

## Babies



Dakota J.

### Dakota Elaine Juenemann

Dakota Elaine Juenemann, daughter of Dusken and Emily Juenemann of Colby, was born Sunday, Sept. 22, 2013, at Citizens Medical Center. She weighed 6 pounds and measured 18 inches. Grandparents are Anita Meis of Excelsior Springs, Mo., and Jacque Horner and Mike Juenemann, both of Colby.

### Zelda Quinn Higerd

Zelda Quinn Higerd, daughter of Bryan and Justine Higerd of Colby, was born Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2013, at Citizens Medical Center. She weighed 7 pounds,

2 ounces and measured 20 1/2 inches. Grandparents are Charles and Rhonda Kropp and Kent and Janet Higerd, all of Colby.

### Sebastian Guadalupe Ramirez

Sebastian Guadalupe Ramirez, son of Samantha Gutierrez and Guadalupe Ramirez of Goodland, was born Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2013, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. He weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces, and measured 20 1/2

inches. Sister Isabella Grace Ramirez welcomed him home. Grandparents are Jovita and Roberto Gutierrez of Goodland and Isabel Alvarado and Alejandro Ramirez of Kanorado.

### Michael James Tomlin

Michael James Tomlin, son of Courtney Erin Horinek and Demetrius Edward Tomlin of Atwood, was born Sunday, Sept. 1,

2013, at Citizens Medical Center. He weighed 8 pounds, 15 ounces, and measured 21 1/2 inches.

### Makenzie Jayde Wolf

Makenzie Jayde Wolf, daughter of Christina Wolf and Terrence Kruth of Goodland, was born Thursday, Oct. 10, 2013. She

weighed 7 pounds 15 ounces and measured 19 1/2 inches. Her brother Marcellus welcomed her home.

## Start college savings when baby's a newborn

The Kansas State Treasurer's Office and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment are working together to encourage early college savings among new parents.

Beginning this fall, parents now receive Learning Quest 529 Savings Program leaflets when they request newborn birth certificates from the Department of Health. This material introduces new parents to the Learning Quest website where they can explore 529 college saving options for their newborn baby and enter in the New Parent Contest.

"Stressing the importance of saving earlier rather than later is really what we want to achieve," said Ron Estes, Kansas state treasurer.

Educating parents about the advantages of saving early, even in small amounts, can make a significant difference in total return, said Estes.

"When looking for ways to reach new parents, it just made sense to partner with KDHE, who already maintains such a strong link with new parents through their distribution of birth certificates," said Scott Gates, the treasurer's office director of the savings program.

"We understand that parents receive an overwhelming amount of information when their child is born," said Robert Moser, state health officer. "We like the idea of sending college savings material

along with birth certificates at a time when parents may already be taking other steps to improve their child's future."

As with most types of investment, time is a valuable commodity.

According to the College Savings Plans Network, half of a parent's time horizon for saving for college is over by the time their child reaches third grade.

To further encourage parents to take that first step in preparing for their child's educational future now while time is still on their side, the New Parent Contest offers Kansans (who have had a baby born to them in 2013 or 2014 and are at least 18 years old) the opportunity to enter a drawing for the chance to win a \$500 Babies "R" Us gift card.

The Learning Quest 529 Education Savings Program was created to help families invest for their child's continued education after high school, whether at a traditional four-year college, community college or technical-vocational school. Investors benefit from tax-deferred growth and tax-free withdrawals when used for qualified education expenses (tax benefits may be conditioned on meeting certain requirements). Kansas taxpayers can receive a Kansas tax deduction up to \$3,000 per child (\$6,000 if married, filing jointly) on contributions to Learning Quest or any other state-sponsored 529 plan.

## Input asked for road plans

The Kansas Department of Transportation requests comments on the amendment of the State-wide Transportation Improvement Program for 2014 to 2017.

The program is a project-specific publication that lists all department-administered projects, regardless of funding source, and includes projects for counties and

cities as well as projects on the State Highway System. The list of project(s) being amended may be seen at [www.ksdot.org/publications.asp](http://www.ksdot.org/publications.asp).

The amendment of the STIP requires a public comment period of 14 days, which concludes Wednesday, Nov. 6. To make comment, contact the department's Bureau of Program and Project Management at (785) 296-2252.

This information is available in alternative accessible formats. To obtain an alternative format, contact the department's Office of Public Affairs, (785) 296-3585 (Voice/Hearing Impaired - 711).

## Bridge Club

Meadow Lake Bridge winners for Oct. 15 were: first, Elaine Ptacek; second, Sarah Jane Barrett; third, Billie Keck; fourth, Joy Davis; fifth, Cookie Koenig.

Winners for Tuesday were: first, Ken Ptacek; second, Elaine Ptacek; and third, Gail Vacca.

## Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day

Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$7.50
Corn (bushel)	\$4.33
Milo (hundredweight)	\$7.29
Soybeans (bushel)	\$12.02

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

## Evergreen trees do drop their leaves

Do you have a pine or evergreen tree that looks abnormal? There are natural conditions that can look like the tree is dying that actually are not harmful. How can you tell the difference?



