

Family

Deaths

Loretta Crawford

Loretta Crawford, 83, Lakewood, Colo., died Monday, Dec. 20, 2010, at her home.

She was born April 7, 1927, in Goodland, the daughter of Mary and Ray Amos.

She graduated from Goodland High School in 1945 and was married to Charles Warren Crawford of Colby in September of that year. They divorced in 1957.

After living briefly first in Chicago and then in Colby, the family moved to Lakewood in 1949, though she often visited friends and attended reunions in the Colby area.

She worked for Safeway Stores for 40 years as a clerk and cashier. She enjoyed traveling and square dancing. She struggled many years as a single parent, but life was good in her retirement as she enjoyed her grandchildren and

great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two sisters, Joyce Musalek and Beverly Beck, and a brother, Carroll Amos.

Survivors include two children, Kenneth (Betty) Crawford, Lakewood, and Kimberly (Mike) Duffy, Morrison, Colo.; a sister, Delores Kashka, Van Nuys, Calif.; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011, at Bear Valley Church, 10001 W. Jewell Ave., in Lakewood.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30, at Advantage Mortuary, 6425 West Alameda Ave. in Lakewood.

The family suggests memorials to the church, in care of the funeral home.

Edith L. Dobbs

Dr. Edith L. Dobbs, 89, professor emerita of Fort Hays State University, Sharon Springs, died Saturday, Dec. 25, 2010, at Keefe Memorial Hospital in Cheyenne Wells, Colo.



Edith Dobbs

She was born Sept. 16, 1921, at Colorado Springs, the daughter of Elsie Gladys (Carpenter) and F. Hubert Dobbs.

After attending the Highland School, District 38, in Thomas County and graduating from Colby High School, she studied for a teaching certificate at Fort Hays State College. She began her career in a one-room school at Mingo in 1941. Combining study during vacations with teaching, she moved from Mingo to Sharon Springs and from there to Dodge City, where she first taught and later became principal. From there she went to Winfield as an instructor at Southwestern College for a year.

After receiving a master's degree at Fort Hays in 1962, she earned a doctorate in education in 1963 from the University of Kansas. She returned to Fort Hays, where she was a professor until her retirement in 1987.

She also taught as a visiting professor at Columbia University and the University of Hawaii during the 1960s.

A member of the First Baptist Church in Colby, she served as secretary-treasurer of Kansas Anthropological Association and

received a Kansas Department of Education award for her contributions to the education of migrant students. She was devoted to and supported the children of the Hays community through the Community Child Care Center and Preschool.

Her greatest pleasures were her family and providing encouragement and financial support to young people who wanted to continue their education.

Preceding her in death were her parents and a sister, Shirley F. Dobbs.

Surviving family includes a brother, Logan (Bertha G.) Dobbs, and a sister, Sheila (James A.) Gebhards, of Sharon Springs; three nephews, Terry D. (Helen) Dobbs of Goodland; James R. (Lou Ann) Gebhards of Lawrence; and Rex A. Gebhards of Weskan; and a niece Tanya L. (Mike) Cox of Goodland.

Services will be at 10 a.m. (Central Time) Friday, Dec. 31, at the Hi Plains Baptist Church in Sharon Springs with the Rev. Paul McNall officiating and burial in Beulah Cemetery in Colby.

Visitation will be after 9 a.m. (Central Time) at the church.

The family suggests memorials to the Sharon Springs Library Children's Fund or to a library of the donor's choice, in care of Koons Funeral Home, 211 N. Main, Goodland, Kan., 67735.

Harry, and Frankie "Lee" Nichols of St. Francis and the late Virgil Nichols.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day	
Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$7.25
Corn (bushel)	\$5.57
Milo (hundredweight)	\$9.58
Soybeans (bushel)	\$12.50



Oakley native earns Master's

Melissa Nichols Button, Topeka, formerly of Oakley, graduated from Baker University with a Master of Arts degree in education on Saturday, Dec. 18.

A 1993 graduate of Oakley High School, she later graduated from Fort Hays State University and is a teacher at Rochester Elementary School in Topeka.

She is the daughter of Gloria Pabst, Oakley, and Loyall Nichols, Colby.

Grandparents are Adella Harry of Colby and the late Everett

Will poor wheat survive winter?

