

Deaths

Val Gallentine

Val Gallentine, 44, Brewster, died Saturday, March 10, 2012, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby after being struck by a vehicle in Brewster.

Services will be at 4 p.m. (Central Time) Thursday at the Bate-man Funeral Home in Goodland. Memorials may be sent to the fu-neral home, Box 278, Goodland, Kan., 67735.

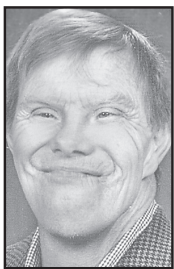
For details, see story on Page 1.

Donald L. Gilbert

Donald L. Gilbert, 61, Oberlin, died Friday, March 9, 2012, at the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center in Oberlin.

He was born Aug. 10, 1950, the oldest son of Robert P. and Helena L. (Gaede) Gilbert. Soon after his birth, he was diagnosed with Downs Syndrome. He lived his early years with his fam-ily in Colby and was introduced into Devel-opmental Services of Northwest Kansas in 1977. His mother drove him back and forth to Atwood so he could attend classes at the Prairie De-velopmental Center until he was placed in a group home in 1986.

After his move, he made many friends and became fast friends with his “extended family” at the home. He and his roommate, Rich-ard Griffin, were like brothers, making several moves together.



Donald Gilbert

Following a fall in March 2011, Donald entered the nursing home, where his infectious smile and love of teasing quickly made him new friends among the staff and residents, though he missed his friends in At-wood.

Survivors include two brothers, Steven Gilbert and Gordon (Judy) Gil-bert of Colby, and a sis-ter, Susan (Loren) Guill of Menlo.

A memorial service will be at 10 a.m. Thurs-day, March 15, 2012, at the United Methodist Church in Atwood, fol-lowed by inurnment at 2 p.m. in the Gem Cemetery.

No visitation.

The family suggests memori-als to the Developmental Services Medical Fund or to Hospice Ser-vices, in care of the Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel, 745 S. Country Club Dr., Colby, Kan., 67701.

Colby Rotary Club

The Colby Rotary Club met Tuesday at Colby Community College with 25 members and 13 guests attending. Guests were Randy Garner and 12 interna-tional students at the college.

President Connie Renner an-nounced the District Conference will be Friday and Saturday, April 27 and 28, in Phillipsburg. Raffle ticket sales are due to Melany Wilks or Nancy LePell by Tues-day, March 20.

Joyce Washburn had the pro-gram about activities of the inter-national students. Washburn as-sists Connie Davis, the advisor for

the college’s International Club.

The international club meets monthly and the students take several sight-seeing trips each year. There are currently 40 in-ternational students on campus. Students introduced themselves, pointed out their home on a world map and spoke about why they came to Colby and their education focus.

A student from Belgium won Roto-Lotto.

Colby Rotary meets on Tues-days at the college student union in room 106.

— Relda Galli

Severe weather awareness includes flash flood safety tips

Springtime means an increased possibility of severe weather and flash flooding.

“Flash floods are denoted by rapidly rising waters with little or no advance warning,” said Mary Knapp, state climatologist for Kansas. “Two key factors are rain-fall rates and duration. As little as a quarter of an inch of rainfall can cause a flash flood if it falls quick-ly enough, so roads that you drive on every day can quickly become dangerous.”

Other important factors are to-pography, soil conditions, and ground cover, said Knapp, who di-rects the Kansas Weather Data Li-brary at Kansas State University.

“Obviously, low lying areas are at greater risk for flooding and re-

curring rains on already saturated grounds increase the risk of flash flooding,” she said. “Finally, ev-eryone should keep in mind that urbanization can increase runoff by two to five times what would occur with more natural ground cover. And streets can form fast-moving channels for that runoff.”

The Nationals Weather Ser-vice’s Topeka office has declared March 12-16 as the 2012 Kansas Severe Weather Awareness Week.

Safety tips are available at www.NWS.gov and www.FEMA.gov.

Information about Kansas weather is available on the Weather Data Library website: www.ksre.ksu.edu/wdl/.

Drawing class open to public

Rexford artist David Ketchum will teach an introductory class on figure drawing which will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesday and Thursday, March 20 and 22, in room 502 of Fer-guson Hall at Colby Community College.

No registration is required and no college credit will be given, but Ketchum said classes will begin promptly at 10. The cost is \$5 per session to cover instructor costs and the fee for a clothed model.

