

Open house to mark 95th birthday Dec. 29

Anogene Rogers of Rexford will observe her 95th birthday with an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 29, at the Selden Community Center, 110 N. Kansas Ave.

Her children would like to invite family and friends to join them.

She has three children, Jim Rogers, Eileen (Harold) Murphy and Steve (Judy) Rogers, all of Selden; five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Anogene and her late husband, Gene, began farming four miles east of Rexford in the 1940s and she still lives on the farm today. Her daughter-in-law, Judy, says she is one of the oldest – if not the oldest – parishioner of Sacred Heart Catholic Church of Selden and is the oldest of 16 children of the Mumm family, some of whom live in Colby and the surround-



Anogene Rogers

ing area.

For those unable to attend, cards may be sent to her home at 13287 W. Rd. 110 N., Rexford, Kan., 67753.

Santa collection jolly

By Adele Oliveira

The Santa Fe New Mexican

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) – Lots of families have beloved holiday decorations, but Jeri Gonzales takes Christmas collectibles to another level. If you visit her red-painted living room between Thanksgiving and New Year's, you'll be greeted by hundreds of Santa Claus figurines, stuffed animals, wall hangings, ornaments, animatronic toys and nativity scenes.

Altogether, Gonzales has about 1,500 Santa objects (which she stores in stacked Tupperware containers in her garage) but is only displaying 1,090 this year.

"When I was a little girl, about 10, my father gave me my first Santa," Gonzales said, holding a 1960s-era plush Santa doll with a hard plastic face. His beard is painted white, flaking off in places, and he makes a laughing noise when a crank on his back is turned. "But I didn't start seriously collecting until about 20 years ago, when I got married," she said.

Gonzales is a nurse who works in home health care. She has four children (ages 32, 31, 30 and 20), and "they know they're not allowed in the house on Christmas unless they got a Santa for me," she joked. She loves Santa because "he represents the giving spirit of the season."

Special shelves are set up each year to display the collection, which includes every incarnation of Santa imaginable. There are lots of Santas holding long, scrolling lists (covered with the names of good boys and girls, naturally), a Santa bird feeder, Santa mugs, Homer Simpson Santa, football Santa, Mr. Potato Head Santa, beach bum Santa, hip-hop Santa, Deliverance-style dueling-banjos

Santa (plus a reindeer to play with) and, oddly, frog-going-down-the-chimney Santa, to name but a few. In addition, Gonzales' 10-foot-tall Christmas tree is decorated exclusively with Santa ornaments, plus a little silver tinsel.

Gonzales regularly expands her collection, adding around 20 figurines each year, and usually bargain hunts at Hobby Lobby ("my favorite place," she said) after the holidays. But if she really loves a Santa, she'll spring for it at full price. Gonzales once drove all the way to Tyler, Texas, just to purchase her most beloved figurine: a statue of a bald, praying Santa kneeling in front of the baby Jesus in the manger.

Gonzales also makes about a third of her Santas herself, including a bright latch-hook rug that hangs on the far wall of the living room as well as several needlepoint pieces and stuffed Santas.

When Gonzales was growing up with her seven brothers and sisters, she remembers lighting farolitos in front of the family's home near Osage Avenue every Christmas Eve. "I used to hate lighting those candles," she laughed. "We had real farolitos and a family open house. All the uncles, aunts, good friends and neighbors would come over."

In those days, Gonzales said, winter in Santa Fe was colder and wetter than it is now.

"You could almost count on snow by Halloween," she said. "Cold, wet, freezing snow, always at least a foot of it for months. It was a winter wonderland, basically."

"I don't remember when I stopped believing in Santa," Gonzales said, although she said she thinks it was after her father gave her the Santa doll when she was 10.

'Good-looking feet' carry message of joy

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns" (Isaiah 52:7).

