

# Family

## Deaths

### Lindy A. Bretz

Lindy A. Bretz, 80, a Wallace rancher and farmer, died Friday, July 23, 2010, at the Logan County Hospital in Oakley.

He was born Aug. 2, 1929, in Logan County, the son of Roy A. and Mary (Tauscher) Bretz. His parents preceded him in death.

He is survived by his wife, Lola M. (Marsteller) Bretz, of Wallace; two daughters, Rhonda C. Nichols, Winona, and Shonda R. Pinley, Holiday Island, Ark.; a brother, Trauscher Bretz, Wallace; three sisters, Mary Glad, Green River, Ariz.; Lois Ann Siemers, Wichita; and Shirley McKinney, Arcadia,

Neb.; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 27, at the Winona United Methodist Church, with the Rev. Sheryl Johnson officiating and burial in the Winona Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. today at Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel in Colby.

The family suggests memorials to the church or to a charity of the donor's choice in care of the funeral home, 745 S. Country Club, Colby, Kan., 67701.

### Troy T. Dillinger

Troy T. Dillinger, 95, a longtime Brewster resident, a leader in farm co-operatives and a former Sherman County commissioner, died Friday, July 23, 2010, at the Prairie Senior Living Complex in Colby.

He was born Aug. 21, 1914, the sixth child of Troy Clyde and Amanda (Thompson) Dillinger, in a sod house nine miles northwest of Brewster. He attended New Hope School in Sherman County.

On March 21, 1935, he married Lottie L. Watkins in Brewster, and they lived and farmed in the Brewster area. He was a member of the Pleasant Home Church for 65 years, serving on the church board.

He had been a member of the Brewster School Board and the Brewster Telephone board, serving when S&T Telephone Cooperative Association was formed. Other boards he served on were the Brewster Co-op, Farmland Industries and the Rural Electric cooperative.

He enjoyed training horses and rode his Morgan horses in parades and used them to help his neighbors whenever he could. He was a volunteer with the Llanos 4-H Club. Most of all, he enjoyed his family and family activities.

In the spring of 1994, the Dillingers had their farm home moved into Brewster when they retired. Lottie died on Oct. 18, 2000.

On Jan 30, 2002, he married Olive (Niswonger) Thiel. They continued to live in Brewster until his health failed, then moved to Fairview Estates in Colby. Olive died Sept. 15, 2005.

Also preceding him in death were his parents; five sisters, Elna Bice, Elva Craft, Alta Kerton, Oleta Snow, and Clarice Blakely;

and a brother, Sidney Dillinger.

Survivors include a son, Edwin (Susan) Dillinger, Westmoreland; three daughters, Doris (Allen) Quenzer, Brewster; Wilma Forbes, Phoenix; and Arleta (Mike) O'Connell, Kansas City, Mo.; a brother, Dwight Dillinger, Hays; a sister, Olga Schwartzkopf, WaKeeney; a sister-in-law, Vesta Dillinger, Mankato; a step-daughter, Sonja Nelson, Arizona; a step-son, Dale Thiel, Colby; 10 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 2 p.m. (Central Time) Wednesday, July 28, 2010, at Pleasant Home Church near Edson, at 3190 County Road 70, with Pastors Perry Baird and Mike Pinkleton officiating. The church had a chair lift. Burial will be in the Brewster Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m. (Central Time) Tuesday at the Koons Funeral Home in Goodland.

The family suggests memorials to the Gideon's International, in care of the funeral home, 211 N. Main, Goodland, Kan., 67735, or through www.gideons.org.

## Colby Rotary Club

The Colby Rotary Club met Tuesday at the Colby Community College Student Union. Special guests were District Gov. Peter and Coline Marcus, Assistant Gov. Dick and Sharlyn Liess of Goodland, Dr. Luke Tubbs and Avery Renner.

Gov. Marcus gave the program, highlighting Rotary international projects such as Polio Plus and water improvement, and commending the club for being a driving force in building a medical clinic in Ghana, West Africa.

Perfect attendance awards for

# Is zucchini a favorite or a pest?



**Kay Melia**

• The Gardener

In the past 25 or 30 years, I've had a lot of fun writing and talking on the radio about zucchini. It seems as though zucchini has always been the butt of hundreds of jokes, mainly because of its profuse production habit.

