## Family

#### Deaths

#### John R. Wright

John R. Wright, 80, Oakley, a retired Oberlin school administrator, died today, Thursday, Dec. 23, 2010, at the Logan County

Services are pending with Pauls Funeral Home of Oberlin, (785) 475-3127.

#### **Art Club**

High Plains Art Club members held their Christmas luncheon at Montana Mike's at noon on Tuesday, Dec.14.

Bev Kern, chairman for the day, had each member draw two pieces of paper from a hat in October. The first told them what to feature in a painting and the second what medium to use.

Club members brought their finished paintings to the luncheon wrapped and in bags and Kern put numbers on them. Each person drew a number for their gift. After the gifts were opened, they had to decide who did the painting.

This exchange is always the highlight of the year for the club members.

After the luncheon Kern treated her guests to pieces of cake for dessert and several door prizes were drawn.

Their next meeting will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11, at the United Methodist Church. Kern will give the program and Mary McNutt will be hostess. All area artists are invited.

– Marj Brown

#### Bridge Club

Meadow Lake bridge winners for Tuesday were first, Margaret Denneler; second, Jean Snyder; third, Mary Molstad; fourth, tie between Joy Davis and Mary Kersenbrock; fifth, Lyle Worthy; and sixth, Sarah Jane Barrett.

# Experience God's presents

Christmas has always been one of my favorite holidays.

Honestly, it has been that way for selfish reasons - to receive

I remember as a child eyeing the various gifts under the tree and wanting to look at them, shake them and envision what might be inside. I liked to count how many I had to open, too.

Opening them couldn't last long enough. Seeing the pile dwindle away was bittersweet. I enjoyed the presents I received, but at the same time I wanted to open more and more and more.

All that happened, typically, Christmas Eve. Then, came Christmas morning, when you woke up to more presents and a filled stocking.

As I have grown up, the desire to have the gifts did not change. I still look forward to seeing my name on packages, the size of the present, wondering what item(s) might be tucked away inside and wondering how many presents there are for me. It is what so many people look forward to when it comes to Christmas time.

Oftentimes we talk about wanting to experience God's presence. So, to associate the homonym 'presents" in the phrase may sound kind of unusual. However, if you think about it, He gives us a lot of presents in life.

It may be the small things that He has given us ability to walk, talk, breathe, or material things. Or it could be some less taken-for-granted things – family, friends, house, or health. Even, moving on to the bigger things – Jesus, the Holy Spirit and salvation.

I want to draw your attention to a specific Bible verse, from I John 3:1. It reads, "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" Re-read the first eleven words again. That phrase is almost a question – an encouragingly rhetorical one.

The love that God has given to us is so great that it is practically unfathomable. In my years in ministry I still do not completely understand how great the

**Jarrod** Spencer

From the Pulpit love of God is for despicable sinners like me.

The things I've done, things I've thought and words I've said should not be allowed to enter into the pure presence of God. I, like all, "have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." But the good thing is there is

a present to open that is around each turn in life. A present that I have the pleasure of opening each day. Another humbling part of I John 3:1 is that this "love" is "lavished." Of all the versions I've looked up, this is my favorite word. Lavished to me conveys the thought of overabundance or being showered

The love is "a lot" of love. God has "laid it on thick" with His love. It's amazing. The love has been lavished on us to the point of being able to be called "children of God". We can be identified with God. Pure God will consider us His children ... amazing

with love. It is being given so much love that it just

I John 3:1 has always been one of my favorite verses describing the love we receive from the Father. As we have been given a lot of love from Him, we should take great pleasure in knowing that God is a giving God. Not only is He a giving God, but He gives and gives and gives.

The fact that He gives so much should make Him "great" to any and every one. How "great" is that! The presents He gives are overflowing in number! They are being lavished on us. We can just keep opening present after present of His love this holiday season ... and all of 2011.

Have a great holiday season. I hope this verse is one that provides encouragement to you as you reflect on the lavished love we receive from Him.

Merry Christmas!

Jarrod Spencer is the minister at the Colby Church of Christ. You can reach him by e-mail at ichthus\_

#### **Babies**

#### Grayson Charles Schwanke

Grayson Charles Schwanke, son of Justin and Mary Beth Schwanke of Wichita, was born Friday, Dec. 10, 2010, at Wesley Medical Center in Wichita. He weighed 8 pounds, 14 ounces and measured 18

Grandparents are Audrey Liskey of Harrisonburg, Va., Charles Link of Wichita and Charles and Debbie Schwanke of Colby. Great-grandmother is Louise Schwanke of Scott City.



Grayson S.

#### Tucker Jamze David

Tucker Jamze Davis, son of Andrea Blair and Bradley Davis of comed him home. Colby, was born Thursday, Dec. 2, He weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces and Kim Davis of Goodland. and measured 20 1/4 inches.

A brother, Kayden Davis, wel-

Grandparents are Kristina and 2010, at Citizens Medical Center. Don Blair of St. Francis and Dale

#### Gracelyn Lottie Coon

\$12.03

Gracelyn Lottie Coon, daughter 9 ounces and measured 18 inches. of Brian and Anne Coon of Good- Grandparents are Keith and Judy land, was born Sunday, Dec. 12, 2010, at Citizens Medical Center

in Colby. She weighed 5 pounds,

Quotes as of close of

previous business day

**Markets** 

Soybeans (bushel)

Hi-Plains Co-op Wheat (bushel) \$7.04 \$5.43 Corn (bushel) \$9.19 Milo (hundredweight)

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Coon of Goodland and Mel and Karen Madorin of Ellis.

