

# Family

## Deaths

### Dale Carrier Woofter

Dale Carrier Woofter, 79, former owner of Woofter Pump and Well in Hoxie and father of three Colby residents, died Saturday, Nov. 21, 2009, at his home.

He was born Dec. 27, 1929, to Babe and Helen (Carrier) Woofter on a farm south of Colby. He attended school in Colby and Hoxie and later joined the Navy. After returning home, he married Gladys Shipley on Nov. 29, 1949, in Hoxie.

Mr. Woofter worked for many years in the oil field and water well business before he retired. The drilling business is now owned by a son.

He was active in Alcoholics Anonymous for 39 years. Nothing gave him more pleasure, his family said, than seeing a recovering alcoholic's life changed and families reunited.

He took pride in watching his grandkids grow into adults. His joy was enhanced by the addition of great-grandchildren. Another of his passions was fishing; he was always ready to hit the lake for a day's fishing with friends and family.

Preceding him in death were his parents; a brother, Glenn; his in-laws, Raymond and Ella Ship-

ley; a daughter-in-law, Donna Jo Woofter; two sisters-in-law, Freda (Howard) Shafer and Margie Minium; and three brothers-in-law, Gerald Shipley, Ross Shipley and Howard Transue.

Survivors include his wife, of the home; five sons, Jay (Susan) Woofter, Hoxie, Michael (Jennifer) Woofter and Carl Woofter, and fiancée Teresa Sander, all of Colby, Walter Woofter, Overland Park, and Alan (Janece) Woofter, Imperial, Neb.; a foster son, Troy Meitler of Halstead; two daughters, Sherida (Dennis) Shoff, Goodland, and Sue (Dana) Lanning, Colby; a brother, Duane (Ethel Jean) Woofter of Lincoln, Neb.; three sisters-in-law Leah Woofter, Beatrice, Neb., and Della Jean Shipley and Maxine Shipley of Hoxie; a brother-in-law, Bill Minium, Hoxie; 25 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2009, at the Hoxie Christian Church, with Derek Slack officiating and burial in the Hoxie Cemetery.

The family suggests memorials to Alcoholics Anonymous in care of the Mickey-Leopold Funeral Home, Box 235, Hoxie, Kan., 67740.



Mr. and Mrs. Sowers on their wedding day in 1959

## Potluck party planned

The children of Jeanette Marleen (Ratzlaff) and James Dwight Sowers of rural Colby plan a celebration for their parent's 50th wedding anniversary beginning at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 29, in the basement of the College Drive Assembly of God Church, 245 W. College Drive in Colby.

The couple married Nov. 22, 1959, at the Mingo Meadow Mennonite Church. They have lived and farmed in the Colby area since.

They had eight children, Sonja (Robert) Wimer, James Vyrle Sowers, the late Yvonne Sowers, Julie (Marshall) Rhea, Jason (Angela) Sowers, Justin (Mary) Sowers, Joel (Becca) Sowers and Janelle (A. Dee) Elliot, and 14 grandchildren.

They request a card shower and your presence at a sing-along and leftover turkey potluck at the church.

Cards may be mailed to 1342 U.S. 83, Colby, Kan. 67701.

## 'Poinsettia Pops' concert coming up

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra plans a "Poinsettia Pops" concert at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at the Colby Community College Frahm Theater with Andrew Salvador as conductor.

The orchestra was organized in 1986 under Bill Beck, a retired school music director. It was, and is, composed of volunteer musicians ranging from students to senior. Musicians travel to Colby from northwest Kansas and northeast Colorado, including Weskan, Goodland, Oakley, Hoxie, Colby, Grinnell, Burlington, Quinter, Levant and Monument. Every Monday evening from September through April, 40 to 50 plays gather to rehearse.

At least three concerts, and often four, are offered each year. Since area schools do not offer an orchestra program, Pride of the Prairie has met a need for students, as well as adults, who play a stringed instrument. It offers a cultural outlet for musicians, as well as audiences in the area and adds an element of culture. The orchestra is a part of the Western Plains Arts Association pro-

gram and draws support from the Friends of the Orchestra and the Kansas Arts Commission.