Students need to bring their own materials: a large pad of newsprint, at least 18 inches by 24 inches; a clipboard to support

the newsprint; charcoal sticks; one charcoal pencil; and a gum eraser. In addition, bring one sheet of archival paper or vellum for the Thursday class.

For questions, call Ketchum at (785) 687-2575.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$6.33
Corn (bushel)	\$6.25
Milo (hundredweight)	\$10.71
Soybeans (bushel)	\$11.98

Companion plants get mixed reviews

I have in my possession, rough-ly 250 old gardening magazines of varying ages that I enjoy referring to occasionally. There are *Flower and Garden* editions, *Organic Gardening*, *Horticulture* maga-zine and *Gardens For All* pub-lications standing by, ready for immediate use at the proper time. I’m not sure when that will be, but there they are, whenever I might need them.

Several months ago, I opened the pages of a 1984 *Organic Gar-dening* magazine and there was a tomato with a smiling face holding hands with an equally happy head of cabbage. An onion was danc-ing with a carrot, and a cucumber was having an obviously interest-ing conversation with a head of broccoli. I ask myself “What goes on here?”

The title of the accompanying article by one Elliott Tozer was “The Truth About Companion Planting,” and the reader was in-vided to learn why some garden plantings make better neighbors than others.

But does planting one specie of plant beside another actually en-hance the growth and production of each other, or is the whole idea just wishful thinking? It all started about 2,000 years ago when Pliny the Elder wrote that “rice seems to be very friendly with figs” and ever since, gardeners everywhere have been swapping countless ideas and suggestions about vari-ous garden pairings.

Actually, there seems to have been very few controlled experi-ments on the subject, and there-fore there is very little conclusive evidence that specific companion plantings really work. And in the research that has been conducted, the results are often not clear cut.

When plant growth or yield is



Kay Melia

- The Gardener

improved by a companion it is likely due to subtle, biological factors that vary from garden to garden. In some successful part-nerships for instance, one plant will decoy harmful insects, luring them away from the target crop. In other instances, a companion may have a positive influence on the soil, or provide needed shade. The truth is, a companion planting does not help a fellow plant directly. In-stead, it might play a small role in a complicated series of events that may seem to enhance the other plants’s growth or health.

But, for whatever it’s worth, here are a few match-ups that the author, Tozer, says may have the support of at least one scientific study. To benefit cabbage, plant tomatoes nearby. To aid your car-rot crop, plant onions. Sweet corn seems to appreciate a row of beans nearby. To keep broccoli happy, plant a hill or two of cucumbers in the vicinity.

Collards seem to enjoy a tomato plant as a close neighbor, and bell peppers seem to welcome a few ragweeds or pig weeds nearby be-cause the weeds attract leaf minors that peppers can’t appreciate. And finally, an idea that seems to be a bit bazaar. Plant a few dandelions close to your tomato patch. The roots of dandelions seem to pro-tect against fusarium wilt, one of the real killers of tomatoes. Some-how, it’s tough to visualize a gar-dener purposely planting weeds anywhere, but then....

Spring arrives next week. Is your hoe sharp?

Eagle forensics team wins league tournament

The Colby High Forensics team put on and also competed in the Great West Activities Conference league tournament, finishing the day in first place, followed by Scott City in second and Holcomb in third.

The Eagles captured eight league championships at the event Feb. 18:

First, Improvised Duet Act-ing: Jennifer Schwanke and Paige Roopchan.

First, Poetry: Madison Tubbs. First, Serious Solo: Cameron McLaughlin.

First, Humorous Solo: Tubbs. First, Duet Acting: Madison Gawith and Walter Vacik.

First, Original Oration: Tomi Miller.

First, Extemporaneous Speak-ing: Sterling Miller.

First, Informative Speaking: Vacik.

Other placings included: Serious Solo: fourth, Roop-chan.

Improvised Duet Acting: third, Christina Ostmeyer and McLaugh-

lin; fourth, Hailey Schindler and Kelly Sloan; fifth, Blake McNinch and Brady Rose.

Humorous Solo: second, Rose; third, Tomi Miller; fifth, Schwanke.

Poetry: second, Hannah Match-ell; fourth, Ostmeyer; sixth, Lacy Miller.

Prose: fifth, Gawith.

Duet Acting: second, Cheyne Weiss and Aaron Faber; fifth, Er-icka Moore and Shaila Giebler; sixth, Sterling Miller and Tresta Urban.

