

# obituaries

## Andrew Byerly

Andrew Jackson Byerly, 91, St. Francis, father of Sharon (Edwin) Deeds of Goodland and a former St. Francis grocer, died Saturday, April 23, 2005, at the Cheyenne County Hospital in St. Francis.

He was born May 26, 1913, in Cheyenne County, the son of Mary (Hind) and James Buchanan Byerly. He was the youngest of 12 children born at the Byerly homestead in Calhoun Township.

The family lived there until 1920, when Andrew, his sister Bessie and their parents moved to a farm in the Cherry Creek district west of St. Francis, where he attended school.

Following the death of his mother, Andrew, at age 13, moved back to the homestead to live with his brother Fred and his wife. They were the first pinto bean farmers in the county. Fred owned a bean thrasher, so they were able to do their own thrashing and their neighbors'.

On Oct. 21, 1931, he married Flossie Gordon in Atwood. They lived with his brother until March, when they moved back to the farm west of St. Francis.

In 1936, they moved to Stockton, Mo., to be near her family. Jobs were scarce, so the family moved back to the farm west of St. Francis until 1948, when he sold the farm, moved into town and established

Andy's IGA Grocery. After a couple of years, Equity Grocery bought out his stock, and he became their manager. Later, he bought a half interest in the Palace Market Locker and Processing plant, where he served as manager and meat cutter.

On retiring from the grocery business, Byerly became the first maintenance manager at Cheyenne Manor. He also worked around town doing home repairs and painting.

While living on the farm, he and Flossie helped establish the Cherry Creek Pepsters 4-H Club and served as leaders for the first few years.

Mr. Byerly was a member of the United Methodist Church. Besides his Savior, he had three great loves in his life — his family, fishing and gardening.

Preceding him in death were his parents; his wife, Flossie F. (Gordon) Byerly in 2001; all 11 siblings; and a great-grandchild.

Survivors include another daughter, Connie (Ned) Holliman of Lyons, Colo.; six grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Services were Saturday, April 30, 2005, at the St. Francis United Methodist Church, with burial in the St. Francis Cemetery.

Casket bearers were Heather Holliman, Tom Monson, Kellen Holliman, Randy Bahe, Chad Holliman and Robin Deeds. Honorary pallbearers were Dexter, Aaron

and Nathan Deeds; Bryce, Blayne and Brett Bahe; Tanner Holliman; and Ben, Mark and Meredith Monson.

Memorials may be made to the Cheyenne County Hospital, the St. Francis or Goodland emergency medical services, the church or a charity of your choice in care of the Knodel Funeral Home, Box 606, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-0606

## Clark Luckert

Clark R. Luckert, 54, Dodge City, died Wednesday, April 27, 2005, at the Good Samaritan Center in Dodge City.

He was born Jan. 31, 1951, in Goodland, the son of Theresa Katherine (Hafner) and Charles Richard Luckert.

Preceding him in death was a brother, Charles Luckert.

Survivors include his parents of Goodland; a brother, Wayne (Deb) Luckert of Brewster; and a sister, Janet Ewing of Eaton, Colo.

A funeral mass was said Monday, May 2, 2005, at Our Lady Of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Goodland with Father Norbert Dlabal presiding. Burial followed in the Sacred Heart Cemetery in

Colby. Memorials may be made to Arrowhead West in Dodge City in care of Koons Funeral Home, 211 N. Main, Goodland, Kan. 67735-1555.

## Maxine Fisher

Maxine (McIntyre) Fisher, 80, sister-in-law of Martha McIntyre of Goodland, died Saturday, April 30, 2005, in Washington.

She was born in Sherman County. Services are pending.

## Melissa McClain

Melissa Leann McClain, 37, Goodland, a retired optometry assistant, died Saturday, April 23, 2005, at her home.

She was born Feb. 16, 1968, in Jacksonville, Fla., the daughter of W.W. (Mac) McClain and Lynda (Ricciutti) Melton. She attended schools in Arkansas and California and traveled extensively with her Air Force family.

McClain enjoyed writing, singing, making jewelry, computers, the outdoors and playing with her nieces and nephews.

Survivors include her mother of Goodland; two children, Alexis and Jason of the home; two sisters, Tisha Melton-Franklin of Goodland and Amanda McClain of Pensacola, Fla.; a brother, Michael

Skyler of Grand Island, Neb.; and her grandmother, Wanda Ricciutti of Fairview, Ky.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. today, Tuesday, May 3, 2005, at Bateman Funeral Home with Pastor John Park Winkler officiating.