Participating in this concert will be Josiah, Kendra and Mary Beth Akers, Birkley Barnes, Jonathan Bosserman, Leona Dickman, John Dollar, Emily Dumler, Donna Engel, Bruce Frahm, Noelle Gallagher, Dr. Steve Golden, Annie Hengen, Dana Inloes, Eileen Jones, the Rev. Bob Kelly, Haley Kistler, Leanna and Nick Larmer, Shannon Leebreck, Jeong-Ah Lee, Carol Ann McGuire, Mary Beth Myers, Hansie Pretorius, Bev and Ed Rucker, Andy Salvador, Mary Shoaff, Rochelle Shoemaker, Alysa Shubert, Kathy Spencer, Audry Welty, Stacey Williams, Jan Wolf and Dr. David Younger.

The program will include classical pieces, traditional holiday music and a Christmas carol sing-along. Concert goes can join the players for cookies during intermission.

Admission is by Friends of the Orchestra Membership or tickets available at the door, \$3 for children and senior citizens and \$7 for adults.

## Disaster application deadline next week

The application deadline for most uninsured crops under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program is Tuesday, Dec. 1, says the U.S. Farm Service Agency.

Ross Sloan, executive director for the agency in Thomas County, said crops eligible for benefits are limited to those which are not insurable here.

Dec. 1 is the final date to pay fees and get coverage for grasses, including alfalfa, clover, mixed forage, and oats, he said. The administrative service fee

can range from \$250 to \$1,875; farmers must pay the fee and apply by the deadline.

This coverage entitles eligible producers to a payment of 55 percent of the average market price for the commodity if a natural disaster caused at least a 50 percent production loss.

Farmers must obtain coverage on noninsurable crops and have crop insurance on insurable crops to remain eligible for the supplemental disaster assistance programs, Program Technician Bonnie Schiltz said.

## Thomas County farmers eligible for hail disaster loss

Thomas County farmers may be covered under a disaster designation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for Cheyenne, Rice and Sherman counties for losses caused by high winds and hail from July 17 through Sept. 3.

Farm operators in the adjoining counties of Barton, McPherson, Stafford, Ellsworth, Rawlins, Thomas, Logan, Reno and Wallace may also qualify.

This may make farm operators eligible for low-interest emergency loans from the Farm Service Agency. Farmers have eight months from Nov. 6 to apply for loans to cover part of losses. Each application is considered on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability.

The department has other programs available to help farmers and ranchers, including the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program, which was approved as

part of the 2008 Farm Bill, the Emergency Conservation Program, Federal Crop Insurance and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.

Farmers should contact the Farm Service county office at 915 E. Walnut in Colby, 462-7671, for information or go to disaster.fsa.usda.gov.

## Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day

Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$4.51
Corn (bushel)	\$3.42
Milo (hundredweight)	\$5.44
Soybeans (bushel)	\$9.36

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## Postpone winter mulch until plants go dormant

Many gardeners find the concept hard to accept: You shouldn't protect most perennial plants from each year's late-season slide into freezing weather.

"With few exceptions, plants need to go through the transition on their own so they enter winter dormancy on time," said Dennis Patton, horticulturist with Kansas State University Research and Extension. "You only apply winter mulch after that, because its sole purpose is to hold in the soil's cold. That way, it can buffer any air temperature changes that come later during freeze-thaw cycles."

Plants become fully dormant after two to three hard freezes in the mid to low twenties, he said.

Winter mulch protection is particularly important for limited- or shallow-rooted plants, Patton said. In Kansas, they include such "semi-hardy" plants as

mums and strawberries, as well as trees, shrubs, perennials and bulbs planted less than a year ago.

Winter mulch is vital to the survival of grafted roses, typically all hybrid teas, he said.

"Winter's repeated pattern of freezing and thawing kills more plants in the Midwest than subzero temperatures do," Patton said. "In unmulched landscapes, the shifts can heave some plants from the ground, exposing roots to air. Plus, they can expose plant grafts and crowns - the places where stems and roots meet - to hard, killing freezes."

In late winter, the mulch's role can be even more important, he said. The insulating cover can hold in soil's cold so that unseasonably warm weather doesn't cue plants to break dormancy.

"If these periods are long enough for unmulched perennials

to lose some winter hardiness," Patton said, "the plants are open for major, even fatal damage when the weather turns cold again."