#### Thank You

Many thanks to a wonderful and generous community. Thank you all for the many donations made to my medical mission in Ghana, West Africa. I so appreciate your words and deeds of support and caring.

LaDonna Regier MD



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#### Corrections

The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

Sons of American Legion Post 363 Sons of American Legion would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous support of door prizes and advertisements on the radio:

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We also thank everyone for attending the pheasant hunters meal and purchasing tickets for the drawings. To those we may have not mentioned it was greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank the members of American Legion, Sons of American Legion and all others that came out and helped with the meal and activities. A special thanks to Tom Simpson for being the auctioneer.

st Celebrate the New Year with the st

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**Dinner/Dance/Entertainment** 

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Friday, Dec. 31, 2010 • City Limits Convention Center

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## We want your local news! Call 462-3963

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD, 245 W. College Dr., Colby, Pastor Steve Todd. Worship Service 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 9 a.m. for all ages. Wednesday Youth at The Rock 3:30 and 7 p.m. Sunday evening services at 6:30 p.m. on all Sundays except the 5th Sunday of every month. 785-462-8234. cdag@st-tel.net.

#### Schedule of church services

2992: An independent community church served by

Village Missions Pastor Tom Peyton. Sunday School:

9:30AM-all ages. Worship Services: 10:45AM. Sunday

Evenings 6:30. 3rd Sunday informal fellowship - bring a

snack to share! First Sunday of month - carry-in dinner

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC, 785-462-2179, Father

Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m.,

Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be

heard Saturday 4:30-5:05 p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 a.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Rev. Carol Rahn,

515 W. 4th, 785-462-6342, Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

Podcasts of the worship services are available at the

WESLEYAN CHURCH, 320 W. Pine - 785-462-8391,

Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m.,

Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY

SAINTS, 1145 S. Franklin - 785-460-6605, President

Andy Rose, 785-460-6807; Erwin Mitchell, 1st counselor,

785-460-1952; Calvin Haverfield, 2nd counselor, 785-

953-1043. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School

and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/

YW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History Center open, 7-9 p.m.

REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC., 345 N. Frank-

lin, Dr. W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Class,

Sunday, 9 a.m., Sunday worship, 10 a.m., Wednesday,

Thursdays or by appointment. Call 785-462-3571.

following morning worship.

and 9:25-9:40 a.m. on Sunday.

church website colbypres.org.

Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.

GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP, 2nd and Sunrise, Oakley. Pastor James Bloom, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church 10:15 a.m., Wednesday evening Bible Study and Intercessory Prayer 6:30 p.m. 785-

**COLBY INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH, 730** E. 3rd (former Jaycee's building), Pastor Bernard Heinz, 785-460-0313, Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.

ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 785-462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May. Christian Education for Youth, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September through May.

COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD, 245 W. College Dr., Colby. Pastor Steve Todd. Worship Service 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 9 a.m. for all ages. Wednesday Youth at The Rock 3:30 and 7 p.m. Sunday evening services at 6:30 p.m. on all Sundays except the 5th Sunday of every month. 785-462-8234. cdag@st-tel.net.

BEREAN CHURCH, 1000 S. Franklin, 785-460-2763, www.colbyberean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m and Saturday, 5:30 p.m.. Pastor Mark Carlton, Senior Pastor and Pastor Jason Purdy, Youth Pastor. Middle School Group Wednesday 7 p.m. at the Attic and High School Youth Group Sunday 6 p.m. at the Attic. AWANA Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the church.

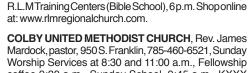
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Rev. Craig Crossman, 615 W. Webster, 785-462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m.; RC Club 2nd and 4th Sundays at 2 p.m.

**COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH** (Affiliated with Southern Baptist), 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 785-460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m. Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m.

PLEASANT HOME CHURCH, Pastor, Perry Baird, 785-890-3375, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

WINONA METHODIST CHURCH, 501 Bellview Ave. Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. (CDT)

To become a sponsor, call Andrea or Heather today at 462-3963.



coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. www.colbyumc.org

**CHURCH OF CHRIST, Minister, Jarrod Spencer.** 510

E. 4th, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m. www. colbychurch.com

OASIS WORSHIP CENTER, Colby, Pastor J. Curry, 785-462-0913. Sunday Service at 2 p.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Lyle Knebel, 385 W. 3rd - 785-460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church at 10:00 a.m.

**OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH, Brewster,** Sunday worship 9:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Rev. Robert Alexander. East 5th & Country Club, 785-462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:00 a.m.; Services, 10:30 a.m. Visit us at www. trinitycolby.com.

LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH, 205 1st St., Pastor Charles Taff, 785-586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning

worship 10:30 a.m. BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD, Joan Dingwerth, Director, 785-687-2565

REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 785-687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 785-694-2720, Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. mornings 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 p.m. - Children's Ministries (Royal Rangers/ Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Prayer, Tue. 5:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study.

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