

# Walking trail slow but end is worth it

"Good things come to those who wait," is an English phrase extolling the virtue of patience. Some of you may be thinking that the walking trail has fallen off the radar. It should be half way done by now - right?



**Diann Gerstner**

• Knowledge for Life

Well, I reiterate: "Good things come to those who wait."

Have you ever done a remodeling project? It always takes twice as long as you expect and there is a lot more involved than you may have first anticipated.

So goes the walking trail. To sink this kind of money into a project, we want it to be done right and to be something we can enjoy and be proud of for many, many years.

First with the building of our fabulous new aquatic center, the grade of the land was changed slightly in spots and new concerns arose that needed to be addressed.

For these issues the architect had to visit and make recommendations and changes. Not something that happens over night.

Next, we want the area we are walking around to be pleasant - green grass and trees for shade, right? Well, in western Kansas that means we need to be able to water. Thus, water lines have to be run to the property and then on the property so that a sprinkler system for the grass and a drip system for the trees can be installed.

We also want a safe place for walking, day and night. That requires adequate lighting and thus the need for electric lines to be run.

All these things have to happen before we can start on the actual cement trails. Much of the work being done is volunteer and all this work has to be coordinated in the right order to make progress. This project would not be happening without all the volunteer work. I would recognize them now, but I might accidentally leave someone out so I will leave that for a future column. But if you are one of those volunteers, we want you to know we truly appreciate you and all you are doing!

So what progress can you plan to see in the near future?

Water lines are currently being run to the property. The Tree Board plans to begin planting trees around the property the end of October.

As for the actual walking trail, the goal is to start pouring cement for the first quarter mile of the trail the first part of November, weather permitting. We are moving into the time of year when our progress will be greatly determined by the weather.

The south entrance to the aquatic center has to be built before the south quarter mile of trail can be poured.

To qualify for a walking trail, the path must be between five and eight feet wide. This first half mile planned in the area by the aquatic center will be eight feet wide to allow for maximum comfort in use. Have you tried to walk beside someone down a four-foot sidewalk? My husband and I barely fit and if we meet someone we constantly have to slide behind one another. The eight-foot wide path will be great!

The Walking Trail committee continues to seek grant money to further the trail and the amenities along it.

We have plans for adding another two-mile trek. The Exercise equipment we are looking at will include adult and child friendly stops.

We are also looking at a creative play space that might include outdoor musical instruments such as mamba and kettle drums, xylophone, etc, large fabricated rocks to climb on and more. "Good things come to those who wait."

*Diann Gerstner is the family and consumer sciences agent for the Thomas County Extension office.*

# Open house Saturday

The children of Glenita Moore of Oakley invite friends and relatives to join them in celebrating their mother's 90th birthday at an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday at the Oakley Country Club.

Children include David Moore of Oakley, Paul (Cindy) Moore of San Diego, Monty (Sandy) Moore of Monument, Steve (Loretta) Moore of Oakley, Claudia (Bob) Coulter of Wheatridge, Colo., and the late Daniel Moore.

She has 17 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

She was born in Dougherty, Iowa, on Oct. 25, 1921, and married Donald Moore on Nov. 3, 1940, in Nashua, Iowa. Since 1948 she has lived in the Monument and Oakley area.

The family requests no gifts. For those unable to attend, cards may be mailed to 218 S. Smokyhill, Oakley, Kan., 67748.



Glenita Moore



Glenita Moore

# Batman ordered: no costume

PETOSKEY, Mich. (AP) - A Michigan man who was arrested after being spotted atop a building while wearing a Batman costume won't be dressing up for a while.

The Petoskey News-Review reports (http://bit.ly/qgLuQd) 32-year-old Mark Williams was sentenced Monday to six months of probation. During that time, a judge says he's not allowed to wear costumes - including the Batman one he was wearing when Petoskey police picked him up in May.

The Harbor Springs man earlier pleaded guilty to attempted resisting/obstructing an officer.

Williams said he was inspired by others who dress as super heroes to prevent crime and reach out to the homeless.

