

# Family

## Deaths

### Isaac Paul Ruth

Isaac Paul Ruth, 16, an Oakley High School junior, formerly of Colby, died Oct. 18, 2008 at Children's Hospital in Aurora, Colo. He had been battling Burkitt's lymphoma since May.

Isaac was born Feb. 3, 1992, in Wichita. He lived with his parents in Greenwich, and he attended Sunrise Christian Academy in Wichita for two years. He went on to attend Benton Elementary until he was 9. In May 2001, Isaac, his mother and sister moved to Colby, where he attended Colby Elementary School for a year. Gwen Hurtt joined the family and they moved to Oakley.

There, Isaac met his best friend, Kyle Sander. Isaac and Kyle did a lot of hunting, paint balling and calling each others house to see who was having what for supper.

Isaac attended Oakley Elementary School in Monument and went on to Oakley Middle School. He played football and loved video games, playing with friends at home and many others online.

Isaac attended Oakley High School his freshman and sophomore years and started his junior year on the computer. He became a part of the FFA and 4-H in Oakley, and with the help of friends raised a pig named "Stripper." Stripper

went on to earn one of the highest amounts ever paid for a pig at a 4-H auction in Oakley.

In May, Isaac was diagnosed with lymphoma. His strength and courage came through and Isaac defied the doctors' expectations many times.

Isaac was preceded in death by his grandfather, Virgil Staley.

Survivors include his mother, Julie Staley, and stepmother, Gwen Hurtt; a sister, Bridget Staley, a brother, Justin Barton and his girlfriend Cassandra Kuhlman, all of Oakley; his grandparents, Beth Staley, Wichita; Richard and Helen Shaw, Bogue, N.D.; Roger and Marlene Voss, Colby; and Tommy Hurtt, Trenton, Neb.

The family suggests contributions to the Isaac Ruth Memorial, in care of the Peoples State Bank, Box 10, Oakley, Kan. 67748, to help critically ill children in the area.

### Peter Andrew Siruta

Peter (Jr.) Andrew Siruta II, 67, Levant, died Sunday, Nov. 16, 2008, at Logan County Hospital of Oakley.

He was born on May 24, 1941, to Peter Andrew and Susan (Andrejki) Siruta in Thomas County, one of 12 children. Mr. Siruta went to school in Levant and graduated from Brewster High School in 1959. He served in the Army from July of 1959 to 1962.

On Nov. 22, 1986, he and Gail Young married at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Burlington. Mr. Siruta enjoyed horseback riding, farming and ranching.

Preceding him in death were his parents, a son, Short Siruta, three sisters and three brothers.

Survivors include his wife, of the home; a son, Andy (Marla) Siruta of Jefferson, Iowa; two sis-

ters, Carol (Rich) Juenemann of Burlington and Helen (Don) Juenemann of Leoville; three brothers, Bob Siruta of Levant, Chuck (Sandy) Siruta of Wichita and Kenny Siruta of Goodland; two sisters-in-law, Bonnie Siruta of Winona and Marilyn Siruta, and two grandchildren.

Services were to be today, Thursday, Nov. 20, 2008, at First St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Burlington, with Pastors Paul McNall and Jeff Hanson officiating and burial in Fairview Cemetery, Burlington.

Visitation was Wednesday at the Love Funeral Home, 377 15th, Burlington.

The family suggests contributions for juvenile diabetes in care of the funeral home.

### M. Harold Norton

M. Harold Norton, 86, Brewster, a machinist and explosives expert, died Saturday, Nov. 15, 2008, at Goodland Regional Medical Center.

He was born on March 3, 1922, to Marcus Beede and Nettie Estelle (Fite) Norton in Wray, Colo. Mr. Norton went to schools in Wray and Joes, Colo. He was in the Navy from Feb. 16, 1942, to Oct. 6, 1945. After his military service, he moved to Goodland.

On May 12, 1949, he and Kathryn Florence Newton mar-

ried at the Methodist Church in Goodland. The couple moved to Brewster in 1963.

Preceding him in death were his wife; two sisters, Lilly McKelvey and Stella Northcutt; and two brothers, Edward Norton and Marcus Norton.

Survivors include a brother, Lloyd Norton of Pueblo, Colo., nieces and nephews.

Services will be a 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, 2008, at the United Methodist Church, 202 Nebraska, Brewster, with Pastor Dorine Chamber officiating. Inurnment with military honors will be at 2 p.m. (Central Time) at the Goodland Cemetery.

The family suggests contributions to the Harold Norton Education Fund or Wheat Ridge Acres and left at the service or sent to Koons Funeral Home, 211 N. Main, Goodland, Kan. 67735.

### Frank J. Ptacek

Frank J. Ptacek, 77, Wilson, father of Ken Ptacek of Colby, died Friday, Oct. 31, 2008, at Salina Regional Health Center.

He was born May 24, 1921, at Wilson, the son of Emil J. and Elizabeth Vopat Ptacek. He lived in Wilson all of his life. He was a farmer-stockman and worked for the Army Corps of Engineers for 20 years.

He was a member of the St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, and a Fourth-Degree member of the Knights of Columbus.

On Sept. 16, 1947, he married Theresa Vlcek at Wilson. She preceded him in death on April 24, 1997. He was also preceded in death by a son, Thomas, in 1955.

Other survivors include three daughters, Cheryl J. Ptacek, Wilson, Susan McKernan, Wichita, and Theresa Logan, Salina; three sons, Tim J. Ptacek and Frank E. Ptacek, Salina, and David Ptacek, Moundridge; a sister, Marie Kratky, Wilson; 13 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Services were Monday, Nov. 3, at the church with Father David Metz officiating and burial in the church cemetery. Foster Mortuary, Wilson, was in charge of arrangements.

The family suggests contributions to the church or Knights of Columbus.

# Monitor your child in day care

By Tanya Koehn  
Northwest Kansas Child Care Resource and Referral

As a parent, you're constantly putting your child first. When interviewing providers, consider your child's point of view.

Think about what kinds of people and activities make your child comfortable and happy. Think of the questions your child might ask:

- Who's going to care for me?
- Are there plenty of toys I can reach and enjoy?
- Where will I keep my stuff?
- Is everyone having fun?

The right care giver will develop a positive, loving relationship with your child. This is a key indicator of quality care. The right care giver will also relate well to you and have values and attitudes that are similar to yours. Watch the caregiver interact with the children. Then ask these questions:

- Does the provider seem warm

and friendly?

• Is she or he calm and patient with the children?

• Does the provider listen to the children?

• Does the provider talk to them and encourage them to express themselves?

• Does the provider have special training or credentials?

Not all child care providers are the same. Below are some definitions that will explain the differences.

**Registered Family Day Care Home** — A provider's home in which care is provided for not more than six children up to age 16, with not more than three children under 18 months, including children under 12 related to the provider. Registered providers do not have annual checks by Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

**Licensed Day Care Home** — Care provided for a maximum of

10 children under 16, which includes children under 11 related to the provider. Licensed providers have annual checks by the state.

**Group Day Care Home** — Care provided for a maximum of 12 children under 16, including children related to the provider. Annual checks by state.

Once you find a care provider, ways to stay involved include:

- Speak to your provider daily.
- Drop in early to pick up your child.
- Offer to help with special events — parties or field trips.

Visiting and participating in events sends a message to your child and your child's caregiver that you think what your child is doing and learning is important!

For more information, contact Tanya Koehn at Northwest Kansas Child Care Resource and Referral Office at (785) 460-5482. To obtain a child care referral, call (888) 678-2548.

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