

# OBITUARIES

## Gerald "Jerry" Michael Donovan

April 7, 1947 - July 7, 2012

Gerald "Jerry" Michael Donovan, of Salina, died at the age of 65 on July 7, 2012 at the Salina Regional Health Center.

He was born the oldest of three boys on April 7, 1947 in Norton to William "Bill" and Leta (Chase) Donovan.

In 1965, he graduated from Norton Community High School where he was a star student and athlete. He attended college at Kansas State University where he studied agriculture journalism. It was at K-State that he met his first wife, Chris (Van Sickle) Girard. They married and had three daughters. He was a career salesman and worked as an insurance agent for Capers Insurance for the past 16 years.

Jerry was truly a people person, who had a terrific sense of humor and always had a joke to tell. He enjoyed playing and watching all types of sports. He was famous for the spicy pretzels he made for everyone. In the past 25 years he held many offices in the Sons of the American Legion, including Squadron, District and State Commander. Recently he was the Assistant



Adjutant for the State of Kansas and finance officer for Post 62 in Salina. He was proud to be a lifelong blood donor and was an organ donor. Everyone who met Jerry loved him for his unending kindness and giving nature. He will be dearly missed by all who had the good fortune to know him.

Jerry was preceded in death by his father, Bill.

He is survived by his mother, Leta, of Norton; his partner of 24 years, Teri Minton, of

Salina; his daughters, Stacey (Cole) Robison, of Lawrence; and granddaughters, Maura and Genevieve, Julianne (Nathan) Wyman, of Liberty, Mo., and Diane (Tony) Yadrach; grandson, Brogan, of Shawnee; and his two younger brothers, Jack (Ruth) Donovan, of Rossville and David (Lisa) Donovan, of Norton. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews and many treasured friends.

A memorial service was held at the American Legion Hall, Wednesday, July 11.

The Mass of Christian Burial was held on Thursday, July 12 at St. Mary's Church at 10 a.m. with Father Kerry Ninemire officiating.

Graveside services followed at 4 p.m. at the Norton Cemetery. The Norton memorial service followed the burial at 5:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to the Rebecca A. Morrison House, 513 S. 8th St., Salina, KS 67401.

A special message may be shared with the family online at [www.ryanmortuary.com](http://www.ryanmortuary.com).

## Larry Lee Smith

May 14, 1934 - July 8, 2012

Larry Lee Smith, son of Clifford and Amy (Hager) Smith, was born May 14, 1934 in Dellvale, and passed away at the Norton County Hospital in Norton, on July 8, 2012 at the age of 78.

Larry grew up in the Good Hope Community near Clayton, where he graduated from Clayton High School. On Aug. 24, 1953 he married Iris Jackson in Norton. They made their home on the farm near Clayton where they farmed together and raised their family. Following their retirement, they moved into Norton in October, 2010.

Larry enjoyed farming, fishing, hunting, sports, playing cards and billiards, but his greatest joy in life was his family.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents, his step-mother, Emma Smith, and three brothers, Bob, Bill, and Walt Smith.

Survivors include his wife, Iris Smith, of their home in Norton; two sons, William Smith of Dresden; Larry Smith of Wichita; one daughter, Carol Campbell, and husband, George of Topeka; five

grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren, Billy Smith and sons, Koby and Jaxon, Russchelle and Dan Underwood, and children, Dillon and Brennan, Jeremy Campbell and son, Kory, Lara and Michael Stewart and children, Isaiah, Jonah, Noah, and Elijah, Courtney Smith and Ray Rojas and their children, Taelynn, Kilah, and Jarek; three brothers, Alvin Smith of Norton; Jon Smith of Clayton; Vern Smith of Phoenix, Ariz.; one sister, Arline Smith of Phoenix, Ariz.; other relatives and many friends.

Funeral services were held Thursday at Enfield Funeral Home in Norton and interment was at Norton Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Norton Christian Church.

Condolences can be directed to [www.enfieldfh.com](http://www.enfieldfh.com).

Arrangements were by Enfield Funeral Home of Norton.

the same time period.

KanCare will cover the medical, behavioral health, and long-term care services for all Medicaid consumers beginning Jan. 1, 2013, with the exception of long-term services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities, which will launch Jan. 1, 2014. Kansas is continuing work to ensure smooth transition to the new Medicaid system through education campaigns and stakeholder workgroups.

