, Thursday, March 5, 2026 at St. Edward Catholic Church, with Fr. Joseph Kieffer, celebrant. Family inurnment will be held at a later date.

Cremation was selected and friends may sign the register book from 1 PM until 6 PM Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at the Bachelor-Surber Funeral Home, Belleville, KS. The family will not be present.

Memorials are suggested to Church People Concerned (Golden Bell) and may be left at the funeral home or Church on the service date.

Online condolences at www.bachelor-surber.com Bachelor-Surber Funeral Home, 1322 19th St, Belleville, KS is assisting the family.



12A Honor Band Selection

Samantha Poppe of Republic County High School was selected to perform in the 12A Honors Band last weekend in Wichita. Pictured right is a baton in the RepCo school colors that Poppe gifted Jenny Kling her instrumental music teacher.

-Contributed Photos

Republic News

Compiled By: Betty Bouray

Bryan and Carolyn Simms met Pat and Russ Lange and Dominick and Laurel Beal in Wichita to share some time together before Dominick heads to Georgia for Army National

Guard boot camp and specialized training for seven months.

Commodity distribution will take place on March 18th. Distributed this time will be black beans, canned mixed fruit, green beans, pears peaches, frozen

whole chicken, canned garbanzo beans, canned carrots, refried beans and cream of mushroom soup. If you are in need of commodities contact Pastor Pedro or Blake Nichols for more information.

Estimated magnitude 4.1 earthquake

27 miles from Hastings, NE · 12:59 PM

Did You Feel The Ground Shake?

Many Republic County residents reported through social media they felt varying degrees of "shaking" Sunday at 12:59 p.m., when The U.S. Geological Survey reported a 4.1 magnitude earthquake near Hastings. People in Belleville and as far east as Cuba reported the ground shaking. Two additional earthquakes happened later in the day, both near Superior NE., and each recording a 2.6 magnitude.

-Contributed Graphic

2026

Community Calendar

- **2nd & 4th Monday Each Month**
Belleville City Council meets at city office starting @ 7 p.m.
- **1st & 3rd Friday Each Month**
The Belleville Lions Club meets the first and third Friday of every month at The Belleville Country Club in Belleville. Meeting time is set for noon. All Lions and their guests are welcome to attend.
- **Every Monday**
Republic County Commissioners meet at 8:30 a.m. in the basement of the Republic County Courthouse.
- **Every Tuesday**
The Belleville Library will host Senior Stretch and Strength, Chair Exercise Programs from 10:30 a.m. -11.30 a.m.
- **Every Wednesday**
Republic County Health Department has "Walk In Wednesdays" for immunizations. You can call for an appointment or walk in on Wednesdays. 785-527-5671
- **Every Friday**
The World Healing Service Community Supper is every Friday at 6 p.m. at 1653 12th Street. For more information call 785-375-2921.
- **March 5**
All are invited to attend community coffee this Thursday from 8-9am with information beginning at 8:15 in the Kallman Suites Office Building. Come hear what is going on in the community. Coffee sponsor this Thursday, March 5, is the Midwest Mollys.
- **March 6**
St. Edwards Knights of Columbus "Fish Fry" will be Friday, March 6 at the Sacred Heart Center from 5-7 p.m. This is a free will donation and will serve fried fish, fries, coleslaw, mac n cheese, and ice cream.
- **March 8**
The Narka Presbyterian Church will be serving a free will donation "Biscuit & Gravy Brunch" on March 8th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Denton Hall in Narka, KS. Serving biscuits and sausage gravy, sausage links, bacon, and eggs. There will be a bake sale offering from the ladies of the Presbyterian Church.
- **March 18**
The next commodity distribution will take place on March 18th, 2026, at the Commercial Building on the fairgrounds in Belleville. Belleville individuals may pick up at 7:30-9:00 a.m. Belleville is first-come, first-served!
The following items will be distributed: Canned black beans, canned mixed fruit, canned green beans, canned pears, canned peaches, frozen whole chicken, canned garbanzo beans, canned carrots, refried beans, and cream of mushroom soup.

Death Notice

Peggy Jean Erickson

Peggy Jean Erickson, Phoenix, AZ formerly of Scandia, KS, the daughter of Orland Erickson and Elizabeth deBrauwere passed away February 23, 2026.

Local services are pending and will be held at a later date to be announced.

Bachelor-Surber Funeral Home, Belleville, KS is assisting the family with arrangements.

BLAIR THEATRE

1310 19th St. • Belleville, KS

Hoppers

PG | 1h 45m | Animal Adventure, Artificial Intelligence, Body Swap Comedy, Spy, Animation

A 19-year-old animal lover uses technology that places her consciousness into a robotic beaver to uncover mysteries within the animal world beyond her imagination.

Friday, 3/6 @ 7 PM
Saturday, 3/7 @ 7 PM
Sunday, 3/8 @ 3 PM
Thursday 3/12 @ 7 pm
Tickets \$7 & \$5 on Thursday!
24 hr. movie line: 785-527-8080
theblairtheater.com
Facebook: @TheBlairInBelleville

Lexia Zenger MD, Lori Rhine APRN, Joshua Chapman MD, Briana Jensen APRN, Lauren Eitzmann APRN, Kurtis Klecan MD, Nolan Beavers MD

Republic County Hospital & Belleville Medical Clinic

Visit rphospital.org for more information about our providers

 Mathue Baker Cardiologist	 Kenneth Baxa Rheumatologist	 Mark Bell Ear/Nose/Throat	 Ben Bixenmann Neurologist
 Thomas Graul Ophthalmologist	 Terah Isaacson General Surgeon	 Levi Kindel Orthopedist	
 Isaac Meier Cardiologist	 Ryan Payne Urologist	 Phil Zappa CRNA Pain Specialist	