

Obituaries

David John Sowers

Feb. 4, 1955 - Sept. 27, 2011

David John Sowers was born on Feb. 4, 1955 to Lewis and Audrey Sowers in Oakley, Kan. He married Teresa Schlup in Stratford, Texas on Aug. 31, 1978. To this union, four children were born: Heather, Jared, Hannah and Samuel.

David loved his wife of 33 years and they built their life together, raising their family through faith and hard work. The most important part of David's life was his family and his faith in God. He instilled in his children a love for God - to be strong and to always have faith. His children were the apple of his eye. He always looked forward to seeing and spending time with them: checking cows, working on the farm together, or just sitting around chatting about life and the weather. He loved being a husband, father and grandfather, and looked forward to every visit from his granddaughters.

David loved the country life, especially farming and ranching. He raised and hauled cattle for many years and loved every minute of it. He could easily fix engines and machinery and passed this passion on to his sons. David's hands reflected years of hard work, tough yet tender. There was always love in David's hands.

David is survived by his wife Teresa, children Heather Sowers of Colby, Jared and Brook Sowers of Independence, Mo., Hannah

Sowers and significant other, Rocky Gomez, of Post, Texas, and Samuel Sowers of Hays. He was also known as "Papa" by his beloved granddaughters Evangelyn Sowers of Colby and Paisley Sowers of Independence. He is survived by brother Daniel and Lori Sowers of Bird City, sister Sara and Larry Schield of Austin, Texas, brother Stephen Sowers of Imperial, Neb. and many more family and friends.

David was preceded in death by his sister Audrey Marene Sowers, parents Lewis and Audrey Sowers, parents-in-law Raymond and Sharon Schlup, and grandparents James and Ruby Sowers and Lloyd and Grace Sims.

David died on Sept. 27, 2011 at Aurora Medical Center in Aurora, Colo. Funeral services were held Oct. 1 at Living Water Fellowship Church, Bird City with Pastor Terry Glasco and Ron Morris officiating. Honorary pallbearers were Hannah Sowers, Heath Sowers, Evangelyn Sowers, Brook Sowers and Paisley Sowers. Casket bearers were Jared Sowers, Sam Sowers, Dan Sowers, Steve Sowers, Matt Martin and Ron Wieck.

Interment was in the Cheyenne Valley Cemetery, Wheeler, Kan. Arrangements were made by Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis.

William 'Bill' Leach

Aug. 24, 1926 - Oct. 1, 2011

William Wesley Leach was born to William Hosea and Hazel Leach on Aug. 24, 1926, in Bird City, Kan., and died Oct. 1, 2011, at Allgood Estates in Commerce City, Okla.

Preceding Bill in death were his parents; wife, Vada; sister Darlyne Beeson; brothers, Dwight, Kenneth, and David; brothers-in-law, Elmer Beeson, Kenneth Kinser; and sister-in-law, Shirley Leach.

Surviving him are his wife, Carolyn, two sons, two daughters, 11 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren, a sister, two stepdaughters, and many friends and family.

Bill grew up on a farm northwest of Bird City. He attended grade school at Green Ridge School District 8. He graduated from Bird City High School. On Nov. 14, 1944, Bill was drafted into the U.S. Navy. He served in World War II and was discharged in July, 1946.

On April 30, 1947, Bill married his high school sweetheart Vada Beeson. They were married 60 years. Bill and Vada were blessed with two daughters and two sons: Deloris and Warren Sager of LaCrosse, Kan.; Janice and Gary Baldwin of Cleveland, Tenn.; Gary and Merlie Leach of St. Francis, Kan.; and Dexter and Patti Leach of Minneola, Kan.

After returning from serving his country in the Navy, Bill began his life-long career in farming and raising cattle. One of his greatest joys was maintaining the Cheyenne County Kansas State Extension Service wheat plots. He also enjoyed driving the combine during harvest, seeing the rewards of his labor.