Conditions remain dry in the area this year, and wheat development typically is poor when it's this dry. Will this make some wheat fields more susceptible to winter die-off or weakening than usual?

Here are some of the factors to consider when evaluating the outlook for winter survival of wheat:

- How well has the wheat cold hardened? When temperatures through fall and early winter gradually get colder, that helps wheat plants develop good winterhardness. When temperatures remain warm late into the fall, which can lead to too much vegetative growth, then suddenly drop into the low teens, plants are less likely to have had time to cold harden and will be more susceptible to winterkill.

- How well developed is the root system? Good top growth of wheat doesn't necessarily indicate good root development. Poor root development is a concern where conditions have been dry.

- How cold is the soil at the crown level? This depends on snow cover and moisture levels. Winterkill is possible if soil temperatures at the crown level (about one inch deep) get down into the single digits. If there is at least an inch of snow on the ground, the wheat will be protected and soil temperatures will usually remain above the critical level.

- Is the crown well protected by soil? If wheat is planted at the correct depth, about 1.5 to 2 inches, and in good contact with



Clint Milliman

• Knowledge for Life

developed, it may be due to dry soil, poor seed-to-soil contact, high acidity, insect damage or other causes

Also, if the soil has good moisture, it's possible that soil temperatures at the crown level may not reach the critical level even in the absence of snow cover. But if the soil is dry and there is no snow cover, there may be the potential for winterkill, especially on exposed slopes or in low-lying areas, depending on the condition of the plants.

Air temperatures below -10 can reduce soil temperatures below critical levels when the soil is dry and there is no snow.

Firestone Farm Tires is the leader in the field. The Shooting Stars Square Dance Club will have a dance from 9 p.m. to midnight Friday at the Reed Center, 317 W. 13th St., Hays. Guests are asked to enter at the east door.

Colby Comets 4-H Club

October brought the beginning of the new 4-H year and many activities for the Colby Comets 4-H Club.

Melissa Reed, co-leader, held installation of new officers at the October meeting with a bread ceremony. New officers for the club are president, Rachel Juennemann; vice president, Katera Harter; secretary, Dustin Reed; treasurer, Julia Hutfles; reporter, Kaylee Keck; historian, Morgan Sanguinetti; council representatives, Samantha Lindberg and Dustin Reed; song leaders, Andrea Dizmang and Samantha Lindberg; and recreation leaders, Josh Olson and Keelan Sanguinetti. Club members went Halloween caroling at Colby Care Center and Citizens Medical Cen-

Members brought food to donate to Genesis-Thomas County at the November club meeting. The club also voted to have a float in the city's Christmas parade. Volunteers to be on the float committee were Karissa Singer, Hayden Reinert, Trinity Pfeifer, and Keck. Extension agents Clint Milliman and Diann Gerstner spoke to the club on giving project talks and demonstrations. They interviewed Reinert on his shooting sports project, showing how easy it is to give a project talk. The agents challenged the club to get at least 95 percent of members to complete either a project talk or demonstration. If the club meets that challenge, the agents will then

Corrections

A photo caption on Page 1 of the Monday, Dec. 27, edition of the *Colby Free Press* incorrectly identified a house as belonging to Dinah Charles of 745 W. Cherry. Charles lives at 1025 W. Third St. The house pictured is at 935 W. Third St., and although it's very festive, it did not place in the Christmas Lighting Contest. This was an editor's error.

☆☆☆☆ 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.

Oakley Country Club "Bowl Game Challenge"

Join us for Bowl Season at the Oakley Country Club!

Fill out your winning choices on our bowl game ballot and be in a drawing for \$100, \$50 or \$25 gift certificates to use at the club!

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Rodney Michael Ryan

Rodney Michael Ryan, age 75 and lifelong resident of rural Colby, Kansas, was welcomed home to the Lord on Wednesday, November 10, 2010. He left this earth at his home with his wife and family by his side. He was born December 9, 1934 to Thomas (Al) and Clara (Bremenkamp) Ryan in Halford, Kansas. Rodney attended grade school in Halford, Kansas and then continued his high school education at the Abbey in Canyon City, Colorado where he graduated in 1952. After high school Rodney returned to his childhood home to work on the family farm.

In 1955, Rodney enlisted in the United States Army and was stationed in Korea. While serving his country he was awarded for his skills as a sharp shooter and competed in many competitions for his unit. He was honorably discharged in 1957.