**Kurt Sexton**  
• Knowledge for Life

**Natural Needle Drop**  
**Plants affected: All pines**  
Natural needle drop is not a disease. Rather, it is a natural part of the tree's life cycle.

Contrary to the name, evergreens do not keep their needles (leaves) forever. The timing and pattern of needle drop can vary with species and weather conditions. For example, Austrian and ponderosa pines usually retain their needles for three to four years.

With natural needle drop the tree sheds the older, inner needles in the fall. The shedding takes two to three months to complete. The appearance of the tree eventually improves as it produces new growth. Browning and dropping of the current-season growth is not natural needle drop.

**Environmental Stress**  
**Plants affected: All pines**  
Kansas weather is a story of extremes, and fluctuations in moisture and temperature can be stressful for plants, including pines.

Keep in mind that pines are not native to Kansas, and they are not adapted to the climate. For example, pines can suffer drought stress in any season, particularly in windy conditions during hot, dry summer weather or cold, dry winter weather.

Pine needles lose water through their natural function (transpiration) in all seasons. If the soil is dry, the roots have no water to take up to replace the water lost in transpiration. This can cause needles to turn brown from the tips downward (scorch). Sometimes the scorch symp-

toms are found only on the side of the tree that faces prevailing winds. In other cases, the dieback is more sporadic.

Environmental scorch can look similar to Dothistroma needle blight, but fungal fruiting bodies are not formed.

Scorched needles are eventually shed, improving the tree's appearance.

**What can you do to reduce stress?**

In Kansas this past summer, the heat and drought may have stressed trees to the point that they will lose branches or needles or die because of stress.

Concentrate on good watering. During dry weather (including winter), water the trees to a depth of at least 10 inches, with deeper watering preferred. You can check the depth the water reaches by pushing a long screwdriver, metal rod or wooden dowel into the soil. It will stop when it reaches dry soil.

During hot, dry weather, trees may need watering once a week. If we have an open, dry winter; water the trees once per month when the temperatures are above freezing.

If you believe that your pine or evergreen trees are not having these types of problems, or you have questions contact me at the Thomas County Extension Office.

*Kurt Sexton is the Thomas County agriculture and natural resources agent with Kansas State Research and Extension. A native of Colorado, Sexton works with area 4-H clubs, farmers and ranchers.*

## Colby Shakespeare Club

The Colby Shakespeare Club members met at the home of Sheila Frahm Sept. 27.

Frahm and her husband Ken Frahm had traveled to China this past summer, so roll was answered with information about China. The Burgos family is there doing mission work, Sharon Walker's daughter is in China and Lois Van Horn's grandson is in Jin Hua to teach English.

Dues are still needed from some members. The club decided to give \$200 to Colby Community College.

Sheila Frahm's program was on China. In July, Sheila and Ken Frahm took a river cruise there. Helen Frahm had traveled with a People to People tour in 1979 and Bruce and Janice Frahm had gone in the mid-'80s.

They spent five days on the Yangtze River with four airplane trips within China. Their first night on the ship they had a 48th anniversary party and many people wished them well.

The Yangtze, a powerful 4,000-mile river, has left hundreds of thousands dead and homes destroyed through floods. A dam is being built in stages; 1.13 million people had to be relocated. They started in 1997 and moved people up the mountain. Most were not given a choice of housing. The Frahm's guide's parents got to choose the third floor of a condo. The people used to have jobs found for them; now it is up to them to find their own jobs.

Enough steel to build 63 Eiffel towers was used for the dam. New cities were built for relocation, though some are still unoccupied.

Frahm showed maps and a 3-D

mockup of the areas they visited. She had photos of the people, landscape, crops and flowers. Corn was growing in with vegetation and trees. The country homes were more appealing to her than the high-rise condos. She showed a photo of a college in the middle of a zoo where the public restrooms for the men outnumbered the women's.

They visited a jade factory. Several museums were also on their itinerary, as well as a visit to the 4,000 terra cotta warriors' site. Two farmers digging a well found the warriors, who had been buried on purpose. The bodies are identical, but each face shows a different warrior. The emperor had a city-sized mausoleum.

The cruise company sponsors three schools in China, so the tour group visited a school and talked to children. The Great Wall was overwhelming to think of the manpower and hours to build it. They also visited Tiananmen Square, where Parliament is, along with 50,000 other tourists.

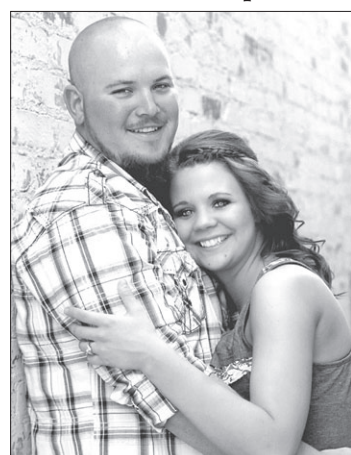
The Forbidden City is now open, where the emperor and concubines lived. It is mostly lacquered wood, an extreme fire hazard; big vats stand everywhere filled with water. Frahm showed members a few trinkets she brought back with her.