Bill was very community service oriented. He served many years as the pastor of the South Fork and Riverside Friends Churches. He was a very dedicated commissioner of Cheyenne County for 24 years and also served on the Bird City School Board for 12 years.

He always liked to watch his sons participate in sports. He and Vada never missed a game. As he got older, he continued to stay informed about sports at all levels.

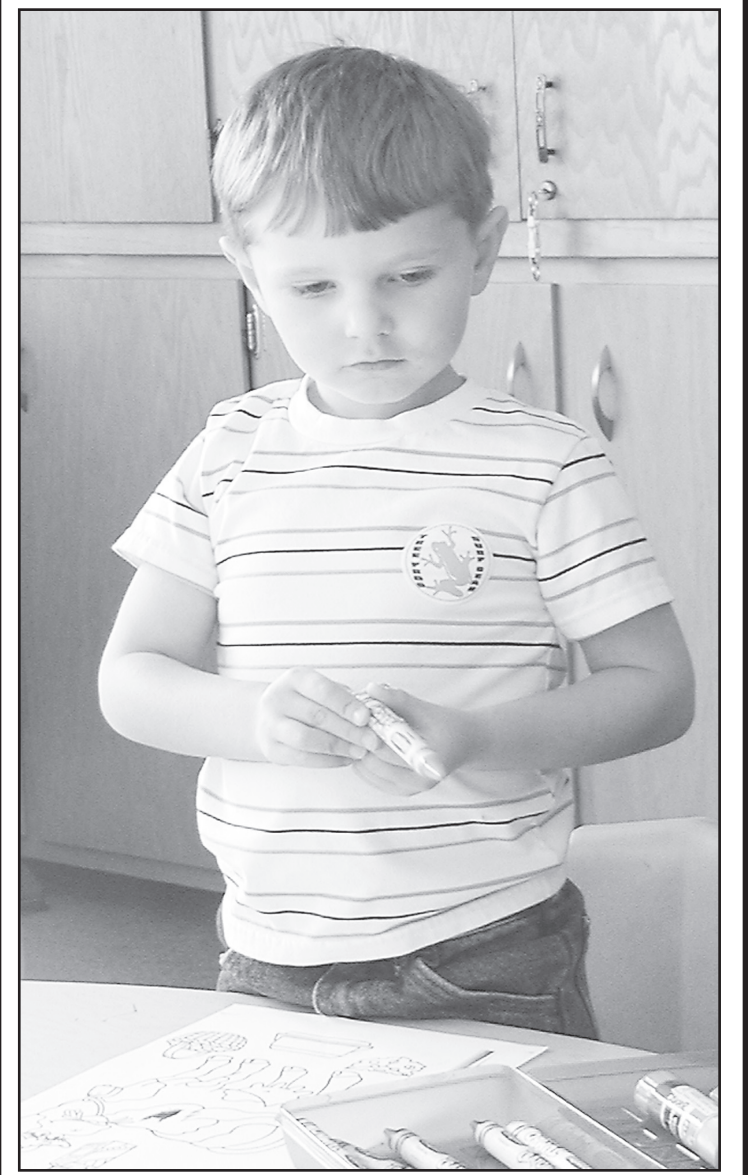
Bill was very knowledgeable in many topics and could carry on a conversation with just about everyone. He loved to visit with people and receive cards from family and friends.

The grandchildren and great-grandchildren were very important to him. He liked to take them on rides on the combine during harvest and the John Deere 5-wheeler around the farm. He also liked to play checkers and table tennis with the kids.

July 8, 2009, Bill married Carolyn Faith Butts and moved to Fairland, Okla., where he enjoyed his last few years.

The funeral service was held on Oct. 6, 2011, at the Wesleyan Community Church in Bird City, with Pastor Dan Carson presiding. Casket bearers were Cliff Leach, Brian Gray, Robert Sager, Cletus Grannon, Michael Moore, Phillip DeLong, John Collins, and Michael Harms. Interment was in the Bird City Cemetery with military honors. Memorial contributions may be made to "Hospice."

