

Deaths

Anita M. Pfeifer

Anita M. (Pfannenstiel) Pfeifer, 78, Hays, died Friday, July 13, 2012, at the Hays Medical Center. She was born March 29, 1934, in Hays, to Casper and Georgine (Dreiling) Pfannenstiel. In 1952, she graduated from Girls Catholic High school in Hays. On Sept. 27, 1952, she married Peter V. Pfeifer. They were farmers.

After her children were grown, she learned to sew, crochet, cross-stitch and do ceramics. She got a computer and sent e-mails and enjoyed seeing the grandkids and great-grandkids on Facebook.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Wilma Staab.

Survivors include her husband, of the home; seven children, Steven (Denise) Pfeifer, Dennis (Janet) Pfeifer, Joyce Pfeifer, Randy (Linda) Pfeifer, Karen (Dan) Randa, Diana (Gordon) Lynn and

Keith (Cindy) Pfeifer; three brothers, Marvin (Maxine) Pfannenstiel, Irvin (Corrine) Pfannenstiel and Melvin (Cora) Pfannenstiel; three sisters, Darlene (Mark) Bender, JoAnn (Bob) Winkley and Donna (Rich) Harkness, a brother-in-law, Virgil Staab; 14 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 17, 2012, at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 1805 Vine in Hays, with burial in the St. Joseph Cemetery in Hays.

Visitation was to be today and from 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. Tuesday at the Hays Memorial Chapel Funeral Home, 20th and Pine.

The family suggests memorials to the church. Condolences to the family may be left at www.haysmemorial.com.

Solomon Valley 4-H Club

The monthly meeting of the Solomon Valley 4-H Club was conducted last Monday at the 4-H building by acting president Cole Ziegelmeier.

Following the flag salute and 4-H pledge, Secretary Kelly Sloan called the roll with 17 members giving their 4-H age.

Following reports from the secretary, treasurer and reporter, club leader Danita Comfort talked about upcoming dates members need to keep in mind and about fair packets. Council representa-

tive Cole Ziegelmeier reported on the June council meeting.

The program consisted of each member telling what exhibits they would have at the fair.

Junior Vice President Maggie Nieman announced there would not be an August meeting; she gave agenda for the September meeting.

Following adjournment, the Niblock and Comfort families provided the club with refreshments.

— Chandler Comfort, reporter

Graduations

Newman University

Chelsie Kramer of Atwood and Brea Teeter of Oakley were among the spring 2012 graduates of University in Wichita.

The commencement ceremony included an address by Newman Associate Professor of Nursing Amy Siple. Siple received the 2011 Newman University Teaching Excellence Award, an annual

recognition presented to a full-time faculty member who has demonstrated an innovative or dynamic approach to courses, course revisions and teaching techniques.

Kramer earned a bachelor's degree in diagnostic medical sonography. Teeter graduated with an associate of science in health science — radiologic technology.

Barton County Community College

Two students from northwest Kansas were among the spring 2012 graduates of Barton County Community College in Great Bend.

Tara Dirks of Colby graduated

with an Associate of Applied Science degree.

Heather Huffman, Oakley, earned a dietary manager certificate.

Composers' teeth stolen?

VIENNA (AP) — Have the teeth of two famed 19th-century composers been stolen from their graves? Austrian prosecutors are trying to find out.

Thomas Vecsey of the Vienna state prosecutor's office says authorities are considering filing charges against a man suspected of breaking into the graves of Austrian waltz king Johann Strauss Jr.

and German Romantic composer Johannes Brahms and taking their teeth. Both are buried in Vienna.

Vecsey said that suspicions first arose in 2008 but investigators determined that any crime fell under Austria's statute of limitations. New evidence other graves might have been disturbed has led to the probe's reopening.

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.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day Hi-Plains Co-op		
Wheat (bushel)		\$7.84
Corn (bushel)		\$7.55
Milo (hundredweight)		\$12.86
Soybeans (bushel)		\$14.89

Garden eating favorite – tomato; garden growing favorite – onion?

Ask just about anyone what their favorite garden vegetable is, and their resounding reply will probably be tomatoes.

Ask just about any gardener to name the vegetable they most enjoy growing and you might receive a dozen different answers. Simply put, the practice of actually growing a garden crop is a bit different than eating it, and while tomatoes are the most widely grown garden vegetable in the backyard garden, it doesn't necessarily follow that all gardeners actually enjoy growing tomatoes as much as say green beans, or cucumbers or maybe peppers.

Does that make any sense at all?

Here's the thing. The actual enjoyment or challenge of tending a garden crop can vary from one gardener to another. Gardeners may enjoy the challenge of grow-



Kay Melia

The Gardener

ing something other than tomatoes, but still enjoy eating them.

