

Deaths

Leona M. Boeger

Leona M. Boeger, 82, an Oakley homemaker and mother of Mark Boeger and Glenn Boeger of Colby, died Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2012, at the Gove County Medical Center in Quinter.

She was born March 23, 1930, to Jake and Anna (Kaiser) Heinrich in Grainfield. On Nov. 28, 1950, she married George V. Boeger in Grainfield.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her husband in 1994, an infant daughter, Mary Boeger, and a brother, Don Heinrich.

Survivors include two other sons, James Boeger, Grinnell, and Clinton Boeger, Topeka; a daughter, Georgianna Smith, Augusta; two brothers, Melvin Heinrich,

Braman, Okla., and Leo Heinrich, Denver; two sisters, Catherine Morel, Grainfield, and Pauline Ribordy, Oakley; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2012, at the St. Paul's Catholic Church in Angelus, with burial in the church cemetery.

Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Monday at the church, with a rosary and wake at 7.

The family suggests memorials to the church cemetery fund, to St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Oakley or to the hospital, in care of Kennedy-Koster Funeral Home, Box 221, Oakley, Kan., 67748.

Condolences may be left at www.kennedykosterfh.com.

John D. 'Bud' Wilson

John D. "Bud" Wilson, 73, an Oakley cattle buyer, died Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2012, at the Gove County Medical Center in Quinter.

He was Born Nov. 8, 1939, in Logan County, Colo., to Harold and Rose (Hall) Wilson. On Feb. 1, 1986, he married Judy L. Swart in Oakley.

His parents preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife, of the home; three sons, Bob (Deb) Wilson, Parker, Colo.; Jim (Loretta) Wilson, North Wales, Pa.; and Bill (Lisa) Wilson, Scott City; a daughter, Janet (Bill) Sanders, Kansas City, Mo.; a sister, Ruth

Nation (Troy Walker), Safford, Ariz.; and nine grandchildren.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012, at the Buffalo Bill Cultural Center in Oakley.

Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday at the center.

Cremation and private inurnment will be later.

The family suggests memorials to the medical center, Logan County Emergency Medical Services or the Oakley United Christian Church, in care of the Kennedy-Koster Funeral Home, Box 221, Oakley, Kan., 67748.

Condolences may be left at www.kennedykosterfh.com

New thrillers hit the shelves



Melany Wilks

Library Links

her. Meanwhile Carter's wife, in the business of investigating murders in London, finds links to Hannah's most recent incident. The Carters must work to find one of the most notorious deadly killers and abductors in London's history.

The third book, by none other than Tom Clancy, is "Threat Vector," book four of the Jack Ryan Jr. series. Jack, the son of the president, works for a shadow organization called the "Campus" which exists to thwart cyber and other attacks toward the country's infrastructure.

China is challenging the sovereignty of Taiwan and set to launch anti-ship missiles. Simultaneously, a cyber-infiltration attack is launched on the technological infrastructure of the U.S. Ryan must take covert action to defeat both attacks even while someone is trying to expose his work.

The fourth book is "Nano," by Robin Cook. Cook's familiar protagonist Pia Grazdani navigates a

new field of medical interest when she leaves New York for the Rocky Mountains, where she joins a high tech and secretive firm working in nanotechnology. A nanometer is one-billionth of a meter; a DNA molecule is 2 or 3 nanos. This technology, being investigated for construction of microbivores and nanorobots, is being researched to help develop ways to destroy viruses and bacteria.

Pia soon finds this exciting work is also dangerous, with few if any regulations. The plant does research on humans who do not know there are dangers or that they are looked on as expendable.

Other titles we are adding are: "Shiver," by Karen Robards; "Shadow Creek," by Joy Fielding; "The Lucky Ones," by Anna Godbersen; "Live by Night," by Dennis Lehane; "The Buzzard Table," by Margaret Maron; "The Lawgiver," by Herman Wouk; and "Margaret Truman's Experiment in Murder," by Donald Bain.

For parents of students, we will be showing movies in the basement at 3 p.m. during Christmas break this year. Friday, Dec. 21, we will show "Little Drummer Boy," and on Wednesday, Dec. 26, we will watch "Frosty the Snowman and Frosty Returns." Thursday, Dec. 27, it will be "Polar Express." Friday, Dec. 28, we

will show "Snow Buddies." Monday, Dec. 31, will be "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe." Wednesday, Jan. 2, we will watch a wintery movie, "Ice Age."