Informative: third, McNinch.

Extemporaneous Speaking: fifth, Matchell.

Corrections

An item in Briefly on Page 2 of last week’s issues of the *Colby Free Press* said Colby Commu-nity College would have meetings on scholarship guidelines Tues-day and Wednesday. The actual meeting dates were March 6 (last Tuesday) and Wednesday, March 14. There is no meeting Tuesday

Warm week busy for many in Rexford

We were blessed with beau-tiful weather this week. We had the kind of days where kids dig out their bikes and neighbors stand on the side-walk chatting.

It was a busy weekend in Rexford. The Rexford-Selden Girl Scout troop had their sleep-over in Selden on Friday night – if any of the girls actually did any sleeping. From what I’ve heard, the girls kept busy mak-ing crafts, dancing, snacking and watching a movie until the wee hours of the morning.

Saturday was the monthly blood pressure clinic at the Red Barn. I did see people coming and going throughout the after-noon, although I never made it over there. Maybe next time. Saturday was also bingo night at the Red Barn, with 17 in at-tendance. It sounds like this will be the last bingo night be-fore summer.

The Griffiths family headed to Mingo on Saturday night to hear the Armoraires in concert at Mingo Bible Church. There



Gwen Griffiths

- Rexford Correspondent

was a good group of people.

It’s spring break for Golden Plains this week, and I bet all the students are enjoying the extra week to adjust to our re-cent “spring forward.”

Spuds and Splits will be Thursday night at the Red Barn. Anyone from the 40 and over crowd is invited to head on over for baked potatoes and banana splits – each with their own set of fixings.

And that’s the news from Rexford. As always, I invite you to send news, stories about Rexford’s history or reasons why you like living in a small town to griffithsgang@gmail.com, (785) 687-2076 or leave it in the jar by the door at the Red Barn. I will be off next week, but keep your news coming.

Colby forensics goes to Silver Lake, Oakley

The Colby High Forensics var-sity traveled to Silver Lake for a two-day tournament.

On March 2, Michael Tubbs and Christina Ostmeyer took fifth in in the Public Forum Debate tourna-ment. Blake McNinch finished the Lincoln-Douglas debate tourna-ment with a 2-2 record.

On March 3, the entire squad was in action in the largest invita-tional forensics tournament in the state, with over 400 entries from 25 schools. The Eagles got off to a rocky start in round 1, which ended up costing a few competi-tors placement in the finals. Be-cause Rounds 2 and 3 were very strong, the team ended the day in third place, behind second-place Topeka-Seaman and first-place Manhattan High School.

Placement into the finals was based on the total rankings and quality points from the prelimi-nary rounds. Unless there was an unbreakable tie, the top six com-petitors went into finals. Individu-al results follow.

With 90 entries in Oral Inter-pretation of Literature, Bailey Terrell finished fifth place. Christina Ost-meyer missed finals by one plac-ing, landing in seventh place.

Of 39 entries in Duet Acting, Madison Gawith and Walter Vacik missed finals by 3 quality points, also finishing seventh.

Of 48 entries in Humorous Solo,

Madison Tubbs took fourth place. Brady Rose came in seventh after making it into the finals on a tie.

With 38 entries in Dramatic Solo, Cameron McLaughlin won first. Gabby Browne finished sev-enth place, one place out of the finals.

From 45 entries in Improvised Duet Acting, Bailey Terrell and Tomi Miller took fourth and Cam-eron McLaughlin and Christina Ostmeyer fifth.

Among 40 entries in Original Oration, both Tomi Miller and Michael Tubbs missed the finals by one and two placings respec-tively.

Others competing were:

International Extemporaneous Speaking: Sterling Miller, Eric Schuette.

Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking: Michael Tubbs, Sarah Lamm.

Improvised Duet Acting: McN-inch and Brady Rose.

Duet Acting: Aaron Faber and Cheyne Weiss.

Informative Speaking: Vacik, McNinch.

Oral Interpretation of Literature: Madison Tubbs, Browne, Gawith.

Oakley Tournament

The team sent small squad of mostly freshmen to the Oakley tournament Tuesday. Those who placed were:

Michael Tubbs, first in Extemp, third in Oration.

Vacik, third in Extemp.

Schwanke, third in Humorous.

Faber and Weis, third in Duet.

We want your local news: e-mail to colby.editor @ nwkansas.com

Quotes For Kids

Entire Month of March



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