In 1961, Rodney started attending Immaculate Conception Seminary in Conception, Missouri. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree with an emphasis in Theology. He continued his education at the seminary until 1967 when he once again returned to the Colby area to help on the family farm.

On April 12, 1969, Rodney married Danette Mary McEachern Graff at Annunciation Catholic Church in Leadville, Colorado. They started their life together on a farm in rural Colby, Kansas where Rodney built his family their home. This special couple was blessed with 6 daughters, who enjoyed their upbringing working along-side Rodney on their family farm. Rodney and Danette spent 41 years together raising their family and being stewards of the land.

During childhood and early adulthood Rodney was an active member of the local 4-H. Rodney served on the High Plains Cooperative Board of Directors for 31 years, where he made life-long friendships with remarkable individuals. He also served on the Thomas County Hospital Association for 8 years and was instrumental with the building of Citizens Medical Center. Rodney was very active in his Catholic community, teaching CCD in both Oakley and Colby and sponsored many CYO events that his daughters participated in. He was also a life-long member of the Knights of Columbus and served on various committees at Sacred Heart, with one of his favorites being the Sacred Heart Annual Parish Auction committee.

Rodney had many interests and talents. He received his pilot's license and took his family on plane trips in the 1970's. He enjoyed taking his family on Sunday rides where they would visit various members of their extended family throughout northwest Kansas. He also made sure to take his wife and daughters on a family vacation every summer. As his daughters grew and had families of their own, time was made once again to take family vacations all together. Many lasting memories were made on these various trips. Rodney had an avid love for learning and was always reading various magazines, books or newspapers. Golfing was also an activity that Rodney began to enjoy after playing in a tournament with his colleagues from Co-op in the mid 1990's. His love for the game continued even after he could no longer physically play.

Rodney was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Thomas, Joseph, and twin brother Ronald, and a sister Mary Margaret (Marge) Caruso. He is survived by his wife Danette of the home, his daughters, Elizabeth (Lee) Moore of Olathe; Celine (James) Wright of Great Bend; Veronica of Shawnee; Collette Morris of Colby; Patricia (Tyler) Samuelson of Olathe, and Katera (Thomas) Mowry of Springfield, Missouri; brothers Dennis (Francis) Ryan of Colby and David (Tracy) Ryan of Las Vegas, Nevada; sisters Kathleen Steavenson of Santa Paula, California; Ethel (Bob) Ortiz of Albuquerque, New Mexico; Zita Bates of Durham, North Carolina and Judith (John) Sears of Bella Vista, Arkansas. He is also survived by 9 grandchildren and brothers-in-law James McEachern of Leadville, Colorado, and Charles Caruso of Albuquerque, New Mexico along with many nieces and nephews.

Funeral mass was November 15, 2010 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church and rite of Catholic burial with military honors was held at Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery in Colby. Pallbearers were Lyle Saddler, Darrell Pabst, John Strecker, Chris Ryan, Ed Caruso, Ron Brier, Henry Bremenkamp, and Todd Barrows.

In his honor, the family suggests memorial contributions be given to the Sacred Heart Church remodeling fund or Hospice Services of Thomas County. Donations can be left at any Colby bank.

have to abide by the members' wishes (within reason), i.e. dye their hair green during the fair!

As December rolled around, club members were busy preparing the float for the parade and helping Genesis-Thomas County assemble food baskets. The club was to have a Christmas party at the meeting Dec. 20 at the 4-H building.

— Kaylee Keck

Square Dance

The Shooting Stars Square Dance Club will have a dance from 9 p.m. to midnight Friday at the Reed Center, 317 W. 13th St., Hays. Guests are asked to enter at the east door.

A surprise caller will call the squares. Singles, and couples of all ages are encouraged to attend. There will be refreshments.

For information, call Opal Flinn at (785) 726-4432.

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Evening Includes: *Buffet style meal 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. with entertainment by Marshal Allen Bailey and the Silver Bullets & Larry Booth

Concert/Dance with the Mama's Boys 9 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.

* Door Prizes every half hour *

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PARTY TABLES (8 seats) may be reserved for \$250 call: 785-460-2311 or 785-443-0992

Proceeds go to Pickin' On The Plains Bluegrass Festival Seating limited to 350 - Reserve now!