For many people Christmas isn't always merry. It can be a family time with tension as heavy as Auntie's fruit cake. It can be memories of Christmas past that remind them that something or someone is missing.

The sounds of Christmas to single people are sounds of silence – a holiday without a helpmate, again. It's a day some couples would love to have a house of noisy kids, but the womb is barren, again. To some elderly Christmas it's just another day that mocks them, telling them that they no longer have an earthly purpose.

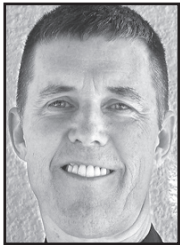
For whatever reason, Christmas is a day that rubs peoples' noses into other peoples' merriment – or seeming merriment.

If you know someone in one of the above scenarios, will you do something about it? Don't try to take their pain away. No one can do that. However, you can be a bearer of good gifts to help them deal with the pain. Here are some ideas.

Invite them to church to hear the Good News, offering to pick them up or wait for them at the church door. The children's Christmas church service would be good. If they're shut-ins, you could bring them tapes or DVDs of the church services and ask if they'd be an "adopted" grandparent.

If they're single, invite them to be a part of your family time and make sure they get a gift. Whatever ideas you decide to implement, do them in the spirit of a good neighbor and in so doing you'll have good-looking feet bringing Good News in word and deed.

What is the Good News? It's more than the manger. It's the manger in the shadow of the cross: Christ was born to walk this world and to die on the cross to give joy that goes above and beyond the Season. Christ will return and bring believers to heaven where



Robert Alexander

• From the Pulpit

merriment is never tainted by sin.

In Christ is purpose. In Christ is someone who hears the cries and understands. In Christ is a lifetime companion. In Christ there are gifts that don't wear out, but are everlasting. There's heavenly peace, as opposed to earthly peace that's the absence of conflict – Jesus making up for our sins and reconciling us to the heavenly Father. There's membership in God's family through the power of his word.

Even though we can be at odds with each other and with God – that's called sin – there's his forgiveness that makes us whiter than snow and enables us to make up with each other. There's saving faith, the ability to get a grip on Jesus' scarred hands, knowing he holds us near and dear to him and that nothing will separate us from his love.

Some would say that their feet are the ugliest part of their bodies. If that's true, it's good that we wear shoes.

Who or what gives us good looking feet? The "who" is Jesus. The "what" is the Good News that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, walked to the cross and walked out of the tomb, all for the sake of sinners and the many everlasting gifts that come as a result of what he did.

Put your good-looking feet to good use this Christmas season and every season: be a good neighbor in words and in deeds and let people of all kinds see the scarred but good looking feet of Jesus their Savior.

The Rev. Bob Alexander is pastor of the Trinity Lutheran Church at Fifth and Country Club in Colby. He may be reached at 462-3497.

Thank You

A special thanks to all who gave food, flowers, cards and memorials in Dad's memory.

We are truly blessed to live in a community that shares in the lose and came to help us celebrate the life of such a special person. A special thank you to Pastor Sheryl and the United Methodist Church for the beautiful service and deserts. Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered.

The family of Arlo Sporer

Babies

Elan Gilbert Baalmann

Elan Gilbert Baalmann, son of Jason and Shane Baalmann of Oakley, was born Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012, at the Hays Medical Center. He weighed 6 pounds, 9 ounces and measured 19 inches.

He has a brother Liam at home. Grandparents are Danny and Delores Lockhart of Oakley, the late Eugene Baalmann and Rick

and Denise Gillespie of Grainfield.

Elan is a great-grandson of Victor Schmidtberger of Quinter and Ethel Gillespie and Willie and Louella Zerr, all of Oakley, and the late Urban and Irene Baalmann, Esta Schmidtberger and Gilbert Gillespie.

Avery Faye Chamberlin

Avery Faye Chamberlin, daughter of Shane and Karyn Chamberlin of Colby, was born Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. She weighed 6 pounds, 4 ounces and measured 20 inches.