The flowers grown there are simple. There was a tree made of hanging baskets of sweet potato vines, and Sheila is interested in trying to replicate it.

Following the program, a frozen yogurt pie dessert accompanies viewing maps and photos of the trip and visiting.

— Amie Kendrick, secretary

### Mayer-Habiger to wed in April



Jeff Mayer, Scott City, and Jalancy Mayer, Colby, announce the engagement of their daughter, Janessa, to Jordan Habiger, son of Darrin and Michelle Habiger, Scott City.

Janessa is a 2010 graduate of Scott Community High School and graduated from Garden City Community College with a degree in business administration. She is currently employed at Xtreme Tanning, Garden City.

Jordan is a 2010 graduate of SCHS and from Manhattan Area Technical College with a certificate in electrical power and distribution. He is employed with Wheatland Cooperative, Garden City.

Janessa is the granddaughter of Kevin and Bobby Ferbert, McPherson; Richard Crouse, Colby; and the late Chuck and Doris Mayer.

Jordan is the grandson of Sherrill Tubbs, Scott City, and the late Albert Tubbs; Darrel and Cynthia Maley, Wichita, and the late Gary Davidson; and Duane and Tammy Habiger, Kinsley.

The wedding will be held on April 5, 2014, at the First Baptist Church, Scott City. The couple plans to live in Garden City.

## Deaths

### Jessica Layne Rudell

Jessica Layne Rudell, 18, Oakley, a student at Colby Community College, died Sunday, Oct. 20, 2013, as a result of an accident in Ellis County.

She was born June 20, 1995, in Englewood Colo., the daughter of Tamera Lea Rudell.

A 2013 graduate of Oakley high school, she was a member of the FFA and national champion for goats and a runner-up for horses.

As a college student, she was a member of the Block and Saddle Club, the livestock judging team, the Rodeo Club and the equestrian team. She was also a member of the Blazing Saddles drill team, the High Plains 4-H Club of Logan County, the American Quarter Horse Youth Association, the Kansas and Colorado Cutting Horse Association and the Reining Cow Horse Association.

She attended the 4-H National Quarter Horse Congress and was first runner up for the McCracken rodeo queen.

Her mother, Tamera Rudell-Mathias, preceded her in death.

Survivors include her adoptive parents, Francis and Pamela Rudell of Oakley.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 25, 2013, at the United Methodist Church in Oakley, with burial in the Grinnell Township Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday at the Baalmann Mortuary in Oakley.

The family suggests memorials to 4-H or FFA, in care of the mortuary, Box 204, Oakley, Kan., 67748.

Condolences for the family may be left at [www.baalmannmortuary.com](http://www.baalmannmortuary.com).

### Keith Barnett

Keith Barnett, 84, Atwood, a retired farmer and crop adjuster, died Monday Oct. 21, 2013, at the Good Samaritan Society in Atwood.

He was born Aug. 11, 1929, in rural Rexford, the son of Ray and Daisy (Myers) Barnett. He grew up on a farm north of Rexford, attending the Hawkeye Country School and graduating from the Decatur Community High School in 1946.

On June 6, 1949, he married Darlene Thieler in Rexford. They farmed north of Rexford until 1955, when they moved to Atwood.

He was a member of the First Christian Church in Atwood and the Odd Fellows Lodge.

Preceding him in death were his parents, his wife, two broth-

ers, Beauford Barnett and Kenneth Barnett, and a sister, Corrine Jones.

Survivors include three sons, Dennis (Pat) Barnett, Fort Walton Beach, Fla.; Bill Barnett, Denver; and Mike (Debbie) Barnett, Hays; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 25, 2013, at the church in Atwood, with the Rev. Mike McVay officiating and burial in the Fairview Cemetery, Atwood.

No visitation.

The family suggests memorials, rather than flowers, to the Atwood and Colby chapters of Alcoholics Anonymous, in care of Pauls Funeral Home, 121 N. Penn, Oberlin Kan., 67749.

Condolences for the family may be left at [www.paulsfh.com](http://www.paulsfh.com).

## Corrections

In a Briefly item, "Colby elementary plans soup supper" on Page 2 of the Monday, Oct. 21, Colby Free Press, the location was incorrect. The benefit will be in the High School Commons. This was an editing 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.

## Thank You

The family of Tama Unger would like to say thank you for the out pouring of love and sympathy for the loss of our wife, mother, daughter and sister. The support of the communities has warmed our hearts in a way words can not express.

So, simply and lovingly we say thank you.

Jeff & Jacob Unger,  
Gary & MaryAnn Erickson,  
Dale & Debbie Withington and girls,  
Evan & Sheryl Unger & family

## Teaming up to Fight Cancer

Kirstie Strutt and Karen Pabst will donate 10% of their service fees to the Northwest Kansas Foundation for Hope in the fight for cancer from now until October 31st.

Call today to book your appointment 785-460-7722

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