

Death

**Dr. Layne Kile Lunsway**  
Dr. Layne Kile Lunsway, Oakley veterinarian and co-owner of Oakley Veterinary Clinic, died Wednesday in Houston at age 38. He was born Jan. 14, 1965 in Lindsborg to Lile and Ranell Lunsway.

He is survived by his wife, Michele, daughters Alexis Lunsway, Caitlin Lunsway and Breanna Lunsway, all of Oakley, parents Lile and Ranell Lunsway of Colby, grandparents Leo and Betty Keller and Lloyd Lunsway and Sharon Brian, and brothers Lance, of Madison, Wis., and Linc, of Manhattan.

The funeral will be Tuesday at 10 a.m., at the Oakley High School auditorium with Rev. Keith Schadel officiating.

Burial will be in the Oakley Cemetery.

Visitation is Monday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Oakley Methodist Church.

Memorials may be made to the educational fund for Layne's three girls.

Donations may be left at the Farmers State Bank in Oakley or in care of Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel in Colby, which is in charge of the arrangements.

New facility to help youth with problems

With the new Larned Juvenile Correctional Facility, Kansas will be better able to help juvenile offenders with substance abuse and mental health problems live more successfully after release from custody.

Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius spoke recently at a ribbon cutting and dedication of the new facility.

"The Larned Juvenile Correctional Facility equips young people with the ability to successfully reintegrate into their communities upon release. With this facility and dedicated staff, we hope to help guide these young people toward an adulthood of promise," Sebelius said.

"Preparing these kids to go back into the community, to live responsibly and productively, and not commit additional crimes is a primary focus of the juvenile correctional facility system in Kansas," Denise Everhart said.

Everhart is the commissioner of the Kansas Juvenile Justice Authority, which funds and oversees prevention programs throughout the state, and operates the four juvenile correctional facilities in Larned, Atchison, Beloit and Topeka. "The treatment the young people will receive while here can make a huge difference in their lives, and help them go into adulthood with the tools they need to make positive contributions to the world in which they live."

The new 132,000 sq. ft., medium-security facility within a single building replaces the existing group of four two-story buildings, dating from 1914, on the campus of the Larned State Hospital.

The 152-bed facility will include four living areas of 30 beds each for substance abusers, and two 16-bed mental health living areas.

"The additional security which will be provided at the new facility is a welcome and very needed change," Everhart said.

The new facility is located three miles west of Larned at the southeast corner of the state facilities complex.

*Bridal Registry*  
**Michelle Hawkins & Daniel Morris**  
Reception: June 27th  
**Julia Williams & Josh Jennings**  
June 21st  
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Sod houses a must without trees

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

When the early settlers arrived in Thomas County, and across much of the high plains, they found a shortage of materials with which to build homes. Trees for lumber as well as stone were practically nonexistent, and although clay was available for bricks, manufacture was beyond the ability of many settlers.

So with typical Yankee ingenuity, they turned to what native materials were available. Some dug holes in the side of hills, and others built their houses of sod.

In order to turn sod into building blocks, the pioneers cut the tough prairie sod into long even strips with their plows.

The roots of the native grass sod held the blocks together. They cut these strips into slabs about two feet long and one foot wide, and laid the slabs or sods like bricks to form walls and build their homes and buildings to shelter livestock.

The sods were usually cut wet, and laid wet immediately. Some were reinforced at the corners with three by six foot boards fastened together and nailed to the sod to prevent the corners from splitting and pulling apart with age.

By hauling a minimum of lumber from the closest railroad point, they provided roofs, windows, and doors. The boards for the roof were

covered with tar paper, then a layer of sod covered by a layer of clay was laid over the roof boards, and the pioneers had a snug, almost fire-proof home, warm in winter and cool in summer, strong and solid enough to resist the blizzards of winter, storms of summer, prairie fires and Indian arrows.

The floors were sometimes dirt, and the walls were plastered with a sticky clay mixed with sand, and then whitewashed with lime mixed with water.

Grass and other prairie vegetation often grew on the roof.

Complete instructions on how to build a sod house may be found in a book called Sod Houses and Dugouts in North America, published by Vernie Kear in 1971, which is available at Thomas County Historical Society.

In an effort to revive interest in western Kansas pioneer farm life and to preserve the history of the settlement of the open and treeless plains, Kear established Sod Town east of Colby, which was a very popular tourist attraction in the 1950s through 1970s.

An estimated one million sod houses once dotted the prairies from a hundred miles east of the Missouri River to the foot of the Rocky Mountains, and from mid Canada to Mexico.

Most of them have long been

only a memory, although farmers and ranchers may still be able to see depressions in the ground and other evidence of human habitation.

In 1955, about 35,000 persons registered at a sod house on the Thomas County Fairgrounds which had been erected so old settlers could meet and swap stories during the county fair, according to an article in the

Thomas County Herald dated Oct. 8, 1985. The house was built by sons and daughters of pioneers under the supervision of Kear, contained about 3,800 sod blocks and weighed about 89 tons.

The windows and door frames, rafters and other woodwork were fastened to the sod by long, hand-whittled wooden nails. Windows and doors were homemade using barn sashes.

The roof was covered with sod and a good layer of clay.

In 1960, Kear moved the sod house to the site two miles east of Colby on US Highway 24 and called the area 'Sod Town.'

The museum area comprised an authentic sod school house, a sod house, and a general store. There were also a few storage buildings and a sod dugout which were constructed in 1959 through 1962.

*Editor's note: This is the first of a two-part series on sod houses.*

Franklin, Johnson plan wedding for August

Sarah S. Franklin of Minnetonka, Minn., and Kyle R. Johnson of Atlanta plan to marry Saturday, Aug. 30, 2003, at the Goodland First Methodist Church.

