

'Surprise me, God,' opens many doors

Everyone likes surprises, right? Do you agree? What if I follow that question with making sure you know I am talking about good surprises, does it change your answer? I think the answer would mostly be "yes." I am one who likes to have positive surprises.



Jarrod Spencer

• From the Pulpit

sel a soul that was broken inside, needing a listening ear. You just never know when these surprises will come your way.

Surprise number two came a couple of days later. My week had been busy with meetings, traveling and work; then I received a call from a local mortician. He called to ask me if I would perform a funeral for someone who didn't have a minister to do their mother's funeral.

My plans for the week didn't include this, but God had other plans. Since moving to this area, in just over three years, I have performed seven funerals.

I know that isn't a lot for some ministers, but for me, coming from a small congregation, that is a lot. Oddly enough, only one was from our congregation, and that person lived in a nursing home. Five of the other six have been people I did not have the pleasure of meeting.

Doing funerals allows me a chance to be involved in peoples' lives that is unlike other times. Because of that, in a non-morbid way, I do enjoy having these opportunities to minister to people.

In both of these situations, I could have passed on the opportunity. Looking back I could not imagine what I would have missed out on if I had passed.

Think about the many opportunities that have come in your life in which you decided to pass up.

Worse yet, the opportunities that came in the last week which you passed up on even if you didn't realize these opportunities came your way.

I want to challenge you to keep your eyes wide open to the many God-opportunities that come your way. Then, be ready to take advantage of them for the chance to make an influence for Him.

Start asking "God, surprise me, today" then look out for the surprises to come to you and come often!

Jarrod Spencer is the minister, at the Colby Church of Christ, 510 East Fourth. He can be reached at (785) 460-6322 or by e-mail at jarrods@att.net.

What we know as surprise is usually in the verb form, some type of action. Merriam-Webster defines the word in this context as "to strike with wonder or amazement especially because unexpected."

To find something unexpected coming your way should bring a smile to your face; I know it does mine.

About six years ago I was praying and asked God to surprise me.

To this day He has not stopped surprising me.

I am not going to lie by saying that each day I notice the surprises or are they mountain-top experiences. However, it has caused me to look at each day with a different perspective and with wonder of what God is going to do in my life that day, who He is going to bring to me or allow me to cross paths with during any given day. It is quite exhilarating.

Have you ever tried to scare someone, even if they knew where you were hiding? Like when you are playing with a young child and they know where you are hiding and they sneak up just to be surprised.

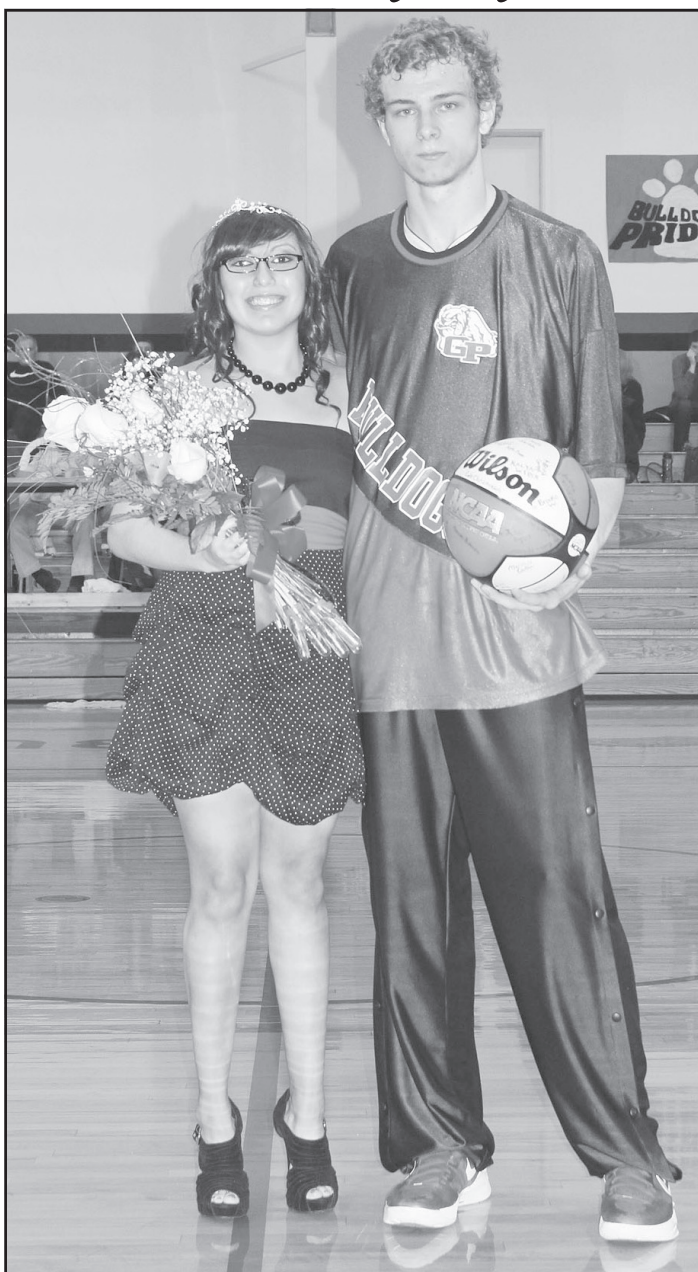
They look forward to that feeling because they know it is going to make them laugh. That is somewhat the way I feel about my expectation to God's surprises.

