

Family

Deaths

Thelma D. Johnson

Thelma D. Johnson, 77, of Colby, died Friday, Jan. 30, 2004 in Colby. Mrs. (Griffith) Johnson was born on July 24, 1926 in Larned and was a Colby resident since 1959.

She was a retired elementary school secretary and a member of the United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women and PEO.

Preceding her in death was her husband, Dr. Willis L. Johnson, who died on May 13, 1979.

Survivors include sons, Neil Johnson of La Plata, Md., Lyndon Johnson, Newburg, Md., and Dana Johnson, Phoenix, Ariz.; brother Leslie Griffith, Wichita; and one grandchild.

Services will be held on Friday at 2 p.m. at the Colby United Methodist Church in Colby with Pastor James Mardock officiating.

Burial will be at Beulah Cem-

etry in Colby. Visitation is Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Memorials may be made to the Colby United Methodist Church or Alzheimer's Association and left at any Colby bank or Harrison Chapel, 190 S. Franklin, Colby, Kan. 67701.

Fred D. Downing

Fred D. Downing, 52, of Colby, died Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2004. He was born on Dec. 28, 1951 in Atwood.

He is survived by sons, Shawn Scott of Hastings, Neb., and Cole Downing, Douglas, Neb.; mother, Ruby Eggers, Colby; and sister Tami Siuta of Guam.

Baptism

Joseph Franklin Rennaker

Joseph Franklin Rennaker, son of Traci Daubert, was baptized on

There was a cremation and the family will have a burial of cremains at a later date.

Funeral arrangements are with Harrison Chapel, 190 S. Franklin, Colby, Kan. 67701.

Carol Kay (Denny) Gardiner

Carol Kay (Denny) Gardiner, 63, of Phoenix, Ariz., died Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2004 at The Coronado House in Phoenix, Ariz.

She is survived by her immediate family and two sisters, Janice Linville of Colby and Connie Kreamer of Phoenix, Ariz.

Services are pending with Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel in Colby.

Sunday, Jan. 25, at Sacred Heart Church, with Father Dana Clark officiating. Godparents are Dennis and Patsy Daubert-Ewy.

Girl stands her ground against molester on trial

DEAR ABBY: Two years ago, my 8-year-old daughter and her friend were molested by a teenage boy from our church. My daughter came to me and told me about it. I immediately took her to the hospital and called the police.

This began a year of talking to detectives, district attorneys and therapists. During all this time, we were urged by friends of the boy's parents and other church members not to press charges. We had to move twice to avoid conflict with all the people who thought he was innocent.

When the court date finally arrived, my daughter and her friend took the stand separately to tell their stories while the boy and his parents stared at them.

My daughter showed remarkable courage. When the public defender tried to twist her words, she stood firm. At one point, she told the public defender that he was a liar when he said something untrue. She actually made the judge laugh.

I will not tell you she wasn't upset when she walked out of the courtroom. She went to her friend and gave her a big hug. Then her friend went in to testify. The boy was convicted.

I am sharing this story because our children are stronger than we give them credit for. Professionals have told me that the reason my daughter is OK now is because I let her stand up for herself and I believed in her.

—STANDING UP FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

DEAR STANDING UP: Thank you for the great letter. When you encouraged your daughter to fight back using the legal system, you empowered her and gave her closure. Too many innocent victims remain silent out of shame and fear — and by doing so, they carry wounds that can last a lifetime.

DEAR ABBY: I have a 10-year-old daughter from a previous marriage. She thinks my husband is her real father. She even carries his last name. Her real dad was an abusive drug addict who has had no contact with us.



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

Should I tell her the truth now? One day? Ever? I don't want him in her life, but I'm afraid that someday someone may slip and tell her, and then she will never forgive me.

—NEEDS HELP IN TEXAS

DEAR NEEDS: Tell your daughter now that you were married once before. She will have questions. Answer them honestly. The longer you put this off, the greater her shock will be.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a single father of an 18-month-old and am wondering why so many public places have no baby-changing stations available in areas where men can use them. I find it hard to shop or go out to eat because of this. I hope somebody can rectify this problem, or a lot of single dads will be looking for other places to spend their money.

—SINGLE DAD

DEAR SINGLE DAD: Over the past 10 years, I have noticed more and more fathers out with their babies and small children at shopping centers, restaurants, etc. Businesses that fail to recognize this culture change are short-

sighted when they make it difficult for single dads or fathers who have their little ones for visitation. A word to the wise ...

DEAR ABBY: I can't stop thinking about the letter from the girl whose boyfriend threatened to kill her parents if she breaks up with him. When my cousin was 14, her parents forced her to break up with a boy who was too old for her. His solution was to shoot her and himself. She survived but was left a paraplegic. Your advice to that girl was right on. You advised her to tell her parents immediately. That way, they can take the necessary precautions. The girl should not assume that her own life is safe. Logic has nothing to do with obsession, and that boy is clearly obsessed.

—CONCERNED

DEAR CONCERNED: When I printed that letter, I thought it was unusual. To my dismay, I have a bushel of mail and e-mail on my desk that proves otherwise. Read on for a sample:

DEAR ABBY: Your advice to "Anonymous in Fort Myers, Fla." was correct. When I was a teen, my best friend was also dating a controlling guy her parents weren't too

Retired teacher talks about music

Clubs

Colby Shakespeare Club met at the home of Deloras Ary on Friday, Jan. 23. President Kathy Calliham called the meeting to order and eight members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the Club Collect in unison. Roll Call was to give a New Year's Resolution, past or present.

Jan Wolf, retired elementary school teacher and private strings instructor, then gave a detailed discussion of the world of music as it is taught to children. She opened her program with her philosophy of teaching, that as a music teacher, it is just as important to learn to use notes as symbols of sound in reading music, as it is to learn the symbols of sounds for reading words. Then comes an understanding of the terminology, which helps them have a common ground. During the very early years, lots of time is spent helping the students find their sing-

Markets

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spent singing, moving and playing melodic or rhythmic games. Mrs. Wolf briefly covered the solfeggio symbols made with hands while singing notes, and older elementary students use this and do very well finding Do and recognizing steps and intervals. Several members then had questions for Mrs. Wolf to assist them in helping them sing or hear pitches easier. She closed her program by stating that it is so important that music be taught every single day at school because the students need the repetition to learn note reading just like they do for regular reading.

The business part of the meeting followed and the Nominating Committee of Deloras Ary, Jeanne

See "CLUBS," page 5

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We are praising the Lord for the \$8,000 that was raised. Thank you and we will see you again next year.



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