

Family

Deaths

L. Alberta Mick

L. Alberta Mick, 72, a Colby native who had lived in Brewster, died Thursday, Dec. 2, 2010, at the Scott County Hospital in Scott City.

She was born Dec. 16, 1937, in Colby, the daughter of Marion L. and Eva A (Yeo) Jefferies. On Aug. 10, 1980, she married David B. Mick in Oakley. She had lived in Scott City since 1980, moving there from Brewster.

She worked for J.F. Beaver Advertising. Mrs. Mick was a member of the Atwood United Methodist Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a sister, Marian Elaine Gallen, and a granddaughter, Brooke Isenbart.

Survivors include her husband, of the home; a son, Earl Shannon, Bird City; a sister, Bonnie Evans of Scott City; three grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2010, at the United Methodist Church in Scott County, with the Rev. Dennis Carter officiating and burial in the Scott County Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. today and from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday.

The family suggests memorials to the L. Alberta Mick Memorial Fund in care of Price and Son Funeral Home, 401 S. Washington St., Scott City, Kan., 67871.

Dora Alice George

Dora Alice (Darmstatter) George, 88, Colby, died Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010, at the Valley View Senior Life Center in Junction City.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 9, 2010, at the Penwell-Gabel Johnson Chapel, 203 N. Washington St., Junction City, with the Rev. Marshall Stanton officiating. Graveside services

will be at 11:30 a.m. at the Keystone Cemetery near Longford.

A memorial service will be held in Colby at a later date.

The family suggests memorials to the Colby United Methodist Church or the Citizens Foundation, in care of any Colby bank or the funeral home, Box 826, Junction City, Kan., 66441.

Colby Rotary Club

The Colby Rotary Club met Tuesday with 31 members and guests Dr. Max Heim, Christina Ostmeyer, Colton Rundel, Ian Koerperich, Hannah Matchall, Madison Gaiwith, Cameron McLaughlin and Tommi Miller.

Cindy Cersovsky had the program, which featured Colby High School Debate Team members speaking about the format of a debate round and demonstrating a cross examination.

Teams debate one nationally-selected topic each year. They must be prepared to address solvency, topicality, justification, workability and inherency, and be prepared to debate both in favor of and against an issue. They practice two to three hours several times a

week.

Ostmeyer said debate is being offered as a class this year instead of an extracurricular activity, which helps the team with their preparations. The team members also talked about how they find information for their arguments.

They compete in two-man teams in novice and open divisions.

All of the students said debate has made them more open-minded, more confident and provided them with the ability to speak more eloquently. The team is coached by Nancy Rundel.

Jerry Arensdorf won Roto-Lot.

The club meets each Tuesday in the student union at the college.

— Relda Galli, reporter

Corrections

In the Golden Plains honor roll printed on Page 6 of the Wednesday, Nov. 24 Colby Free Press, Morgan Ritter's name was omitted from the middle school principal's honor roll. This was due a computer error at the school.

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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.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day	
Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$6.82
Corn (bushel)	\$5.02
Milo (hundredweight)	\$8.50
Soybeans (bushel)	\$11.70

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

Survey finds shifts in attitudes

Most Kansans think their state is a good place to live, though not as many as thought so in 2009, and, by a significant margin, more think the economy is "poor" or "very poor."

These are among findings of the 2010 Kansas Speaks survey by the Docking Institute of Public Affairs at Fort Hays State University. Between June 21 and Sept. 10, more than 4,000 Kansas households were contacted by mail and by phone, and 1,002 completed the survey.

The full report, Kansas Speaks 2010, in .pdf form, is available through a tab on the Docking Institute home page, www.fhsu.edu/docking/. The survey has a 3.1-percent margin of error.

This summer, 58.5 percent of respondents rated Kansas as an "excellent" or "very good" place to live. In 2009, that was 64.2 percent. The percentage of Kansans who rate Kansas as "fair" to "very poor" went from 8.4 percent in 2009 to 13.1 percent.