Don't forget the Pioneer Memorial Library has begun its Christmas campaign called Food For Fines; it continues until Saturday, Dec. 22. You can redeem library fines by bringing in canned or boxed food that roughly equals your fine, filling out a form and giving it to the library staff. The program does not apply to lost or damaged items, please talk to our staff about those. The food is donated to the Genesis-Thomas County food bank. If you have questions, call us at 460-4470.

We also want to remind you to pick up audiobooks for your travels. Many check out mysteries, thrillers and other audio books to listen to on a long drive. Some check out DVDs to play for their children on a long road trip as well.

Up until Sunday, Dec. 23, our regular winter hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, to 5 p.m. Friday and to 4 p.m. Saturday. Sunday hours are 1 to 4 p.m. We will tell you our holiday hours next week and have them posted on our doors and on our website at colbylibrary.com.

See you in the library!

Colby Rotary Club

Colby Rotary Club met Dec. 4 at Colby Community College with 31 members and guests Jeff Dennis and Rod Williams.

Tama Unger had the program. Her guest was Williams, information technology director at Citizens Medical Center. His presentation was on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and how it has affected the hospital. Electronic medical records must be implemented and certain requirements met by 2015 to avoid a reduction in Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements.

Citizens met the first requirement during 2012 and will be working toward meeting Stage 2 requirements during 2013. The final stage of this act will be completed in 2014.

Nancy LePell won Roto-Lotto. On Tuesday, the club had 27 members and guests attending, including Kaitlyn Flanagan, Jay and Luetta Flanagan, Randy Krug, a visiting Rotarian from Russell, and Maureen Duffy, American Red Cross representative.

Unger reported 29 children will

be recipients of this year's "Coats for Kids" project.

Kaitlyn Flanagan was recognized as the December Student of the Month. She shared her high school and community activities. Her plans include a degree in interior design at Fort Hays State University.

Krug and Duffy gave a presentation on the "Rotary Rescue" service project the Russell Rotary Club and the American Red Cross have partnered on. The purpose of the "Rotary Rescue" is to help the Red Cross during community disasters. Training and support is provided by the Red Cross. Rotarians provide initial assistance to both victims and emergency personnel. Krug said the project has been very successful in Russell County and has promoted caring for their own community and neighbors caring for neighbors.

Jerry Arensdorf won Roto-Lotto.

Rotary meets weekly in Room 106 of the Student Union.

This week we are adding a few real thrillers to our shelves. The first is "Two Graves," by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child, book 12 of the Pendergast series.

In this newest item, FBI special agent Aloysius Pendergast just watched his wife being abducted. Following this horrible scene, he retreats into himself to plan how to take down these evil persons. When Pendergast is approached by NYPD Lt. D'Agosta to help solve a series of murders he finds them linked to his wife. He travels to South America, ready to go anywhere to solve both crimes. He must take out the murderous abductors and stop their even bigger plots.

The second item is "Private London," by James Patterson and Mark Pearson.

Protagonist Hannah Shapiro and her mother are kidnapped. The husband and father, of a high profile government agency, tells the kidnappers he won't pay the ransom. Mother dies, and Hanna lives - thanks to Jack Morgan, who blew the brains out of the captor minutes too late to save the mother.

Fast forward to London, where Hannah is attending college. Still in danger, her father is paying Dan Carter, head of a private London investigation agency, to protect

Loan defaults lower in rural communities

It's often said there are no secrets in a small town.

But if the "everyone knows everyone" aspect of small towns has its drawbacks, it may also have a clear upside: well-informed financial transactions.

According to new research by Professor Bob DeYoung of the University of Kansas School of Business, small-business loans originated by rural banks default much less frequently than loans originated by urban banks. Default rates are lowest at banks in the most rural communities, and for banks located nearest to their customers. In other words, as "ruralness" increases, so does the success rate of bank loans.

DeYoung concludes that this is because rural banks have more access to so-called "soft information" and personal relationships with customers than do urban banks, and because rural areas have higher levels of social capital - trust, shared networks and cultural similarities - than do cities. Together, soft information and social capital overcome the fact that there often isn't much hard data on small-business borrowers in rural towns.

"Everyone knows everyone in a small town," DeYoung says, "and that leads to well-informed lending agreements between rural banks and rural businesses. The more rural a bank and community, and the closer the bank is to the customer, the more likely the loan agreement will be successful. Why? Because personal relationships and local expertise matter, and those things can overcome the lack of hard information a lender might have about a small-business

client."

