

# OBITUARIES

## Marilyn Kay Bowers

July 24, 1938 - Dec. 5, 2013

Marilyn Kay Bowers, daughter of Ronald Ralph and Hazel May (Armstrong) Magill, was born July 24, 1938, in Hoisington, Kansas, and passed away Dec. 5, 2013, at the age of 75.

Marilyn grew up in the Hoisington and Osawatimie communities and attended the local schools. On March 24, 1978, Marilyn and Orville Bowers were united in marriage in Hoisington. They made their home in Hoisington, Lebanon, and Great Bend, before moving to Alma, where they were currently living and raising two grandchildren. Marilyn was a

homemaker and had also been an LPN.

Marilyn was a member of the Almena Congregational Church.

Survivors include: her husband, Orville Bowers, of their home in Alma; four children, Brian McDowell, Garden City; Teresa Strickland, Hoisington; Denise Ryan, Ledyard, Conn.; and William McDowell, Tulsa, Okla.; two grandsons that they were raising, Brandon McDowell, Beloit; and Dalton McDowell, of the home in Alma; one sister, Beverly Conklin, Piedmont, Okla.; 14 other grandchild-

ren; 10 great-grandchildren; other relatives and friends.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her parents and one son, Allen Lee McDowell.

A funeral service was held on Thursday, Dec. 12 at the Congregational Church in Alma. Burial followed at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Alma.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the Marilyn Bowers Memorial Fund.

Condolences may be sent to [www.enfieldfh.com](http://www.enfieldfh.com).

Arrangements are by Enfield Funeral Home, 215 W. Main, in Norton.

## Christmas parades from A to Zenda

By Ron Wilson  
Huck Boyd Institute

The Christmas parade is about to start. The flag is in front, trucks and horses are lined up behind, and Santa Claus is in the back. Many communities have Christmas parades, but is there any town of fewer than 100 people which has conducted a Christmas parade annually for 40 years? That's a remarkable achievement for a small Kansas town. This is a special holiday edition of Kansas Profile.

Edwina Whitmer is the primary organizer for the annual Christmas parade and other parades in the Kingman County town of Zenda.

"I am the parade person in Zenda," Edwina said. "I've done it lots of years."

Edwina is a native of California. "I was working in southern California and this meat grader came by my office every day," Edwina said. The meat grader, Monte Whitmer, is a Kansas native and K-State graduate.

"He was always saying that he was going to come back to Kansas," Edwina said. "I was like, 'Yeah, what's Kansas?' Is that in northern California somewhere?"

But the two did indeed get married and came back to Kansas where Monte's family farmed. "I had horses (in California) so I figured it would be okay," Edwina said. They moved to Kansas in 1980. For Edwina, it was a bit of culture shock. "What do you mean, there's no stores in Zenda?" Ed-

wina said.

But she settled in and made a home. She and Monte had three children and now have grandchildren.

One thing Zenda does have is a Christmas parade on the first Saturday of December. When Monte was in high school here, he marched in the parade with the school marching band. In more recent years when the citizens of Zenda needed a person to organize the Christmas parade and keep it going, the person they turned to was Edwina Whitmer. She organizes the big centennial and sesquicentennial parades for the community as well.

But how in the world can a town this size put on a parade every year? After all, Zenda is a rural community of 90 people. Now, that's rural.

"We just all work together," Edwina said. "The parade lines up north of the Lumber Yard and there's a nice noon meal from 11 to 1," Edwina said. "People from the neighboring communities come in." Parade entries are judged at 1 p.m., with prizes for the winners, and the parade starts at 1:30. The Lumber Yard, by the way, is the name of Zenda's only restaurant.

Edwina still has horses. Many of her horse-riding friends will ride in the parade too.

"We'll have tractors and four-wheelers, trucks and pickups and lots of kids," Edwina said. The Zenda Telephone Company will be represented in the parade and the Methodist Church will

have a float. Some years there has been bingo and a craft show.

For years, the same man has carried an American flag to lead the parade. His name is Wayne Dick and he is a proud veteran, still wearing the same uniform that he had while in the service.

At the end of the parade is a fire truck carrying Santa Claus who will go to the community center and hand out treats after the parade. For years, Paul Conrady served as Santa Claus at this parade and throughout the region. He hoped to make it to 50 years, and he did so in 2011.

"He was the best Santa anyone could have," Edwina said.

"For a small town, it is a nice parade," Edwina said. "A few weeks ago I went back to California. I was so glad to get back home to Kansas."

So let's head downtown for the annual Zenda Christmas parade. We salute Edwina Whitmer and all those who participate in this parade for making a difference by maintaining this holiday tradition and celebrating the community. Is there any town this size which has put on a Christmas parade for 40 years? One could search for such an accomplishment through the entire alphabet of Kansas towns from A to Z - and when you get to Z, you've found it: Zenda, Kansas.

I wish you happy holidays from the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development.

## Band concert



Thirty-first-year Eisenhower Elementary School band students showed what they have learned so far this year at a concert that took place on Friday of last week. Director Don Mordecai led the group in seven short pieces and the audience was told about each piece by the volunteer narrators.

— Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

## Calving schools scheduled for January

With the new calving season just around the corner, ([www.ksre.ksu.edu](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu)) K-State Research and Extension will host calving schools in five locations, with a focus on challenges producers might face during this critical period.

"Handling Calving Difficulties" features Robert Mortimer, recently retired associate professor of clinical sciences at Colorado State University's Veterinary College. A specialist in bovine reproduction, obstetrics and nutrition, he will address such topics as: signs of calving; differentiating between normal and abnormal calving; and how to manage a difficult birth.