Gerald and Linda Franklin of Goodland are the bride-to-be's parents.

The prospective groom's are Bob and Marcia Johnson of Maple Hill and Ann Johnson of Lenexa.

The bride elect graduated from Goodland High School in 1998 and from Kansas State University in 2002 with a Bachelor of Science degree in bakery science and management and a second bachelor's degree in food science and industries.

She is an analyst in the bakery lab at Cargill Inc. in Minneapolis, Minn.

The prospective groom graduated from Wabunsee High School in 1997 and from Kansas State with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in 2002. He works at Lockheed-Martin Aero-



Kyle Johnson and Sarah Franklin plan to marry on Saturday, Aug. 30 at the Goodland First Methodist Church.

nautics in Atlanta.

Freda House of Goodland is the bride elect's grandmother. The prospective groom's grandparents are Melvin Johnson of Hoxie and Gerald and Lois Meitl of Dresden.

Happenings

**Golden Buckle Square Dance**  
The Golden Buckle Square Dance club will not have a dance Saturday as has been the custom.

Instead, there will be one on Saturday, June 28. Also there will only be one dance sponsored in July which will be on Saturday, July 12, but not on Saturday, July 25. For many years they have had dances on both the 2nd and the 4th Saturdays.

**Ellis County Rodeo**  
The Ellis County Fair Association is taking entries for its rodeo pageant planned for Tuesday, July 15. Rules, schedule and entry forms can be found on the fair website: elliscountyfair.com.

Queens, princesses wanted

The Thomas County Rodeo Queen and Princess Contest is now taking entries for the event on Friday, July 25. Queens ages 17-23 and princesses ages 10-16 by Jan. 1, 2003 are eligible. Contestants must also be a resident of northwest Kansas, said Marie Skolout, one of the coordinators.

Contestants will be judged in horsemanship, interview, speech and modeling. A trophy saddle will be awarded to the queen along with belt buckles for the queen and princess. Prizes will also be awarded for horsemanship, ticket sales and people's choice award.

The 2004 Thomas County Rodeo

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat	\$3.15
Corn	\$2.47
Milo	\$3.80
Soybeans	\$5.80

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Community Calendar

**SATURDAY, June 14**

Colby Rod Run, Fike Park, beginning at 9 a.m.  
Wings Upon the Prairie drop-in , 485 N. Franklin, 5-8 p.m.  
Bingo, Jaycees Center, 7 p.m.  
Sixth Street Alcoholics Anonymous, 1275 West 6th, 8:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, June 15** — Father's Day

Colby Rod Run, Fike Park, awards ceremony  
Sunday Morning Sixth Street Alcoholics Anonymous, 9:30 a.m.  
Wings Upon the Prairie drop-in , 485 N. Franklin, 2-8 p.m.  
Higher Ground, Youth Group, Berean Church, 6 p.m.  
New Hope Narcotics Anonymous, City Hall Basement, 8 p.m.

**MONDAY, June 16**

Duplicate Bridge, airport, 1 p.m.  
Quit smoking support group, 775 E. College Drive, 1 p.m.  
Monday Afternoon Bridge, Meadowlark Manor, 1 p.m.  
Take Off Pounds Sensibly, United Methodist Church, 7 p.m.; weigh-in, 6-6:30 p.m.


Queen and Princess will be crowned on July 29 at the PRCA Rodeo during the Thomas County Fair.


The deadline for entries is Friday, July 18. For questions or to get an entry form, call Skolout, (785) 586-

*Thank You!*  
**We want to thank each one who came to our 50th Anniversary Open House and for all the cards. It truly was a special day.**  
**Hank & Evelyn Regier**






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**Feelings**  
*We feel sad, for what we have lost.  
We feel happy, for what we have had.  
We feel poor, for the empty spaces.  
We feel rich, for we have each other.  
We will cry, for what we can't have.  
We will laugh, for our memories abound.  
We will hurt, for the love we can't give.  
We will rejoice, for the love we have received.  
We will be restless, for our lives are not whole.  
We will be peaceful, for we know it is not forever.*  
ANNETTE HAMILTON  
**Natalie and Tom**

  
**Chester R. Duffey**  
Chester R. Duffey, the oldest son of Ray & Eva Duffey was born April 17, 1923 and passed away June 11, 2003. He lived his entire life on the family farm southwest of Menlo, Kansas. He attended Menlo Consolidated School, graduating in 1942. He started working for the Union Pacific Railroad in March 1952 and retired in May 1983. He took great pride in his work and loved to tell of his experiences to co-workers, friends and family.  
Chester was preceded in death by his parents, 4 sisters: Eileen Murphy, Madine Benda, Winifred Smith and Juanita Kling. He is survived by two brothers, Harold and Cleo, and 5 sisters: Nina Brandt, Bernita Gawith, Freda Weyand, Leoma Steiger and Loreda Wagner. Chester enjoyed his 37 nieces and nephews and many great-nieces and nephews.  
Graveside services will be held on Saturday, June 14, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. at the Menlo Cemetery. The casket will remain closed. Friends may pay their respects and sign the book at Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel from 1:00-9:00 on Friday, June 13th and from 9:00-1:00 on Saturday. Memorial contributions may be made in Chester's memory to Hospice Services, Inc. Donations may be left at Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel.

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<b>2003 Pontiac Grand Prix SE</b> White, 4-door, 10,500 miles <b>\$15,500</b>	<b>2001 Pontiac Bonneville SE</b> Silver, 4-door, 30k miles <b>\$14,500</b>
	
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First & third Tuesday afternoons:  
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