

OBITUARIES

Ila De Witt Jan. 16, 1926 - June 14, 2012

Ila De Witt, 86, formerly of Prairie View, passed away on June 14, 2012 at Phillips County Retirement Center in Phillipsburg.

Born in Prairie View on Jan. 16, 1926 to Garried and Josie Erickson Greving, Ila was a graduate of Prairie View High School. Following graduation, she attended Fort Hays State University for a short time and then taught at two country schools until her marriage to Dick De Witt on May 22, 1946. They were blessed with six children. She and her husband worked together on their dairy, grain and livestock farm.

Ila was a wonderful seamstress and also did all kinds of fancy work. She enjoyed reading and leading Bible study groups. Hers was a life of service--a loving wife, true mother, sister and friend. Ila showed deep concern for others and was always providing meals for those in need or took time to visit them, either in their home or in a care facility.

In addition to her parents, Ila is preceded in death by her great-grandson, Derek Vander Velde and her sister, Marjorie Tanis.

Survivors include her husband, Dick; sons, Jerry and his wife, Gloria, Dennis and his wife, Cathy, and Roger and his wife, Roxie, all of Prairie View; and Brian and his wife Michelle of Hays; daughters, Doris Van Kooten and her husband, Kenneth, of Holland, Mich., and Karen Huiting and her husband, Jerald, of Kensington; as well as brothers, Wayne Greving of Pella, Iowa and Leland Greving of Central City, Neb. They, together with 13 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren, are left with a legacy of love and service which enriched their lives and the lives of all who knew her.

A funeral service for Ila was held June 18 at Luctor Christian Reformed Church in Phillips County with Pastor Glen Graham officiating. Interment was at Luctor Christian Reformed Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be made to Luctor Christian Reformed Church, Prairie View City Library or Hospice Services.

Arrangements were by Olliff-Boeve Memorial Chapel.

John Ray Swonger Sept. 9, 1951 - June 16, 2012

John Ray Swonger, 60, of Olathe, formerly of the Beagle Community, died unexpectedly Saturday, June 16, 2012 at his home.

John was born Sept. 9, 1951 in Dodge City. He was the second of three children of Melvin Leroy and Juanita Mildred (Powell) Swonger.

John attended Almena schools and graduated from Almena High School in the class of 1970. He then attended the Goodland Vo-Tech from 1970-1971. John also attended Johnson County Community College throughout the years.

John was married to Wanda Landauer on June 3, 1972 in Norton and they lived in Sterling, Colo.

They became the parents of two children.

He worked at SPX Cooling Towers in Olathe since the early



1990's until 2008 in shipping/receiving and in maintenance.

John was married to Donna Sue McConnell on Feb. 3, 1979 in Almena. They lived in Norton. They moved to Almena in 1979 and became the parents of three children. In 1989 the family moved to Beagle. The marriage ended in divorce in 2001.

John enjoyed cooking and playing darts.

John was preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors are five children, Kelley Swonger of San Diego, Calif., Michael Swonger of Osawatomie (Beagle Community); Crystal Swonger of Lodi, Calif.; Melody Kerr of Osawatomie (Beagle Community); and Rob-in Farrar of Garnett; two sisters, Katherine Archer of Kansas City and Teresa Peterson of Hastings, Neb.; 18 grandchildren; one great-grandchild and one on the way.

Services were held at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 20 at the Eddy-Birchard Funeral Home 203 Main, Osawatomie, KS 66064 (913-755-2114).

Memorials are to the Forest Park Children's Church Camp.

Innovation is the fiber of rural Kansas

By Ron Wilson
Huck Boyd Institute

When you want to re-order a particular variety of product, how do you ask for it? By lot number? Product name? Model number? Today we'll learn about an enterprise where customers ask for the product not by computer code or lot number, but by the name of the animal from which the product came. I'm referring to the high quality fiber produced by alpacas at Cedar Hollow Farm in rural Kansas.

