Family

Deaths

Gordon Blane Sekavec

Gordon Blane Sekavec, 30, of Albuquerque, N.M. died Saturday, Jan. 17, 2004 in Albuquerque.

A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 24 at Kennedy-Koster Funeral Home in Oakley with Pastor Mike Eurit officiating. Inurnment will be at Oakley Cemetery in Oakley.

Visitation will be from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday at Kennedy-Koster Funeral Home.

Mr. Sekavec is survived by his parents, Glenn and Judy Sekavec of Albuquerque, N.M., his grandmother, Josephine Reed Bricker of Colby; two uncles, and many cous-

He was preceded in death by his grandparents Dr. Gordon B. and Lucile A. Sekavec and Kenneth M.

He was born March 10, 1973 to Glenn B. and Judith Jo Reed Sekavec in Morehead City, N.C. He lived the past 14 years in Albuquerque after moving from Craig, Colo.

He was a student at the University of New Mexico.

Mr. Sekavec was a member of Albuquerque United Methodist Church, a member of All Star Rugby Team, CitiCorp Awards Program and a volunteer with the Animal Rescue Society.

Memorials are suggested to the Animal Humane Society and can be sent in care of Kennedy-Koster Funeral Home, 217 Freeman, P.O. Box 221, Oakley, Kan. 67748.

Scott Dean Armstrong

Scott Dean "Giggles" Armstrong, 41, of Fayetteville, N.C. died Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2004 at his home in Fayetteville.

A memorial service will be held in Goodland in early summer. There was cremation.

Mr. Armstrong is survived by three sons, Nicholas Armstrong of Chapel Hill, N.C., Patrick Armstrong and Daniel Armstrong, both of Hope Mills, N.C.; one daughter, Elizabeth Armstrong of Hope Mills, N.C.; his parents, Merle and Donna Armstrong of Goodland; one brother, Michael Armstrong of Fairway; two sisters, Vickie Haremza of Flagstaff, Ariz. and Brenda Lingo of Maricopa, Ariz.; and paternal grandmother Evelyn Armstrong of Goodland.

He was born Aug. 24, 1962 in Goodland to Harry Merle and Donna Collins Armstrong. He graduated with the class of 1980 from Goodland High School.

He served his country in the United States Army for 15 years, earning the rank of staff sergeant. He enjoyed performing and creating balloon animals for children at parades and at other functions as "Giggles the Clown."

Preceding him in death were his paternal grandfather Harry M. Armstrong and his maternal grandparents Lewis and Mae Collins.

Memorials are suggested to the Scott Armstrong Children's Education Fund and may be mailed to Koons Funeral Home, 211 N. Main. Goodland, Kan. 67735-1555.

Markets

FASTRACK G.E.D.

Quotes as of close of previous business day **Hi-Plains Co-op**

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Church group discusses state conference in April Immaculate Heart of Mary Circle

#747 met in the Knights of Columbus room Jan. 8, 2004 at 7:30 p.m.

Gail Bremenkamp, Regent, called the meeting to order. The opening prayer was led by Marj opening ode was sung. The flag salute followed.

Daughters of Isabella corresponchaplain, Father Joe Popelka was

Gail told us the theme of the state

Clubs

conference in Great Bend is "Let the Spirit Soar in 2004." It will be held April 17 and 18 at the Highland Robben and said as a group. The Motel and Convention Center and the Dominican Sisters' Convent. Saturday there will be a good spiri-Three thank you notes were read. tual theme such as "The Rosary" Highlights of the November Parish and "Adult Prayer." The banquet Council minutes were read. Gail will be in the evening. Three memread the state and international bers expressed their interest to attend. Gail wondered if the circles in dence. The letter from the state Northwest Kansas could host a convention in Colby. It was discussed but no real plans were made.

The obligation and closing prayer

concerns state lawmakers employed, as well as the costs for

Special education dollars

By JOHN HANNA

Associated Press Writer TOPEKA (AP) — A proposal from Gov. Kathleen Sebelius to change the distribution of special education dollars for public schools is drawing criticism because a few districts would lose big.

Sebelius says she wants the special education dollars to follow students, rather than teachers and paraprofessionals. However, some educators think her plan would hurt districts with high concentrations of special ed students.

In 58 of Kansas' 302 school districts, special education aid would decrease more than 1 percent, and in 26, aid would drop by more than 10 percent, according to an AP computer analysis of data provided by the state Department of Education.

Topeka would suffer the biggest hit, losing a third of its funds. Lawrence and Chanute also would lose more than a quarter of their funds.

