

# 'Pet Parents' author has Pawnee County roots

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A Pawnee County native who has received national recognition has authored a book that provides information on how to remember and honor pets when they die.

Coleen Ellis of Greenwood, Ind., is the daughter of Ann Ellis and the late Larry Ellis of Rozel. She is a Pawnee Heights High School graduate.

Her book, "Pet Parents: A Journey Through Unconditional Love and Grief," provides essential information for pet owners on what to do when their pet dies and how to find a pet loss provider who is reputable and compassionate.

"I'm proud to share this information with my home state," Ellis said. "I'm proud to be from Pawnee County and am so appreciative of the lessons I learned and the education I received. That part of my life shaped who I am today."

Ellis and her husband, Chris Burke, are parents to two children, Brian and Amy; and three dogs, Ellie Mae, Crisco, and Rudy.

Several family members of the 1987 Fort Hays State graduate reside in central Kansas — a grandmother Anne Dreiling, Odin; aunt Judy Jenisch and uncle Jerry Jenisch, Great Bend; aunt Sharon Dreiling and uncle Gary Dreiling, Hoisington; aunt Jane Dreiling and uncle

Dennis Dreiling, Claflin; and aunt Judi Welch and uncle Lynn Welch, Pawnee Rock.

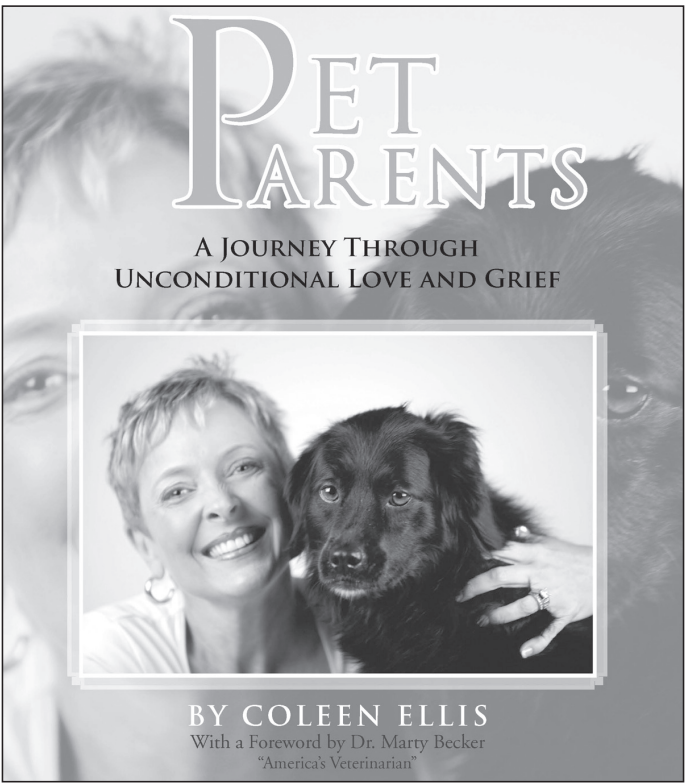
Ellis is the owner of Two Hearts Pet Loss Center in Greenwood, Ind. She believes the book is an important resource for anyone who works with bereaved pet owners, including funeral homes, veterinarians and grief specialists.

"I wrote this book so that pet parents will know that it's OK to mourn the loss of a beloved pet," she said. "I want them to know their various options. But just as important, I want both veterinarians and death-care professionals to understand the trauma involved with losing a beloved pet. It can be as devastating as losing a human family member."

The book provides various tips, including:

- Ideas on how to celebrate the special bonds people share with pets.
- Checklists to choose the right cremation provider or funeral home.
- Stories that show how pets can be honored in life and in death.
- How death-care professionals, veterinarians and others can better serve pet parents.
- Resources to help children cope with the loss of a pet.
- Resources to help people remember their pets.

In 2004, Ellis founded Pet Angel Memorial Center, the first stand-alone pet funeral home in the United States.



COURTESY PHOTO  
Coleen Ellis is a Rozel native who has authored "Pet Parents: A Journey Through Unconditional Love and Grief."

In April 2009, she founded Two Hearts Pet Loss Center, a consulting business that guides people who want to provide pet death care services to their communities.

She has previously worked for Forethought Financial Services, the nation's largest insurance and trust provider to the funeral industry for funding funerals in advance.

Ellis' book has received favorable reviews.

"Pet Parents: A Journey Through Unconditional Love and Grief is a must-read for anyone that is a pet lover

and, anyone who has lost or is approaching the loss of their 'fur baby,'" said Roberta Knauf, pet funeral director, Hermitage, Pa. "The stories are heartwarming and the information about the entire pet loss industry is priceless."

Author Joe Dwyer wrote "Shelby's Grace," a story about an abused dog that is rescued.

