

# OBITUARIES

## Dwight Johnson

May 17, 1931 - May 23, 2012

Dwight Johnson was born May 17, 1931 to Leonard Johnson and Mary Jane (Whetstone) Johnson.

He grew up and attended schools in Norton County, graduating from Norton Community High School. He served in the Army during World War II.

Dwight passed away on May 23,

2012 at his home in Lakewood, Colo. at the age of 81.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth, of the home; three children, Eric, Matt and Barbara; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; two sisters, Helen Rohr of Goodland and Lila Rule of Norton; one nephew, Don Stuve and wife of Omaha, Neb.

He was preceded in death by six brothers, Ed, Kenneth, Lloyd, Harold, Calvin and Herbert; three sisters, Kathryn Bowman, Maxine Gruse and Betty Marie; and many friends and relatives.

Memorial services will be held in Lakewood, Colo. on June 7 with inurnment at a later date at the Veterans Cemetery in Colorado.

## Not your grandfather's playdough

By Ron Wilson  
Huck Boyd Institute

Let's go to a school in California. The second graders are having a great time, playing and squeezing and shaping a new product: A brightly colored dough.

But this is not your grandfather's play-dough - it's a new, biodegradable product made from wheat, and it comes from rural Kansas.

Lois Keller is the co-founder of a new business called Kansas Play Klay which produces this innovative wheat product. Lois lives on a farm near Ellis in northwest Kansas.

She studied psychology at Fort Hays State University, met and married Jerry Keller, and chose to work on the farm and be home with her children.

She and Jerry had five children, and now they have 11 grandchildren.

When their youngest son was two years old, he was diagnosed with celiac disease, which meant that his digestive system could not digest wheat gluten.

"At that time, there were no gluten-free recipes around," Lois said. "I searched all over trying to find something that this child could eat."

She tried rice bread and other possibilities without much success.

Then a pediatrician suggested that Lois use whole wheat flour that she ground herself - not the blend which is available in the stores.

When Lois ground her own wheat, she found that her son's system could tolerate it. She did more experimenting and developed recipes of her own which were really liked by her friends and family.

As an active wheat producer herself, she was proud to find these recipes and to celebrate the healthy, nutritious value of wheat.

At one point, the Kansas Wheat Commission asked her to share her recipes, which Lois did gladly.

Lois has been identified by Kansas Wheat as part of its Speak for Wheat program, which includes spokespersons from across the state.

For some 20 years, she has spoken to countless ag days and school events about whole wheat baking and the nutritional value of wheat.

When grandchildren came along, she thought about another creative way to use this grain.

"As a conservative farm wife, I wanted to see if I could make something which the grandkids could play with while they're here," Lois said.

She experimented with gluten and food coloring and ended up with a colorful, doughy product which could be squeezed and shaped in zillions of creative ways. She tried lots and lots of improvements in her formula.

"When I made it the 201st time, that was the one I liked," Lois said. More importantly, it passed the grandkid test. The kids liked it, and when I added a scent, they loved it. Then their friends came over. The friends loved it too, and they wanted to take some home."

Lois' long time friend named Lilly Kingsley saw how popular this material was and said, "Maybe we could sell this stuff." Lilly is a graphic artist with grandkids of her own. She designed a sunflower logo, and Kansas Play Klay was born.

Kansas Play Klay comes in several colors and scents, the most popular being grape, lime, and strawberry.

Available by special order are cherry, peach, mango, watermelon, root beer, orange, lemon, cotton candy, bubble gum, and more.

Seasonal products include wintergreen and berry at Christmas, pastel colors at Easter, and orange and black at Halloween.

Kansas Play Klay is not intended to be eaten, but it is safe because it is made from wheat.

Lois and Lilly insist on producing it with food grade components and equipment so that the product is high quality and fully safe.

It is biodegradable and non-toxic. For more information, go to [www.startreeproducts.com](http://www.startreeproducts.com).

How exciting to find wheat entrepreneurs from rural Kansas.

Lois and Jerry live near Ellis, population 1,852, but Lois grew up further west near the town of Marienthal, which now has a population of maybe 75 people. Now, that's rural.

It's time to leave California, where kids are squeezing Play Klay and enjoying this product which was made from wheat out in Kansas.

We commend Lois Keller and Lilly Kingsley for making a difference with their creativity and entrepreneurship. Such entrepreneurship can help counter the squeeze on rural Kansas.

## Sign of the times



After three years, the east edge of Norton once again has a sign welcoming visitors to town. The sign was accomplished through a partnership with Norton Travel and Tourism and Norton City/County Economic Development. Thomas Outdoor Advertising, Manhattan, made and installed the sign on May 22. Workers, Layton Thomas and Jim Wells are seen here putting on the finishing touches.

-Photo by Verla Grysch

## Elder abuse training to be held June 5

The Kansas Area Agencies on Aging Association is sponsoring "Elder Abuse: Shades of Grey" on Tuesday, June 5. The training will be held at Thirsty's at 2704 Vine Street in Hays. The session is planned for 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for a cost of \$30.

The training will be conducted by Bessie Tolbert, LMSW, program manager for Adult Protective Services.

The six-hour session will include dynamics of abuse, power and control, indicators of abuse, and prevention and intervention. In addition, a local presenter will address regional concerns specific to elder abuse.

