

# Obituaries

## Rex Smith

Sept. 10, 1952 - July 3, 2013

Rex Smith loved new adventures and at 11:30 a.m. on July 3, 2013, he decided it was time for another trip – this time to heaven.

Rex was born Sept. 10, 1952, to Royce and Blanche Smith in Benkelman, Neb. He grew up on a farm north of McDonald and graduated in 1972 from McDonald High School.

Rex married his high school sweetheart Colleen (Janousek) Smith on Aug. 9, 1974, in Atwood. The two moved to Goodland where Rex had just graduated from Northwest Kansas Vocational Technical College majoring in auto mechanics.

After school Rex worked for Northwest Drilling and spent six months working with Shell Oil Company on their Oil Shale project in Rifle, Colo. He then went to work for B's Pump and Well Service before purchasing the business in 1976.

Rex ran a successful water well pump business where he loved to spend time in the field making sure cattle had water. Rex poured his heart and soul in the business and would drop everything when cattle were out of water or crops needed watering. Rex never met a stranger and enjoyed making new friends all the time.

Rex has three children he is very proud of: Jandi Smith,

Lawrence, Zeb Smith (Rachel), Goodland, and Spencer Smith, Goodland. He has one grandson, Brayden Smith of Goodland.

Rex was a member of the Goodland Elks Lodge 1528 and was honored to serve as Exalted Ruler and currently as a trustee. Rex belonged to the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Association, was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), member of the Lost Dutchman's Mining Association, and member of the Kansas Water Well Association. He attended The Missouri Auction School in 1998 and enjoyed going to auctions where he always found "treasures"!

In 1976 he became one of Goodland's part-time finest, officially called the "Reserve Force." He loved doing patrols and being on a shoot was the highlight while on duty. An outstanding memory of his was getting pepper sprayed by accident from a fellow officer on a routine traffic stop.

Rex loved riding motorcycles, dirt bikes and taking trips to the

mountains with friends. He was an avid racer and built his own stock car, enduro car and cruiser – he was fast and had trophies to show off.

In high school he tried his hand at football and riding bulls at the Dewey Ranch. He loved flying and, with a friend, purchased a powered parachute which they loved flying and even went to Missouri for a big fly-in.

On Friday the 13th, his wife convinced him they needed to try jumping out of an airplane and off they went to the Steerman Fly-In at St. Francis where they each did a tandem jump.

Often you could find Rex cruising down Main Street in his '67 GTO with the windows down. If you asked Rex about his car he would tell you he had the car longer than his wife!

Rex enjoyed his trips to Sturgis and would often remark "What happens at Sturgis stays at Sturgis." Rex and Colleen opened their hearts and home and became foster parents giving children in need a helping hand.

Rex was a history buff and enjoyed watching countless hours of the history channel which inspired him to research his own family history and put all the pieces together to join the Sons of the American Revolution. His children also belong to the Daughters of the American Revolution and Sons for the American Revolution.

Rex enjoyed hosting foreign exchange students and hosted a student from Paraguay in 1996. When the exchange students requested to see snow Rex and his friends and family loaded up the group of exchange students and drove to the mountains so they could see snow only to return home to where it had started snowing.

Rex and Colleen never missed a Sunday evening movie at the Sherman Theatre with friends. Even if the movie was not a hit they still enjoyed their buttery popcorn.

One of Rex's hobbies included restoring antique and classic cars. Rex's last project was helping Spencer finish his '73 Chevy Nova.

Rex was proud and honored that Spencer joined the Army and even signed his enlistment papers

before he turned 18.

Rex loved gold panning in the mountains and took Zeb gold panning for a weekend at the Lost Dutchman's mining association camp in the Rocky Mountains. Zeb has continued the tradition with his son Brayden.

Jandi enjoys traveling and in 2011 convinced her dad to take a family trip to New York City to see the Addams Family musical opening night on Broadway. While in New York the family spent several days sightseeing and by sheer accident ended up at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum where Rex could have spent days.

Rex's favorite holiday was the Fourth of July. He spent many nights with his children, nieces, nephews at the fireworks stand that always had a place on his land. In honor of his memory all the cousins were together this Fourth of July celebrating Rex's life.

Rex will be missed by many including his wife, Colleen, his children, Jandi, Zeb (Rachel) and Spencer, grandson Brayden, along with brother Dale (Brenda Smith) sisters Joyce (Gary Meyer), Linda Smith of Goodland, & Debbie (Jim) Crocker of Colorado Springs, CO., many nieces and nephews. Preceding him in death were his parents Royce & Blanche Smith and father-in-law Jerome Janousek, Sherry Pemberton (niece).