On the economy, people who think the economy is at least "good" dropped by 12.2 percent (from 52.5 percent in 2009 to 40.3 percent in 2010). At the same time, the percentage regarding the economy as "fair," "poor" or "very poor" rose from 47.5 to 59.7.

Kansans were more concerned that economic conditions pose a threat to their or their families' welfare. Overall, only 11 percent are "not concerned" about an economic threat, as opposed to 15.1 percent in 2009, but those who are "very concerned" are up to 40 percent (from 28.7 in 2009).

"The 2010 edition of Kansas Speaks has again provided interesting and valuable information about Kansans' policy preferences and their opinions of Kansas government, also showing that many of these opinions have changed

since last year," said Dr. Gary Brinker, director of the institute.

He said that Docking researchers this year implemented a new address-based sampling technique with a mixed mode of data collection using both phone interviews and a mail questionnaire for households with cell phones and unlisted numbers.

"This new method allows virtually all Kansas residents to have an opportunity to participate," he said. "The results suggest that the poor economy has had a significant impact on Kansans' perceptions of their quality of life, opinions on energy, taxation and health care policies, and evaluations of elected public officials."

We hope that readers interested in the state of Kansas will find the results informative and that public officials will use the results to help them make decisions that reflect the will of their constituents."

Other interesting results from the 2010 Kansas Speaks survey:

- Last year, respondents were more likely to report higher satisfaction with Democratic leaders' efforts to improve the Kansas economy; this year, they were more satisfied with Republican ideas for improving the economy.

- Satisfaction with Gov. Mark Parkinson in 2010 tended to be moderate, while satisfaction with Gov. Kathleen Sebelius in 2009 was polarized, with respondents tending to be either highly satisfied or highly dissatisfied.

- Most respondents favor keeping taxes as they are. Of respondents favoring tax increases, most preferred to increase the sales tax, while few favored increasing property taxes.

- When asked about changing tax policies, respondents were most likely to favor increasing taxes on large corporations and the top income earners and decreasing

taxes on small businesses.

- Republican respondents were more likely to favor decreasing taxes on top income earners and large corporations. Democratic respondents were more likely to favor increasing taxes on these groups.

- Satisfaction with elected state officials tended to be lower in 2010 than in 2009.

- The more strongly respondents identified with the Republican Party, the more likely they were to be satisfied with their U.S. senators.

- Just over half of respondents wanted to decrease state spending, but reduced spending was much more a preference among Republican respondents.

- Most want state money for social services increased (46.4 percent) or kept the same (46.1 percent).

- Most (52.8 percent) want the public school budget increased, even though the number of those who want to cut it was higher than in 2009 (8.4 percent from 6.7).

- Although support for higher education declined slightly in

2010, almost two-fifths favored increasing public money for higher education.

- Support for oil and coal development was stronger in 2010 than in 2009, with most respondents believing economic benefits outweigh the environmental impact.

- Respondents favored a state law that requires Kansas citizens to provide proof of legal residence to any law enforcement officer who asks for it, with 69 percent saying they would at least "somewhat support" and 54 percent saying they would "strongly support" such a law. Only 18.4 percent of respondents said they would oppose such a law. The more strongly respondents identified as Republican, the more likely they were to support such a law.

- Two-thirds of respondents said they believed health-care costs would be higher as a result of the recent federal health care "reform." Republican respondents were more likely to think so than Democrats. However, respondents in 2010 were more likely to report satisfaction with Kansas' health-care system than in 2009.

Rowdy bus stops for police

SWISSVALE, Pa. (AP) — A Pittsburgh-area school district is promising to discipline some junior high students who got so rowdy their bus driver made an unscheduled stop at a police station to quiet them down.

Woodland Hills School District spokeswoman Maria McCool says the incident happened Nov. 19 when the driver for A.J. Myers and Sons was taking student home from an after-school activity about 5 p.m.

