

Deaths

Joanne Charles

Longtime Wallace County resident Joanne Charles, 68, mother of Andrew (Dee) Charles of Colby, died Saturday, Oct. 22, 2011, in an auto accident in rural Wallace County.

She was born June 5, 1943, at Raton, N.M., the daughter of Tom and Marie (Gschwind) Talbott. She attended Catholic schools in Raton.

On Dec. 31, 1965, she married Robert F. Charles in Raton. They made their home in Wallace County. She was a member of Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Sharon Springs.

Preceding her in death were her parents and her brother Sam Talbott.

Survivors also include her husband of Sharon Springs; five sons, Robert Charles, Ulysses; David (Dana) Charles, Oakley; Lonnie Charles, Sharon Springs; Steven

Charles, Goodland; and Matthew Charles, Sharon Springs; four daughters, Patricia (Tim) Oborny, Bison; Becky (Wendy) Scheck, Concordia; Jenifer Charles, Goodland; and Stephanie Charles and her fiancé Wayne Enockson, both of Lakewood, Colo.; and nine grandchildren.

Services will be at 11:30 a.m. (Central Time) Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2011, at Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Sharon Springs, with Father Norbert Dlabal officiating and burial in the Sharon Springs Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. (Central) on Monday at the church, with vigil and rosary at 7 p.m.

The family suggests memorials to the church, designated to pro-life, in care of Koons Funeral Home, 211 N. Main, Goodland, Kan., 67735-1555.

Flight school coming to Scott City airport

There will be a ground-breaking ceremony at 4 p.m. Sunday at the Scott City Municipal Airport for the Spencer Flight & Education Center.

The center is being established in memory of Dylan, Amy, Chase and Ansley Spencer of Scott City, who died in a small plane crash near Topeka over Easter weekend 2011. To honor their passion for aviation and education, the center's mission is to actively promote the safety and success of Western Kansas pilots and passengers by providing a local venue for high-quality flight instruction in addition to educational programs and resources for individuals of all ages.

Funding of the center includes a grant for \$108,000 from the Kansas Department of Transportation and \$179,000 in tax credits from the Kansas Department of Commerce.

Key personnel in the center's establishment, including Ed Young of the Department of Transportation, Chris Harris of the Kansas Department of Commerce and numerous local and state leaders will attend the ceremony.

Information about the center, including the floor plan and 3D renderings, will be available at the ceremony. Grand opening is currently set for spring.

Put garden to bed for best spring yet

This is the 39th and final essay of the season. It's time for the old Gardener to hibernate, migrate, emigrate or whatever it is that old gardeners do when the green beans quit growing and the mercury in the thermometer slowly sinks out of sight.

However, we must understand that here during Indian summer there will be many days of extremely nice weather until the ground freezes, which usually occurs between Dec. 15 and 25 in most of northwest Kansas. We must use those nice days to finish what we started, and that means to put the garden plot to bed so that it will magically recharge and present us with nice things in 2012. Please allow me to present you with a 10-point checklist of vital services you must perform now to assure maximum production next year.

1 Completely glean the remaining edibles from the garden until either Jack Frost or Frosty the Snowman prevents you from doing so.

2 Thoroughly clear the plot of all the materials that were growing just a few weeks ago. Burn the old tomato vines, or haul them to the landfill. Rake up everything else, run the mower over it to reduce it to small pieces, and spread all of it evenly all over the garden plot.

3 Procure a pickup load of leaves, old straw, old hay, or dry manure and spread it evenly over the entire plot. Beg someone for another pickup load of leaves and bag 'em up to use for mulch next summer.

4 Plow the area as deeply as possible. If some of the dry material you have spread out over the garden still seems to protrude from the soil, water the entire area and plow it again when it's dry enough.

5 Write yourself some notes and ask yourself some questions. What varieties of sweet corn, carrots, beans, or tomatoes



Kay Melia

The Gardener

did I plant last spring? Of course you don't remember, so make yourself a note to write down the names when you plant your garden next year.

6 Why, in your opinion, did the tomatoes fail to produce as well as the year before, and why did the potatoes really do well? If you feel like you may have made some mistakes, or, on the other hand, feel like you did some things right, make some notes of the good, the bad and the ugly. Write it all down and make some changes next year — or not.

7 Clean all your garden tools and equipment thoroughly and store them somewhere out of the weather. Drain the oil from all garden-related engines and remember next spring that you did that.

