



GWEN GRIFFITHS/Colby Free Press

Darla Dible read Christmas stories to a group of Girl Scouts attending the Christmas Open House Saturday night.

## Rexford humming as Christmas nears

As we draw nearer to Christmas, more and more homes in Rexford are decorated with lights and more. It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

The elementary students put on a good show Tuesday. They performed a variety of Christmas songs for many members of the community.

Saturday was a busy day at the Shepherd's Staff. In the morning and early afternoon, ladies from the area came and made all sorts of Christmas sweets: sugar cookies, spritz, bonbons, wreaths, saltine toffee and ritz cookies. In about five hours, they made over 1,400 cookies. They each went home with platters to share with family and friends.

Then on Saturday evening, the community was invited to a Christmas Open House, featuring the soup and the music of Trevor Baker from Canada. Darla Dible read "The Legend of the Candy Cane" to children in the Ranch House and VeggieTales Christmas movies played in The Hall. The Girl Scouts came to help serve in the Main Center. The staff at Shepherd's Staff was very blessed by each person who attended.

Bingo night was held Saturday



**Gwen Griffiths**

• Rexford Correspondent

at the Red Barn – where everybody wins. The next bingo night will be Jan. 14, as always, on the second Saturday of the month.

Spuds and Splits will be at 6:30 Thursday night – third Thursday. Everyone 40 and over is welcome to enjoy baked potatoes and banana splits. There is no charge, but donations can be made towards the cost of the food.

A few Rexford residents traveled to Colby on Sunday afternoon for the Doofus Jubilee, put on by the Western Plains Arts Association. The group performed a variety of country western and Christmas melodies. After the show the Griffiths family joined Ernest and Twila Griffiths of Scottsbluff, Neb., and Tom and Kathie Peyton of Mingo for pie at Village Inn.

As always, I would love to include your news. It can be left in the jar at the Red Barn, called to (785) 687-2076 or e-mailed to griffithsgang@gmail.com.

That's all from Rexford!

## Try gifts of food mixes

Gifts from the kitchen can save time, money, and add a personal touch to holiday gift-giving, said Mary Meck Higgins, K-State Extension nutrition specialist.

For ideas, Higgins shared links to a K-State Research and Extension newsletter, "Nourishing the Next Generation," and a North Dakota State University Extension publication: "Mix It Up, Food Mixes in a Jar."

Higgins writes the K-State newsletter, and encourages grandparents and caregivers to invite younger family members to join in making dry food mixes as gifts. The activity can be a memorable, intergenerational activity, said Higgins, who included a recipe for a mix for chewy chocolate chip peanut butter bars in the Dec. 2011 issue. To access, go to: [www.ksre.ksu.edu/humannutrition/](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/humannutrition/). Choose publications, then "Nourishing the Next Generation."

The North Dakota publication directly available at [www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/yf/foods/fn1494.pdf](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/yf/foods/fn1494.pdf) includes gift ideas, tips, and recipes for four homemade food mixes: Country Chili; Cornbread; Cranberry-Oatmeal Cookies and Friendship Soup. Other information from the University of Nebraska on food mixes in a jar with cooking, food safety and nutrition tips is at <http://food.unl.edu/web/fnh/food-mixes-in-a-jar>.

Higgins encourages gifts of health-promoting foods, and noted that by making your own food mixes, ingredients can be adjusted to fit the needs of special diets, such as a low-sodium diet.

More information about food as gifts, food, nutrition, health and food safety is available at K-State Research and Extension offices throughout the state and online: [www.ksre.ksu.edu/humannutrition](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/humannutrition) and [www.rrc.ksu.edu](http://www.rrc.ksu.edu).

## Thieves target toilet paper

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—A New Mexico restaurant employee says he's now seen it all, after three men left his diner with rolls of toilet paper and were nabbed in the parking lot by police.

Burgers, Dogs and Wings employee Josh Flannery-Stewart tells

KOAT-TV (<http://bit.ly/rtVXdL>) in Albuquerque that he was suspicious of the men when they came in because they weren't talking and appeared "messed up."

