



Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Koster

## Guard, Koster wed

Shanna Guard and Jerry Koster were married Sept. 10, 2005, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Colby. Parents of the couple are Gary and Glinda Guard of Colby and Rod and Ann Albert, Glen Elder and Ed Koster, Watonca, Okla.

Grandparents of the couple are Marvin and Joan Thomas of Hays, Don and Marcia Guard of Emporia, Adella Harry of Colby, Mark and Jan Koster of Beloit, Rosalee Schwerman of Jewell and the late Everett Harry and Francis Schwerman.

The bride was escorted by her father, Gary Guard, and mother, Glinda Guard. Honor attendant was Kayla Harry, cousin of the bride. Attendants were Tanya Hatfield, friend of the bride, Arin Albert, sis-

ter of the bridegroom, and Felicity Blau, friend of the bride.

Best man was Dustin Koster, brother of the bridegroom. Grooms-men were Shaun Guard, brother of the bride, Delray Capper, friend of the couple, and Bryan Vopat, friend of the bridegroom.

Candle lighters were Kassandra Kuhlman, cousin of the bride and Ami Albert, sister of the bridegroom. The flower girl was Paige Koster; daughter of the bridegroom and ring bearer was Tyler Harry, cousin of the bride.

Shanna attended Colby High School and Colby Community College. She is sales manager at Days Inn of Hays. Jerry attended Wilson High School and Fort Hays State University. He is an assistant manager at Applebee's of Hays.



Jean Hawkins  
80th birthday

The children of Jean Hawkins are inviting all friends and relatives to help celebrate her 80th birthday from 2 to 4 p.m., Friday, Dec. 3, at the Rexford Red Barn in Rexford Children of Mrs. Hawkins include Sandra Dean, Linda Steward and Steve Hawkins.



Kenneth Weed

### 80th birthday

The family of Kenneth Weed celebrated his 80th birthday on Thanksgiving Day.

In addition, they are requesting a card shower in his honor.

Cards and greetings will reach him at: 886 County Road M, Levant, Kan. 67743.

# Sterling man says new kidney gives him hope for the future

STERLING (AP) — Thanksgiving came early this year for Doug and Chris Sillin of Sterling.

They remember the day as Nov. 2, when they got a telephone call while Doug was undergoing dialysis at Hutchinson Hospital.

Wichita surgeon Dr. Charles Shield left a message saying,

“We’ve found a kidney, and it looks very, very good.”

It was a call they had waited for through seven months of dialysis, after a first transplant from Chris failed because of a blood clot.

Doug Sillin checked into Via Christi Regional Medical Center’s St. Francis Campus that afternoon to prepare for a surgery that would last seven hours.

The kidney, from an unknown donor, began its job of flushing liquid immediately after the surgery.

On Tuesday, Doug Sillin, 52, and his wife recounted the story, which began in January 2004 when he started having bouts of unexplained fatigue and lethargy.

Doug, a diabetic, underwent lab tests that October to prepare for eye surgery.

In response to those tests, the couple was referred to a Wichita nephrologist who told them the unfathomable news: Doug was in end stage renal disease and his kidneys would fail within months.

He needed dialysis or a kidney transplant.

At Christmastime, they met Shield and began several tests to prepare for a March 22 Easter week-end transplant, with Chris as the donor.

They endured a week of recovery together in the hospital.

But two days later, the kidney failed. Doug underwent a second surgery to remove the kidney and

“I thought was big enough to handle this, but that all went away quick when I couldn’t get well.”

Doug Sillin  
Sterling

then began dialysis.

During another surgery to install a permanent access for the dialysis, Doug went into pulmonary arrest because both lungs had filled with fluid.

“That’s the one that scared me the most,” Doug said.

Chris Sillin and their employees took over running the family funeral homes in Sterling and in Lyons. Doug and three dialysis buddies organized the “Band of Brothers,” who spent hours talking about eating, recipes and traveling.

But that’s the past.

Living with his new kidney and looking with hope to the future, Doug said the ordeal taught him valuable lessons.

“I thought I was big enough to

handle this, but that all went away quick when I couldn’t get well,” he said.

As a mortician, he’d had negative thoughts when he prepared the body of a transplant donor because of the extra work.

Now, he’s an advocate for transplant donors.

“There’s a world of people out there who aren’t well, and I didn’t even know they existed,” he said.

As a funeral director, he thought working with grieving families had taught him about the fragility of life. Not so.

Family, employees, community, prayer groups, old classmates and friends, cards and letters are all a part of this Thanksgiving, Doug Sillin said.

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