8 Get yourself a bird feeder and a birdbath. Buy a birdbath heater, and make sure to add good clean water all winter. Place the feeder and the birdbath in an area that will allow you to watch comfortably from inside your home. Be entertained royally all winter.

9 Please allow me to send you a copy of my top three favorite varieties of about 30 different garden vegetables. Just send me a stamp, or not, and I will mail the list to you sometime between now and the time the first seed catalog arrives in your mailbox. Or just send me an e-mail at vkmelia@yahoo.com and I'll worry about the stamp next time I see you.

10 The Gardener wishes you a safe Halloween, a happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and an extremely healthy 2012! Thank you so very much for reading all I've said for the past 39 weeks

High Plains Art Club

High Plains Art Club met Oct. 11 at the Colby United Methodist Church. Those present were co-chairs Ruthie Hughes and Bev Kern, vice-president Margaret Denneler, secretary Maxine Nelson, treasurer Shirley Baker, historian Marj Brown, Marlene Carpenter, Fritz Ostmeier, Karen Reed, Tom and Kathie Peyton, Alice Wolf, Marion Boyd, David Ketchum and Barbara Highland.

Kern conducted the meeting. Denneler reported Rebel Jay is considering having another art show within a couple of weeks.

Baker gave the program on John James Audubon, author of Birds of America, who was notable for his expansive studies to document all types of American birds and for his detailed illustrations that depicted the birds in their natural environment. Hughes was hostess.

Discussion followed about an art show for summer. Tentative plans are for the first weekend in June at Heartland Christian School, to

accompany an art exhibit by the Heartland school.

Categories include oil, watercolor, acrylic, pastel and charcoal, graphite pencil, colored pencil, mixed media, three dimensional and sculpture.

Prizes will be given for first place, second place, judges merit award, people's choice, and best of show.

Ketchum gave a presentation in the afternoon from the book "Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain" by Betty Edward. He said we have control of the brain and it is controlled by switching which nostril we are breathing through. He explained how to use a grid to transfer a picture to a canvas using a translator rule, a three sided ruler, which allows measurements to be changed on a percentage basis.

The next meeting will be Tuesday Nov. 8, with Reed as hostess and presenting the program. Guests are welcome.

— Maxine Nelson, secretary

Trash, stars get a look from Kansas Wetlands

Making money from trash and stargazing will each be the focus of a program at Fort Hays State University's Kansas Wetlands Education Center, trash on Tuesday and stargazing on Friday.

"Creative Up-cycling" will be from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday and four hours of stargazing will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday.

Both will be at the center, a branch of Fort Hays State University's Sternberg Museum of Natural History, on K-156 northeast of Great Bend.

"The first program we have is targeted at businesses and families using their trash or useless items to make money, which is especially important in these economic hard times," said Eric Giesing, director of education. "Up-cycling is the process of taking used or recycled materials and creating a new product with a higher value."

Galen Hewson, vocational coordinator at Larned State Hospital, will talk about the many ways of making money from recycling. Hewson has taught the inmates

at Larned State Hospital how to make items such as dog beds out of suit cases and multipurpose bags out of used inner tubes.

"At the stargazing workshop, participants will have the opportunity to view Jupiter, a crescent moon, clusters and constellations through telescopes," said Giesing.

From the platform behind the center, participants can look at a clear sky. Dr. Jack Maseberg, assistant professor of physics and Fort Hays Astronomy Club sponsor, will lead hands-on instruction in using a telescope and identifying stars.

Telescopes will be provided, but the limited number available also limits the number of participants to 30. Participants should bring chairs and warm clothes. Snacks and warm drinks will be provided. In the case of inclement weather, alternative indoor constellation programming will be available.

Contact Giesing at (620) 786-7456 or toll free (877) 243-9268 or by e-mail ergiesing@fhsu.edu for information about either event.

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE

Thursday

Midnight — Caller reported a suspicious person. Everything OK.

12:24 a.m. — Bar check at Twister's.

5:49 a.m. — Walk through at Walmart.

8:38 a.m. — Recovered an abandoned bicycle in lot to the north of 425 E. Hill. Report filed.

9:35 a.m. — Funeral block to Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

10:41 a.m. — Funeral block to east city limits on U.S. 24.

11:59 a.m. — Caller reported woman possibly stalked yesterday. Report filed.

12:32 p.m. — Report filed on above call.

