

# Family

## The year Christmas wasn't

The year was 1962, and I was 10 years old. And to be honest, I had NOT been a "good boy" that year.



**Craig Crossman**

### • From the Pulpit

I had been sent to the principal's office a number of times, and when your father is the principal, you get disciplined not only at school, but also at home.

My parents had been dropping the hints about needing to be good lest Santa pass me by. But at 10, I was not sure if I still believed in Santa. I did believe enough to write him a letter outlining what I wanted for Christmas and what page it was on in the Sears "Wish Book."

Christmas morning came around and my sister and I were downstairs at first light. We could look all we wanted, but we could NOT touch until everyone had gathered. And that meant all the adults had to wake up, fix the coffee, grab showers, and, in general, just torture us. When I look back on it now, I imagine all that was done by 7:30 a.m., but for a 10-year-old it seemed forever.

Finally, everyone had gathered in the living room, and I was named as the "present passer" because there were rules governing even this part of our Christmas experience. Each person had to be given a present, and then we all waited until everyone was ready, and then we unwrapped our presents.

I was sooooo excited, and I waited until the last possible instant to open mine. What would it be? Looking back, I must have asked for most everything in the Sears book. It was time: so I finally just ripped off the paper - none of this saving paper to use again! - and saw ... socks.

Socks! Of all the rotten Christmas tricks!

So I waited for the next round and as I handed out everyone's

second present, I tried to sneak a peek at what my next one looked like. Finally I saw it; a big package; and my hopes soared again.

This time? Underwear. So went the rest of the morning, and by the time all the presents were passed out, it really hit me. Santa didn't bring me anything! So, what was the reason? Was I that bad? Or did Santa not even exist!

Later that day, my dad told me he could see another envelope in the tree, buried way deep in the branches. He asked me to get it for him, so I did. And it was for ME!

The letter was from Santa, who reminded me that being good was necessary all year long, not just for the last few weeks leading up to Christmas. It then directed me to the coat closet by the front door. And there amidst the coats and books was a present for me. And not just any old present. It was a Lionel Train Set! In fact, I still have that train set.

In the train was a note directing me to a new place in the house where, miracles of miracles, I found another present - Lincoln Logs. And this note directed me to go somewhere else ... well, I guess you know what happened that day.

The people of Israel had begun to lose hope. It had been 400-plus years since there had been a message by God through the prophets. But during that glorious time word started getting around about a Messiah, the one they had been

waiting for. The one who was going to, once and for all, take the Roman foot off their necks, and make them the Great Nation of Israel.

Soon, however, they began to hear more. This cannot be the Messiah; he's just a baby boy. Is this really what we had been promised, what we expected?

But later; 30 years or so later, it started again. The Messiah really was here. He was healing people, turning water into wine, walking on water! Just wait until he takes on the Romans! But it didn't turn out that way, did it? The problem then was that the Israelites put their expectations above God's true plans. And just like I was on my "underwear Christmas," they were disappointed.

And then they heard he had been crucified. What a waste! We believed in him, but now he has let us down. Just like all the others who claim to be our messiah.

But, just as I learned that Christmas, the best can sometimes come later, after we have given up.

Does this sound like your life, your experiences? Then I encourage you, in the name of Jesus Christ, to look again "under the tree."

You might be surprised at what you find.

*The Rev. Craig Crossman is pastor of the First Baptist Church, 615 W. Webster in Colby. He may be reached at 462-2867 or 443-5154, or e-mail him at revcrossman@gmail.com.*

## Pheasant group names biologist to serve northwest Kansas area

By Mary Lou Olson

The Oberlin Herald  
ml.olson@nwkansas.com

Ryan Diener of Columbia, Mo., has moved to Oberlin as the new "Farm Bill" biologist for Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever serving northwest Kansas.

Diener is living in a city-owned house at the former youth ranch at Sappa Park, east of Oberlin. He is a native of Marthasville, Mo., and a graduate of the Washington, Mo., High School.

"My job will be to help anyone in Cheyenne, Decatur, Rawlins, Thomas, Sheridan, Norton and Graham counties who is interested in any wildlife habitats," he said, adding that he will also consult with area landowners on conservation and land use.

Rick Pauls, with the Sunflower Chapter of Pheasants Forever, who helped get a biologist in Oberlin, said he hopes that having him will not only help improve wildlife habitat in the area, but also help landowners willing to get that job done get some money to pay for it.