The three went into the bathroom and emerged carrying about a dozen rolls of toilet paper.



Lee Anthony Weber and Ashley Darlene Zeller

## Couple to marry on New Year's Eve

Ashley Darlene Zeller and Lee Anthony Weber, both of Lake Wabaunsee, plan to marry Saturday, Dec. 31, 2011, at the Saint Thomas More Catholic Church in Manhattan.

The bride is the daughter of Larry and Nadene Zeller of Wamego. Her father is formerly of Colby and her mother is a former resident of Rexford.

She is a 2002 graduate of Wamego High School. In 2007, she received a Bachelor of Science degree in human ecology from Kansas State University.

She is currently the family and consumer sciences teacher at Mission Valley High School in Eskridge.

The groom is the son of Thomas and Norma Weber of Grainfield.

He is a 1996 graduate of Wheatland High School and a 1998 graduate of Garden City Community College where he received an associate's degree in communications. In 2001, he received a Bachelor of Science in physical education from Fort Hays State University. He is the physical education teacher, head football and track coach and athletic director at Mission Valley High School.

The couple plans to continue working in Eskridge while living in Lake Wabaunsee after the wedding.

## Colby artists to exhibit work in Russell center

"Rebel Returns" begins with an opening reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday at the Deines Cultural Center in Russell. The show runs through Sunday, Feb. 12.

"Rebel Returns" is a multi-media exhibit of the work of Rebel Jay, former Russell art teacher and current Colby Community College instructor, and several Colby artists. The show is a mix of materials ranging from traditional oil and acrylic paintings and bronze sculptures to mosaics, found objects and bubble gum.

At Cloud County Community College, Rebel Jay majored in visual art, transferred to Kansas State University in commercial design, and finished with a B.A. in art education from Fort Hays State University. She taught middle school art in Russell, and has been teaching at

Colby since August 2008. She finds that no matter the age, teaching art is a new experience everyday and learning osmosis goes both ways: teacher to student/student to teacher.

Jay enjoys a variety of mediums and finds it almost impossible to create a composition totally of one medium; it's usually mixed and varied to show influence in some way of her favorite artists, Van Gogh, O'Keefe, Rodin, and Moore.

The show will also have work by artists Margaret Denneler, Marlene Carpenter and Mark Carlton, all of Colby.

Carpenter is a retired bank teller and works as a free lance artist. Known as the "Sunflower Lady," she paints sunflowers on birdhouses, mailboxes and ostrich eggs which she sells

through her website. She also enjoys painting landscapes and portraits and will be bringing her oil paintings to the Russell exhibit.

Carlton adds three-dimensional work to the exhibit with his bronze sculptures. A pastor for 36 years, he is serving at the Colby Berean Church. For a time he specialized in oil miniatures. He began sculpting about 10 years ago and showed his work at the Loveland sculpture show.

Several of Jay's current students, Gatlin Reichert, Oberlin; Jacqueline Shandy, Goodland; Ashton Domsch, Brewster; and Bryan Ayala, Topeka will be represented in the show along with former student, Brittaney Bange, currently at Fort Hays State University.

## Ranch management seminar planned

Ranch management and cow herd economics will take center stage at Kansas State University's Winter Ranch Management Seminar on Tuesday, Jan. 10. The seminar is planned for six locations around the state and features a combination of local speakers and webinar presentation delivery.

Seminar locations include Ashland, Highland, Lebanon, Manhattan, Parsons and Russell. All will start with registration at 4 p.m. (program beginning at 4:30 p.m.) and end at 8:30 p.m.

Featured speakers include Trey Patterson of Padlock Ranch, Dayton, Wyo., who will present "Ranch Management Focus" and Glynn Tonsor, K-State Research and Extension agricultural econo-

mist, who will give the "Cattle Business Outlook." Both of these presentations will be delivered via webinar.

Local speakers at each location will give presentations on winter ration development and hunting lease management.

The cost to attend, which includes dinner, is \$25 per person. Registration is due by Friday, Jan. 6. If more than one person attends from any farm, family or business, the price for additional attendees is \$15 per person.

