

## Colby insurance agent earns excellence honor

Rita Peters, American Family Insurance agent in Colby, has earned American Star Excellence in Customer Experience Certification for agents who have demonstrated the highest level of customer service.



Rita Peters

said Dan Schultz, American Family president and chief operating officer. "This is an outstanding accomplishment."

The certification follows a customer-satisfaction survey which measures customers' overall experience with their agent. Only agencies that perform in the top 20 percent nationwide are eligible, the firm says.

American Family says it is the nation's third-largest mutual property and casualty insurance company and 14th-largest property and casualty insurance group overall.

"When choosing an insurance agent, consumers can rely on the American Star Excellence in Customer Experience Certification to help them identify agents with a proven dedication to meeting customer needs,"

## New accountant joins staff of firm in Colby

Taylor Walker has joined the professional staff of Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball, a certified public accounting firm with an office in Colby.

"We feel that Taylor is a great addition to our team," said Brian Staats, managing partner at the Colby office. "Her positive attitude and enthusiasm compliment our firm, and we look forward to the contributions she will make to our Colby clients."

Walker joined the firm in the summer of 2012 as an intern.

### On the Beat

#### COLBY POLICE Last Wednesday

12:17 a.m. — Management called about the same subjects being loud. Handled.

12:36 a.m. — Prowler: caller reported suspicious vehicles driving around the area with subject going up rattling door handles. Located vehicle and spoke with a subject.

11:15 a.m. — Recovered property report filed.

5:34 p.m. — Sexual offense report filed.

#### Thursday

12:48 a.m. — Caller reported marijuana smell coming into apartment. Unable to locate.

9:03 a.m. — Caller reported vehicle struck overnight in parking lot.

2:43 p.m. — Theft: subject reported two handicap placards missing. Report filed.

4:12 p.m. — Theft report filed.

4:20 p.m. — Gas skip report filed.

6:14 p.m. — Caller reported subject entering home. Report filed.

7:57 p.m. — Caller reported loud vehicle. Spoke with subject.

10:32 p.m. — Caller reported dog at large. Not found.

#### Friday

10:31 a.m. — Caller reported person going through mail boxes.

10:56 a.m. — Dog at large caught. Turned over to Colby Animal Clinic.

11:52 a.m. — Caller reported damage to lawn due to semis driving over yesterday due to road construction. Report filed.

12:48 p.m. — Caller reported bicycle recovered in yard.

2:01 p.m. — Spoke to subjects about multiple vehicles parked on Pine at Grant.

2:21 p.m. — Subject came to station about possible threatening message via Facebook.

5:59 p.m. — Caller reported loud vehicle. Spoke with subject.

8:45 p.m. — Found tire brought to station.

10:20 p.m. — Criminal threat reported by caller. Spoke with subjects.

10:29 p.m. — Caller reported suspicious person.

11:32 p.m. — Bar check at the B-Hive.

#### Saturday

12:02 a.m. — Clerk called and said subject requested she call law enforcement; same subject from an earlier incident. Subject spoken to again.

2:02 a.m. — Third-party report of suicidal person. Ambulance paged.

2:02 a.m. — Caller reported damage to vehicle.

2:50 a.m. — Driving under the influence report filed.

3:42 a.m. — Battery report filed.

6:57 a.m. — Found phone; turned over to owner.

8:16 a.m. — Caller reported lawn ornament left in her yard for

almost a month; owner has not come to claim it. Turned over to owner.

9:45 a.m. — Theft report filed.

9:52 a.m. — Report filed on search of storage unit.

12:39 p.m. — All OK with vehicle with hood up at 115 W. Willow.

1:26 p.m. — Caller reported dog at large caught. Turned over to owner.

2:32 p.m. — Recovered iPhone.

9:05 p.m. — Collision at Walmart.

#### THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF Last Wednesday

12:43 a.m. — Located vehicle from prowler call at Summit and Grant for city units.

2:09 a.m. — Booked William A. Black.

11:40 a.m. — Released Black.

#### Thursday

6:46 a.m. — En route to Sherman County to transport prisoners back to Colby.

9:16 a.m. — Released Colten Daniel Wachendorfer.

9:40 a.m. — Clerk at J&J Oil advised transient been there begging for food and money since Tuesday evening.

10:25 a.m. — Brought inmate from Rawlins County Sheriff's Office to Colby.

1:26 p.m. — Five officers assisted ambulance crew on call in jail.

2 p.m. — Caller reported a camper broken into that was parked near old church in Menlo. Spoke with subject.

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GO CLASSIFIED!!

## Horticulture helps aid home gardeners

### Diann Gerstner

#### • Knowledge for Life



Summer is off and rolling. This time of year there is a plethora of information to help you in your yard and garden. I have chosen a few that I found interesting for this column.

Although we do not have an agriculture agent yet to be able to personally answer your questions, we do have many publications. Stop by the office and check them out or view them online at [www.ksre.ksu.edu](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu) – click on "Lawn and Garden" in the left hand column. K-State Research and Extension agents have produced some wonderful horticulture videos. You can view them at [www.kansasgreenvyards.org](http://www.kansasgreenvyards.org).

- Tops of pine trees dying. We are seeing the tops of pine trees dying in western Kansas. Samples do not show signs of disease or insect damage and so we believe this to be environmental. Judy O'Mara with the Kansas State University plant pathology department has seen this type of damage intermittently over the last 20 years and believes there is a strong correlation between cold weather and the damage. Though we did not have an extremely cold winter, we did have warm periods followed by sharp drops in temperature. We cannot prove this is the cause but it is what we suspect. There is nothing to do now but prune out the dead area, if practical, and try to keep the tree healthy by watering.