Plant a couple of hills of the stuff and you are almost guaranteed to grow enough for your family, and most of the rest of the families in your block. Grow more than two hills, and you have real trouble.

Strangely enough, there are people who seem to enjoy eating zucchini. I sell quite a bit of it at the Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings, most to folks who never volunteer to tell me how they fix it for their family.

I enjoy slipping some of it into unsuspecting friends cars, or dropping off a sack full on their front porch. Some of the people I know have learned over the years

to keep their cars locked during the period of zucchini production, which doesn't really work for non-gardeners who have no idea when zucchini production begins.

A friend of mine used to tell everyone how to determine when zucchini production began by watching the ditches along the roads near my house for zucchini vines that were growing from the zucchini that people had thrown out of their cars after stopping at my house. That wasn't true of course, because zucchini does not grow as a vine. It's a big-leaved bushy plant, with no vining capability.

## Vegetables may not set fruit

The growing number of U.S. gardeners growing vegetable crops may be facing some strange problems, including plants that bloom but don't set any fruit.

"The reasons for lack of fruit set often vary by type of vegetable," said Ward Upham, a horticulturist with Kansas State University Research and Extension, "but one factor can cause this condition in several species at about the same time. It's a rookie's mistake - applying too much fertilizer."

Up to a point, excess nitrogen inspires plants to focus on foliage, Upham explained. Lush top growth may outstrip the roots' abilities to supply nutrients and water. Other results can include a delay in flower production and/or a decrease in fruit set from the flowers that do appear.

Tomatoes - the nation's favorite homegrown veggie - are one

of the plants that also can have weather-related problems. Tomato plants simply won't set fruit when nighttime temperatures are above 75 degrees, he said. Because their pollen output gets sparse when nights are cooler than 50, the plants normally won't set fruit then, either.

"Squashes, on the other hand, can have actual pollination problems - ones that gardeners may be able to do something about," Upham said.

In the "strange, but true" category, squash plants' early flowers are typically all males. As time passes, however, the flower production becomes more balanced between males and females. (The female flowers have a tiny fruit behind their blossom.)

"That's when you need pollinators flying around," the horticulturist said. "Unfortunately,

My friend the late Bill Gray and I were helping to judge a pie contest at the county fair one year. The pies would be passed down the line of judges, who would cut themselves a small slice and taste it. Bill passed me an apple pie, which I proceeded to taste, and when my mouth was full, Bill whispered that it was not apple, but mock apple. It was zucchini pie!

I almost gagged, but had to swallow my mouthful because all the ladies who entered the contest were sitting out front, intently watching. Bill thought it was funny.

And then there was the guy who discovered a useful idea for utilizing zucchini. He would peel it, chop it and put enough pulp into a plastic bag so that it would fit into a shoe he had purchased that was just a little too tight. He forced

the bag into the shoe carefully, and put the shoe in the freezer for a day or two. Remove the shoe from the freezer, take the bag of zucchini out of the shoe when it melts, and bingo! Your shoe had expanded enough that it fit perfectly. You may want to try that on both shoes!

One spring, a friend of mine bought a dozen very small cantaloupe plants at the store, and at the correct time, stuffed them in the ground in his garden. Alas! The plants had been mislabeled at the store. They were zucchini! Imagine the sorrow and hard feeling when the plants matured and production began. A sign was put up in his front yard that read: Zucchini for Sale - \$1 per cord.

Wonder, wonderful zucchini. What is your favorite use for it?

## Corrections

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.



Troy Dillinger

**Happy Birthday**  
**Barb Heinze**

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bees have been having their own problems in recent years, and their numbers are down. No American can afford to be overusing or misapplying insecticides any more."

If bees aren't visiting, however, squash plants are fairly easy for gardeners to hand-pollinate. The process involves using a small artist's brush to transfer pollen from the anther of a male flower to the stigma of a female flower.

"Pollinating all possibilities may be a bigger job than any one gardener wants to handle," Upham said.

## Markets

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

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Corn (bushel)	\$3.12
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