

Republic News

By Betty Bouray

Betty Bouray enjoyed the Scandia United Methodist China Show held on Saturday where she helped in the kitchen. She then attended the Kentucky Derby party held at the Rae Hobson Memorial Library. On Sunday she had lunch with her Aunt Helen Platt of Superior, NE.

Rae Hobson Memorial Library hosted their Kentucky Derby party where there was horse racing on the TV screen but also in the library as a game of chance. Rae Hobson bucks were won and then later bidding was done on several donated gifts. Winners of the donated gifts are: \$50.00 Walmart Gift card, Sarah Kunc; mechanic light and Republic Oil hat, Betty Bouray; Large cooks fun with wine gift basket and the meat bundle, Nancy Pankaskie; 32" smart TV, Shawn; outdoor chair set, Tyler. Winner of the best hat was Marilyn Nichols, and best dressed man winner is Matt Edwards. A delicious meal was enjoyed by all, and the Library made good monetary donations.

RFD #9's Cinco De Mayo Party is on May 9th at 5:30. Join them for food and drink at the fire hall with a free will donation.

On June 6th from 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., the Republic Community Church will hold their annual garage sale. Most items will be 25 cents and \$1.00 bag sale begins at 1pm. This all takes place at the Community Center. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. with a free will donation. Drop off location and dates are at the Community Center from June 3-5, 1 a.m. -5 p.m., for new and lightly used, clean items please, and no books will be taken.

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.
- **May 7**
 - 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, May 7, is Republic County FBLA National Qualifiers.
- **May 9**
 - The Belleville Public Library will host Crafterday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring your own crafts or choose one of theirs.
 - The first fishing tournament of the year will be from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Rocky Pond. All ages are welcome, and the event is hosted by Belleville Community Empowerment.
 - Bring Mom in to The Feathered Nest for a Latte and a Muffin to celebrate Mother's Day. The Feathered Nest will be closing at 1 p.m. for RCHS Graduation.
 - Republic County High School Graduation will take place at 2:00 p.m.
- **May 11**
 - The Belleville Public Library closes at 3:45 p.m. for staff development.
- **May 15**
 - The Belleville Public Library will hold Summer Reading Kick-Off after school with snow cones & lawn games.
- **May 18**
 - The Belleville Public Library is hosting Black Light Painting for ages 13 and up from 4 - 6 p.m.
- **May 20**
 - The next commodity distribution will take place on May 20, 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 pinto beans, mixed fruit, canned peas, canned pears, grape juice, raisins, frozen chicken drumsticks, elbow macaroni, dried cranberries, and apple juice.
- **May 15**
 - The Belleville Public Library will be closed
- **May 30**
 - The Belleville Public Library is hosting "She's Got This" self defense basics. Chief Springer of the Belleville Police Department has agreed to teach self defense 101. One of the female officers will be present to help practice moves and form.
 - This is a women's only event, and the doors to the meeting room will be locked after everyone has arrived. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. There will be a waiver to sign before participating in the class. If a minor wants to participate, their guardian MUST sign a waiver for them as well. Ages 12+. RSVP before May 23rd as there is only 20 spots available

Deaths

Mary C. Tipton

Mary Cecelia Tipton, the only child of Ira and Cecelia (Wehrs) Forell, was born on February 28, 1931, in Lincoln, Nebraska. She died on April 28, 2026, at the Blue Valley Lutheran Home in Hebron, Nebraska, at the age of 95 years and two months.



Tipton attended eight grades at District #58, and then attended Chester High School, graduating in 1948. She completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Education, and her Master of Arts Degree in Education, from the University of Nebraska. Tipton loved teaching, starting out at Republic, then later at Rosemound near Hardy, then Narka, Belleville, Deshler, Carleton, and finally

Chester/Hubbell/Byron.

While teaching in Republic, she met Billy Dean Tipton. They were united in marriage on January 24, 1952, at the home of Mary's parents, near Chester. They had four sons, Michael William, Thomas Lee, Mark Douglas, and Theodore Joseph.

She was an active member of the Chester United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women, Chester Women's Club, Hubbell Women's Club, Legacy Community Organization, and the Prairie Quilt Guild.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and husband.

She is survived by children, Michael (friend Diane Smith) of Chester, Thomas (Jane) of Chester, Mark (Debra) of Munden, and Theodore of Lincoln, Neb., grandchildren; Lauren (Max) Mobley, Adam (Miranda) Tipton, Colin (Courtney) Tipton, Alex (Sydney) Tipton,

Abby (Tyce) Matthias, Christian (Caroline) Tipton, seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral Services were on Saturday, May 2, 2026, at 2:00 pm, at the United Methodist Church in Chester, burial followed at the Chester City Cemetery.