As we learned last week, Bob and Nancy Sines are co-owners of Cedar Hollow Foods. One day in 1999, Nancy came to Bob and said, "Why don't we buy an alpaca?" She had read about these animals and become intrigued. Alpacas are known for their high quality fiber used for weaving into garments.

"You can buy alpacas for different purposes," Bob said. "There are pets, medium grade, and breeding stock." Bob and Nancy decided that if they were going to get into the alpaca business, they were going to try to get top quality breeding stock and do it right. They began to research what type of alpaca to buy.

"We immersed ourselves in the alpaca business," Bob said. They drove to 22 different alpaca farms across the United States. "Nancy became an expert on bloodlines," Bob said. In 2001, they bought their first animal and produced their first baby alpaca - called a cria. Now they sell fiber, garments, and breeding stock. "One of the best things about alpacas is that they are easy to raise and care for," Bob said. "They are a joy to be around."

The trademark of the alpacas is high quality fiber for spinning and weaving. "For fine garments, cashmere and alpaca fibers mark the top of the line," Bob said. The fleece is shorn from the alpacas, cleaned and processed at various mini-mills around the country. Nancy

felts, makes socks and weaves the fleece. She sells the fiber at trade shows and has a store in her home where yarn and various alpaca products are sold. Her products go to spinners and weavers guilds as well as individual spinners.

Alpaca fleece feels light and fluffy, like a cloud. The fiber from the animal's legs and underbelly used to be discarded as less desirable, but a company in Texas found a way to use that fiber for wonderful rugs.

Nancy has sold yarn as far away as Florida. Her breeding stock has been sold to practically every state from Vermont to California. For more information, go to www.cedarhollowalpacas.com.

One challenge about having alpacas in the middle of the beef belt was finding veterinarians who were trained and qualified to work with this unusual specie. Leading Kansas alpaca producers got together to create the Mid America Alpaca Foundation to help support educational and research programs in veterinary care of alpacas. The foundation works closely with the K-State College of Veterinary Medicine.

Four founding farms were part of this foundation, including Cedar Hollow Farm and Bob and Nancy Sines. Other founders came from Gardner, Paola, and the rural community of Hoyt, Kansas, population 573 people. Now, that's rural.

As Nancy's fiber inventory grew, she needed a system to keep track of the various fibers. She started identifying the fibers with the name of the animal from which it came. This became much more than just a way to identify inventory. Customers began asking for the fiber which came from a particular animal.

In other words, a spinner didn't want just any old alpaca yarn. They wanted the yarn that came from Sugar or Lena or Krystal or Top Gun. The spinners knew the alpaca that pro-

duced the particular type and quality of fiber they wanted and asked for them by name.

When you re-order a product, do you ask for it by model number? Lot number? In the case of this business, it is much more personal. Customers are asking for the alpaca fiber by name. We commend Nancy and Bob Sines - and Krystal, Lena, Kayla, and Pandi and more - for making a difference with this innovative business which is helping build the fiber of rural Kansas.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We Would all Like to Wish Hayden
a Happy First Birthday on June 25

Parents: Dylan and Hannah (Waggoner) Pruett; Grandparents: Rex and Trendy Striggow of Norton, Dan Pruett of Kirwin, Tonya Bonjorno of Kirwin, Galen and Kathy Waggoner of WaKeeney; Great Grandparents: Mike and Reta Barlow of Lenora, Rich and Judy Bonjorno of San Diego, CA, Betty Striggow, Helen and Tim Waggoner both from Hill City; Great Great Grandparents: are Veda Heisel of Lenora, Ellen Barlow of Culbertson, NE, and Mary Ray of Hill City.

Engagement



Cindel Harrington and Grant McClymont announce their engagement and upcoming wedding. They plan to marry July 7, 2012 at the United Methodist Church in Norton. Parents of the bride are Eva Harrington and Pryor Harrington of Norton. Parents of the groom are Deb and John McClymont, also of Norton. Cindel is a graduate of Fort Hays State University, majoring in criminal justice. She is employed at DeBaKey Heart Clinic at Hays Medical Center in Hays. Grant is employed at Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course.

