

# Family

## Faith doesn't fear shadows

Groundhog Day was celebrated Tuesday. According to folklore, if a groundhog emerges from its burrow on this day and fails to see its shadow, it will leave the burrow, signifying that winter will soon end.

If, on the other hand, the groundhog sees its shadow, it supposedly will retreat into its burrow, and winter will continue for six more weeks.

The most famous groundhog is Punxsutawney Phil, who makes his predictions from his home in Punxsutawney, Pa., but when I lived in Atlanta, General Beauregard Lee, known as "Beau" to his friends, was the winter/spring prognosticator for the southeast.

Regardless of which critter I relied on for my hope that spring would soon be here, I always thought it odd that a sunny day would send Phil or Beau skittering back into his hole, while clouds, rain or even snow meant that spring was waiting in the wings. I was told that the groundhog was afraid of his shadow, and that was what sent him underground. Even though the sun is shining, fear of a shadow across his path sends him on the run.

Fear. Our culture has become surrounded with messages to be afraid. Politicians make us afraid so they will get our vote. Advertisements make us afraid so they can get our money, and even churches use the fear of God's wrath to bring in members.

But God is not about instilling fear, but quelling it, assuring us of divine protection and care. "Fear not" is the greeting that comes whenever God or God's messenger is about to announce news. From Abraham through Moses and Joshua and the prophets, God assured the people that the Lord was with them, and if they trusted in God's presence, they would have nothing to fear. In the New



**Carol Rahn**

### • From the Pulpit

Testament, Zechariah, Joseph and Mary are all greeted with, "Do not be afraid." Jesus often spoke these words as he ministered and brought healing to the people. When he came to the disciples after his resurrection, he greeted them, "Why are you frightened?" (Luke 24:38, NRSV). Jesus was all about easing fear. And in the Book of Revelation, the very first words that God speaks are, "Do not be afraid" (Rev. 1:17, NRSV).

If we truly know and trust the promises of God, fully revealed and present with us in Jesus Christ, we should not be afraid, especially of the shadows that cross our path throughout our life. Admittedly there are things that we should have a healthy fear about, but it is the lurking shadows, the less than rational "what ifs" that can lead us to trust more in the principalities and powers of this world than in the promises of Christ.

When we believe that Jesus is the light of the world, when we trust that his light will overcome any encroaching darkness, then we also believe that his strength is sufficient enough for us to face any shadowy "what ifs" that can pull us away from faith and hope in God. But often, when faced with an anxious situation, we see shadows around us, become afraid and are tempted to run into our holes and miss the light that can strengthen us and give us hope.

When we are rooted in God's grace, we need not be anxious about anything because we know God will give us whatever we need to meet any challenge. We

can react with fear and become scared groundhogs running for cover, retreating into our burrow, or respond with faith, showing strength as people saved by the light of God's grace through Jesus Christ.

Those shadowy "what ifs" will always be with us. We are afraid of looking foolish, of being wrong, of too much change in our lives. We worry about those who are different from us and get stressed when faced with a new situation. Old childhood wounds become adult anxieties, and too much trying too hard eventually becomes not wanting to try at all.

We become afraid and react with anger, withdrawal or building walls that won't let anyone near us. Instead of reaching out to the One who can help, we look for our own remedies for fear, and, more often than not, find our fear has made things worse, not better.

We forget the love and grace we have in Christ that can give us the strength to face the shadows and safely move beyond them into God's light and peace.

So - is it fear or faith? Are you a groundhog or are you grounded in Christ?

*Carol Rahn is pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Colby.*

### Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$3.80
Corn (bushel)	\$2.99
Milo (hundredweight)	\$4.80
Soybeans (bushel)	\$7.96



**Mr. and Mrs. Ed Jordan**

## Reception planned to honor newlyweds

Bonny Brandyberry and Ed Jordan of Lenora, were married Monday, Nov. 9, 2009, in a private ceremony.

The bride's children include Stacey and husband Jarrod Jones of Hays; Kelly and wife Andrea Day, Lenora; Wendy and husband Bradley Keith, Hill City; and Jessi Day, Lenora.

The groom's children are Chavonne Wyatt, Ellis; and Chanelle Jordan, Wichita.

Together, the couple has fourteen grandchildren.

A combined reception for their wedding, the groom's birthday and his retirement is planned for Saturday, Feb. 20, at the Cowboy Junction in Hill City. Time is 7 to 9 p.m. with a dance to follow.

The couple and their families invite everyone to the celebration.

### Rotary Club

Colby Rotary Club met Tuesday with 23 members and guest Tom Petyon in attendance.

President Arensdorf reported on District Governor Binder's challenge to raise funds for shelter boxes for Haiti. \$363 was raised at the meeting.

Jeff Horlacher achieved his Fifth Tier Paul Harris Fellow Award and was presented a sapphire pin.

