

Deaths

Thelbert T. Boyd

Thelbert T. Boyd, 86, Monument, a rural route postal carrier in Logan and Thomas counties before he retired, died Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013, at the Deseret Health and Rehab Center in Colby.

He was born Jan. 7, 1927, in Hays, to Roscoe and Pearl (Mansfield) Boyd. He grew up in western Kansas, attending school in Winona and Page City. He served two years in the Army with the occupation forces in Germany.

On Aug. 3, 1958, he married Marian Peterson in Page City.

He was confirmed in the Lutheran church, and his church and its organizations were his primary activities. He was a church officer in various capacities over the years.

He was active in Oakley, delivering Meals on Wheels, driving the public transportation van, serving on the board of the Oakley Senior Center and working with the Lions Club. His hobbies included carpentry, reading, bowling and visiting at the elevator.

Preceding him in death were his

parents and three brothers, Maurice, Norman and Francis Boyd.

Survivors include his wife, of the home; two daughters, Esther Boyd, Kansas City, Mo., and Carolyn (Jon Loughmiller) Boyd-Loughmiller, Denver; a brother, Jim (Terri) Boyd, Oakley; and five sisters, Dora Ann Boyd and Mary Boyd, both of Denver; Lenora (Bob) Mullen, La Puente, Calif.; Norma (George) Sturgeon, Lincoln, Neb.; and Agnes (Bob) Meier, Hays.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 18, 2013, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Oakley, with burial including military honors at the Monument Township Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the Kennedy-Koster Funeral Home in Oakley.

The family suggests memorials to the church or the nursing home, in care of the funeral home, Box 221, Oakley, Kan., 67748.

Condolences may be left at www.kennedykosterfh.com.

Daughters of Isabella

The Daughters of Isabella Immaculate Heart of Mary Circle met Jan. 3 in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church basement. Regent Charlene Barnett conducted the meeting.

Following opening rituals, a short form conferral ceremony was done by Charlene Barnett for two new members, Alex Williams and Fritz Ryan.

The January spiritual message about "New Beginnings" was read.

Thanks were received from Sister Loretta Podlena and Melissa Augustine.

The scribe reported the November meeting was in the paper but she didn't put the Christmas party news in.

Quarterly reports will be done next month.

Twelve members attended Jean

Mallory's funeral. The Daughters of Isabella emblems were taken by Louise Dougherty who will take a ribbon and attach the emblems to it to be worn around the neck at a member's funeral.

Forms were available for relatives of members to apply for a \$500 scholarship. Three scholarships have been awarded over the years to either a child of a grandchild of a member from Colby.

Sunday, Feb. 17, is the date for the breakfast after both 8 and 10 a.m. masses.

Pat Erickson put the information from Joan Albers' computer on a flash drive.

After the meeting adjourned, a pumpkin roll was served by Theresa Baker and Ceanne Rinehart for the time of visiting.

-Margaret Denneler recording secretary

Check your home's safety for Radon Awareness Month

January is National Radon Awareness month.

I've been telling you that radon is a real and present danger for over three years. According to statistics I may be starting to get some of you "slow to act" people - a group I am often a member of - thinking about having your home tested. The simple do-it-yourself test costs very little - \$5 if you buy the kit from the Extension office. It's what I call "\$5 peace of mind" that your house is a safe place to be living.

Why do I keep harping on radon? While nationally one out of every 15 homes is estimated to have high radon levels; in Kansas the estimate is one in every four homes. Another reason: radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer; exposure to radon contributes to 21,000 deaths per year in the United States.

One article I read, and now can't find to quote, compared radon exposure to smoking cigarettes. The higher the radon level the more cigarettes smoked a day. Would you let your children smoke? Letting them live in a home with high radon levels may have similar health effects. If you are a smoker, that is why it is even more dangerous for you to be exposed to radon; you are doubling up the adverse effects on your lungs.