Kansas, Inc., Sunflower State Health Plan, and United Healthcare of the Midwest, Inc. were awarded contracts. The partners began work today; KanCare will launch in January 2013.

The rates the State and contractors have agreed to will increase the projected savings from KanCare to more than \$1 billion in the next five years compared to the current projected growth in Medicaid. When KanCare was announced last

November, the estimated savings were \$853 million during

Safe Kids Kansas.

All entries must be postmarked by Friday, Sept. 14 and should be mailed to: AAA Kansas, Public Affairs, 3545 SW 6th Street, Topeka, KS, 66606. On the back of the 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper entry must be the child's full name; age at time of entry; mailing address; county; a parent's name; and contact phone number. For more information, go to the Kansas Department of Transportation's website, [www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org), and click on the Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day logo.

## Contest to put the brakes on fatalities

Kids ages five to 13 in Kansas are encouraged to enter artwork for a statewide poster contest focusing on Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day - a nationwide effort to increase roadway safety and reduce all traffic fatalities.

Three statewide winners will receive family packages from the Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure and the Courtyard by Marriott of Salina, and also \$50 gas cards from QuikTrip Corporation.

A total of 18 regional winners in the six regions and age groups (ages 5-7, ages 8-10 and ages 11-13) will receive a bicycle and a helmet donated by

## Trick riding team coming to Phillipsburg

An all women's trick riding and trick roping group will entertain at Kansas' Biggest Rodeo in Phillipsburg.

The Riata Ranch Cowboy Girls are the specialty act this year.

The girls, who trick ride and trick rope, put on a fast-paced, high energy production choreographed to music. The all-female group features six girls and is the only all women's specialty act that trick rides as well as ropes.

The young women in the group are part of the training program at the Riata Ranch in Exeter, Calif. Founded in

1957 by former rodeo cowboy Tommy Maier, the Ranch offers equine, riding, and trick riding lessons to young people. Those who have mastered the art get to travel down the road, performing at rodeos and horse events across the U.S., said coordinator and instructor Jennifer Welch Nicholson. Nicholson was part of the original trick riding group in the mid 1970's.

This past May, the Riata Ranch Cowboy Girls were part of Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee. They spent six days in England preparing for and entertaining the Queen as she celebrated her sixtieth year on the

throne.

The Riata Ranch Cowboy Girls will perform during each night of Kansas' Biggest Rodeo in Phillipsburg. For more information on the act, visit [www.ricowboygirls.com](http://www.ricowboygirls.com). Tickets for the rodeo go on sale July 2 at Heritage Insurance Group in Phillipsburg (785-543-2448). For more information on the rodeo, visit [www.kansasbiggestrodeo.com](http://www.kansasbiggestrodeo.com).

Call Mike with all your social news.  
877-3361

## Tomatoes love the heat, but...

Kay Melia  
[vkmelia@yahoo.com](mailto:vkmelia@yahoo.com)

Those of us who have been gardening for any length of time are hard pressed to remember a summer like the one we have experienced so far. Those of you who may be playing in the dirt for the first time are probably rethinking the idea of planting and nurturing a few of those wonderful fresh garden vegetables.

Not to worry! I hereby predict that the worst of this searing summer is over!! Yeah, right...what do I know. But surely we've seen the most severe heat that Mother Nature can provide in late June. My garden, (and most of yours) has experienced 100 degrees or more on 12 of the last 13 days, and counting. That little statistic alone makes you want to head for the mountains, except a lot of the mountains are on fire, which makes our garden problems pale by comparison. I mentioned last week in this space that for the most part, my garden still looked pretty good. After almost two weeks of triple digits, it is still hanging in there. With almost constant care, several of the goodies are producing well. But not the tomatoes

Tomatoes....the one garden crop we all have great expectations for through the winter months and into spring and early summer, are just kinda sitting out there in the garden thumbing their noses at us. They simply refuse to set fruit. And while tomatoes are heat loving plants, their reproductive procedures just don't work when the daytime temperatures rise above 90 to 95 degrees for a couple

of days. They shut it down. Sure, there are tons of blooms, but no little fruit showing up. Tomatoes are pollinated by the wind, not by bees, and the hot wind just can't seem to get the job done.

That is a very simple explanation from a layman. Surely, a horticulturist can offer a much more educated summary of the pollination of tomatoes in the heat. Cucumbers don't seem to be affected by the heat, and there are pickles galore. The onions have never looked better, the potatoes are large, the green beans are flourishing, and the zucchini...is doing its thing.