A "celebration of life" will be held on Saturday, July 20, at 2 p.m. Mountain Time at the Goodland Elks Lodge, 1523 Arcade, Goodland.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left at Bateman Funeral Home, 211 East 11th Street, Goodland, KS 67735 or online at <http://bit.ly/15pYmdZ> or Rex Smith Memorial page on facebook.



Smith

## People urged to help at carnival

The Cheyenne County Fair is less than a month away – July 31 through Aug. 3. Before the fair ever begins, it means hard work for 4-H'ers, fair board and, last but not least, the Amusement Authority.

The six members of the authority with a handful of volunteers have been working for months trying to get the carnival rides checked, repaired and ready to go. Game booths are being painted, the grounds are constantly needing mowed and trees watered. Within a short time, the prizes will start coming in and they will need to be sorted and put away.

Only trouble is, said Bill Ehrman and Greg Walz, two of the six members, we are behind. There are just not enough of us to get everything done, Bill said.

At the rate we are going, Greg said, we won't be ready by fair time.

If they can't get enough people interested in helping, the carnival may be only half ready. Part of the rides and games may not be in operation and they can't wait until the last minute to get them operational.

The majority of the authority members have jobs. Their work on the carnival is done after hours, mostly on Thursday nights.

They are asking that people, teenagers to the older generation, to please come help. If you can't come on Thursday evening, call Greg, 785-332-2332 or Bill at 332-2748. There may be a job that can be completed at another time. Otherwise, just show up on Thursdays at the fairgrounds.

## Book Review

Book review from the St. Francis Public Library

### Blue-Eyed Devil By Robert B. Parker

The new chief is Amos Callico, a tall, fat man in a derby hat, wearing a star on his vest and a big pearl-handled Colt inside his coat. An ambitious man with his eye on the governorship-and perhaps the presidency-he wants Cole and Hitch on his side. But they can't be bought, which upsets him mightily.

When Callico begins shaking down local merchants for protection money, those who don't want to play along seek the help of Cole and Hitch.

When Cole is forced to fire on the trigger-happy son of politically connected landowner General Horatio Laird, Callico sees his dream begin to crumble. The guns for hire are thorns in the side of the power-hungry chief, and he'll use any excuse to take them out. There will be a showdown-but who'll be left standing?



## Edward G. Walz

June 22, 2013

Edward G. Walz, 55, son of Edward and Edna (Lippert) Walz, died on June 22, 2013, from complications of multiple sclerosis. A memorial gathering for family and friends was held in Denver at Highlands Lutheran Church on July 16 with a brief commendation service earlier.

He is survived by his grandson, Joshua Jones, his brother Leo Walz, his sister Linda Walz, and many other family and friends.

Memorials have been designated to Rocky Mountain Multiple Sclerosis Society, Child Fund International, or donor's choice.

## Book Review

### Beyond Tomorrow By Fern Michaels

Real estate manager Carley Andrews's predictable life in Bar Harbor is turned upside down when the rich and charismatic Adam Noble breezes into her office. With her precocious parrot, Quincy, flapping on her shoulder, Carly is amazed when Adam asks her to help him find the perfect

property to settle down in.

Despite her misgivings over the elite social set he belongs to, Carley soon finds herself intensely drawn to Adam, and it seems the feeling is mutual. Could it be that the source of the domestic bliss Adam craves is closer to home than he thinks?

## Upcoming Promotions

For more information contact Tim Burr at:

**The Saint Francis Herald**  
*Bird City Times*

P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, KS 67756 • 785-332-3162

## Tri-State Antique Engine & Thresher Show

July 25 - July 27

Featuring stories about the demonstrations, buildings, history, shows and Queens.



## Cheyenne County Fair

July 31 - Aug. 4

Featuring 4-H'ers, fair and carnival activities, schedule of events and other interesting happenings at fair time.



