

Family

Deaths

Earl E. Yarnell

Earl E. Yarnell, 85, of Colby, died Saturday, Oct. 2, 2004 at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. He was born on Sept. 29, 1919 in Osborne and was a long-time area resident having moved here in 1979.

Visitation continues today until 9 p.m. at Harrison Chapel, 190 S. Franklin Ave., Colby, Kan. 67701. Services will be held Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. at the Colby United Methodist Church with Pastor James Mardock officiating.

Burial will be at Beulah Cemetery in Colby.

Donations may be made to the Colby Senior Progress Center, VFW Post 6882, or Colby United Methodist Church and left at any Colby bank or the chapel.

Bertha Schertz

Bertha Schertz, 70, of Oakley, died Saturday, Oct. 2, 2004 at Citizens Medical Center in Colby.

Services are planned for 10 a.m., Wednesday at St. Joseph's Church in Oakley with Fr. Roger Meitl officiating. Private inurnment will be at a later date. There will be no visitation.

Memorials can be made to St. Joseph's Church in Oakley or Lantern Park Manor in Colby.

Kennedy-Koster Funeral Home, 217 Freeman, P.O. Box 221, Oakley, Kan. 67748 was in charge of arrangements.

Babies

Karalynn Marie Ratzlaff

Scott and Nicole Ratzlaff of Colby announce the birth of their daughter, Karalynn Marie, on Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2004 at Hays Medical Center in Hays.

Karalynn Marie weighed 7 lbs., 8 oz., and was 20.5 inches long.

Grandparents are Don and Judy Ratzlaff of Cimarron and the late

Flu shots, flu shots, flu shots...this is the month to talk about them.

You say you never get the flu? Did you know that influenza is a respiratory virus and not the "stomach flu" as many think it is? Yes, this is the virus that is spread from person to person primarily through the coughing and sneezing of infected persons.

The incubation period for influenza is 1-4 days, with an average of two days. Adults typically are infectious from the day before symptoms begin through approximately five days after illness onset. Children can be infectious for greater than or equal to 10 days, and young children can shed virus for less than or equal to six days before their illness onset. Severely immunocompromised people can shed virus for weeks or months.

Uncomplicated influenza illness is characterized by the abrupt onset of constitutional and respiratory signs and symptoms—fever, myalgia (pain in the muscle), headache, malaise (general feeling of discomfort), nonproductive cough, sore throat and rhinitis (inflammation of nasal mucous membrane). Among children, otitis media (inflammation of the middle ear), nausea and vomiting are all also commonly reported with influenza illness.

Respiratory illness caused by influenza is difficult to distinguish

Healthy Haps

• Thomas County Health Department

from illness caused by other respiratory pathogens on the basis of symptoms alone. Reported sensitivities and specificities of clinical definitions for influenza-like illness in 78 percent and 55-71 percent respectively, compared with viral culture. Sensitivity and predictive value of clinical definitions can vary, depending on the degree of co-circulation of other respiratory pathogens and the level of influenza activity.

A study among older nonhospitalized patients determined that symptoms of fever, cough and acute onset had a positive predictive value of 30 percent for influenza, whereas a study of hospitalized older patients with chronic cardiopulmonary disease determined that a combination of fever, cough and illness of less than seven days was 78 percent sensitive and 73 percent specific for influenza. However, a

study among vaccinated older persons with chronic lung disease reported that cough was not productive of influenza infection, although having a fever or feverishness was 68 percent sensitive and 54 percent sensitive for influenza infection.

Influenza illness typically resolves after a limited number of days for the majority of persons, although a cough and malaise can persist for greater than two weeks. Among certain persons, influenza can exacerbate underlying medical conditions (pulmonary or cardiac disease), lead to secondary bacterial pneumonia or primary influenza viral pneumonia, or occur as part of a coinfection with other viral or bacterial pathogens.

Young children with influenza infection can have initial symptoms mimicking bacterial sepsis (the severe toxic, feverish state resulting from infection) with high fevers and less than or equal to 20 percent of children hospitalized with influenza can have febrile seizures. Influenza infection has also been associated with encephalopathy (any disease of the brain), transverse

myelitis (disease of the spinal cord), Reye syndrome (an acute illness of childhood of unknown and probable multiple etiologies), myositis (inflammation of muscle), myocarditis (inflammation of the muscular tissue of the heart) and pericarditis (inflammation of the enclosed membranous sac enveloping the heart).

In a recent study of influenza epidemics, approximately 19,000 influenza-associated pulmonary and circulatory deaths per influenza

season occurred during 1976-1990, compared with approximately 36,000 deaths during 1990-1999.

Further information is needed regarding the risk of severe influenza complications and optimal strategies for minimizing severe disease and death among children.

Still not wanting to think of a flu shot? Stay healthy and get yourself and your family a flu shot today. "Well!" you say, "I don't get the flu." But you may well be a carrier and give it to others. Think about it.

Maurine Alice Perry Murray



Maurine Alice Perry Murray died at Kanmar Place Residential Hospice Home in Tucson on September 28, 2004, at the age of 91 years. Maurine was born on January 17, 1913 in Valley Falls, Kansas to Emma and Albert Perry. In 1914 she moved to Belleville, Kansas until she was 9 years old. In 1923 she moved to Colby, Kansas and graduated from Colby Public High School in 1932. She worked about 15 years at the Telephone Office in Colby. In 1933 she married Charles Dwight

Murray, better known as "Red". Their daughter, Deanna was born in 1937 and their son Perry was born in 1947. She had three grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Maurine was active in Sorosis Club, Junior League and P.E.O. She belonged to the Presbyterian Church in Colby. Maurine enjoyed playing bridge, golf and antiques as hobbies. In 1998 she moved to Tucson, Arizona to be close to her daughter in Tucson and her son in the Phoenix area. She lived at the Fountains of La Cholla, and Desert Point retirement communities until she moved to Kanmar Place, a lovely Residential Hospice Home in Tucson in September 2004. Her husband, "Red" Murray, died in September 1996. She is survived by her daughter, Deanna Adams and her husband, Paul of Tucson, AZ; her son Perry Murray and his wife, Nanette of Fountain Hills, Arizona; three grandsons, Kevin Adams of Berlin, MD, Chris Murray of Olathe, KS and Mike Murray of Bailey, CO, and three great grandchildren, Brooke Leigh Murray of Rexford, KS, Jakob Murray Adams and Lance Joseph Adams of Berlin, MD; her sister Margaret Goss in Claremont, CA; and many nieces, nephews and friends. Maurine wished to be cremated and burial will be private. A memorial fund has been established to the Thomas County Historical Society and the Presbyterian Church of Colby. Arrangements by EVERGREEN MORTUARY & CEMETERY, Tucson, AZ

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