A while ago I went into the week thinking that it was going to be semi-normal. I knew I had a meeting out of town on Monday and probably traveling on Wednesday for a surgery. Other than that, the week was going to pretty much be as normal. God had some other plans for me.

Surprise number one came about on Valentine's Day. I have been sending the occasional text message to several local college students to try to encourage them or see how their life was going. At best, most of the time I receive a "thank you." This was a day which I received a reply that said something like "you don't know how much I needed to hear that."

Wow, was I surprised. The message was intended to reach out, but didn't know it would actually accomplish its goal in receiving a response. That led to having an exchange of several texts to coun-

Sweetheart royalty



JUDY ROGERS/Golden Plains High School
Golden Plains High School crowned their Sweetheart Royalty during halftime at the basketball game with Weskan on Feb. 10. Sweetheart Queen Sandra Galvan is the daughter of Luis and Socorro Manriquez of Rexford. King Cole Christensen is the son of Parker and Mindy Christensen and Matt and Penny Vogler, all of Rexford.

Garden City students honored

Garden City Community College has released honor rolls for the fall semester. To be named to the President's Honor Roll, students must be enrolled in eight or more credit hours and earning a perfect 4.0 grade average. The Dean's Honor Roll includes students with 3.2 to 3.999 averages and the Honorable Mention List is for students with averages from

3.0 to 3.199.

On the President's Honor Roll are Ryan Murphy, Colby, Rilee Spesser, Gem; Bailey Hemmert, Oakley; and Devinn Ritter, Selden.

Dillon Salmans of Hoxie is on the Dean's Honor Roll.

Ethan Jirak of Oakley received honorable mention.

High Plains Art Club

The High Plains Art Club met Feb. 14 at the Colby United Methodist Church; the meeting was presided over by co-president Bev Kern.

Members brought valentines for display and Barbara Highland's handmade valentine was voted the best; she received the Valentine Champion Trophy. Runners up were Kern, Poppy Dean and Marlene Carpenter.

Marj Brown shared a poem she wrote for her valentine.

Invitations were given to attend a birthday party for Fritz Ostmeier, which was to be Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Meadowlake Country Club.

Brown brought updated instruction sheets for the club's first juried amateur art show. The date has been changed from Friday, June 8, to Sunday, June 10, at Heartland Christian School. She went over plans for the show with the group.

Kern said Anne Miner at the museum had called to say the club's display has been changed to April and May. Each member is to bring three items.

Margaret Denneler said the college art department will have an art walk in downtown Colby on

Friday, April 20. Art instructor Rebel Jay is in charge.

It was noted that Pat and Max Embree left a large donation to the college and some of it may be used for art.

David Ketchum updated the group on plans for a life drawing workshop. It is planned for 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday and Thursday, March 20 and 22, in the college art room in Ferguson Hall. The workshop will be open to everyone. Cost is \$5 per session per person, to pay for the cost of the clothed model.

For the program, Highland showed a videotape on painting with acrylics.