Visitation was Friday, May 1, starting at 1:00 pm, at Tibbetts-Fischer Funeral Home in Belleville, where the family greeted friends from 5pm - 7pm.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are requested to the United Methodist Church of Chester, or to Chester Fire and Rescue, or to Thayer County Health Systems, and may be mailed to Tibbetts-Fischer Funeral Home, PO Box 566, Belleville, Kansas, 66935. Tibbetts-Fischer Funeral Home of Belleville and Price Funeral Home of Hebron are assisting the Tipton family with these arrangements.

Brian L. Novak

Brian Lee Novak (Barney) was born October 3, 1969 in Belleville, Kansas to Roger and Jean (Pelesky) Novak and died May 3, 2026 at his home in Belleville at the age of 56.



Novak attended North Central High School graduating with the Class of 1988. He later attended Beloit Vo-tech receiving his certification in diesel mechanics.

He worked a number of jobs throughout his

life.

He was an avid fisherman, hunter, and golfer and could be found working in his garage on various projects.

He is preceded in death by his mother.

Novak is survived by his father, children Brianna Novak, Wyatt Novak, Anthony Novak, and Kylee Novak all of Martell, Nebraska, one brother, Jeff (Melissa) Novak of Narka, Kansas, one sister Jamie (Todd) Johnson of Lincoln, Nebraska, nieces and nephews, Kaden, Greyson, Landon, and Morgan, other relatives.

Funeral Services will be held 10:00am, Monday, May 11, 2026 at

Bachelor-Surber Funeral Home 1322 19th St, Belleville, Kansas with celebrant Waylon Sheetz officiating. Interment will follow the service at National Cemetery, rural Narka, Kansas.

Visitation will be held Sunday, May 10, 2026 from 1-5pm with family greeting friends from 3-5pm at the funeral home.

Memorials are to be designated at a later date and can be made directly to the family.

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

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

FISHING TOURNEY

Save The Date!

Get ready to cast a line? Our first fishing tournament of the year is set for May 9th! All ages are invited to join the fun! Hosted by Belleville Community Empowerment

- ROCKY POND-BELLEVILLE KS
- MAY 9TH
- 9 TO 11 AM
- PRIZES!



Public Forum

Public Forum Policy: Writers must include their names for publication. Letters may be edited for space limitations. The opinions expressed here are those of the writer, and not of this publication.

Readers Say Consider What Draining Pond Could Mean

Editor, We've been doing some thinking in regards to the Rocky Pond issue. Belleville is very blessed to have a place for everyone to enjoy that is peaceful and serene.

Throughout the year, people are attracted to Rocky Pond because of that peacefulness and serenity. They go there to fish, have picnics, read their Bibles, pray and just get away from the stress and busyness of life. They go there to watch the wildlife, such as the eagles, pelicans, geese, muskrats, and so much more!!

The beautiful scenery is another draw for people, not just from Belleville, but for those from out of town too. In addition, there are beautiful sunrises and sunsets that can be captured at Rocky Pond as well.

In the winter time, Rocky Pond is magically transformed into a Christmas light oasis known as Rocky Pond Christmas.

We understand that the pond needs

to be deepened in order to introduce more varieties of fish and for possibly hosting fishing tournaments.

We're concerned that would shatter the peacefulness and serenity that draws many people to Rocky Pond. The beautiful scenery would be replaced with mounds of dirt and silt. The quiet lapping of the waves hitting the shore would be done away with because the pond would be drained. The sound of wildlife would be overpowered by the sound of bulldozers and backhoes.

Draining the pond would take away the food source for our majestic Bald Eagles, possibly causing them to permanently move elsewhere. Rocky Pond Christmas, which draws thousands of people from all over the United States, would be shut down for a long time, and may never draw people in the future like it does now. Our geese, ducks, pelicans and other types of wildlife may leave and never come back.

These are just some things to consider. As for us, we love Rocky Pond just the way it is. Not many communities have a place such as this and we need to do our best to make sure it stays peaceful and serene."

Chris & Brent Kirkpatrick
Belleville, KS

Funeral Notice

David G. Lahodny

David G. Lahodny, 73, of Concordia, passed away on January 20, 2026. Graveside services with Military Honors will be held on Friday, May 8, at 11:00 am, at National Bohemian Cemetery (Kopsa), rural Cuba. Tibbetts-Fischer Funeral Home assisting with arrangements

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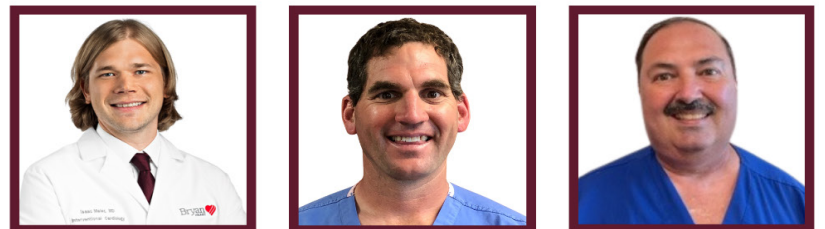
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