For the program, Gary Schuette shared cars from Boy Scout Pinewood Derbies. One of Schuette's childhood cars was on display. The derby originated in California in 1953. The majority of tracks are 31 to 35 feet long with six lanes. Members learned tricks of the trade to get maximum speed and distance out of a pinewood car.

Sacha Sanguinetti won Roto-Lotto.

The club meets at noon each Tuesday at the college.

- Relda Galli

### Corrections

The story "Thomas County fifth grader shines in free-throw contest" on Page 8 of the Thursday *Colby Free Press* incorrectly said the state championship free-throw contest will be this Saturday. It will be Saturday, Feb. 13. This was a reporting 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.*

*We want your local news: e-mail to colby.editor@nwkansas.com*

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**Thank You!**

The family of Gene Criss would like to thank everyone for their cards, food, flowers, visits, and memorial gifts. Thanks to Dr. Regier and Hospice Services for all their help in his final days.

*Pat Criss, Nancy Selinger and family, Terry Criss and family.*

**Help Wanted**

- Cooks
- Kitchen Staff

Filling positions immediately. Will train the right person. Must be able to work evenings and some weekends. Please pick up an application or ask for Dana at City Limits.

**2227 S. Range Colby, KS.**

**CITY LIMITS BAR & GRILL**

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**SERVICES DIRECTORY**

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.

**Schedule of church services**

**GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP**, 2nd and Sunrise, Oakley, Pastor James Bloom, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church 10:15 a.m., Wednesday evening Bible Study and Intercessory Prayer 6:30 p.m. 785-671-4020.

**COLBY INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH**, 730 E. 3rd (former Jaycee's building), Pastor Bernard Heinz, 785-460-0313, Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.

**ASCENSION-ON-THE-RAIRIE EPISCOPAL**, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 785-462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday, Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May, Christian Education for Youth, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September through May.

**COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD**, 245 W. College Dr., Colby, Pastor Steve Todd, Worship Service 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 9 a.m. for all ages. Wednesday Youth at The Rock 3:30 and 7 p.m. Sunday evening services at 6:30 p.m. on all Sundays except the 5th Sunday of every month. 785-462-8234. cdag@st-tel.net.

**BEREAN CHURCH**, 1000 S. Franklin, 785-460-2763, www.colbyberean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Pastor Mark Carlton, Senior Pastor and Pastor Jason Purdy, Youth Pastor. Middle School Group Wednesday 7 p.m. at the Attic and High School Youth Group Sunday 6 p.m. at the Attic. AWANA Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the church.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Dr. Joan Harrington, Interim Pastor, 615 W. Webster, 785-462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m.; Bible Study: Sundays at 7 p.m. RC Club 2nd and 4th Sundays at 2 p.m.

**COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH** (Affiliated with Southern Baptist), 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 785-460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m. Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday's.

**PLEASANT HOME CHURCH**, Pastor, Perry Baird, 785-890-3375, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

**WINONA METHODIST CHURCH**, 501 Bellview Ave. Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. (CDT)

**To become a sponsor, call Andrea, Heather or Shaly today at 462-3963.**

**MINGO BIBLE CHURCH**, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Intern Pastor Tom Peyton. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Sunday Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Nights: 1st Sunday of the month: potluck following morning service - no evening service; 2nd Sunday: services at 6:30 PM; 3rd Sunday: informal fellowship - bring a snack to share!; 4th and 5th Sunday: services at 6:30 p.m.

**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC**, 785-462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05 p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 a.m. and 9:25-9:40 a.m. on Sunday.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 785-462-6342, Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

**WESLEYAN CHURCH**, 320 W. Pine - 785-462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**, 1145 S. Franklin - 785-460-6605, President Gary Slavens, 785-460-2656; Erwin Mitchell, 1st counselor, 785-460-1952; Tim Wilson, 2nd counselor, 785-846-7796. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History Center open to public, 7-9 p.m. Thursdays or by appointment. Call 785-462-3571.

**REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC.**, 345 N. Franklin, Dr. W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Class, Sunday, 9 a.m., Sunday worship, 10 a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Centers (Bible School), 6 p.m. Shop online at: www.rlmregionalchurch.com.

**COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 785-460-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. www.colbyumc.org

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**, Minister, Jarrod Spencer. 510 E. 4th, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Interpretation for the deaf, Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**, (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Lyle Knebel, 385 W. 3rd - 785-460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church at 10:00 a.m.

**OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Brewster, Sunday worship 9:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m.

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Rev. Don White and Rev. Tim Llewellyn, East 5th & Country Club, 785-462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:30 a.m.; Services, 11:00 a.m. Visit us at www.trinitycolby.com.

**LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH**, 205 1st St., Pastor Jerry Vincent, 785-586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.

**BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

**THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD**, Joan Dingwerth, Director, 785-687-2565.

**REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 785-687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

**BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 785-694-2720, Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. mornings 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 p.m. - Children's Ministries (Royal Rangers/Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Prayer, Thurs. 4:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study.

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