

Family

Deaths

Donald E. Pitner

Donald E. Pitner, 75, of Lakewood, Colo., died Thursday, Feb. 3, 2005.

Services were held at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Wheatridge. A private interment was held at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Denver.

Mr. Pitner is survived by a son, John of Mount Pleasant, S.C.; two daughters, Debbi Strong of Denver, Colo. and Carol Pitner Jurnish of Fort Collins, Colo.; a brother, Tom Pitner of Hays; three sisters, Mary Coressel of Littleton, Colo., Betty Neary of Omaha, Neb. and Patricia Frisbie of Payson, Ariz.; 18 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Bonnie and sons Jim and Jay.

Mr. Pitner was born Nov. 17, 1929 in Benkelman, Neb. to John and Beulah Haremza Pitner. He grew up in Rawlins county and graduated from St. Joseph's Military Academy in Hays.

He was also a member of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church for many years.

He served two tours of duty in the U.S. Army before going into business for himself as a food broker in Denver.

Memorials are suggested to the charity of choice.

Donald K. Carter

Donald K. Carter, a 1951 graduate of Colby High School, died on Monday, Dec. 31, 2004 at his home in Laguna Hills, Calif. Mr. Carter died of a stroke after suffering for several years with Parkinson's disease and heart problems.

Mr. Carter is survived by his wife, Lynn; son, Michael; daughters, Shelly Eskew and Kimberly Pacheco; sister Carol; 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Cards and letters can be sent to Lynn D. Carter, 23301 Ridge Rt. Dr. Space 88, Laguna Hills, Calif. 92653-1720.

Babies

Elizabeth Ashley Steinlage

Ashley and Joe Steinlage of Columbia, Mo., announced the birth of their second child, a daughter, Elizabeth Ashley on Jan. 10, 2005. She weighed 8 pounds and 12 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Maternal grandparents are Dorothy Stephens of Colby, and the late Joseph Stephens. Paternal grandparents are Gertrude Steinlage of Corning and the late Lambert Steinlage.

Elizabeth has one brother, Nicholas, 2.

Veterans Auxiliary has busy February meeting

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary met Feb. 11 with President Doris Voisin presiding. Opening prayer was offered followed by patriotic instructions and flag salute.

Bills were presented and approved for payment. General Orders were read for correspondence.

In absence of secretary minutes were provided pro tem. District Secretary Florine Whisnant reported on her trip to the convention in McPherson. Community service reported 100 projects done involving 377 hours.

Florine Hurst volunteered to send Valentines to members in nursing homes and shut-in members.

A monetary donation was allowed for bingo prizes at Fort Dodge soldiers home and National Home for birthday celebration.

Decision was made to send birthday cards every month to National home.

Audit report was read and approved. National home prayer was offered and meeting closed with ritual prayer.

Next meeting will be March 11 at the Post home at 2 p.m.

Online system available to report fraud

By Sandy Praeger

Fraudulent insurance plans are becoming more prevalent in every line of insurance, and cost consumers billions in unpaid claims. According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau, it is estimated that insurance fraud costs Americans about \$30 billion each year which translates into \$200-\$300 in higher insurance premiums for the average household. Not only is consumer fraud on the rise, but there is also an increasing number of cases being investigated concerning agent fraud.

As part of the ongoing steps to proactively address issues surrounding insurance fraud, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), of which I serve as Secretary-Treasurer, has launched an online insurance fraud reporting system to enable consumers to report suspected acts of insurance fraud. I am very pleased that

the NAIC is able to provide this reporting system.

No personal identifying information is required in order to submit an allegation of suspected fraud. The online fraud reporting system allows consumers to provide detailed information anonymously and is available through the Kansas Insurance Department (KID) website at www.ksinsurance.org, or through the NAIC Website www.naic.org.

Complaints received through the online system are then routed out to the appropriate state where reported incidence of fraud may be occurring for full investigation by that state's insurance department.

