



MICHELE WERTH/Brewster Schools

Michael Schmidt jumped for a shot at the Sagebrush tournament last Tuesday in Brewster, with Will Allen in the background. The Triplains-Brewster Titan boys lost their game against Weskan 62-38, though the girls won theirs 55-41.

## Sagebrush Tourney keeps Brewster busy

Been a busy week in Brewster with the Sagebrush Basketball Tournament at the school.

Several Christmas open houses are coming up in Brewster.

S&T Telephone will have their open house on Thursday. Stop by the Senior Center on Friday and the Post Office on Monday.

Also, mark your calendars for the pre-kindergarten through high school music concert at 7 p.m. on Tuesday. Alice Col-



Angie Moore

• Brewster Correspondent

lett and her music students are working hard on “Fantasia on A Christmas Theme.” I hear rumors about an alumni band joining the students. You won’t want to miss it!

## Wreath rite Saturday

By Christina Beringer

Colby Free Press  
colby.society@nwkansas.com

People are invited to honor fallen veterans during the seventh annual Wreaths Across America ceremony at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Kansas Veterans Cemetery in WaKeeney.

Family members will be able to place a wreath on a veteran’s headstone and the grave of their spouse after the ceremony.

Cemetery manager Heidi Goff said they raised about \$4,000 to buy the wreaths as a result of a letter campaign in October. In addition, Goff said enough money was raised to donate 50 wreaths to the Kansas Veterans Cemetery in Dodge City.

“We have 220 veterans and spouses here, both from Kansas and all over the country,” Goff said. “Not all cemeteries are able to place wreaths on the spouse’s headstone, too, but we have always been able to because of all the generous donations we receive.

“The extra money that was donated has been used to purchase the additional wreaths for the cemetery at Fort Dodge, where they have an ‘old’ part and a ‘new’ part. There are over 1,000 veterans in the old section that served clear

back ... to the Civil War era.”

Goff said many veterans from the Colby and Thomas County area have been laid to rest in WaKeeney.

The ceremony will begin with the presentation of seven wreaths to remember servicemen and women of the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine and prisoners of war and those missing in action.

“We would like to thank all those who have so generously donated money to purchase wreaths for individual graves,” said Goff.

“Family members will be given the opportunity, following the ceremony, to place a wreath on their loved one’s grave. If family members are unable to attend, the American Legion Riders will place the wreath on those graves.”

For information about the project, go to [www.wreathsassamerica.com](http://www.wreathsassamerica.com). To make a contribution, checks may be mailed to the cemetery in WaKeeney, made out to Wreaths Across America. Note which cemetery you’d like your donation to be used for.

Contact Goffz for questions at (785) 743-5648 or at [hgoft@rualtel.net](mailto:hgoft@rualtel.net).

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

# Pampered poinsettias respond with beauty and lasting health

Poinsettias are the world’s best-selling container plants. Each year, more than 65 million of them sell in the United States alone – in a matter of about six weeks.

Choose plants that have clean, healthy, dark green leaves and colorful bracts. Be sure to check the underside of the leaves for insects. Avoid plants with missing leaves or bruised, broken or spray-damaged leaves. Plants shedding yellow pollen are over-mature. Healthy plants last longer and are worth the extra price.

On a cold day – below 40°F – wrap the plant and pot in paper for the trip home and purchase at the end of the shopping trip. Even a slight chill or draft can cause the leaves to drop later. Unwrap the plant as soon as you get home and place it in bright light away from cold or hot air drafts. Pierce the foil at the bottom of the pot for drainage. Water with lukewarm water if the soil is dry. For exact directions on how to best care for your poinsettia, and perhaps get the added bonus of enjoying the blooms through April, and definitely getting your money’s worth, read on.

The care is more challenging than just keeping the plants alive through Christmas, but it isn’t difficult. Ward Upham, horticulturist with Kansas State University Research and Extension, recommends the following as ways to extend the plants’ most attractive period:

Handle with care. Poinsettias are fairly brittle, so their branches will snap off.



Diann Gerstner

• Knowledge for Life

Now for the long term care, poinsettias have three fairly specific needs.

**1. Moisture.** Moisture can be the make-or-break factor. If the plants dry out to the point of wilting, poinsettias drop leaves. If they’re too wet, they develop root rot. They may be pretty and come circled with a bow. But, aluminum and plastic pot wrappings block water drainage. Either remove them or punch drainage holes in the bottom. For best results, check your poinsettias’ moisture daily. Stick your finger an inch into their soil. When the soil is dry at that depth, give them a drink.

For watering, carry the plant to a sink. Use lukewarm water to replace the soil moisture. Stop applying when water begins to run out of the pot’s drainage holes. Discard the drainage water.

**2. Sunlight.** Poinsettias prefer living in the brightest area available – up to and including sunny windows. Place the plant in a sunny window or the brightest area of a room – six hours of light per day is preferable.

**3. Temperature.** Fortunately, their temperature needs aren’t too different from human comfort zones. They like daytime temperatures between 65 and 75 de-

grees and night times between 60 and 65 F. Temperatures above 75 degrees shorten bloom life. Those below 60 cause root rot. Poinsettias are a bit finicky as they don’t appreciate drafts – hot or cold. So avoid cold

draft areas by exterior doors and hot dry areas by heat vent ducts, fireplaces and some appliances.

Window display sites can be tricky. Contact with cold windowpanes can damage plants. The air close to windows can be significantly colder than the average room temperature, particularly

at night. You may need to move poinsettias away from windows at night or draw the drapes between plants and windows.