She was welcomed home by sisters Makayla and Emma and brothers Andrew and Owen.

Grandparents are Ron and Tricia Miner of Mapleton, Utah, and Dale and Elaine Chamberlin of Dodge City.

Brielle Ada Finley

Brielle Ada Finley, daughter of Justin and Kayla Finley of Colby, was born Sunday, Dec. 2, 2012, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. She weighed 6 pounds, 5 ounces and measured 19 1/4 inches.

Grandparents are Mike and

Sondra Finley and Lonnie and Lori Wilson, all of Colby. Brielle is the great-granddaughter of Bertilla Wilson, Sharon Stramel and Maria Finley, all of Colby, and Ilene O'Leary of St. Francis.

Aria Kay Garcia

Aria Kay Garcia, daughter of Cole and Sarah Garcia of Colby, was born Monday, Dec. 17, 2012, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. She weighed 7 pounds, 2

ounces and measured 20 inches.

She is the granddaughter of Tom and Sharon Redmond and Joe and Denise Garcia, all of Colby, and Alicia Riedel of Hays.

Newest Monopoly stars Lagos

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) – Nigeria's largest city of Lagos is no boardwalk, but now Monopoly is taking inspiration from the city's sprawling chaos.

Officials unveiled a Lagos-themed Monopoly board game Tuesday in the city. Officials walked past a massive display of the new board game on the floor at

Lagos' City Hall on Lagos Island, showing the familiar spaces with their new themed names.

The most expensive property is not Boardwalk, but Lagos' Banana Island, which is an artificial island with mansions and exclusive apartments. The cheapest is Makoko, a waterfront slum of homes on stilts.



The Best Things in Life, Aren't Things... this is the perfect time of year to think about what that really matters. I know, I go over the top when it comes to Christmas gifts for my grandsons. It is difficult not to give them everything they desire...after all isn't the role of a "grandma" to spoil them? I do think I try very hard to also teach them values and what the true Christmas message is. They are great boys and I have seen them share from the heart many times. Once they found out about a boy in their school that had very little and he wore the same sweatshirt and jeans to school each day. They overheard their mother talking to someone at school about the needs of this boy and the school was concerned about him. The boys came down the stairs the next morning with a bundle of clothes in their arms, and said "mom we don't know who this boy is, but could you please take these to the school office and ask our principal to give them to him". Of course their mother had to fight back the tears that were filling her eyes and she promised she would take them to the school office. This Christmas lets all reflect on the value of "non-things" . It is always great to receive but even better to give from the heart. I wish you and yours a great Holiday, filled with all the "non-things" that are valued!

"an agent outselling"
Stock Realty & Auction Co. molloyo@stockrealtyandauction.com (785)462-5203

Services Directory

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



FAITH FELLOWSHIP CHURCH, Pastor Dan Keel. 815 W. 3rd. Sundays at 2 p.m. 337-401-7207 (temp)

CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH, 1890 S. Franklin Ave. - Colby Community Building. Pastor Dave Funk. Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. www.celebratejesus.org

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-RAIRIE 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, Youth Pastor Ben Phillips. 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.

To become a sponsor call Kathryn or Janene today at 462-3963.

WINONA METHODIST CHURCH, 501 Bellview Ave. Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. (CDT)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Rev. James Bridges, 615 W. Webster, 785-462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m.; Bible Study: 6:30 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)

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.

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD, Joan Dingwerth, Director, 785-687-2565.

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., 345N. 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. Shop online at: www.rlmregionalchurch.com.

COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. James Markdock, 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

OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH, 217 Main St., Brewster, 785-694-2751. Sunday worship 10:00 a.m.

This feature is sponsored by these business firms as a contribution to the religious life of the community.

155 W. Fifth St.
785-462-3963

COLBY
FREE PRESS

COLBY
LUMBER

Bud Van Horn and Staff
1760 W. 4th 462-2181