To file a suspected insurance fraud report, consumers are required to indicate the state where the suspected fraud occurred, name of the business or individual, with a complete mailing address. Other optional fields include the phone number and date of birth, as well as

date of suspected fraud and amount of loss. The report also includes a text box allowing the consumer to provide additional details of the suspected fraud.

In May, 2004, the Kansas Insurance Department created an Anti-Fraud Division whose primary task it is to investigate and, when necessary, prosecute fraudulent insurance acts in the state of Kansas. The division is a law enforcement arm within KID and is directed by a former District Attorney and staffed with attorneys and former law enforcement professionals who apply their experience, training and investigative skills to investigate questionable insurance acts. Two of the attorneys in the division have been granted the status of "Special Assistant to the Attorney General" which gives the Division the opportunity to expedite investigations and make appearances in court when necessary.

Since May of 2004, KID has investigated 180 reports of fraud resulting in 7 cases prosecuted, with all 7 resulting in conviction. Six of those cases were prosecuted by the Anti-Fraud Division and one case was prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office. To date, in 2005, the KID Anti-Fraud Division has opened 24 cases and referred 6 cases to other agencies or federal law enforcement for investigation.

If you are considering purchasing a policy from a new insurance company, one thing you can personally do to help put a stop to insurance fraud is to stop, and call the Kansas Insurance Department to confirm if the company you are considering is licensed to do business in the state of Kansas.

If you suspect insurance fraud is being committed by an individual, an agent, or a company, I encourage you to access the fraud reporting system online immediately through either of the web addresses above, or call the Kansas Insurance Department Consumer Assistance Hotline at 1-800-432-2484.

Junior leadership training offered

The Coronado Council of Boy Scouts of America will offer a week-long course for Boy Scout troop junior leaders. The course is called Brownsea after Brownsea Island, the birthplace of Scout camping. On July 29, 1907 Baden-Powell and other leaders took 21 boys on a camping weekend to work on Scout skills and to test ideas for a program for boys from his book *Aids to Scouting*.

The Coronado Area Council will offer leadership training to Boy Scouts who are at least 12 years of age or completed the sixth grade, be

a First Class Scout and who are currently filling a leadership position in the troop or likely to assume one soon. The dates are June 26-July 1 at Brown Memorial Camp near Abilene. The course has several objectives: to give Scouts basic knowledge of the 11 skills of leadership and help them relate these skills to their troop responsibilities; to give participants the opportunity to share ideas and experiences with Scouts from other troops; to create an atmosphere where Scouts will experience Scouting at its best; to enhance the relationship between

the Scouts and his Scoutmaster and to have fun. The course has a capacity of 32 Scouts.

Boy Scout troop leaders will receive registration materials to enroll youth and to recommend Scouts to serve on staff. Registrations are also available upon request. The cost is \$125 per youth and financial assistance is available. Steve Shepard, from Ellsworth, will be the course leader. To receive an application or if you have questions, contact the Scout Service Center at (785) 827-4461 or toll-free at 1-866-950-7750.

Many activities planned at Senior Center

The Senior Progress Center is having a potato bar fund-raiser next week from 5-7 p.m. Wednesday. Proceeds will go toward the purchase of some new tables for the center. Come and bring a friend and help the center.

There are plenty of other activities for the week of Feb. 21-25, including a paint class with Fritz Ostmeier at 9 a.m. Monday. Tuesday exercise will be at 9:30 a.m. and Radio Memories at 11:55 a.m. The Potato Bar will be from 5-7 p.m. Wednesday. Exercise will be at 9:30 a.m. Thursday and it's also House Slipper Day. Wear your comfy ones. Friday exercise will be at 9:30 a.m.

and it's also Denim Day. Wear your denim duds.

Everyone over 60 is welcome to participate in activities and eat at the center at 165 Fike Park Monday through Friday. Those under 60 are welcome to eat also.

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