

From the Field

New Arrivals

Jesse and Maggie Bouma, Castle Rock, Wash., welcome son, **Bridger Daniel Bouma**. Born July 3, he weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces, and measured 21 inches long. Bridger joins older sister, Oakleigh.



Bridger Bouma

In Passing

Linda Ann Sims, 79, North Albany, Ore., passed Feb. 24.

A life well lived has come to an end. Linda A. Sims, a longtime resident of Albany, died at her home in North Albany — Vollstedt Farms.



Linda Sims

Linda was born Oct. 20, 1944, in Walla Walla, Wash., the daughter of Kenneth G. and Ruth L. (Robertson) Sims. Her family moved to Portland, Ore., when she was under 3 years old, and she grew up there. Linda attended Madison High School until her junior year when the family moved, and she then attended and graduated from Parkrose High School. She received her degree in pharmacy from Oregon State University.

Linda worked for Bi-Mart Pharmacy for several years in Albany, East Salem, Ore., and Corvallis, Ore., both full-time and part-time.

After her partner, Phyllis Vollstedt, purchased a farm in North Albany, she joined in the successful endeavor of breeding polled Hereford cattle and growing Christmas trees. In 1995, Vollstedt Farms bred and owned the national champion polled Hereford bull. Generations of families in the Albany area have enjoyed selecting and cutting their Christmas trees at Vollstedt Farms, including wagon rides and treats, which brought as much joy to Linda over the many years, as it did to families in the community.

She was preceded in death by her partner of 47 years, Phyllis

Vollstedt, in 2014 and is survived by her brothers, Herb (Connie) Sims of Salem, and Ron (Jan) Sims of Sahuarita, Ariz., along with several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Dr. John L. Montgomery Jr., 87, Knoxville, Tenn., passed June 22.

John was a graduate of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine in 1960. After his internship at Washington University Medical Center in St. Louis, Mo., he served a residency at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Mich.

John then served two years as head ophthalmologist at West Point Military Academy during military service with the Army before returning to Knoxville. He founded University Eye Specialists in 1978, carrying on the tradition of an ophthalmology practice in Knoxville established by his father in 1935.

John served as chief of the medical staff at the University of Tennessee Medical Center in 1980 and was president of the Tennessee Academy of Ophthalmology in the early 1980s. He especially enjoyed the practice of ophthalmology and had a deep commitment to his patients and colleagues.

In 1980, John spent a month on a medical mission in Zaire (now Democratic Republic of the Congo), Africa. He and his wife, Gale, a retired nurse, more recently participated in a medical mission in Mexico with their church, Farragut Presbyterian Church. He also served as a Stephen Minister with his church.

John was a cattleman, like his father, raising beef cattle in Knoxville and later in Lenoir City, beginning with polled Herefords on his farm and later raising Red Angus. As a teen, he worked two summers at a cattle ranch in Mississippi, where he met a young cowhand from Australia who became a lifelong friend.



Dr. John Montgomery Jr.

He served on the Board of both the American Polled Hereford Association and Red Angus Association of America, participating in local committees associated with those organizations.

After more than 30 years as an ophthalmologist, John retired in 1998 to focus on his cattle and real estate development. He returned to University Eye Specialists eight years ago, and practiced medicine part-time until he retired a second time in December 2023.

He and his wife enjoyed traveling internationally and visiting friends and family across the U.S. An avid golfer, he had great memories of his trips with his golf buddies to courses in Ireland and Scotland.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. John L. Montgomery Sr., and Agnes Tucker Montgomery; and his son, Wilson Montgomery.

His survivors include his wife, Gale Brookshire Montgomery; his daughter, Jill (Ed) Dempsey; his son, John Lee Montgomery III; his grandchildren, Hollie (Andrew) Nichols, Montgomery (Amanda) Dempsey, Jacquelyn (Christopher) Brewer, Neal (Brandi) Montgomery, Houston Montgomery, Mellodee Montgomery, Hope Montgomery and Rachel Parrott; his great-grandchildren, Reed Nichols, Avery and Preston Dempsey, Luna and Daphne Brewer, Christian Anderson, and Vinny Parrott; his brother, Dr. Tucker (Joyce) Montgomery; his sister, Julia (Bob) Scott; and many special cousins, nieces and nephews, and several brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law.