"Pet Parents," will go a long way to assist our goal of making the lives of our animal companions matter in life and in death," Dwyer said. "When people read 'Pet Par-



COURTESY PHOTO  
Coleen Ellis and her family owns three dogs — Mike The Dog, Ellie Mae and Crisco.

ents," they will enhance their knowledge of what these beautiful creatures mean to our society."

Robyn Kesnow is a registered veterinary technician.

"The stories and information shared in this book will change the way we honor and memorialize our pets and bring a new level of dignity to a previously neglected part of loving and living with

pets," Kesnow said. "Read it, share it and keep it on the shelf for when you're ready to take action."

The book is available as a hard copy or in an eBook format. For information, access the web site [www.twoheartspetlosscenter.com](http://www.twoheartspetlosscenter.com) or search for the book on iUniverse at <http://www.iuniverse.com/Bookstore/BookDetail>.

## Larned USD 495 to start school year

LARNED — The new school year starts Thursday for Larned USD 495 students. Sophomores through seniors report at noon. Kindergarten through ninth grade report for a full day of school.

Larned USD 495 teachers and staff will conduct in-service sessions Monday.

The Larned Area Chamber of Commerce and the Ministerial Association of Pawnee County will sponsor the USD 495 Teacher Appreciation Coffee Hour at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday at Larned Middle School. Anyone is welcome to attend. It marks the seventh year the Ministe-

rial Association and Chamber have co-sponsored the event.

Laura Smith, Larned Chamber of Commerce president, and Ryan Webster, Ministerial Association president, will deliver opening remarks at 8:30 a.m. Jon Flint, USD 495 superintendent, will welcome everyone and building principals will introduce new staff.

The Rev. Richard Langness, Pastor of Larned's Grace Lutheran Church will deliver a closing prayer.

Faye Grandy of Sweet Traditions, Rozel, will provide rolls. Rolls, coffee and tea will be available after the event.

The Larned USD 495 school board has approved a mill levy of 55.935 mills, down from 55.988 last year. Decreased school funding was offset by an increase of \$3.9 million in district assessed valuation.

**Larned USD 495 calendar**

Monday — In-service day

Tuesday — Community Coffee Hour, 8:30 a.m., Larned Middle School

Wednesday — Meet the Teacher Night; Hillside, 5-5:30 p.m.; Phinney, 5:30-6 p.m.; Northside, 6-6:30 p.m.

Thursday — First day of school; 10th-12th grade report at noon


Friday — See You at the

Pole, 7:30 a.m.; Back to School Bash

Saturday — LHS football scrimmage, hot dog feed, morning

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## PAWNEE BRIEFS

### Commission to meet

LARNED — The Pawnee County Commissioners will meet Monday at the Pawnee County Courthouse.

10 a.m. — Kathy Rondeau, Pawnee County Conservation district manager, and Matt Meyerhoff, National Resources Conservation District, soil conservationist.

11:30 a.m. — Elaine Salmans, grants.

1:30 p.m. — HaysMed, Pawnee Valley Community Hospital update.

### Retail committee to meet

LARNED — The Chamber of Commerce Retail Committee will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 16 in the Jordaan Room at the Chamber of Commerce Office. All Larned retail businesses are invited to attend. For information, contact Kevin Holt at 620-804-0894.

### Coffee Hour set

LARNED — The Chamber Coffee Hour will be sponsored by Larned Healthcare Center, 1114 W. 11th Street from 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 18. Hunter Harris is serving as interim administrator of Larned Healthcare Center.

### Santa Fe exhibit set

LARNED — The Santa Fe Trail Center invites the public to view a temporary exhibit commemorating the generation who fought in World War II. The exhibit features artifacts and photographs related to the armed forces and the home front from 1940-1945. Items from the museum's collections highlighting local servicemen and women will be on display.

### LHS Class of 1986 reunion dates set

LARNED — The Larned High School Class of 1986 will sponsor its 25-year class reunion on Friday, Sept. 9, and Saturday, Sept. 10.

All class members and LHS staff from 1986 are invited to attend. Call Doug Aldrich, 620-804-0395 for more information.

### LHS boosters dinner scheduled Aug. 23

LARNED — The Larned High School Sports Boosters steak dinner fundraiser is scheduled to start at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 23 at Schnack Park. All proceeds are donated to LHS athletic programs.

Tickets must be purchased in advance from any Booster Club member, at First State Bank, OPI or by calling Kristin Keith at 620-804-1170.

### LHS Class of 1996 reunion dates set

LARNED — The Larned High School Class of 1996 will sponsor its 15-year class reunion Friday and Saturday, Sept. 2-3. All class members and LHS staff from 1996 are invited to attend. Contact Wendy (Hicks) Leiker at 620-804-0816 for information.

### CWF Thrift Shop sale

LARNED — The CWF Thrift Shop is sponsoring its annual \$5 Bag Sale through Aug. 20. The shop is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

EXPO

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Tuesday, September 27, 2011

Highland Hotel & Convention Center

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