I use myself as an example. I love tomatoes and I enjoy growing my own seedlings, building my own cages, and comparing varieties. But honestly, I enjoy growing and caring for onions more than I do tomatoes. I am convinced that the challenge of growing a good, mature crop of onions is greater than the challenge presented by tomatoes. Indeed, it is the challenge. I visit with a lot of backyard dirt diggers, and seldom do I find one that relishes the task of growing onions, and I think I know why. Many gardeners just don't

bother to study the unique requirements to finish the season with a big crop of those wonderful sweet slicing onions. And let's face it, a gardener faces a long list of demands that onions present. For example, you must plant the onion plants, not the little sets or bulbs. And onions demand to be planted early, like the last week of March, or the first week of April. The quality and size of the onion shrinks if planted as late as the last two weeks of May. The onion demands water, lots of it, from the day you plant them until about a week before you harvest them. Never allow the soil to dry out, and always water them with a soaker hose, a drip system, or as I do, utilizing ditch irrigation.

The onion demands a bit of fertilizer, like a side dressing of 10-10-10 granular, applied about three weeks after planting. An

onion patch demands a weedless environment. Weeds are probably the most serious deterrent to growing a successful crop of onions.

Finally, onions demand a timely harvest. When they are through growing, they flop over, without help from you. Continue watering them for another week or so, until the ends of the leaves begin to brown. Onions demand to be properly stored, and do not cut off the tops until you are ready to use them.

I enjoy the challenges that onions demand. My earliest ones the Texas Supersweets, are already in storage. The Red Candy Apple will be harvested tomorrow. The big white Sierra Blanca, and the amazing Candy onions are still growing. A successful onion crop is extremely satisfying. Accept the challenge next spring!

Communications firm wins state award

By Carleen Bell

The Norton Telegram
cbell@nwkansas.com

A Kansas communications firm has earned the highest award a business can achieve from the state of Kansas.

Nex-Tech, based in Lenora, received the Governor's Award of Excellence at the Kansas Cavalry Encampment at Kansas State University in Manhattan.

Larry Sevier, Nex-Tech chief executive officer, says the business was nominated by Joan Nech of the Smith Center Chamber of Commerce and Aaron White of the Ellis County Coalition for Economic Development.

From the nominations, Nex-Tech was chosen as one of six regional winners. Representatives from each appeared before a panel of judges to give a presentation about why they deserved honor.

Along with Chief Operating Officer Jeff Wick, Sevier helped give the presentation on May 2.

On May 12, Nex-Tech was announced as the winner and received a trophy.

Sevier said major factors in earning the recognition have been creating new jobs and infrastructure improvements the company is doing. Nex-Tech provides telephone, television, wireless Internet and other communications services in northwest Kansas. It is build-

ing a fiber-optic broadband network in western Kansas that will serve 39,000 subscribers. The company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Rural Telephone Service Co. of Lenora, has grown from 26 employees to 380 over the last two decades.

Nex-Tech has earned regional recognition three times in the past, but this year marks the first Governor's Award of Excellence, an achievement Sevier attributes to the people who work for the company.

"This is the top award a business can achieve," he said, "and we owe that to our employees. We have a tremendous employee base and this award really shows how great they are."

Hot weather can trigger heat stress symptoms

Air temperatures above 100 degrees can trigger a human heat-stress trilogy: heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

"Heat cramps are the mildest reaction. They occur when you don't replace the salt or potassium lost in sweat," said Mary Knapp, climatologist with the Kansas Weather Data Library (www.ksre.ksu.edu/wdl/).

Heat exhaustion is more severe, she said. It sometimes results when people engage in vigorous summertime activities (e.g. football, tennis, running, soccer).

Heat exhaustion means the body's cooling system is overloaded, but hasn't shut down. Symptoms can include heavy sweating (i.e., clammy skin), headache, dizziness, nausea, muscle cramps and fatigue.

"When people reach that point, you need to get them into a cooler location, lying down with their feet slightly elevated. Then try to lower their body temperature with

cool, wet cloths. Give them water or an electrolyte drink. Monitor them for an hour to see that their symptoms improve, not worsen," Knapp said.

The deadliest trilogy member is heat stroke: when the body's cooling system has shut down — stopped. A defining symptom is 104-degree or higher body temperature.

"Heat stroke is a 911 situation.

The risk increases along with the severity of symptoms and the length of delay in getting medical treatment. Even if victims survive, untreated heatstroke can damage their brain, heart, kidneys and muscles," Knapp warned.

Other symptoms include lack of sweat (unless exercise was involved), racing pulse, rapid breathing, flushed skin that's hot and dry, vomiting, confusion, muscle

malfunctions, seizures and even unconsciousness.

"Heat stroke victims need help while waiting for the ambulance. Minutes count," Knapp advised. "You can move them out of the sun. Put cold, wet towels or ice packs on their head, neck, armpits and groin. Remove excess clothing. Turn on a fan, mist them with water ... do whatever you can, but quickly."

Picnic In The Park



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Send a letter and resume to Sharon Friedlander, Publisher, at 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701, sfriedlander@nwkansas.com or apply in person. No calls please.



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