Friends can sign the book from 8 a.m. until the service time today. Memorials may be made to the family in care of the funeral home, Box 278, Goodland, Kan. 67735.

## Jerry Webb

Gerald Webb, 55, Beaver City, Neb., a Goodland native, died Wednesday, April 27, 2005, at Phelps Memorial Hospital at Holdrege, Neb., after a long illness.

He was born Jan. 4, 1950, at Goodland, the son of Jess and Betty (Short) Webb. He grew up in Goodland and graduated from Goodland High School in 1968. Following graduation, he attended the Northwest Kansas Vocational Technical School for two years in the electrical department. He was baptized as a Methodist.

He later moved to Steamboat Springs, Colo., where he was a heavy equipment operator for

Johnson Construction Co. Webb moved to Beaver City in the early 1990s. He was a heavy equipment operator for Adams Construction Co. in Arapahoe, Neb., from July of 1988 until early retirement due to health reasons in 2002. He had been sick about 10 years with ulcers in his stomach. He lost his stomach and, in the end, couldn't eat.

On April 19, 2005, he married his companion of 25 years, Jo (Clemons) Lambert in Holdrege, Neb.

Preceding him in death were his grandparents and a son, Scott. Survivors include his wife; his parents of Goodland; a brother, Larry Webb of Aurora, Colo.; a daughter, Jennifer Webb of Liberty, Mo.; a son, Steve Webb of Budge, Texas; a step-son, Dean-o (Sue) Lambert of Arapahoe, Neb.; two step-daughters, Laura and husband Kelly Koch of Axtell, Neb., and Amy Lambert and spouse Diana Whalen of Grand Junction, Colo.; and six step-grandchildren.

Graveside services were Saturday, April 30, 2005, at Mount Hope Cemetery at Beaver City with Pastors Kenneth Breinig and Keith Theobald officiating. Arrangements were handled by Wenburg Funeral Home in Beaver City.

Condolences can be left at www.wenburgfuneralhome.com.

# Dog abandoned at pound asks 'How Could You?' at end of story

Someone sent me an article entitled "How Could You" over a year ago. When you do what we do in rescue and shelter work, this story hits home pretty hard.

I always try to stay upbeat and positive and have never been in favor of using this kind of article to reach people, but as I left the "pound" this morning, there were five dogs sitting in little cages waiting for someone to come for them, and probably, no one will.

When you turn your back and convince yourself "it is just a dog," I hope you will think twice. The shelter is full, and the fate of these poor animals is definitely in question.

From "How Could You," by Jim Willis:

"When I was a puppy, I entertained you with my antics and made you laugh. You called me your



## sandy rodgers

• animal shelter

child, and despite a number of chewed shoes and a couple of murdered throw pillows, I became your best friend.

"Whenever I was 'bad,' you'd shake your finger at me and ask 'How could you?' — but then you'd relent and roll me over for a belly rub.

"I remember those nights of nuzzling you in bed, listening to your confidences and secret dreams, and I believed that life could not be any more perfect.

"We went for long walks and runs

in the park, car rides, stops for ice cream (I only got the cone because 'ice cream is bad for dogs,' you said).

"Gradually, you began spending more time at work and more time searching for a human mate. I waited for you patiently, comforted you through heartbreaks and disappointments, never chided you about bad decisions and romped with glee at your homecomings and when you fell in love.

"She, now your wife, is not a 'dog person'; still I welcomed her into our home, tried to show her affection and obeyed her. I was happy because you were happy.

"Then the human babies came along, and I shared your excitement. I was fascinated by their pink-

ness and how they smelled, and I wanted to mother them too.

"Only she and you worried that I might hurt them, and I spent most of my time banished to another room or to a dog crate.

"As they began to grow, I became their friend. They clung to my fur and pulled themselves up on wobbly legs, poked fingers in my eyes, investigated my ears and gave me kisses on my nose.

"I would sneak into their beds and listen to their worries and secret dreams. Together we waited for the sound of your car in the driveway.

"Now you have a new career opportunity in another city and you and they will be moving to an apartment that does not allow pets. You've made the right decision for your 'family,' but there was a time when I was your only family.

"I was excited about the car ride until we arrived at the animal shelter. It smelled of dogs and cats, of fear, of hopelessness. You filled out the paperwork and said 'I know you will find a good home for her.'