Officers in Petoskey, about 225 miles northwest of Detroit, also confiscated a baton-like weapon and a can of chemical irritant spray. Williams says he didn't intend to use them.

## 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.

## Deaths

### John 'Walker' Johnson

John Walking Deer "Walker" Johnson, 37, an auto mechanic with Honda Motors in Lawrence, formerly of Oakley, died Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2011, at his home from complications of diabetes.

He was born Jan. 14, 1974, in Batavia, N.Y., to John and Betsy (Swafford) Johnson. In 1994 he graduated from Oakley High School and then attended Goodland Vocational Technical College where he was chosen outstanding student in welding in the 1994-95 class and elected president of his class. Two years later he received his certification in diesel mechanics.

In 2006 he graduated from Fort Hays State University with a degree in art. His senior year he was elected president of the Student American Society of Interior Designers. In the August 2005 issue of *Kansas City Homes and Gardens* magazine, he was featured for a chair he designed and built for a competition among members

of the student society enrolled in universities of the Missouri West/Kansas Chapter. His chair won second place in that competition.

He was preceded in death by his father, John R. Johnson, in 2008.

Survivors include a son, Kirk Thunder Johnson, and two daughters, Alivia Johnson and Tatum Johnson, all of Lawrence; his mother, of Oakley; and three sisters, Kitty Johnson, Oakley; Liza Johnson, Los Angeles; and Randalyn Tansey, Alexandria, Va.

Services were held on Monday, Oct. 10, 2011, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Oakley, with the Rev. Al Bruenger, the Rev. Tim Llewellyn and Father Don Martin officiating and burial in the Grainfield Township Cemetery.

The family suggests memorials to the Lutheran Indian Ministries or the American Diabetes Association, in care of Kennedy-Koster Funeral Home, Box 221, Oakley, Kan., 67748.

### Dane H. Rogers

Dane H. Rogers, an oil derrick hand from Colby, 55, died Monday, Oct. 17, 2011, at his home.

He was born Dec. 26, 1955, in Smith Center, the son of Donald and Carol (Wood) Rogers, and lived in the area all his life.

On June 1, 2002, he married Lori Foster in Oberlin.

His father preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife, of the home; his mother, Simpson; a step-son, Paul Gilbert, Oklahoma City; a daughter, Tera Bowles, Atwood; three step-daughters, LaDonna Moss and Crystal Gilbert, both of Colby; and Mary Hutton, Baker, Mont.; a brother, Steven (Cinda) Rogers, Hutchinson; a sister, Patricia Rogers, Osage City; and 13 grandchildren.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 22, 2011, at Harrison Chapel in Colby, with Pastor Judy

## Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day

Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$6.43
Corn (bushel)	\$6.34
Milo (hundredweight)	\$10.61
Soybeans (bushel)	\$11.20

## Bridge Club

Meadow Lake bridge winners for Oct. 11 were Elaine Ptacek, first; Gail Vacca, second; Barb Ulmer, third; Thelma Shalz, fourth; Margaret Denneler, fifth; Joy Davis, sixth.

Tuesday's winners were Larry Barrett, first; Lyle Worthy, second; Margaret Denneler, third; Dave Ulmer, fourth; and Thelma Shalz, fifth.

# Rexford Girl Scouts deliver candy orders

It's been a beautiful week in Rexford - a perfect example of autumn.

Our children are watching the leaves change color and fall from the trees, planning pumpkin carving, and generally enjoying fall.

The Girl Scouts met Saturday for their induction meeting. Twenty-four new girls were either inducted, transitioned to a new group, or rededicated to their troop from last year. The meeting was followed by a cake reception. The Girl Scouts will be delivering candy orders during the last week of October.

The Shepherd's Staff had a great weekend out at the pumpkin patch and corn maze. Many families spent the afternoon walking through the mazes, picking out

### Tim and Gwen Griffiths



• Rexford Correspondents

pumpkins, participating in "horse races" and playing in the bounce house. The pumpkin patch and corn maze will be open the next two weekends, 3 to 7 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons, for your enjoyment. For directions or further information, call (785) 687-2565.

We want to include your Rexford news.

