

Family

Deaths

Pantera Lyric Rage Tippets
Darrell Lance Abbott Tippets

Newborn infants Pantera Lyric Rage Tippets and her brother, Darrell Lance Abbott Tippets, died Friday, Aug. 22, 2008, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby.
Survivors include their mother: Judith Leah Tippets of Colby; uncle: James Rebarchek; aunt: Anita Tippets and grandparents: Alvin and Cindy Rebarchek, all of Colby.
Other survivors include David

Care/Van service stopped

CARE/Van, an intercity bus service in Hays that was operated since 1996 by Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas, Inc., was discontinued July 1 due to the lack of a local funding source.
The Care/Van service, said Ron Straight, transportation manager of developmental services in Hays, has been operated by Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas, Inc. via a grant through the Kansas Department

Legislature grills agency

TOPEKA (AP) — An audit released Tuesday found that relationships between the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs and veterans service groups are strained, prompting lawmakers to tell the state agency to make some changes.
“After speaking with the commission staff and some veterans service organization staff, we concluded that the relationship exists between them — especially at the leadership level — could be characterized more as adversarial than cooperative in nature,” auditors concluded.
Rep. Tom Burroughs, a Kansas City Democrat, expressed concern that the ongoing sour relations could cause problems for veterans, who rely on the commission for help getting their benefits.
“‘We need to send a strong message that there needs to be a more-cooperative working relationship, that veterans know that we care about the care they are receiving,” Burroughs said.

Commission Executive Director George Webb acknowledged that relations between the agency and such groups as the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion have been tense since 2005. That’s when the state ethics commission found problems with an employment agreement for veterans commission employees who helped veterans file federal claims for cash aid and medical services.
For decades until 1997, members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion had helped veterans. Then, in 1997, the groups signed an agreement with the Commission on Veterans Affairs that called for commission employees to help the veterans. But the employees were also paid by veterans groups, al-

Tippets of New Jersey, grandfather; Ronald and Erika Shively of Colorado Springs, Colo., great-grandparents and Milton and Norma Rebarchek of Grinnell.
Pantera and Darrell will be buried next to their cousin, Annabelle Lee Hughes, at Beulah Cemetery in Colby.
A private graveside service will be held. Harrison Chapel in Colby is handling arrangements.

of Transportation.
The grant has covered 50 percent of the operational expenses. The capital expense of a vehicle is also part of the grant with 80 percent paid via federal funding.
“The Office of Public Transportation has stated that they are willing to consider re-approving this grant if a local funding source can be secured,” Straight said.
For questions, call Straight at (785) 621-2078 or e-mail him at: ron_straight@notes1.dsnwk.org

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Recipe for vanilla extract revisited

Dear Heloise: Many years ago, you published a recipe for vanilla extract. I seem to recall that it involved letting a vanilla bean soak in liquor. Would you please repeat this recipe for me? — M.G.M. in Texas
You need several vanilla beans and a 1-liter bottle of vodka or rum. Insert one or two beans into the bottle of liquor and let it ferment for at least 30 days.
If you want a stronger flavor, let it ferment longer. As you use the vanilla extract, add more liquor to replace what you use. When it becomes weak, just start a new one with fresh vanilla beans. — Heloise
Kitchen garbage
Dear Heloise: When peeling shrimp, deboning a chicken or doing anything messy, I place a plastic bag on my counter with a folded newspaper inside.
As I clean, I put the waste inside the bag. When I’m finished, all I have to do is tie up the bag and place it in the garbage. No mess on the counter to be cleaned.
One more hint: I don’t bake much and therefore do not have a dough board. I have learned that if I first wipe the counter with a damp cloth, I then can place a piece of foil on it and the foil will hold well enough to roll out the dough. When finished, I just fold up the foil and place it in the garbage. —
Judy Myers, Jasper, Texas
Cooking bacon
Dear Heloise: I would like to share a recipe that I have been using for years to cook bacon. Dip each slice in flour, patting both sides, and then place the strips on a greased cookie tray lined with foil. Bake for about 20 minutes or until crisp in a 400-degree preheated oven. These slices are especially good for bacon sandwiches. Leftovers can be heated in the microwave for one minute. — Evelyn Gillich, Rockaway, N.J.
Squash helper
Dear Heloise: Certain strains of squash are sometimes hard to cut in half. Microwaving them for a few minutes can soften the skin and make cutting them easier.
One more hint: I’m at the age when it makes sense to use my sterling flatware every day, but I don’t like to put it in the dishwasher.
I keep a cooking-utensil crock next to the sink with soapy water in it. After meals, I just drop the silverware in and let it sit until it’s time to hand-wash. The crock with silver handles sticking out is not unattractive. — Kathryn Jacobs, Laguna Woods, Calif.
Spice hint
Dear Heloise: When my spice container is close to empty, I turn it upside down so it’s easy to remember what to buy. I watch

Hints from Heloise

for spice sales and stock up on the ones I use often. I also mark the date with the permanent marker on the top of the spice container. This works well for me, and I save a little money, too! — Ramona Richardson, via e-mail
Proper Care of Fish
Dear Readers: Bringing a fish into your home is no less of a responsibility than having a cat or dog. Whether it is a \$2 guppy or a \$10 angelfish, it deserves the same quality of care, regardless of the price tag.
It would be wise to invest in an aquarium book to learn about the proper care of the fish you are going to buy. It is important to learn how big your fish will get before purchasing an aquarium. Quite often, pet owners have fish that become aggressive because they have grown too large for their aquarium.
If you have multiple species, be sure to find out if they are passive or aggressive, and do not mix the two. Only introduce fish that are compatible with each other.
A fast-growing fish will need a larger aquarium than a fish that remains small.
A larger aquarium is better because the quantity of water dilutes problems, such as waste material and too much food. It also eliminates overcrowding when introducing new fish and plants. It is important that the water is balanced before putting any fish into the aquarium.
Tropical fish are hardier and adapt more easily. Fish should not be overfed. The leftover food will cause the water to become dirty and cloudy.
When the water looks murky, you don’t have to change the whole tank of water. One-fourth of the tank usually is enough to change about every two weeks. Be sure to use cleaners that are safe for fish.
Some cleaners may leave a residue (even after rinsing) that could hurt or kill the fish.
One reader wrote to say she lined the outside glass on the back of her aquarium with a pretty beach scene from an old calendar and that the scenes can be changed monthly.
If you take the time to learn what a fish needs, you will have a far better experience, as well as a pet that could be with you for a long time. — Heloise
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