Aid would increase more than 1 percent in 238 districts, and seven with fewer than 600 students would see their allocations more than double. Six districts' gains or losses would be 1 percent or less.

Masking the effects of the special education change would be other parts of Sebelius' plan, which overall would phase in a \$304 million spending increase for schools over three years. Recommendations for higher general aid and additional funds for kindergarten, bilingual education and programs designed to help poor students ensure that no district's total budget would decline during the 2004-05 school year.

Still, some educators remain nervous, believing her special education proposal blunts the benefits of her total plan.

"The general feeling in the education community is that it's not a good way to go," Mark Tallman, a lobbyist for the Kansas Association of School Boards, said Monday.

Sebelius acknowledged during a news conference on Friday that her plan "may not be the best way" to handle special education funding and promised her administration would continue to review the issue.

However, she defended her goal: "I have been given the impression that, by and large, most people support the move so that the special ed dollars are allocated per child and not per teacher."

Some \$250 million in special education funds now are distributed to districts based on the number of

teachers and paraprofessionals

transporting special ed students. Sebelius' plan would lump special ed funds with \$2.6 billion in general state aid, allocating \$434 per pupil.

The problem, Tallman said, is her plan allocates extra money for every student, rather than extra funds only for special ed students.

A few districts would face multimillion-dollar losses: Wichita, \$5.8 million; Topeka, \$3.3 million; Olathe, \$2.3 million, and Lawrence, \$1.9 million. Chanute would lose \$314,000.

"Her plan doesn't match the needs or the populations," said Diane Gjerstad, a lobbyist for Wichita schools, which would lose nearly 20 percent of its special ed dollars. "Those who have small populations probably think it's a pretty good idea. Those who have large populations are probably wincing.

But not all of the losers would be large districts. Those suffering the largest percentage losses include Atchison, Iola, and Quinter, with 353 students. While small districts would benefit, so would some larger ones, the AP computer analysis showed. Liberal is among the top 10 in percentage gains, and the Blue Valley district in Johnson County would see its special education funds increase 7.8 percent.

ode sung.

The hostesses for the evening were Loretta Zerr and Rosemary Bange who served delicious cookies and coffee.

The next meeting is in February and the hostesses will be Joan Ziegler and Marla Crumrine.

Solomon Valley 4-H holds January meeting

Last Monday on Jan. 12 was Parent's Night for the Solomon Valley 4-H Club. The meeting was called to order by President Lonnie Wilson. Jennifer Woofter led the club in the flag salute. Roll call "Your New Year's Resolution" was answered by 18 members and 14 Secretary, Kay Splattstoesser

read last months minutes and they were approved as corrected. The club was reminded to turn in pizza sales sheets and encouraged

to be thinking about County Club We started a Parent's Night pro-

gram with Mark Kendrick giving a

with the KBI (Kansas Bureau of Investigation). He even passed around his bullet proof vest for all to see. Leland Wilson followed giving a talk on a 4-H hog he had

taken in 4-H back in 1969. Wayne Wilson shared about his newest crop on the farm - alfalfa. It's a crop he really enjoys.

Lisa Schroeder gave a demonstration on how to sew a hooded baby towel. Jeanne Wilson led the club in the song "Row, Row, Row Your Boat".

For recreation, Dena Huttfles involved parents and members in a

Club visits Prairie Senior **Living Complex**

The Solomon Valley 4-H Club met at 6 p.m., Dec. 8, at the Thomas County Office Complex to check water samples they had brought from their home wells. Shirley Weber from the Northwest Kansas Local Environmental Agency, gave members and parents helpful and informative information on bers recited the 4-H Pledge.

was said as a group and the closing very informational talk on his job water testing. Each member and family watched and participated as their sample was tested. The club then went to Prairie Senior Living Complex and sang Christmas Carols for the residents.

The meeting followed at the 4-H building with Amy Wilson presiding as president. Fourteen members answered roll call by sharing their favorite Christmas carol. Dustin Splattstoesser led the flag salute and Keri Kendrick led the club in singing "We Wish You a Merry Christ-

A service project suggestion was "Ringing the Bell for the Salvation Army". The idea failed for a lack of time and interest.

Amy Kendrick volunteered to be our Pizza Sales chairman and each member was asked to sell at least five pizzas.

Dustin Splattoesser gave a fun project talk on Steps to Good Dog Grooming. Lindsey Wilson showed the club a good time with a game for recreation.

Julia Hutfles and the 4-H mem-

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