

# Family

## Death

### Ronald Joseph "Ron" Billinger

Ronald Joseph Billinger, 63, of Hays died Sunday, Nov. 16, at the Hays Medical Center in Hays. Mr. Billinger was born on June 30, 1940 at St. Peter to Michael Joseph and Kathryn (Sauer) Billinger. He married Brenda Finucane on Feb. 13, 1965 at Joliet, Ill. He married Mary White on Oct. 2, 2003 in Hays. He was butcher and a farm worker and a member of the St. Anthony's Catholic Church in St. Peter, attending the catholic school there and was a member of a coin club.

Survivors include his wife, Mary, of the home; a son, Michael, Hays; daughters, Mary Kathryn Copeland of Hays, Maureen Billinger of Chicago, Ill.; Monica Billinger of Hays; Torie Richmond of Stockton; a stepdaughter, Jason Gray, a stepson; Kathryn Pierce, his mother; brothers Jerry of Surprise, Ariz., Rich of Overland Park, and Stan of Great Bend; a sister, Erlena Wheeler of Rose Hill and 10 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Carmelita Billinger and Sophia Billinger.

Services will be held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 22, at the St. Anthony's Catholic Church in St. Peter. Burial will be in the church cemetery. A family prayer service will be at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, at the Hays Memorial Chapel Funeral Home, 20th and Pine. Visitation will also be from 6 to 8 p.m., also at Hays Memorial Chapel.

Memorials may be made to the Inpatient Oncology Unit at Hays Medical Center or the Dreiling-Schmidt Cancer Center at the Hays Medical Center, 2220 Canterbury Dr., Hay, Kan. 67601.

### Philip Robben

Philip Robben, 70, of Oakley, died Sunday, Nov. 16, 2003 at Gove County Medical Center in Quinter. Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Oakley. Visitation will be from 2 to 9 p.m.

Wednesday at Kennedy-Koster Funeral Home in Oakley. Rosary wake service will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

## Commodity distribution set for next week

USDA commodity distribution will be from 9 to 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 24 at the RSVP office in the Senior Progress Center, 165 Fike Park.

Eligible people may receive commodities according to income guidelines at that date and time only. Distribution is on a first-come, first-served basis and may not begin until the advertised time.

Participants are asked to not arrive at the distribution site more than 30 minutes prior to the distribution. Eligible people who are not able to attend the distribution may send a signed permission slip with another person to pick up their commodities. However, one person will only be allowed to pick up commodities for a total of two households. For information, call (785) 462-6744.

# High Plains Lions discuss Veterans Day history

## Clubs

Allies and Germany. This day was called Armistice Day and in 1926 a Congressional resolution stated that this day be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer designed to perpetuate peace through goodwill between nations.

Some states observed this day on the fourth Monday of the month and some states Nov. 11th.

In 1938 Congress declared Nov. 11 a legal holiday. A day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace. All government buildings, schools and churches were called upon to display the American flag. France,

Great Britain and Canada also observed the day to fallen soldiers of WWI. Great Britain named the day Remembrance Sunday and Canada named it Remembrance Day.

In 1953 Alvin King of Emporia suggested the name be changed to Veterans Day in honor of all veterans. Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1954 issued the first Veterans Day proclamation.

In 1990 the Colby National Guard was called to aid their country in the war at Desert Storm.

The Colby unit is a general support maintenance supply division. Don said, "We thought we were ready to go...we weren't. We spent about two and a half months at Fort Riley getting ready to deploy."

When they arrived there was an air war going on. They were located about 300 miles south of the border. They expected to be there about a year, but luckily the war came to a closing and they returned to Colby in about five months.

He said the real emotional part of the ordeal was the returning home. He explained that there were many soldiers that had served in the Vietnam War and "They finally got the respect and honor they deserved. The group flew home in a 747 jet. No one rode in the first class section except the Vietnam Vets."

The Colby unit suffered no casualties in Desert Storm.

There were many things to be rejoicing their return, but "The Viet-

nam Vets finally got the honor upon returning they deserved."

Don Morton joined the guard in 1979 and is looking forward to his 25-year service. The club appreciated Don's Veterans Day program.

In other business the club was reminded of the Dec. 6 pancake feed and the Dec. 8 Christmas party. The next club meeting will be Nov. 24.

## Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat	\$3.68
Corn	\$2.38
Milo	\$3.95
Soybeans	\$7.24

# State teams with university to study health insurance

## Sandy Praeger

### • Kansas Insurance Commissioner

Now the federal government has awarded the Kansas Insurance Department an additional grant of \$185,000 for research into ways to make health insurance more affordable and available to Kansans.

We have once again turned to the University of Kansas Medical Center for assistance.

Dr. Barbara Langner from the KU School of Nursing will lead our efforts to refine the existing survey information and update what we know about health insurance in Kansas.

We already know that uninsured people tend to avoid the doctor except for serious injuries or illness. This is inefficient and expensive.

Many of these same people tell us they cannot afford the existing health insurance products offered.

Small employers say they are finding it harder to offer health benefits to their employees.

Larger employers are facing rising costs and often pass more of those insurance costs to their workers.

Individual insurance policies have seen the greatest percentage of cost increases in the past decade.

And the cost of healthcare and health insurance are projected to increase at similar rates for the next several years.

There are no simple answers. But with good information and effective research, we can get a better idea of who is uninsured, and how we might be able to fill the gaps. We will talk to employers, employees and

Kansans from all walks of life.

And, as always, the Kansas Insurance Department welcomes input from anyone with ideas, questions or concerns.

My thanks go out to the University of Kansas Medical Center and the Health Resources and Services Administration for helping us with this important research.

I look forward to working closely with these partners as we develop a strategic plan to improve health in-

urance coverage in Kansas.

We will talk to employers, employees and Kansans from all walks of life.

And, as always, the Kansas Insurance Department welcomes input from anyone with ideas, questions or concerns.

If you have a question or concern about an insurance-related issue, please call our Consumer Assistance Hotline at 1-800-432-2484.

## Community Calendar

### TUESDAY, November 18

Second grade Pow-Wow - Colby Grade School  
Rebekahs, Betty Carney, 10 a.m. (2nd & 4th Tuesday)  
Rotary, Student Union, noon  
Alcoholics Anonymous, city hall basement, noon (non-smoking)  
Kids&Kaboodle "Before the Horse," Grades 1-6, PMAH, 4 p.m.  
Ladies cards and social, Country Club, 5:30 p.m.  
Weight Watchers, United Methodist Church, 6:30 p.m.  
Domestic Violence Support Group, 7 p.m. Call 462-2860  
Sweet Adelines International, United Methodist Church, 7:30 p.m.  
New Hope Narcotics Anonymous, City Hall Basement, 8 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, November 19

Genesis Thomas County, 350 S. Range, 10 a.m.-noon & 1-4 p.m.  
TeleFriend Information meeting, 5:30 p.m. (call 462-6996)  
Caregiver Support Group, Colby College Student Union, 7 to 9 p.m. (1st Wednesday of each month) - Jennifer Anderson, coordinator, (800) 432-7422.  
Kids&Kaboodle, "Before the Horse," 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., PMAH  
Gem Lions, Gem Community Building, 7 p.m. (2nd & 4th Wed.)  
Solid Rock Junior High Youth Group, Armory, 7-8:30 p.m.  
Pinochle, American Legion, 7:30 p.m.  
Alcoholics Anonymous & Al Anon, 1275 West 6th, 8:30 p.m.

### Family and friends of

### Viola Jones



are requesting a card shower or telephone calls for her 85th Birthday

on November 22, 2003

Phone: 785-460-2342

520 West 4th St.

Colby, KS 67701

Thank you!

## Happenings

Roger Hale of Colby returned recently from a trip to the Ozarks.

He spent some time in Arkansas and southern Missouri. He was in Branson for their Christmas opening and attended many of their Christmas shows. While in Eureka Springs, Ark. he visited Granny Fran's Art Gallery.

Granny Fran was the wife of the late Tom Curry. Tom was an art instructor at Colby Community College for many years and Frances taught in the Educational Department. Her gallery is near Berryville, Ark. and she is selling art work of Tom's and her own primitive paintings.

He also spent a day at the Precious Moments Inspiration Park at Carthage, Mo. Enroute to the Ozarks he helped his cousin John Gregory celebrate his 50th birthday at Assaria and he also visited his aunt Pat Gregory.

Junia Hale has been a guest of her son Roger for a few days. While she was here they took advantage of several of the community dinners in the area and the United States Air Force Band performance.

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