"You had to pry your son's fingers loose from my collar as he screamed 'No, Daddy! Please don't let them take my dog!' and I worried

for him and what lessons you had just taught him about friendship and loyalty, about love and responsibility, and about respect for all life.

"You gave me a good-bye pat on the head, avoided my eyes and politely refused to take my collar and leash with you.

"After you left, the two nice ladies said you probably knew about your upcoming move months ago and made no attempt to find me another good home. They shook their heads and asked, 'How could you?'

"They are as attentive to us here in the shelter as their busy schedules allow. They feed us, of course, but I lost my appetite days ago.

"At first, whenever anyone passed my pen, I rushed to the front, hoping it was you — that you had changed your mind — that this was all a bad dream... or I hoped it would at least be someone who cared, anyone who might save me.

"When I realized I could not compete with the frolicking for attention of happy puppies, oblivious to their own fate, I retreated to a far corner and waited.

"I heard her footsteps as she came for me at the end of the day, and I

padded along the aisle after her to a separate room. She placed me on the table, rubbed my ears and told me not to worry.

"As is my nature, I was more concerned about her. The burden which she bears weighs heavily on her, and I know that, the same way I knew your every mood.

"She gently placed a tourniquet around my foreleg as a tear ran down her cheek. I licked her hand in the same way I used to comfort you so many years ago.

"She expertly slid the hypodermic needle into my vein. As I felt the sting and the cool liquid coursing through my body, I lay down sleepily, looked into her kind eyes and murmured 'How could you?'

"Perhaps because she understood my 'dog speak,' she said 'I'm so sorry.' She hugged me and hurriedly explained it was her job to make sure I went to a better place.

"With my last bit of energy, I tried to convey to her with a thump of my tail that my 'How could you?' was not meant for her.

"It was you, My Beloved Master, I was thinking of — I will think of you and wait for you forever. May everyone in your life continue to show you so much loyalty."

# American Legion elects new commander

The Goodland post of the American Legion will have a new commander for the 2005-2006 year.

Marshall Squires of Goodland was elected to the position on April 18 during the post's monthly meeting. Other new faces among the post's leadership include Virginia Terry as the service officer and Art Nelson, who was elected to a three-year term as a trustee.

Squires, who is training to be a correctional officer at the Kit Carson Correctional Center in Burlington, is a 16-year veteran of the U.S. Army Reserve, including a four-year active duty tour from 1988 to 1992.

"It's a privilege and honor to be elected as the post commander," Squires said. "I feel very fortunate

to have fostered all the associations that I have with the members of the post."

Terry, a discharge planner at Goodland Regional Medical Center, was an Army clinical specialist from 1967 to 1969 at Fort Sam Houston, near San Antonio, Texas.

Nelson retired from the U.S. Navy in 1973 as a chief petty officer after 23 years. He spent his career in aircraft maintenance, serving most of his time with shore-based helicopter squadrons. He did serve a tour on the training carrier USS Monterey.

In the other seven positions, the incumbents were re-elected: Ken Baum, vice commander; Greg Stover, adjutant; Mel Pfau, finance of-

ficer; Vernice Leslie, chaplain; Mazie Sutton, historian; Ron Vignery, judge advocate; and Dale Ellison, sergeant-at-arms.

The term for all positions begins July 1. The post has three trustees each serving a three-year term, with one up for election every year. The officers will be installed during the regular meeting on May 16.

In other Legion news, three members of the Goodland post were recognized for 60 years continuous service in the American Legion at the April meeting.

Sutton and Ellison got their certificates during a short ceremony. C.A. Brown of Salina, who keeps his Legion membership in Goodland, also earned a 60-year certificate.

## Cutoff Date for Second 2005 EQIP Signup

May 20, 2005, is the cutoff date for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications in Kansas to be considered for Fiscal Year 2005 funding. Stop by your local USDA Service Center and visit with the Natural Resources Conservation Service or local conservation district staff to get more information about helping address your resource concerns. Phone: 785-899-3070 ext. 35 Web site: <http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2005/eqip2005.html> USDA NRCS is an equal opportunity employer and provider



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## MOTHER'S DAY BUFFET

Treat Mom to an elegant buffet featuring her favorite selections like beef Wellington with mushroom sauce, crab stuffed chicken breasts, scrambled eggs with smoked salmon, rice pilaf, baked potato, Bavarian bread, baby cheesecakes, 3 layer carrot cake, sunrise punch. Serving from 11 to 2 p.m.



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