Poinsettias can live to bloom again next Christmas. We have a publication titled “Home Care of Poinsettias” in our office at 350 S. Range in the Thomas County Office Complex. Stop by and we will be glad to share it with you. You can also find this publication on our website: [www.thomas.ksu.edu](http://www.thomas.ksu.edu).

Diann Gerstner is the family and consumer sciences agent for the Thomas County Extension office.

### Mary A. Larmer



Mary A. (Duehring) Larmer, age 88, of Manhattan, Kansas, died Monday, December 10, 2012, at the Good Shepherd Hospice House in Manhattan.

She was born on July 24, 1924, in Wichita, Kansas, the daughter of Fred and Faye (Carpenter) Duehring. Mary was raised in Wichita where family activities were centered on church and music. She attended public schools and was a member of the Glee Club and National Honor Society. Following her high school graduation, she attended Wichita Business College. Mary then became a secretary at government Air Force offices, the Community Chest and the Nurses Association.

She was united in marriage on December 31, 1945, in Wichita, Kansas, to Oscar V. Larmer. They have celebrated 67 years of marriage. Mary worked putting Oscar through his professional and advanced degrees as a secretary at International Mills (Minneapolis) and Kansas Gas and Electric (Wichita).

She supported all family activities including being a leader of Camp Fire Girls; Den Mother of Cub Scouts and was involved with activities with Boy Scout Troop 75. She was also active with Job’s Daughters; and was an active member of the First United Methodist Church in Manhattan. Additional service organizations and memberships included the KSU Newcomers Club; President of Chapter FK of PEO; President of the Domestic Science Club and Order of the Eastern Star. She was recognized by OES with appointments as Worthy Matron; Secretary; District Aide; Grand Representative and Kansas Grand Chaplain. She was OES chapter secretary for over 16 years. Her many interests included classical music, reading, knitting and cooking.

Mary is survived by her husband, Oscar Larmer, of their home in Manhattan. She is also survived by a daughter: Mary Lynn King of Manhattan; and a son: Michael Larmer (Karen), of Colby, Kansas. Five grandchildren: Rich King (Marcie Gilliland), Jason King (Becky Cheek-King), Seth King, Leanna Larmer and Nick Larmer. Four great grandchildren: Abbey Gilliland-King, Ellory Gilliland-King, Kelsey King and Crosby King also survive.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents; a brother: Arthur Turton; a sister: Norma Strom and her son-in-law: Charles King.

Memorial services will be held 2:00 p.m. Saturday, December 15, 2012, at the First United Methodist Church, 612 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, with Reverend Troy Bowers officiating. There will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall of the church immediately following the memorial service. Cremation is planned with private inurnment to be held at a later date in the Kansas Veterans’ Cemetery at Fort Riley.

On-line condolences may be left for the family through the funeral home website located at [www.ymfuneralhome.com](http://www.ymfuneralhome.com).

Memorials have been established for the Good Shepherd Hospice House and for the First United Methodist Church. Contributions may be left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas 66502.

## Betting busy for baby

The Associated Press

LONDON – Who’s cashing in on the royal pregnancy? Betting shops.

Punters (bettors) in Britain have a range of possible wagers from betting agencies William Hill, Ladbrokes and Paddy Power. Odds as of Tuesday morning:

• Multiple birth?

Paddy Power: Twins: 8-1; Triplets: 100-1; Quadruplets or more 500-1.

• How big?

Paddy Power: Under 5 pounds, 5-1; 6 pounds to 6 pounds 15 ounces, 7-2.

• Name of baby

Paddy Power: Catherine 20-1, Diana 9-1, William 16-1, Britney 500-1.

Ladbrokes: Catherine 16-1, Diana 12-1, Charles 10-1, Arsene 500-1.

• Arsene?

Ha ha. As in Arsene Wenger, coach of Arsenal FC soccer team. Anyway, Prince William supports Aston Villa.

• Will baby be a *Vogue* cover

model before 18?

William Hill: 33-1.

• Will baby become pro soccer star?

William Hill: 1,000-1.

• And one final thought:

“Everybody has got a chance to experience it in their own way, right down to the fact of betting on the names – is it going to be Frances or James or Baby Gaga?” said royal historian Robert Lacey.

### Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day

Hi-Plains Co-op

Wheat (bushel)	\$8.21
Corn (bushel)	\$7.28
Milo (hundredweight)	\$12.55
Soybeans (bushel)	\$13.82

### 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.

## Tasting Room

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### Peaceful Home

I moved in at the end of September and I truly love the peacefulness here. Everyone is friendly and helpful. If there is something you need, they try hard to get it for you. The food is wonderful. I especially like the activities such as bingo, which is my favorite.

Evelyn Regier

#### Fairview Estates Retirement Community

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## Christmas Open House

December 12th, 13th, 14th  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

2013 Calendars  
Cookies, Hot Cider & More  
Register for various drawings

Mr. & Mrs. Santa will be visiting on Wednesday from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

Uncalled 4 will be singing on Thursday Dec 13th @ 2:00 PM Main Bank and 2:30 PM at our Dillons Location.

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Thursday, December 13, 2012 • 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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**Sign up for drawings & enjoy refreshments!**

“Our thoughts and hearts turn Gratefully to customers, family and friends who have made progress possible.”

To all of you we extend our sincerest gratitude and wish you and yours a Blessed Holiday Season!

Sincerely,  
**Denise & Joe Garcia**