Arrangements were by Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis.



DEEP IN THOUGHT about choosing which marker to color with, Oscar Struckhoff was at preschool a few weeks ago.
Herald photo by Karen Krien

Darlene G. Ragan

June 1926 - Oct. 9, 2011

Darlene G. Ragan, 85, of Wichita, died Oct. 9, 2011, in the Clare Bridge Retirement Home in Wichita.



Ragan

Darlene was born to the late Jesse and Norma (Michael) Honsicker, in June 1926 in Girard, Kan.

She married Alfred Fry in Girard in 1945. Alfred died in August 1960. Darlene married Charles W. Ragan in May 1962. Charles died in November 1988.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Girard.

Darlene is survived by sons, John Ragan (Jennefer) of Benton, Kan.; Lt. Col. Michael Ragan of Wahiawa, Hawaii; David Fry (Dawn) of St. Francis; step-son William (Bill) Ragan of Ansley, Neb.; daughters, Darla Fry Arrowsmith of Aurora, Colo.;

step-daughter Rebecca (Becky) Ragan Lawrence (Mike) of Chanute, Kan. She is also survived by 16 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. on Friday at the First Baptist Church in Girard with Rev. Bill Kious officiating. Burial will be in the Girard Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 7-8 p.m. on Thursday at the Smith-Carson-Wall Funeral Home in Girard where friends may call after 11 a.m. on Thursday.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the First Baptist Church in Girard and these may be left at the church or the Smith-Carson-Wall Funeral Home, 518 W. St. John, Box 258, Girard, 66743.

Condolences may be sent to www.wallfuneralservices.com

Musician to perform on Sunday, Oct. 30

The United Methodist Church will welcome minister and Christian country musician Peter Whitebird to speak and perform on Sunday, Oct. 30, at 7 p.m.

A native of Kansas, Mr. Whitebird is a renown speaker and performer, having topped the national Christian country charts and traveling extensively to share his beliefs with fellow Christians. He was ordained in 1995 and now tours full-time with his wife,

Judy.

"Everyone you know gets up every day trying to find completeness in life. I found that completeness in the person of Jesus Christ," Mr. Whitebird said.



Vows exchanged in backyard ceremony

Hailey Frewen and Cody Braz were married on Friday, Sept. 23, 2011 at the home of Jo and Kelly Frewen, St. Francis. The wedding took place in their decorated backyard with a reception following. Judge Robert Van Allen officiated the ceremony.

Hailey is the daughter of Mike Frewen and of Julie and Larry Bernard of Russell. Cody is the son of Deb and Bill Braz of Wray, Colo.

Grandparents of the bride are Mary Lee Frewen and Mr. and Mrs. Dean Weeks of Cawker City. The groom's grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. George Elder of LaJunta, Colo. and Mrs. Gannon of Frederick, Okla.

The couple have two children-Maverick Scott and McKenna Dawn.

Hailey graduated from St. Francis Community High School



Mr. and Mrs. Cody Braz

and is presently working as a certified nurses aide for the Good Samaritan Nursing Home in Atwood. Cody is a graduate of Lone Star High School in Colo. and is employed by the Willard Zwegardt Farms, St. Francis.

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October 19, 2010

It has been one year since the fire at the Village. Our continuing gratitude to the firefighters who selflessly worked to put out a stubborn fire; to the EMTs who came on standby and transported residents; to school officials who provided transportation and every cooperation; and to the Saintry High School students who looked after our residents like their own family. You all demonstrated what Community is all about.

With much appreciation, the staff and management at Good Samaritan Village

We know someone special who is turning eighty.
We think she is a wonderful lady!
She's loving, caring and very neat!
She's good at baking our favorite sweet!

We know she has a special touch,
Which is why we love Grandma Margaret very much!

You are our sunshine!
Love, Matthisen, Hadleigh and Chase

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