Larry Hollis, beef cattle veterinarian with K-State Research and Extension, will speak on scours prevention and colostrum management.

Dates, locations, and K-State contact information for each school:

Jan. 6 - Oberlin - 6 p.m. - The Gateway - Byron Hale, mail to: [bhale@ksu.edu](mailto:bhale@ksu.edu) or 785-475-8121;

Jan. 7 - Phillipsburg - 10 a.m. - Phillipsburg County Fair Building - Rachael Boyle, mail to: [rboyle@ksu.edu](mailto:rboyle@ksu.edu) or 785-425-6851;

Jan. 7 - Sylvan Grove - 6 p.m. - Sylvan Sales Commission - Neil Cates, mail to: [ncates@ksu.edu](mailto:ncates@ksu.edu) or 785-738-3597;


Jan. 8 - La Crosse - 10 a.m. - La Crosse Livestock Market - Jared Petersilie, mail to: [jaredp11@ksu.edu](mailto:jaredp11@ksu.edu) or 785-222-2710; and

Jan. 8 - Sharon Springs - 6 p.m. MST - CAB Building - Wallace Co. Fairgrounds - Marty Fear, mail to: [cfear@ksu.edu](mailto:cfear@ksu.edu) or 785-332-3171.

Financial support for the program is being provided by Zo-

etis and other local sponsors at each site. There is no cost to participate, but those wishing to attend are asked to RSVP by Jan. 3 to the appropriate local office so we can plan for adequate meals and materials.

Happy Birthday Esther!



Esther Ellis will be celebrating her 97th Birthday on Sunday, December 15th and would very much enjoy a birthday card to help her celebrate from all her many friends.

Cards will reach Esther at:  
200 Whispering Pines #16 Norton, KS 67654

## Have you talked to your pharmacist lately?

If you are sick, you'll probably have many questions to ask your doctor. But have you made a list of questions and concerns to share with your pharmacist?

If you're like most people, the answer is probably "very few" or "none". But today's pharmacists are trained to provide valuable information about the prescriptions they fill and to answer questions that affect the patients they serve.

Typical questions that are asked are about allergic reactions. First and foremost, make sure that your pharmacist knows exactly what allergies you have and what medications you are already taking. This will help the pharmacist protect against possible drug interactions that could be harmful.

Once you have received the medication, always look at it carefully before you leave the pharmacy. Read the instructions to be sure you understand how to take it. Even if the medication is a refill, check to make sure the drug is the same size, color, and shape that you are used to receiving. If anything doesn't look right, ask.

Consider the following additional questions for your pharmacist:

- Does this medication require special storage conditions (for example, at room temperature or in a refrigerator)?
- How many times a day should it be taken? Should it be taken with food? Without food?
- Should certain foods be avoided (such as dairy products) when taking this medication?
- Are there special side effects that should be looked for? What

Homeed  
Tranda  
Watts,  
Extension  
specialist



contact Tranda Watts, Multi-County Extension Specialist - Food, Nutrition, Health and Safety at mail to: [twatts@ksu.edu](mailto:twatts@ksu.edu) or phone 785-443-3663.

## BIRTHDAY

Ann Lacy, Norton, is celebrating her 95th birthday. She was born on Dec. 13, 1918, and is the mother of 14 children, 30 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

Thank you Mom for giving us life, our faith in God, and teaching us how to love! We are so blessed.

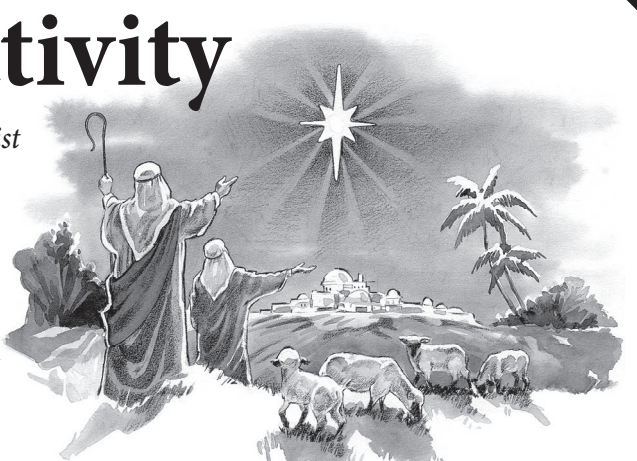


## Living Nativity

A Celebration of the Birth of Jesus Christ

SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 13  
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Come drive through the circle drive, then come inside for cookies and cocoa! Or better yet, call the Methodist Church and arrange to be a character in one of the scenes!  
CALL 785-877-2196



## First United Methodist Church

805 WEST WILBERFORCE IN NORTON, KANSAS

You're Invited to Our  
**Open House**  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18,  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, AND  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20  
AT BOTH LOCATIONS:  
500 Main - Alma  
202 E. Washington - Norton

Merry Christmas!  
FROM ALL OF US AT . . .

**Almena State Bank**  
Member FDIC - Equal Opportunity Provider

Dec. 13-17  
Showing at the  
**NORTON THEATRE**  
Frozen--in 3D  
1 Hour, 58 Minutes (PG)  
Friday and Saturday: 8:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 5:00 p.m.  
Mon., Tues.: 7:00 p.m.  
**The Hobbit: Desolation of Smaug in 3-D**  
2 Hours, 51 Minutes (PG-13)

Let's Go to the Movie

Frozen is \$7.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children 12 and under. No Sunday Discount  
The Hobbit is \$7.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children 12 and under. No Sunday Discount

COMING SOON

PREMIERING IN NORTON  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18  
ANCHORMAN 2 (PG-13)  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [NORTONTHEATRE.COM](http://NORTONTHEATRE.COM)

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