Because winter mulch also can moderate soil moisture loss, it can benefit any landscape plant. Freeze-thaw cycles tend to dry out soil, stressing plants, the horticulturist said. Mulch also protects soil from erosion that winter rains and snowmelt can cause.

For perennial gardens, Patton recommends a 2 to 3 inches of a light, airy mulch material, such as straw, shredded leaves or pine needles. (One bail of straw can cover about 100 square feet 3 inches deep.) Deeper layers can suffocate plants over winter.

Plants with woody stems or trunks will need an inch or two of "air space" between mulch and wood - "as if their trunk is inside the hole of a mulch doughnut," he

said. "As they decompose, mulch 'volcanoes' that touch the main stem can cause the same damage as placing a woody plant too deep in the ground."

Grafted roses are the exception to the doughnut rule, Patton said. The best protection for them is a mound of garden soil, gathered from elsewhere in the landscape, about 6 inches deep. A top layer of straw or leaves will help prevent erosion.

"You should periodically inspect roses and other low-branching shrubs until spring growth begins and you remove winter's mulch," he said. "You may have to institute other protective measures if varmints are using the mulch as cover or climbing on top of snow-covered mulch to gnaw on branches."

## Corrections

The story "Open enrollment for 'Plan D' next week," on Page 1 of the Friday, Nov. 13, *Colby Free Press*, incorrectly listed the phone number of the Social Services Department at Citizens Medical Center. The correct number is 460-4858. This was due to an

editing error.

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The *Colby Free Press* wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

Thanksgiving Worship Service ~ 10:00 a.m.  
VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME  
**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD  
5th & Country Club  
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**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

*In Family Tradition,  
City Limits will be Closed  
Thanksgiving Day!*

*From our family to yours, we wish you  
and your loved ones a safe and  
happy holiday!!*

**2227 S. Range Ave. • Colby, KS • 785-462-6565**

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**Lon E. Sowers**

A Celebration of Life Service for Lon E. Sowers, Gem, was at 2 p.m. Saturday at the United Methodist Church in Colby, Kansas. Private inurnment will be at a later date.

Mr. Sowers died Monday, November 16, 2009, at the Via Christi St. Francis Medical Center in Wichita, from injuries incurred in an accident while driving his ox team near his home in Gem on November 12.

He was born July 29, 1923 to James Orval and Ruby Ida (Nahrung) Sowers at their farmstead in Thomas County. He attended country schools, then attended and graduated from Colby High School in 1941.

He married Mary Marie Saddler on June 20, 1943 at the Gem Baptist Church in Gem, Kansas. She preceded him in death on December 26, 1992. He also was preceded in death by his parents; his mother-in-law, Leota Saddler; two sisters, Grace Bastin and Edith Sowers; two brothers, Wayne and Byron; an infant son; two infant grandchildren; several brothers- and sisters-in-law; and several nieces and nephews.

Survivors include his children, Pat Ziegemeier (Carl), Gem; Kathy Jamison (Ed), Quinter; Rue Sowers (Marilyn), Goodland; Lynn Skinner (Jim), Perry; and Becky Twitchell (Bill), Larned; 15 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; brothers, Lewis, Bird City; Dwight, Colby; Frank, Benkelman, NE; Ralph, Fort Bragg, CA; and Robert, Gallup, NM; sister-in-law, Erla Merideth, Round Rock, TX; and brother-in-law, Donnie Saddler, Colby.

Mr. Sowers lived in Thomas County his entire life. He farmed in Thomas County for 55 years, and also maintained a farm near Broadview, MT since the early 1960s. He was an avid gardener, and took great pride in sharing from his bountiful pumpkin patches. He celebrated his 72nd birthday by driving a "dude" wagon with a team of Yorkshire horses in the Great American Cattle Drive from Fort Worth, TX to Miles City, MT; he joined the drive at North Platte, NE. He was a lover of all animals, especially his horses and Scottish Highlander oxen. He raised, trained, and drove several of his oxen teams in many parades in the Midwest, including the Frontier Days in Cheyenne, WY. He provided countless rides for youngsters of all ages in his various animal-drawn vehicles.

The family suggests memorials to the Thomas County Historical Society, 1905 S. Franklin, Colby, KS 67701; or sent in care of the Harrison Chapel, 190 S. Franklin, Colby, KS 67701.