To register for the training, visit [www.k4a.org](http://www.k4a.org) or call Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging at 785-628-8204 or 1800-432-7422 for an enrollment form.

## Triathlon planned for June 23 in Hays

The Center for Health Improvement Triathlon will be held on Saturday, June 23. Registration is at 7:30 a.m. with the event beginning at 8 a.m. The triathlon consists of a 500-yard swim in the pool, a 12-mile bike ride on paved roads and a 3.1-mile run on paved roads, finishing on the HaysMed Fitness Trail.

Individuals and teams are encouraged to compete. The age groups are 16-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69 and 70 and older. Medals will be awarded to the top three winning teams and top three winning participants (female and male) in each

of the age categories. Overall first, second and third place finishers in the individual and team categories will receive an additional prize. Certificates will be awarded to all participants.

The entry fee for both individuals and teams is \$45 before June 15. Registration after June 15 is \$55. Registration fee is

non-refundable. Participants must have been 16 or older on June 1.

Special training sessions can be purchased at The Center for Health Improvement by calling 785-623-5900.

To register go to [www.thecenter.haysmed.com/triathlon](http://www.thecenter.haysmed.com/triathlon).

## Farm acres to be accepted for registration

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will accept 3.9 million acres offered under the 43rd Conservation Reserve Program general sign-up. During the extended five-week sign-up, the Department received nearly 48,000 offers on more than 4.5 million acres of land, demonstrating the program's continuing leadership as one of our nation's most successful voluntary efforts to conserve land and improve our soil, water, air and wildlife habitat resources. The department has now enrolled nearly 12 million acres in the program since 2009. Currently, there are more than 29.6 million acres enrolled on more than 736,000 contracts.

For the first continuous sign-up program, the department en-

courages landowners with land that has an Erosion Index of 20 or greater to consider participating in the Highly Erodible Land initiative. Lands eligible for this program are typically the least productive land on the farm. In many cases the most cost-effective option to reduce erosion is to put the land into a wildlife friendly cover, which will improve habitat and reduce sediment and nutrient runoff and reduce wind erosion. For the second continuous sign-up program, landowners with sensitive grasslands, wetlands and wildlife habitat are encouraged to participate. The grasslands and wetlands initiative increases acres set aside for specific enrollments that benefit duck nesting habitat, upland birds, wetlands, and wildlife, and pro-

vide benefits for specific conservation practices, including new benefits for pollinator practices.

**WATER AEROBICS CLASSES**  
to be offered by Norton County Hospital's Physical Therapy Department

Norton Municipal Swimming Pool  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, Weather Permitting,  
**JUNE 12 THROUGH AUGUST 2**  
Low Impact Classes: 5:00-5:30 p.m.  
High Impact Classes: 5:30-6:30 p.m.  
\$25.00 Paid First Night of Class at the Pool  
• NO EARLY REGISTRATION REQUIRED •

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Hours: Wed.-Sat. 10-5 p.m.; Mon.-Tues.—By Chance  
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STORE IN BIG RED BUILDING BEHIND THE HOUSE  
**CALL 785-877-2818**

**SHHHhhhh!!**

**Doris Hammond**

of Long Island, KS will be turning 90 years young on Tues., June 5. To honor her at this time, her kids and grandkids are having a card shower for her. Doris' address is: P.O. Box 97, Long Island, KS 67647.

PLEASE DROP HER A LINE AND LET HER KNOW HOW YOUNG SHE LOOKS . . .

Happy Sweet 16  
**Brooke**  
(Monday, June 4)

FROM YOUR FAMILY

**OPEN HOUSE EVENT**

**Tues., June 5**  
8:00 a.m.-3:45 p.m.

Join us for Cookies and Tea all Day and Let Us Show Off Our New Lobby

**United Northwest Federal Credit Union**  
912 N. Archer, Norton

June 1- June 6

Showing at the  
**NORTON THEATRE**

**Men in Black 3**  
(PG-13) 1 Hour, 54 Minutes - Presented in Digital Sound  
Friday and Saturday: 7:00 and 9:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 2:00 and 5:00 p.m.  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

**The Three Stooges**  
1 Hour, 40 Minutes (PG)

Men in Black 3 is premiere passes only, The Three Stooges all passes accepted

Men in Black 3 is Premiere Admission Price of \$7.00 and \$6.00 - No Sunday Discount  
The Three Stooges is General Admission Price of \$6.00 and \$5.00 - \$3.00 on Sunday

**COMING SOON**

**Visit our Website: [nortontheatre.com](http://nortontheatre.com)**

This ad is brought to you by The Norton Telegram

## HANSEN MUSEUM

For help with your advertising needs please give Dana a call 877-3361

email: [dpaxton@nwkansas.com](mailto:dpaxton@nwkansas.com)

The Dane G. Hansen Memorial Museum presents "John Steuart Curry." This exhibit runs from July 6-Aug. 26. It will consist of approximately 25 works with an emphasis on the forces of nature.

Born in Dunavant, John Steuart Curry trained at the Chicago Art Institute and the Academie Julian in Paris. Although he taught at the Art Students League and Cooper Union in New York City, Curry rejected the impersonal quality of industrialism and instead favored subject matter reflective of his agrarian background.