Robert Felton, 94, Ardmore, Okla., passed July 7.

He was born Nov. 17, 1929, to Nell (Martin) and William Roy Felton in Stillwater, Okla.

Bob was a graduate of Stillwater High School in the class of 1948. Upon graduation, he attended Oklahoma State University, where he received a bachelor's degree in animal husbandry.



Bob Felton

On Sept. 4, 1951, he married Shirley Friday in Stillwater. From this marriage they had four children: Kaye, Susie, Bill and Jim.

After serving in the Army, Bob began his long and successful career as a cattleman and rancher. He became the manager of Brookview Hereford Farms in Pine Grove, Ky., and worked there until 1968 when he became a field representative for the American Hereford Association (AHA). His territory was Oklahoma and Kansas. Next was a tenure as manager of the famed Turner Hereford Ranch in Sulphur, Okla., where he improved upon the legacy and history of the ranch. After the Mighty Mainstream Dispersal of Turner Ranch, Bob accepted a position as manager of Lawrence R. Roberts Hereford Ranch in London, Ark., and later McLean Hereford Ranch in Willard, Mo. Although managing ranches was Bob's career, he also judged many cattle shows across the country and was well respected for his ability. After a long and prosperous ranching life, Bob retired from the cattle industry and moved back to Oklahoma and resided in Ardmore, with the love of his life, Shirley, where he enjoyed playing golf with his friends and gardening.

Robert was preceded in death by his parents, William and Nell Felton; wife, Shirley Felton; grandson, Shelby Ross; and great-granddaughter, Nevaeh Kamm.

He is survived by his daughters: Kaye Ross and Susie (Steve) Newton; sons: Bill (Julie) Felton and Jim (Angie) Felton; brother, Roy Felton; grandchildren: Spencer (Jenny) Ross, Jenna Ross, Derek Kamm, Clay Kamm, Lucas (Katlyn) Felton, Jordan (Andrew) Fisher, Zach Felton, Taylor (Kristi) Felton, Sloan Felton and Turner Felton; and great-grandchildren: Riley Ross, Samuel Ross, Mikala Kamm, Hazel Kamm, Aiden Kamm, James Felton, Madelyn Felton, Jacob Felton, Emiley Fisher and Drew Fisher.

Nora Maxine Latham Koontz, 92, Lexington, N.C., passed July 15.

Maxine was born Feb. 18, 1931, in Davidson County, N.C., to Clarence Roy Latham and Nora Bernice Lanier Latham.



Maxine Koontz

She attended schools in Davidson and Forsyth counties. After graduation from Welcome High School, Mrs. Koontz worked at Belk-Martin in Lexington, N.C., and Hanes Hosiery in Winston-Salem, N.C., before pursuing a nursing career. A graduate of Winston-Salem School of Practical Nurses, she worked at City Hospital and Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem on staff and private duty. She was later employed with Northwest Oxygen Co. and worked in the Inhalation Therapy Department at Lexington Memorial Hospital. Mrs. Koontz also worked in the offices of Drs. J. Dan Redwine, James T. Welborn and Rowland V. Long. She volunteered with the Davidson County 4-H Program and the American Red Cross as well as Hospice of Davidson County.

After leaving the medical profession, Mrs. Koontz chose to work on the family farm, H & C Hereford Farm, with her husband, Charles Don Koontz, who preceded her in death in 1991. Koontz Dairy operated for 33 years alongside the Hereford cattle operation. Mrs. Koontz led other cattle owners, as president, to reorganize the North Carolina Hereford Women. Cattle shows and sales took the Koontz family on many trips east, west, north and south of North Carolina. Charles and Maxine were named Honorary FFA Degree recipients in 1987 and were American Junior Hereford Advisors of the Year in 1989.

Mrs. Koontz was a past member of the AHA, serving on the National Hereford Women board of directors as historian, secretary and treasurer. She was named outstanding Hereford Woman of the Year 1990. H & C Hereford Farm was honored by the AHA as a breeder of horned Hereford cattle for more than 50 years, from 1946 to 2005.