I was surprised this morning, while looking down inside the tomato cages that there were dozens of medium sized tomatoes that had set on before the heat hit. I must remember to keep my eye on those little jewels. If we don't get a lot of cooler weather soon, those may be about the only bright red morsels of goodness that some of us will see this summer.

Newcomers to the gardening mystique should not be dismayed. If you've worked hard out there, you are almost sure to harvest a lot of nice things. For all of us who are still waiting on the tomato crop, it would appear that we are going to have to wait a little longer than usual for the crop we all crave most. Last year, I picked my first tomato on July 30. It may be a little later this year. What's really scary is that I overheard a conversation at the supermarket check-out counter the other day that we are likely to have snow in late August this year. Sure. And it's probably going to rain tonight.

## Engagement Announcement

Kurt and Georgia Mann of Norton announce the engagement of their daughter, Laura Elizabeth Mann, to Mark Denton Benfer, son of Kevin and Karen Benfer of Longford. Laura is a graduate of Kansas State University and is employed by GTM of Manhattan. Mark is a graduate of Kansas State University and is employed by Ka-Comm of Manhattan. A September wedding is planned.



## HANSEN MUSEUM

The "Midwest Transplant Donor Memorial Quilt" and "Local Quilting Class" preview was held Sunday, June 10. On hand for the preview was the VanDer Veen family honoring Chaston VanDer Veen and Carol Baker, a 1990 liver transplant recipient. They visited and answered questions during the preview. Below is a condensed version of Carol's story that she shared at the preview.

My name is Carol Baker and I was given the gift of life Nov. 1, 1990. On June 28, 1990, I was diagnosed with terminal liver cancer and was given six months to live. I was devastated by my diagnosis because I have five children, two still at home, plus a grandchild on the way and wanted to live to see all my children grown. After my initial appointment, doctors were hesitant about doing the transplant, so in September, my son and my sister became my advocates since I wasn't able to articulate my needs at this point. My sister, Gloria, consulted transplant doctors at Baylor University Hospital in Waco, Texas and they consulted with KU Medical Center which agreed to do the transplant. On Oct. 31, I received a phone call from my nurse coordinator who asked me if I wanted a "trick or treat." Of course I said I wanted a "treat" so on Nov. 1, I had my surgery. It took 14 hours and a hospital

stay of 13 days plus numerous little complications but I was sent home to recover. Recovery took around 18 months. As in all stories there are a lot of details I left out but an important one is that my parents moved to Kansas City to take care of me and my children. I am now the proud grandmother of 17 grandchildren with number 18 on the way. I am so very grateful to all my family and friends who supported me through this, then and now. Most of all, I will always be thankful to my donor family for giving me the gift of life. I've met them and they are wonderful people.

A special thank you goes to Ray Gavel who asked me to become an Ambassador for Midwest Transplant Network. I met Ray at a liver transplants support group meeting where he gave a speech. I was more than happy to attend health fairs to set up a booth and support donation. I have learned to listen plus I have gotten the opportunity to speak to numerous organizations telling my story.

It was an honor to represent Midwest Transplant at the Hansen Museum in Logan, where all nine of the donor quilts were displayed.

**Operation Overboard**  
DARE TO GO DEEP WITH GOD!

**VBS: Operation Overboard**  
Pre-school through Sixth Grade  
**July 18-19-20, 6-8 p.m.**  
First United Methodist Church-805 W. Wilberforce, Norton  
**TO REGISTER CALL 877-2196**

July 13  
July 18

Showing at the  
**NORTON THEATRE**  
**The Amazing Spiderman**  
(PG-13) 2 Hours, 26 Minutes  
Friday and Saturday: 7:00 and 9:30 p.m.  
Sunday: 2:00 and 5:00 p.m.  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

**Ice Age 4: Continental Drift**  
1 Hr., 43 Min. (Digital Sound)  
(PG)

Let's Go to the Movie

Since both movies are premieres, only premiere passes accepted

The Amazing Spiderman is Premiere Admission Price of \$7.00 and \$6.00 - No Sunday Discount  
Ice Age 4: Continental Drift is Premiere Admission Price of \$7.00 and \$6.00 - No Sunday Discount

Premiering in Norton, Friday, July 20  
The Dark Knight Rises  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[nortontheatre.com](http://nortontheatre.com)

**COMING SOON**

This ad is brought to you by The Norton Telegram