Where does this stuff come from? Radon is found in the ground we live on. Or, more specifically, it is the result of the natural decaying of uranium and radium in the soil. It can be found in every type of home - old, new, with a basement or without a basement. This odorless, colorless and tasteless gas can seep from the soil beneath the foundation through cracks or joints in the foundation into a home.

Radon testing is recommended for everyone. Testing is important, because it's the only way to tell how much of the gas is present. This simple and low cost test may be all that it takes to spare you or a loved one from lung



Diann Gerstner

Knowledge for Life

cancer. To determine your home's radon level, I recommend that you purchase a radon test kit from the Thomas County Extension Office, 350 S. Range, Suite 16. It only costs \$5. That is our cost; we make no profit from these sales. We sell them as a service to the community. Other test kits can be found in some home and hardware stores and on the Internet, usually for \$25 or less. Now is a great time to test your home, as you need to test when all windows and outside doors are kept shut as much as possible.

The kit we sell is extremely easy to use and comes with easy-to-follow directions. A quick overview of the directions follows: Be sure to write down the test kit number and keep it where you can find it. Should you not receive your results for some reason, this number allows you to check on the Internet to find the results. Fill out your name, address, date, floor level of the test and time test started on the back of the test envelope. Use the square sponge provided to hold the envelope open.

In the lowest level of your home, hang the envelope at breath level. There is a plastic hook attached to the envelope. I just thumb-tacked a string into the ceiling and let the hook hang on it.

The spot you choose needs to be at least three feet from any window, door or outside wall and not in a draft. Usually it is best to do the test in a living room or bedroom. Testing in a kitchen or bathroom, typically with more hu-

mid air and ventilation, is not recommended. Once you have it positioned, leave it there for three to seven days. When you take it down, pull out the sponge, seal it shut, mark the date and time, clip off the hook and drop it in the mail. You are done.

In two weeks or less, you will receive a letter informing you of your home's radon level, or you can go on the Internet and find your results. It's that simple.

If the initial test result is four pCi/L or higher, a follow-up test is recommended. Many of the tests taken in Colby are around 12 to 13 pCi/L. Consider mitigating your home if the average of the first and second test is four pCi/L or higher. We have an information sheet about mitigation available at the Extension office.

Information is also available online at www.kansasradonprogram.org or at the Kansas Radon Hotline at (800) 693-5343. There are several factors to consider, whether you do it yourself, how and where the system has to be run in your house, but the average mitigation system might cost anywhere from \$1500 to \$2500. Not a cheap thing to do, but probably cheaper than the potential health risks and costs of lung cancer.

It is recommended that you re-test your home if you do anything to change the way your house "breathes" such as changing windows, heating or cooling systems, insulation or air sealing features.

Do I have you motivated yet? If you haven't already, stop by the Extension office and pick up a test kit today. We have information packets about radon available or you can go online to www.kansasradonprogram.org or call the Radon Hotline at (800) 693-5343.

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

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE

Thursday

1:42 a.m. - Walk through at Twisters.

2:29 a.m. - Helped ambulance crew.

3:30 a.m. - Walk through at Oasis.

6:35 a.m. - House checks.

8:33 a.m. - Walk through at Colby Grade School and Colby Middle School.

8:44 a.m. - Walk through at Sacred Heart School.

8:56 a.m. - Caller reported hit and run collision. Report filed.

10:05 a.m. - Late entry/criminal damage to property: report filed on snowball thrown at 5:03 p.m. last Wednesday evening in the 500 block of S. Range, breaking a windshield.

11 a.m. - Provided directions from Oasis Travel Center to Walmart.

12:09 p.m. - Caller reported then came to station in reference to pickup sliding through intersection. Spoke to reporting party; located vehicle, driver not found.

4:38 p.m. - Helped motorist on Country Club.

5:04 p.m. - Walk through at Walmart.

Friday

7:29 a.m. - Injury accident in the 1600 block of W. Fourth.

11:52 a.m. - Caller reported barking dog. Written warning issued to owner for noisy animal.