Survivors include a son, Tony Eugene (Angie) Koontz; and two daughters, Patty K. (Reggie) Lookabill and Donna K. (Rodney) Fulton, all of Lexington; seven grandchildren: Tonya Koontz (Michael) Kelsey of Tecumseh, Okla., Jason Matthew (Elainia) Koontz, Ericka Koontz (Chad) Milner, Andrew Jackson Berrier, Brittany Lookabill (Jeffrey) Skeen, Tristen Fulton and Abigail Fulton, all of Lexington; great-grandchildren, Joshua (Jana) Kelsey, Caleb (Abby) Kelsey, Anna (Luke)

Swafford, Chloe (Seth) Pearman, Olivia F. Koontz, Nora Grace Koontz, Hannah Joy Koontz, Rachael C. (Johnathan) Edmonds, Nicholas Gray Carter, Riley Eugene Koontz, Carsen Faith Milner, Tyler Jackson Berrier, Noah Franklin James, Jonah Austin Skeen and Jakob Lane Skeen; two great-great-grandchildren, Josie Mae Edmonds and Harper Jean Edmonds; one brother, Buddy L. (Elaine) Latha; and many cousins, nieces and nephews of Lexington, Denton, High Point, Welcome, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, and Swansboro, N.C.; Salt Lake City, Utah, and N. Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Samuel Claude Hunter, 79, Hagerstown, Md., passed July 19.

His passing was unexpected, while actively working on his farm.



Sam Hunter

He was born Feb. 4, 1945, to the late George and Evelyn Hunter of Stoneboro, Pa. Sam was the first child to begin a Hunter family legacy of nine children. He graduated from Lakeview High School in 1963 and Penn State University in 1967. He married Linda K. Vaughn on Aug. 15, 2009.

Sam was a well-known polled Hereford breeder and was very active in the AHA. He made friends wherever he went and never met a stranger.

Sam is survived by his wife, Linda; and stepchildren: John (Wanda) Vaughn of Leitersburg, Md., Tammy (Kelby) Barrier of Shippensburg, Pa., and Robert (Pam) Vaughn of Mercersburg, Pa.

Sam was preceded in death by his first wife, Gail Byers Hunter. He was also preceded in death by his parents, George and Evelyn Hunter; sister, Audrey (Hunter) Wheeler; and brother, Donald George Hunter.

He is survived by sisters: Mary (Donald, deceased) Musser of New Middletown, Ohio, Elisabeth (Greg) Kingsley of Volant, Pa., and Hazel Hunter, of Stoneboro, Pa.; and brothers: Glenn (Linda) Hunter of Grove City, Pa.; Bob (Polly) Hunter of Pickerington, Ohio; and Frank Hunter of Kennedy, N.Y.

Sam is also survived by many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Karen Marie Wunner, 64, Kingsville, Md., passed July 19.

Karen was beloved and known for her caring, loving, compassionate and kind nature.



Karen Wunner

Karen embarked on a notable career in nursing later in life, graduating at the age of 53 from the Community College of Baltimore County with an associate's degree in science. She shone as a nursing student, earning the Outstanding Caring Behaviors Nursing Student Award at her commencement. Her passion for nursing led her to a fulfilling career as a hospice nurse at Gilchrist in Towson, where she provided comfort and care to many patients and their families during their most challenging times. Karen often shared that the key to her challenging job was simply to be kind. She retired in 2021 to devote herself to caring for her ailing mother.

Karen is survived by her loving husband, Michael Butt; daughters: Michelle (Jacob) Wolfrey, Kristen (Jake) Deford, Lindsey (Billy) Work and Melissa (Shane) Schaake; and cherished grandchildren: Ella Deford, Dorothy Deford, Andrew Wolfrey and Lainey Work; and brother, John (Linda) Wunner III; and niece and nephew, Brenda and Brian Wunner. She also leaves behind her brother-in-law, Mike Kowalski. She was preceded in death by her endearing mother, Barbara Wunner.