McCool says the driver stopped at the Swissvale police station, where an officer quieted the students. Some students opted to walk home from the station but McCool says no students were ejected from the bus and all were offered rides home or were given the option of calling their parents.

McCool says the district is still trying to determine how many students were involved and how they'll be disciplined.

Farewell Reception for Dr. LaDonna Regier

Monday, December 6, 4 - 8 p.m.
City Limits Convention Center
(Otterbourne Room) 2227 S. Range, Colby

As Dr. Regier is relocating to Ghana, West Africa to perform missionary work, she will not be able to take many belongings. She has requested no gifts. However, if you wish, donations may be made to the Ghana Clinic or a charity of your choice in her name.

Thank You

I Pat Sumner, the "P" of P&D Auto Repair want to announce my retirement at the end of this year. I have had the opportunity to serve this community as a mechanic since 1964 when I began my work for Jack Firzsimmons Motors. In 1981 Dave Bixenman and I opened P&D Auto and have been very grateful for our success over the years. This success would not have been possible without the trust and loyalty of our customers. I want to take this time to thank Colby and the surrounding communities for your support. I also want to send a special thanks to Dave and all of our faithful employees, past and present, who have helped make this business what it is today. Although I am looking forward to retirement, I will certainly miss the relationships I have made during this period in my life. P&D Auto Repair will continue to be open for business and looks forward to serving this community as it has over the past 30 years.

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GEM LIONS CLUB

Gem Community Building
December 8, 2010
11:00 AM - 7:00 PM

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Lucille G. (Kammer) Smith

Lucille G. Smith was born at the family home in the town of Cedar, in Smith County, KS, on December 9, 1911, the second child of Charles E. and Della (Bullard) Kammer. She departed this life at the Prairie Senior Living Complex in Colby, KS, November 12, 2010.

While Lucille was a small child, the family moved back to their original homestead in the Brownville area south of Brewster. She had one sister, Pauline, and two brothers, Carl and Harold.

Lucille attended school at Brownville and graduated in the Class of 1929. After graduation, Lucille helped with cleaning, cooking, and doing laundry for several neighbors. On July 3, 1935, Lucille was united in marriage to Glen F. Smith in Goodland, Kansas. They began their life together on a farm south of Brewster, farming, raising hogs and milking Brown Swiss cows.

During the Thirties, Glen and Lucille, along with Raymond and Elma Kutscher operated a food booth at the Thomas County Fair, becoming the best food vendors there with their delicious fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy and home-made pies. Their profits provided Lucille and Elma with new winter coats.

Glen and Lucille spent three years in Denver, where she dispatched for Western Auto Transports and Glen was a mechanic and serviceman. They returned to their Brownville farmstead. In 1967, they moved to the former Schwerdt farm, two miles further south, where they were living at the time of Glen's death, December 12, 1971.

Lucille loved farming and continued to drive tractors for Alphonse Richards and other area farmers until 1973, when she began to work at the S&T Telephone until she retired in 1983.

In April, 2005, Lucille moved to the Prairie Senior Living Complex in Colby, where she resided at the time of her death. All of Lucille's family remember her love of cooking and her most enjoyable pastime, crocheting.

Lucille was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, her siblings and a nephew, Dean Schwerdt.

Survivors include her sister-in-law, Nadine Kammer of Brewster, Kansas and the following nieces and nephews the children of her sister and two brothers: Norma Lee Martin or Lawrence, Kansas; LaVona Rand of Goodland, Kansas; Connie Bissitt of Buffalo, Kansas; Carol Trouche of Mountainburg, Arkansas; Cathy Sumner of Ottowa, Kansas; Lou Brown of Prescott, Arizona; Chuck Kammer of Silver City, NM; and Kenneth Kammer of Brewster, Kansas. Also surviving from her husband's side of the family are three nieces, Erma Tubbs and Marilyn Selby, both of Colby; and Genevieve Rummel of Canon City, Colorado.

MOVIE PASSES

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(Passes must be used within 7 days.)

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