1:21 p.m. - Collision in the 300

block of E. Fifth.

3:43 p.m. - Domestic disturbance: caller reported fight. Report filed.

9:40 p.m. - Caller reported barking dogs. Not found.

9:48 p.m. - Driving under the influence report filed on traffic stop.

Saturday

4:48 a.m. - Business called about suspicious vehicle in parking lot. Everything OK.

11:08 a.m. - Criminal damage: caller reported his vehicle's window being shot out. Report filed.

8:19 p.m. - Caller reported barking dog. Not found.

9:39 p.m. - Caller reported numerous students running around unsupervised at Colby Community Building. All OK; parents handling matter.

10:11 p.m. - Caller reported domestic situation. Report filed.

11:24 p.m. - Took guest to truck stop.

Sunday

12:44 a.m. - Walk through at Twisters.

12:45 a.m. - Caller reported hearing yelling or screaming. Not found in the area.

2:23 a.m. - Driving under the influence report filed for traffic stop.

3:54 a.m. - Took subject from Law Enforcement Center to a residence.

4:33 a.m. - Noise complaint: caller reported party. Subjects

spoken to.

5:51 p.m. - Subject reported theft of items.

11:14 p.m. - Caller reported loud music. Spoke to subject, music was turned down.

Monday

2:14 a.m. - Walk through at Walmart.

12:10 p.m. - Subject came to station about pickup backed into van in parking lot. Spoke to subjects, no report.

4:04 p.m. - Caller reported suspicious person. Not found.

THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF

Thursday

9:48 a.m. - Subject came to Law Enforcement Center in reference to accident with deer that occurred yesterday evening at K-25 mile 189. Report filed.

6:10 p.m. - Subject came to station about theft from East College.

Friday

8:07 a.m. - Police officer advised ambulance backed into his patrol car on private property in the 1600 block of W. Fourth. Report filed.

9:43 a.m. - Helped highway patrolman on traffic stop at eastbound I-70 mile 50.5.

9:52 a.m. - Booked Dalton Kyle Paul.

12:47 p.m. - Caller reported possible phone harassment from telemarketer. Provided information to reporting party.

1:35 p.m. - Civil forfeiture report filed.

1:42 p.m. - Spoke to subject about speeding around Colby.

3:33 p.m. - Served warrant on Marc Phillips.

5:02 p.m. - Served protection from abuse order in Mingo.

9:58 p.m. - Provided assistance to motorist on U.S. 24 one mile into Sheridan County.

Saturday

7:41 p.m. - Booked Jose Del Real-De La Torre.

Sunday

2:27 p.m. - Booked Felix Anthony Blain.

6:54 p.m. - Caller reported possible abandoned vehicle in field near Willow and Taft. All appeared OK. Contacted owner to move it.

Monday

12:49 p.m. - Helped Highway Patrol on traffic stop at eastbound I-70 mile 57.

2:14 p.m. - Booked Louisa Aceves.

3:27 p.m. - Booked Felesia M. Fode.

11:02 p.m. - Booked Jayde Dwon Adelman.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day	
Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$7.78
Corn (bushel)	\$7.36
Milo (hundredweight)	\$12.50
Soybeans (bushel)	\$13.23

Clarification

The story "Colby native writes new book" in the Monday, Jan. 14, issue of the Colby Free Press, contained a statement which may have been misleading. Author Nancy Larsen-Sanders taught literature and creative writing through the Continuing Education department of Kansas State University, not at the university itself.

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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

Snowball Festival this week in Hays

The Shooting Stars square dancers are having their annual Snowball Festival on Friday and Saturday in the Black and Gold Ballroom of the Memorial Union at Fort Hays State University.

Featured callers will be Sue Dellere and Tammy Gough, with featured cuers Jeanne and Warren Shane.

On Friday evening there will be rounds from 7 to 8 p.m. and squares from 8 to 10:30 p.m.

Saturday will have an introduction to rounds workshop from 10 a.m. to noon with Jeanne Shane.