James Walter Douthit Jr., 86, St. Francis, Kan., passed July 22.

He was born in St. Francis on July 9, 1938, to Helen (Pochop) Douthit and James Walter Douthit. He had four siblings: Emily, Roger, Rudolph and Stephen. Walter was the oldest of the boys.



Walter Douthit

Walter led a life centered around his Catholic faith and his family. Growing up, he attended Broadview School, the nearby country school. As a young boy, he worked beside his father and brothers. He was proud of himself when he got to run a hay crew at the young age of 11 with the mules, Molly and Dolly. Upon entering junior high,

Walter was sent to the Holy Cross Abbey in Cañon City, Colo., because his mother wanted him to have a Catholic education. He didn't enjoy his time away from his family and the farm, so he returned home to complete high school at St. Francis Community High School. He later attended both Benedictine College and Kansas State University (K-State). However, the farm was calling him, so he came home to farm and ranch.

His return to the farm would provide a happy, fulfilling life for him. He proudly farmed and raised cattle with his brothers, Roger and Stephen, until 2008. For several decades, they operated Douthit Bros., Jim Douthit Farms and Douthit Herefords together.

Walter always enjoyed going to the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in Denver, and he did so as long as his health permitted him. His legacy continues to this day, with Douthit bulls still being prominently displayed in the yards, a mark that exceeds 80 consecutive years. His pride in their herd of Hereford cattle was only surpassed by his pride in his family.

Walter was blessed with three children: Teresa, Chad and Megan. They became the light of Walter's life; he centered his energy around them and their families. His love for agriculture was passed on to them, with each of them working in the agricultural industry in some capacity today. In 2008, he, his daughter and son-in-law, Megan and Chuck, began their own farming operation. He guided them for 16 years with a steady hand. Even as his health was deteriorating, he always had words of wisdom, which they sought out regularly. He had a vision and passion for farming in Cheyenne County, Kansas, that continues through Megan and her family.

Walter did not know a stranger; he was a jovial man who welcomed all with a smile and a twinkle in his eye. He lived out his faith in many ways, such as being an active member of the St. Francis Catholic Church, helping to build the current church in St. Francis and praying the Rosary regularly.

Walter served on both the Farm Credit of Western Kansas and the Wheeler Equity Exchange board of directors for more than 10 years. In 2009, the local community recognized

him as a Cheyenne County Fair parade marshal, alongside Roger and Stephen, in recognition of all they did for the local 4-H program. Walter was recognized by the NWSS Red Meat Club in 2017 for his dedication to the meat industry. The greatest public recognition he received was again alongside his brothers, when Walter, Roger and Stephen were inducted into the AHA Hall of Fame in 2012 for their commitment to the Hereford breed and the contributions their program made to the industry.

In his later years, Walter enjoyed international travel and attending as many K-State football games as possible. He always wanted to see the world and was grateful for the opportunity to explore new places. During this time, he was blessed with five grandchildren who were the light of his life. To see Walter when they entered the room was to see pure joy.

Walter will be missed by many. Those left to carry on his legacy are his children: daughter Teresa (Tom Svoboda) Douthit, and their children Grant, Elena and step-grandson Lane; son Chad (Tanya Draper) Douthit and their son Oliver; and daughter Megan (Chuck) Douthit-Downey and their sons Carter and Austin.

He is survived by his sister, Emily Peter; brother, Rudolph (Pat) Douthit; sister-in-law, Melva Douthit; nieces and nephews: Deborah Peter, Jennifer (Brian) Cree, Mark (Jane) Peter, Michelle (Andy) Conrad, Jason (Kellie) Douthit, Jared (Candi) Douthit, Amy (Kevin) Barrier, Michael (Heather) Douthit, Stephanie (Rusty) Thomas, Ana (Tyler) Enfield, Erica Gattshall, Margo Douthit (Jacobus Swart), Courtney (Matt) Nelson and Thomas Douthit.

Walter was preceded in death by his parents, James and Helen (Pochop) Douthit, and brothers, Roger and Stephen Douthit, and Roger's wife Myra.

Walter will be fondly remembered by all those who were blessed to know him. **HW**