Ketchum showed paintings of the city library and Sacred Heart Catholic Church which he intends to use in an art show of Thomas County buildings.

The group adjourned for lunch, and some reconvened to work on their own projects and visit after lunch. Refreshments were served by Highland.

The next meeting will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 13. Baker will give the program and Ostmeier will serve refreshments. Interested persons are welcome.

- Maxine Nelson, secretary

Cattlemen's day next Friday

Kansas State University will hold its 99th Annual Cattlemen's Day next Friday on the university's Manhattan campus. The day kicks off at 8 a.m. in Weber Hall with a trade show, exhibits and refreshments; the program begins at 10 a.m.

Presentations during the morning include market outlook for the cattle industry, demand for choice and prime beef and dealing with declining inventories amid excess feeding and packing capacity.

After lunch, breakout sessions are scheduled at 1:15 and 2 p.m.

Information and online registration is available at www.asi.ksu.edu/cattlemensday or by contacting Eve Clark at (785) 532-1280

or even@ksu.edu. The cost to register after today and at the door is \$30. Students are admitted free.

The event will be followed by K-State's 35th Annual Legacy Sale at 3:30 p.m. in the university's purebred beef teaching center, offering bulls, heifers, bred females and registered quarter horses. Sale information is available at asi.ksu.edu/bullsale or contact Ryan Breiner at (785) 532-6127.

The stockmen's dinner will be at the Clarion Hotel, honoring the Mushrush Family as Stockmen of the Year. Information is available at www.found.ksu.edu/lmic or by calling Melissa Geisler at (785) 532-7522.

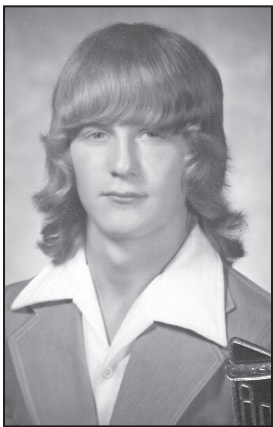
Markets

	Quotes as of close of previous business day
Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$6.35
Corn (bushel)	\$6.23
Milo (hundredweight)	\$10.66
Soybeans (bushel)	\$11.33

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.

Oh No - The Big 5-0!



Happy Birthday Mr. Fed Ex Man!!

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.

Services Directory

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. Sunday School 9 a.m. for all ages. Worship 10:15 a.m. Kid's Church for Kindergarten-5th grade during Worship Service. Nursery available for kids birth - 5 yrs old. Wednesday night: Family night September - May. Meal served 6 - 6:30 p.m. CD Kidz for kids birth - 5th grade, Youth Group for 6th - 12th graders and Adult Bible Study at 7 p.m. 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. Contemporary Evening Service at 4 p.m. through the semester.

PLEASANT HOME CHURCH, Pastor, Perry Baird, 785-728-7380, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (MST)

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. 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 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), 6 p.m. Shoponline at: www.rlmregionalchurch.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

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 Mike Baughn, 785-694-2278, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD, Joan Dingwerth, 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.

Wedding Registry

**Kari Ross
Dennis Wilkie**

Wedding: March 3rd

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Stop and Take a Moment

"Best investment on EARTH is earth",.....

This quote by Louis Glickman, is very true in my opinion. Think about this, real estate can not be stolen, nor can it be carried away. If real estate is purchased with common sense, managed well with reasonable care, it is about the safest investment in the world. This is what Franklin Roosevelt thought and I think he was right on.

I have been in real estate for many, many years and have sold real estate, homes, land and commercial properties, over and over again. I have rarely seen a piece of real estate not gain value in natural appreciation or forced appreciation. I think when we are looking only at the present moment, we forget where the values were and how they have appreciated! Real estate is a solid investment besides the American Dream!

My middle grandson Isaac, at age 10 is really into money and holds on to it. He naturally understands that "money can grow" if saved and invested. His grandpa has always taught him about compound interest and he likes that. I have little doubt that he will always invest wisely and spend little. His mother was at the store and needed \$20 so she didn't have to write a check. She asked to borrow \$20 from Isaac, he paused and then said "yes, but you will have to pay me back \$40".

I just may be selling him some Kansas land some day, so he can diversify and make his money grow in a different way. Yes, Real Estate is a powerful wealth tool!

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