Information about each location, plus online registration is available at [www.asi.ksu.edu/rms](http://www.asi.ksu.edu/rms).

## Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day

Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$6.16
Corn (bushel)	\$5.84
Milo (hundredweight)	\$10.00
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## Deaths

### Kurt Bowman

Kurt Bowman, 40, Hillsboro, died Thursday, Dec. 8, 2011, at the Via Christy St. Francis Hospital in Wichita.

Services will be at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011, at the H.W. Lorhenz Building Chapel on the Tabor College Campus in

Hillsboro, with Dr. Del Gray officiating. Burial will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Cora-Cedar Hill Cemetery in rural Bellaire.

Visitation was to be today. Simmons-Rentschler Mortuary in Smith Center, (785) 282-6691, is in charge of arrangements.

### Alice T. Gartner

Alice T. Gartner, 71, Colby, a retired Sacred Heart school dietary aide, died Monday, Dec. 5, 2011, at her home.

She was born Jan. 26, 1940, in Deer Lodge, Mont., the daughter of Anthony and Clara (Keough) Schnell.

In 1977 she moved to Colby from Denver. Preceding her in death were her parents and a brother, Richard Schnell.

Survivors include two daughters, Tammy Morton, Colby; and

Lisa Hake, Wichita; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, 2011 at Harrison Chapel in Colby, with Pastor W.G. Romine officiating and inurnment at Sunset Memorial Cemetery in Missoula, Mont. No visitation.

The family suggests memorials to Citizens Medical Center, in care of any Colby bank or the funeral chapel, 190 S. Franklin, Colby, Kan., 67701.

## Senior Progress Center

There will be a Christmas party Thursday at the Senior Progress Center.

Activities: **Tuesday:** 10 a.m. exercise; 10:30 domino game. **Wednesday:** snack day. **Thursday:** 10 a.m. exercise; 11 a.m. Christmas party. **Friday:** 10 a.m. exercise; 11:30 a.m. Young at Heart Singers.

Menus: **Tuesday:** ham, sweet potatoes, cranberry apple salad, bar cookie. **Wednesday:** lasagna, corn, tossed salad, garlic bread, mixed fruit. **Thursday:** roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, pears,

birthday cake. **Friday:** chicken ala-king, Italian blend vegetables, gelatin with fruit, biscuit, cook's choice complement.

The Thomas County Nutrition Center invites anyone 60 and older and guests to lunch Monday through Friday at the senior center. Home delivery is available, as is pick-up service. A contribution of \$3 per meal is suggested for seniors, \$5.25 for others. For anyone under 60, home delivery is \$5.75.

Make reservations at (784) 460-2901 by noon the day before.

**The family of Norm Hansen would like to invite everyone to send cards for his 80th Birthday!**

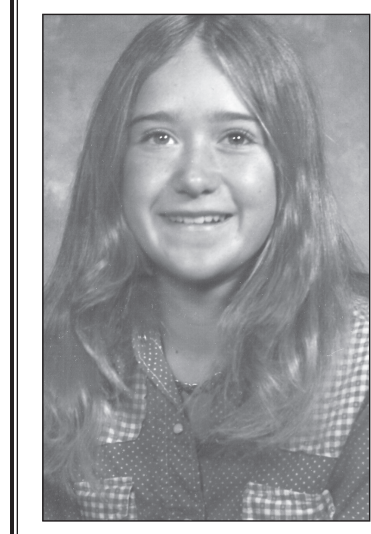
Send to:  
**895 S. Grant Colby, KS 67701**

*We want your local news: e-mail to [colby.editor@nwkansas.com](mailto:colby.editor@nwkansas.com)*

## Corrections

In the story "Postal Service to meet public" on Page 1 of the Friday, Dec. 9, edition of the *Colby Free Press*, the time of the meeting was incorrect. The meeting will be at 6 p.m. tonight in room 108 of the Colby Community College student union. This was an editing 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.



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Andrea  
Kily  
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& your  
9 Grandkids

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