Dellere and Gough will give a square workshop from 1 to 2 p.m. From 2 to 3 p.m. will be a plus dance workshop and from 3 to 5 p.m. will be a plus dance.

Dinner break will be at the Reed Center, 317 W. 13th. Donations are welcome.

On Saturday evening, rounds will be held from 7 to 7:45 p.m., with a grand march at 7:45. Squares and rounds will continue from 8 to 10:30 p.m. There will be an afterparty following the dance.

Fast-food robber recognized

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) - Officials say a suspected robber of a suburban Detroit restaurant who returned months later to get some food is under arrest after being recognized by employees.

The Oakland County sheriff's

department says workers at a McDonald's in Pontiac spotted the 40-year-old man in the drive-thru.

Sheriff's deputies responded and took the Pontiac man into custody. He was being held at the Oakland County Jail pending charges.

Mexico's 'grand warlock' 2013 predictions continue 30-year tradition

By Olga R. Rodriguez

The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY - Antonio Vazquez is a cherubic 72-year-old with twinkling eyes, a long white beard and a knack for predicting things that don't actually happen.

For more than three decades, Mexico's self-proclaimed "Grand Warlock" has been doing tarot-card and horoscope readings to reveal what's in store for the coming year. Among past predictions: Fidel Castro would die in 2008. Germany would win the 2006 World

Cup. Barack Obama would lose to Mitt Romney.

Despite Vazquez's consistent record of incorrect prognostication, dozens of journalists swarmed Mexico City's press club for the Grand Warlock's latest round of predictions in what has become one of this country's most reliably strange and inexplicably popular New Year's traditions.

On tap for 2013, according to the Grand Warlock: a new war in the Middle East, chaos in Venezuela and a tough year for Obama.

But it's not all bad news.

Vazquez said 2013 will be a great year for Mexico, a country that has struggled with drug violence and a slow economy.

"Mexico is going to have a relevant place in the world, economically speaking," he said. "Mexico will place itself as a paradise for investors."

The thick-browed warlock also said there will be a lot fewer people killed this year in Mexico. According to some statements by the current Mexican administration, at least 70,000 people were slain between 2006 and 2012 as

the government of then President Felipe Calderon battled drug traffickers.

After reading some of his dozens of predictions, Vazquez took questions from reporters and said tarot cards showed Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, who is battling cancer, will make it to his inauguration, but that he will be dead by April.

He also said cards showed him the death of Jenni Rivera, the Latin music superstar, killed Dec. 8 in a plane crash, was not an accident.

"The plane would not have ex-

ploded the way it did if it hadn't been carrying a bomb," he said.

Investigators have not revealed any evidence the plane exploded in the air.

Regardless of his shortcomings, his readings get wide coverage in local media. And there have been times when he has been spot-on.

In 2006, he predicted Calderon would win the Mexican presidency. Last January, the warlock accurately predicted that the world would not end in December, saying theories of doomsday in 2012 were "big fat lies."

Going out of Business Sale

C & M Gun • January 16<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>

All Bass Pro, Fishing Products, Hunting Accessories, Knives, Belt Buckles - 50% OFF

Leather Conchos, Snaps, Sewing and Lacing Supplies, Conditioners and Dyes, Instruction Books - 50% OFF

Some Ammo Still Available In Store

785-465-2257 or 785-462-5598



You are invited to participate in a card shower for Betty L. Brenn in celebration of her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on January 18, 2013. Please send cards to: Betty L. Brenn 1630 Sewell Ave., Apt. D-1 Colby, KS 67701

We are hosting a reception for her on Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013, at Fairview Estates, 1630 Sewell Ave., Colby, Kansas from 2 - 4 p.m. Your attendance would be most welcome.



55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

A celebration of Charles & Pat Wagoner's 55th wedding anniversary will be held Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at City Limits Convention Center in Colby.

Reception at 4:30 p.m. followed by a dance from 7 to 10 p.m.

Couple requests no gifts.