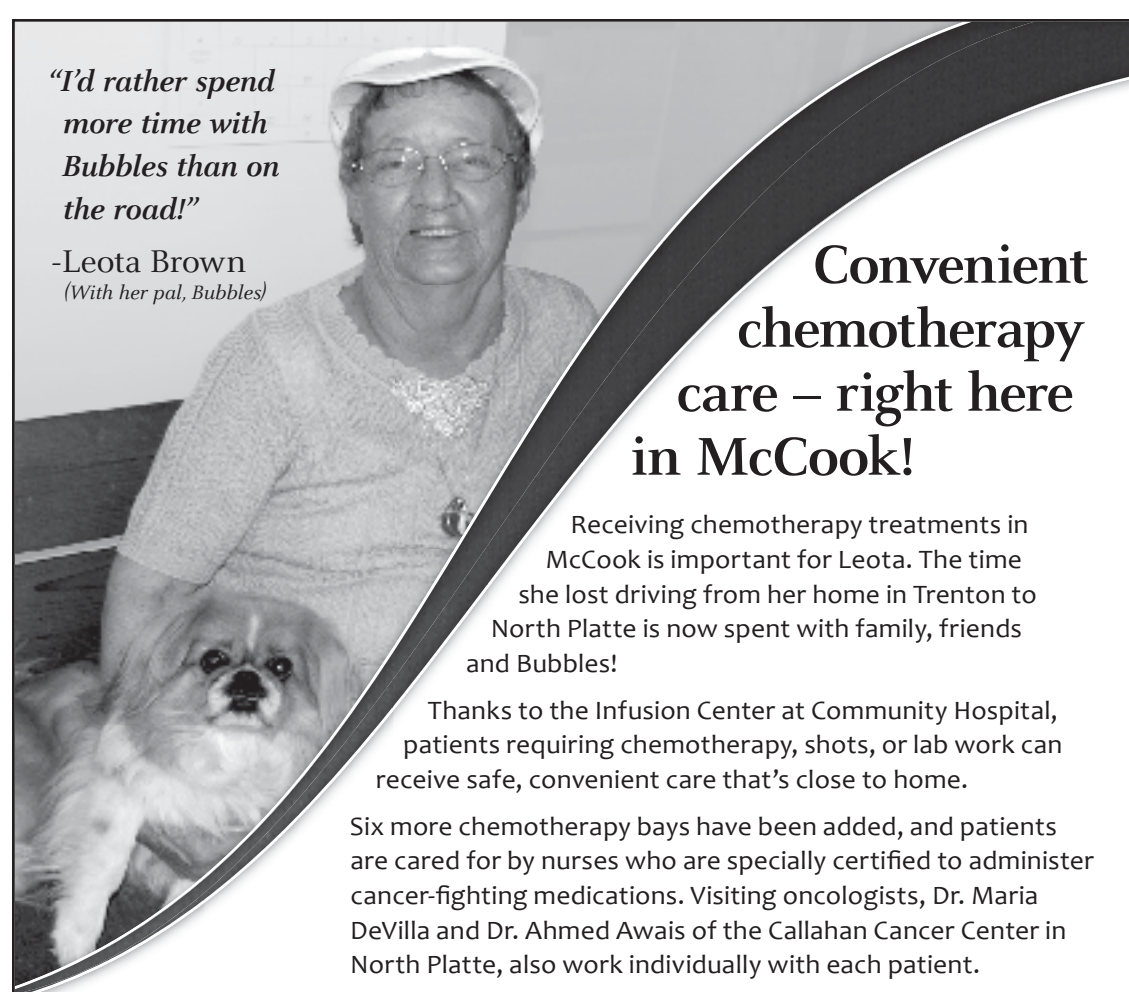
## WANTED Full-Time Help

Applicant must be able to write stories, cover events and meetings. Will need computer and office skills, answer phones, type, take photos & put together pages.

**The Saint Francis Herald**  
To apply or for more information, contact Karen Krien at the Saint Francis Herald, 785-332-3162 or stop by the office at 310 W. Washington, St. Francis.

"I'd rather spend more time with Bubbles than on the road!"

-Leota Brown  
(With her pal, Bubbles)



## Convenient chemotherapy care – right here in McCook!

Receiving chemotherapy treatments in McCook is important for Leota. The time she lost driving from her home in Trenton to North Platte is now spent with family, friends and Bubbles!

Thanks to the Infusion Center at Community Hospital, patients requiring chemotherapy, shots, or lab work can receive safe, convenient care that's close to home.

Six more chemotherapy bays have been added, and patients are cared for by nurses who are specially certified to administer cancer-fighting medications. Visiting oncologists, Dr. Maria DeVilla and Dr. Ahmed Awais of the Callahan Cancer Center in North Platte, also work individually with each patient.

A medical team so thoughtful and caring make patients like Leota feel right at home – close to home!

**Great Plains**  
Regional Medical Center  
Callahan Cancer Center

**COMMUNITY HOSPITAL**  
Advanced care. Always there.