He added that he hopes that the program will also produce an increase in walk-in hunting leases.

The biologist position was created using money from the Grassroots Conservation Campaign, a joint effort of Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever in Kansas. The campaign is a partnership among the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 40 Kansas Pheasants Forever chapters, 11 Kansas Quail Forever chapters and sponsoring corporations, foundations and individuals to improve a million acres of Kansas habitat for pheas-

ants, quail and other wildlife.

The program is designed to provide technical assistance to farmers and ranchers, through one-on-one consulting, about the benefits of conservation programs, such as the Conservation Reserve, as well as assisting farmers and landowners.

Pheasants Forever began employing Farm Bill biologists in 2003, the organization says, and now has more than 60 working in 12 states: Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Idaho, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota and Wisconsin. The biologists have contacted and consulted with more than 35,000 landowners, resulting in the improvement of more than 1.34 million acres of land for wildlife.

Diener is Kansas' fourth Farm Bill Wildlife biologist

"It's great to finally have this position in place for the folks in northwest Kansas," said Steve Riley, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill biologist manager. "We have been looking for just the right person for this position for some time now, and are pleased that Ryan has joined our team."

Diener said he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in fisheries and wildlife from the University of Missouri in May. Before joining Pheasants Forever, he worked in several wildlife jobs in Missouri and North Dakota.

He will work out of the Decatur County Service Center of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Oberlin. He can be reached at (785) 475-3131 or by e-mail at rdiener@pheasantsforever.org.

Kansas Pheasants Forever Quail Forever chapters have more than 6,000 members, the group says.



Ryan Diener

### Bridge Club

Meadow Lake bridge winners on Tuesday were first, Ken Ptacek; second, Elaine Ptacek; third, Jean Snyder; fourth, Margaret Danneler; fifth, Sarah Jane Barrett; sixth, Mary Kersenbrock; seventh, Pat Criss.

### Markets

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

Wheat (bushel)	\$6.63
Corn (bushel)	\$5.21
Milo (hundredweight)	\$8.80
Soybeans (bushel)	\$11.64

### 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.

### MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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### Thank You

The family of Esther Woofter expresses our sincere gratitude to the people of Colby and the surrounding area for all your support, prayers, food, flowers, phone calls, and memorials during Esther's illness and funeral.

A special thank you to Dr. LaDonna Regier and her staff for their excellent and very loving care.

Also, we would like to acknowledge Hospice for their compassion and assistance, to Don and Cathy Harrison for their expertise, and to Pastor James Mardock of the Colby United Methodist Church for providing a wonderful meal at the City Limits Convention Center following the service.

Finally, Thank you to Julie Saddler and her staff for a wonderful meal at City Limits Convention Center following the service.

These acts of kindness and sympathy will always be remembered, and never forgotten.

Don Woofter, Brad Lechtenberger & Family, Brenda Stephens & Family, Kayla Bohlen & Family, Darius Lechtenberger & Family, Tad Woofter & Family, Tim Woofter & Family

# SERVICES DIRECTORY

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



**ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE 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.

## 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-PRAIRIE 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.colbyborean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. and Saturday, 5:30 p.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) Rev. Craig Crossman, 615 W. Webster, 785-462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.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)
- MINGO BIBLE CHURCH**, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Pastor Tom Peyton. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Worship Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Evenings 6:30. 3rd Sunday informal fellowship - bring a snack to share! First Sunday of month - carry-in dinner following morning worship.
- 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. Podcasts of the worship services are available at the church website colbypres.org.
- 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 Andy Rose, 785-460-6807; Erwin Mitchell, 1st counselor, 785-460-1952; Calvin Haverfield, 2nd counselor, 785-953-1043. 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, 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), 6p.m. Shoponline at: www.rimregionalchurch.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., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m. www.colbychurch.com
- OASIS WORSHIP CENTER**, Colby, Pastor J. Curry, 785-462-0913. Sunday Service at 2 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. Robert Alexander, East 5th & Country Club, 785-462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:00 a.m.; Services, 10:30 a.m. Visit us at www.trinitycolby.com.
- LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH**, 205 1st St., Pastor Charles Taff, 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 Dingworth, 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, Tue. 5:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study.

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