2:42 p.m. — Accident at Fourth and Franklin.

4:17 p.m. — Caller reported two dogs possibly malnourished. All OK; dogs were fine.

8:58 p.m. — Provided information on protection from abuse order.

9:16 p.m. — Accident in Walmart parking lot.

9:29 p.m. — Caller reported drunk subject refusing to leave building. Took subject to motel.

9:54 p.m. — Caller reported possible break in. Cleared house, not found.

THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF

Wednesday

7:40 a.m. — Caller hit a deer at 3200 block of County Rd. B.

8:39 a.m. — Assisted Highway Patrol at J&J Oil, Oakley.

8:53 a.m. — Removed items from roadway at eastbound I-70 mile 62.

12:42 p.m. — Escorted funeral from Trinity Lutheran Church to Nine Mile Corner.

4:46 p.m. — Booked Gary Fish-

WTAP PUBLIC NOTICE

The Kansas Department of Agriculture will be accepting applications from October 1 to November 15 for the Water Right Transition Assistance Program, WTAP.

For more information, contact Steve Frost, Water Conservation Program Manager, (785) 296-8964, the NW KS GMD#4 in Colby, (785) 462-3915, or the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources Field Office in Stockton, (785) 425-6787. Or go to www.scc.ks.gov

Plant now for spring color

October is the time for planting the spring-flowering bulbs that will produce striking, bright colors early next season. Daffodils, tulips and the like need to be planted in fall so they can develop roots and then go through the chilling period they need to bloom.

Ward Upham, horticulturalist with K-State Research and Extension, recommended planting in full sun to partial shade — if possible, in an area with 12-inch-deep sandy loam soil.

"But even poor soils can work if you mix in an organic material such as peat moss, compost or aged bark," he said.

Planting depth and spacing vary with bulb size, Upham said. In general, bulbs are planted two to three times as deep as their width. Large bulbs are usually spaced about 4 to 6 inches apart, while

smaller bulbs go just 1 to 2 inches apart.

"Planting in clumps or irregular masses produces a better display than planting singly," he said.

If the soil is light and sandy, gardeners can try the "dibble" approach to planting by making a small hole with a stick and pressing the bulb into the hole. If the soil is heavy or thick, however, they'll need to loosen the soil underneath the bulb's planting site, so its future roots can penetrate.

"Be sure to plant bulbs with the tip facing up. When you've replaced the soil, water the area well to settle the soil in around the bulbs," Upham advised. "Then after the first freeze, cover the area with mulch to prevent small bulbs' from being pushed out of the soil by winter's freezing and thawing."

The NW Kansas Truck Convoy for Special Olympics; Colby; Joe and Jane Mentlick, Denise Mentlick, Donna Schwindt, Hoxie; Tom and Leanna Sloan, Jack and Jan Collins, Park; Daryl and Cheryl Goetz, Hill City; Shorty and Lila Wingfield and Leoti; Mike Pieplow would like to give many Thanks! to all of the sponsors.

Southwest Dairy Farmers Association and Sam's Clubs are Guardian of the Flame Sponsors of the Truck Convoy.

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- TLC Toys-Andover MN

The stars "*" are businesses and individuals who have been sponsors for 2 or more years.

Also to the American Legion Riders, Logan Co., Sherman Co., and Thomas Co. Sheriff's Department, The Oakley, Colby and Goodland Police Department, the many, many businesses and individuals for in-kind and monetary donations and volunteers. None of this would have been possible without your support and generosity.

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.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day	
Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$6.55
Corn (bushel)	\$6.39
Milo (hundredweight)	\$10.70
Soybeans (bushel)	\$10.82

Town's fire siren vandalized

YOUNGWOOD, Pa. (AP) — A western Pennsylvania fire chief says he realizes the town's fire siren is noisy — but he says that's less of a problem than the vandals who have been trying to silence the device in the last month.

Youngwood Fire Chief Lloyd Crago tells WTAE-TV (http://bit.ly/q18aF5) someone started shutting off the electric power to the 70-year-old siren, which wails about two minutes to summon volunteer

firefighters in this town about 30 miles east of Pittsburgh. When fire crews locked up the power switch, the vandals switched to cutting the phone wires which silenced the siren over the weekend.

Crago says the siren remains necessary because not all firefighters have cell phones or pagers.

Crago says anyone annoyed by the siren would certainly be thankful for it if their house was on fire.

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