You can leave it in the jar at the Red Barn, e-mail it to griffithsgang@gmail.com, or call it to Gwen at 687-2076.

Thanks, and have a great week!

# Representative named

The Kansas Chamber of Commerce has named Rep. Richard Billinger as a pro-jobs legislator for the 2011 legislative session.

"We are proud to announce that Rep. Richard Billinger has distinguished himself by supporting the tenets of free enterprise in order to move Kansas towards becoming

the best state in America to live and work," said Kansas Chamber President Kent Beisner. "We appreciate the hard work of Rep. Richard Billinger to grow jobs and the economy."

The chamber represents small, medium and large employers across Kansas.



**The Thomas County Health Department would like to thank the community volunteers that helped with our 2011 Mass Flu Clinic Exercise on October 5, 2011. Because of our volunteers we were able to vaccinate over 300 people in three hours. The clinic helped us prepare and practice for a public health event.**

<p><b>Colby Community College Nursing Department</b></p> <p>Jessica Allen Kristania Besouw David Bunch Tiffany Focke Kathy Franz Kelly Gates Gina Gultom Cathy Horinek Cindy Horton Cliff Leonhardt Caitlyn McDaniel Sarah Miller Leah Scott Jacqueline Shandy Tobey Stramel Shelly Summers Shayna Tease Karen Wenzl Dagan Wright</p>	<p><b>Community Volunteers</b></p> <p>Autumn AraSmith Nancy Arendt Carol Barnes Donna Bennett Marvena Chance Gerry Daise Marilyn Daise Vickie Duffey Alyse Dumler Casey Gatz Juanita Gatz Diann Gerstner Sean Hankin Virginia Hopper Francis Landry Geri Landry Karen Luvender Evelyn Mannebach Susan McMahan Clint Milliman</p>	<p>Marlene Pfeifer Myrna Porsch Michele Ray Clair Schrock Steve Skubal Mary Smith Randall Smith Jarrod Spencer Paul Steele Karen Sullivan Rod Taylor Janet Wahlmeier</p>
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**Colby High School Health Science Students**

Jessica Applebaugh  
Kim De Bie  
Emilea Finley  
Dalaan Organ  
Victoria Rall  
Jordan Rasmussen

**We will have an all day walk-in flu clinic at the health department on November 3, 2011 from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Flu vaccine is still available by appointment also. Please call 785-460-4596.**



## Kansas Governor's Ringneck Classic

### The Inaugural Pheasant Hunt

**Community "Meet & Greet Dinner" with the Governor and Hunt Celebrities!**  
**Logan County 4H Building in Oakley, Kansas - Friday November 18th, 2011**  
**Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 pm - Dinner at 7:00 pm**

## Open to the public!

**Dinner provided by Weaver's BBQ, the finest in Northwest Kansas!**  
**Silent and Live Auction - Community Raffle**  
**\$40 per ticket, the event is sure to sell out!**  
**Ticket information available at:**  
**785-672-3031 or 785-672-3062 ex 22 or email**  
**contact@kansaringneckclassic.com**  
**www.kansaringneckclassic.com**



## Island Paradise

**Sacred Heart Parish**  
**14th Annual Auction**

**Mark Your Calendar**


Saturday  
 October 22, 2011  
 5 p.m.

**City Limits Convention Center, Colby**

Tickets \$30 Call or send request

**585 N. French Ave, Colby**  
**785-462-2179**


Email: parish@sacredheartcolby.com



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**Farmers & Merchants Bank of Colby**

240 W. 4th St., Colby, Kansas  
 (785) 460-3321



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15 year loans - 3.500%* (3.586% APR)	<p><b>Rates shown assume:</b></p> <p>★ Excellent Credit ★</p> <p>★ Conventional Loan, 80% Loan to Value ★</p> <p>★ Single Family Residence ★</p>
20 year loans - 4.000%* (4.068% APR)	
30 year loans - 4.125%* (4.174% APR)	

\*Rates may change without notice subject to market conditions. APR based on a loan of \$100,000, actual fees may vary. Mortgage products are subject to change and availability. The actual mortgage product you qualify for will depend upon the verification of the value of your home, your credit score and other considerations.