Threats to cattle stem from weather

Dry farm fields and pastures are not the only challenges agricultural producers are facing so far this summer. Warmer-than-usual weather and a lack of precipitation are also contributing to disease threats to livestock, according to Kansas State University veterinarian Larry Hollis.

Hollis, who is a beef cattle specialist with K-State Research and Extension, outlined three threats to cattle stemming in part, from recent weather conditions, including blue-green algae in ponds, leptospirosis and anaplasmosis.

Blue-green algae

Cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, are present in many Kansas waters. Under certain conditions, harmful algae blooms (also called HABs) can produce toxins that pose a health risk to people and animals.

Although it's commonly known as blue-green algae, it's really a bacteria, he said. It favors warm, stagnant water, especially if it's nutrient-laden, so ponds that collect runoff from farm fields are at higher risk. Compounding the threat is the fact that many ponds started the spring with low water levels because of less than average winter and springtime precipitation, thus creating conditions that make the threat of blue-green algae higher than in years when water levels are higher and water temperatures cooler.

The Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service reported stock water supplies across the state at 11 percent very short, 26 percent short, and 63 percent adequate as of June 17. There were no reports of surplus supplies.

Hollis said blue-green algae looks like a pale greenish oil scum on the top of the water, except around the edges where it's more a cobalt blue color.

Because of the recent hot, dry conditions, he's encouraging producers to check their ponds frequently to see if they see the scum developing. Algae blooms can happen within just a couple of days.

Even if animals just come into contact with the water, but don't drink it, it's an irritant.

Blue-green algae affects humans just like it does cattle, so there's a human threat as well as a livestock and animal threat, and once the toxicity occurs, there's no remedy. It's something the animal or human must fight on their own, Hollis said.

Leptospirosis is a summertime disease that also thrives in warm, stagnant water. Unlike blue-green algae, however, there is a vaccine available for it, Hollis said.

Most cows, even if vaccinated, are carriers of leptospirosis. The vaccine typically does not

last a full year, so the recommendation in Kansas is typically to vaccinate in the spring just ahead of the primary transmission season. Cattle infected with leptospirosis will appear sick and typically will run a fever. They may be pale around the mouth. Third-trimester abortions are common with this disease.

Anaplasmosis is also a threat this time of year, Hollis said. It's carried by insect vectors, including ticks and biting flies. A milder-than-usual 2011-2012 winter may make the insect population greater this year which could increase the threat of anaplasmosis.

The most effective way to treat anaplasmosis in cattle is using Chlortetracycline at a rate of 0.5 to 2 milligrams per 1 pound bodyweight per head per day in a mineral mix or supplement.

Prairie Statesmen
Barbershop Concert
and Ice Cream Social
Tuesday, June 26

Norton Community Building
208 W. Main – Norton, Kansas
5:00 - 7:00 P.M. – ICE CREAM SOCIAL
7:00 - 7:30 P.M. – BARBERSHOP
Free Will Offering or \$5.00 for Take Out
Bonus: Drawing for Raffle Winners

Donations will go toward a new roof

June 22-
June 27

Showing at the
NORTON THEATRE
Brave

(PG) 1 Hour, 43 Minutes (Presented in Digital Surround Sound)
Friday and Saturday: 7:00 and 9:20 p.m.
Sunday: 2:00 and 5:00 p.m.
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Snow White and the Huntsman
2 Hours, 17 Minutes (PG-13)

Brave is premiere passes only; Snow White all passes accepted

Brave is Premiere Admission Price of \$7.00 and \$6.00 - No Sunday Discount
Snow White is General Admission Price of \$6.00 and \$5.00 - \$3.00 on Sunday
Premiering in Norton, Tuesday, July 3
The Amazing Spiderman (PG-13)

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