Banks have always relied on both hard and soft information in deciding whether to make a business loan, DeYoung said. But in small towns, hard data about borrower creditworthiness can be hard to come by. For example, small rural businesses are less likely to have audited financial statements, which reduces the amount of hard data about their creditworthiness. The resale market for fixed investments and specialized assets is thin, which makes it difficult to know the value of collateral in the case of loan default.

But while hard information may be lacking in rural communities, DeYoung says, soft information and social capital are not.

"The social and civic underpinnings of rural commerce are different from those in metro markets," he says. "Rural communities are closer-knit than urban communities, and these personal informational networks extend into the rural business community as well. This gives rural banks a costless endowment of soft information about local businesses and entrepreneurs. Rural banks clearly use this information well, as evidenced by the low default rates on their loans."

DeYoung uses data on 18,000 U.S. Small Business Administration loans originated between 1984 and 2001. These data provide a good test of the value of soft information and lending relationships because SBA borrowers tend to be smaller, younger and more credit-challenged than other small businesses, and because loans during this time period were originated largely before the ad-

vent of small business credit scoring and securitization.

DeYoung's findings are important because they help answer the question that has perplexed observers for years: How do rural banks continue to exist when decades-old trends in banking consolidation and urbanization suggest they should be disappearing?

"There are two major trends that you'd think would mean the death of rural banks," DeYoung says. "First, the banking industry continues to consolidate. Second, rural economies continue to become smaller and more volatile. And on top of this, nearly all rural banks operate below minimum efficient scale."

"So based on these factors, you'd think that rural banks would be closing their doors, right? But that's not the case. In fact, 59 percent of remaining banks are located in rural counties, places that

account for only 21 percent of the U.S. population. Our findings help explain why."

More broadly, DeYoung's conclusions have implications for elected officials and policymakers aiming to channel credit to small businesses.

"For new and small businesses, access to credit is crucial to their survival," he says. "Of course, contracting with these businesses is risky for lenders, which means lenders must be expert in identifying the creditworthiness of these small businesses. Thus, a key question for researchers and policymakers is, 'Which lenders, and which lending practices, are best at lending to new businesses?' Our research suggests that rural community banks have a comparative advantage when it comes to lending to small businesses, and it's because of soft information and social capital."

Give trees water

Water is main thing trees need to survive and grow, and the dry weather the last couple of years has been tough on both young and mature trees throughout the state.

"More than 80 percent of variation in tree growth is related to water supply," said Bob Atchison with the Kansas Forest Service.

He said the most common signs of drought last summer appeared in foliage and included leaf drop, curling, wilting, discoloration and dead branches. Symptoms usually appear first in the top center portion of canopies, making it difficult to identify drought stress in tall, more mature trees.

Atchison recommended several measures to limit tree damage during drought, even in the winter months.

"Even though we have entered the winter season," he said, "it's still helpful to apply water when weather allows and the soil can absorb moisture."

While newly planted trees should be watered regularly for the first three years, established,

mature trees should be watered every two to four weeks by soaking the top 12 inches of soil under the tree's canopy. Atchison recommended using a soaker hose, drip irrigation or slow drip bucket to spread water over the entire root area. As a general rule, he recommended two gallons of water be applied for every one inch of tree diameter.

He also warned against over watering. "Too much water can kill a tree by eliminating the air from the soil and suffocating the roots," he said. "The soil should not stay saturated, but have time to dry out between waterings."

Atchison said pruning and fertilizing often have negative effects during drought as well. Both cause the tree to expend energy that could otherwise be spent on growth.

For other questions about tree care, call the Forest Service at (785) 532-3300 or go to www.KansasForests.org.

Corrections

In a photo caption on Page 9 of the Wednesday, Dec. 12, Colby Free Press for the article "Colby wrestlers take second in invitational," the Colby wrestler was incorrectly identified. The wrestler was Taylor O'Leary. This was

a reporting error.

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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)	\$8.17
Corn (bushel)	\$7.25
Milo (hundredweight)	\$12.50
Soybeans (bushel)	\$13.83

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KANSAS food bank

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The angel said to them "A Savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord"

In Loving Memory

In honor of Theron Johnson, the Johnson Family is sponsoring a **LIVING NATIVITY** December 17-21, 2012

2626 Highway K25, Colby, Kansas

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Hot Cider and Fellowship will be provided.

A free-will offering may be made. All proceeds will benefit Genesis-Thomas County (local food bank)

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