- Helping Roundup (glyphosate) products work. Though glyphosate products (Roundup, Killzall, Pronto Weed & Grass Killer) are non-selective and will kill most plants the spray contacts, these herbicides are not taken up by the roots of nearby desirable plants. This is because the active ingredient is neutralized when it contacts the soil due to being tightly bound to soil particles.

Unfortunately, this binding effect can also take place in hard water that is high in magnesium and calcium, which reduces its effectiveness. To avoid this, mix ammonium sulfate with your spray water before adding the glyphosate product. The ammonium sulfate ions tie up the calcium and magnesium ions so that the glyphosate remains at full strength. Also some of the glyphosate will form a compound with the ammonium that weeds more readily absorb, increasing effectiveness.

Note that this binding effect takes place in hard to very hard water (above 7 grains or above 120 ppm). Adding ammonium sulfate to softer water will not help. So if you have your water tested and find you have hard water, how much ammonium sulfate should you add? As a general rule, add about 1.4 ounces per gallon or four tablespoons per gallon.

- Mulching tomatoes. Soils are warm enough now that tomatoes can benefit from mulching. Tomatoes prefer even levels of soil moisture and mulches provide such by preventing excessive evaporation. Other benefits include weed suppression, moderating soil temperatures and prevent-

ing the formation of a hard crust on the soil. Crusted soils restrict air movement into and out of the soil and slow the water infiltration rate.

Hay and straw mulches are popular for tomatoes but may contain weed or volunteer grain seeds. Grass clippings can also be used but should be applied only two to three inches thick. Clippings should also be dry as wet clipping can mold and become so hard that water can't pass through. Also, do not use clippings from lawns that have been treated with a weed killer until some time has passed.

With most types of weed killers, clippings from the fourth mowing after treatment may be used. If the lawn was treated with a product containing quinclorac (Drive), the clippings should not be used as mulch.

- Cucumber beetles and bacterial wilt. If you had cucumbers or muskmelons that suddenly turned brown and died last year, you may have had a disease known as bacterial wilt. The cucumber beetle carries this disease. Once a plant is infected, there is no cure, so prevention is the key. Because cucumber beetles overwinter as adults, early control measures are essential.

There are two types of cucumber beetles: striped and spotted. The striped cucumber beetle is the most common. The 1/4-inch-long beetles are conspicuously colored: black head and antennae, straw-yellow thorax, and yellowish wing covers with three distinct parallel and longitudinal black stripes.

Apply insecticides before beetles are noticed in the planting. Continue to spray weekly throughout the season. Homeowners can use Rotenone or permethrin (numerous trade names). Once plants have started flowering, spray late in the evening after bees have returned to the hive. Check labels for waiting periods between when you spray and when the fruit can be picked.

- Horticulture tips for June: 1) Deadhead spent flower blossoms to keep plant flowering. 2) Raise mowing height on bluegrass and tall fescue to 3 or 3 1/2 inches for summer heat resistance.

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

## Babies

### Amaryllis Faith Buss

Amaryllis Faith Buss, daughter of Shayla Gray and Tyler Buss of Colby, was born at 12:47 a.m. Monday, June 3, 2013, at Citizens Medical Center. She weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and measured 17 inches.

Grandmothers are Vanessa Gray of Colby and Diane Buss of Hastings, Neb.

Great-grandparents are Ron and Pat Gray of Wichita and Irene Buss of Hastings. Great-great-grandmother is Evelyn Meitl of Oberlin.

Brother Evan and sister Abby-

gail welcomed her home.

Grandparents are Raymond and Doris Sorg of Medicine Lodge, Donna and Robert Metzer of Ness City and Fred and Sherry Hembree of Hutchinson.

Brother Evan and sister Abby-

Kashlyn Kai Collins

Kashlyn Kai Collins, daughter of Ryan and Andrea Hembree of Goodland, was born Thursday, May 30, 2013, at Citizens Medical Center. She weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces and measured 19 inches.

Grandparents are Angie and Kevin Van Allen of Sharon Springs. Great-grandparents are Denny and Darletta Collins of Wallace and Cathy and Richard Van Allen of Sharon Springs. Great-great-grandparents are Charles Chaney of Sharon Springs and Phyllis Van Allen of Sharon Springs.



Carter Terry

### Carter Ethan Terry

Carter Ethan Terry, son of Kathryn Terry of Atwood, was born Wednesday, May 29, 2013, at Citizens Medical Center. He weighed 4 pounds, 7 ounces and measured 17 3/4 inches.

Grandparents are Jill Lankas of Atwood and Brent Terry of Ames, Iowa.

### Clara Belle Wagoner

Clara Belle Wagoner, daughter of Bradley and Kay Wagoner of Colby, was born Monday, May 20, 2013, at Citizens Medical Center. She weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces and measured 18 1/4 inches.

Grandparents are Bob and Brenda Wagoner of Colby and Virgil and Tanya Jeardoe of Cawker City.

### Colby Rotary Club

Colby Rotary Club met June 11 at Colby Community College with 33 members and guests Lloyd Cersovsky, Rusty Grafel and Sean Hankin.

The group received thank you notes from Alexa Schindler and the Colby Thomas County Chamber of Commerce and announced an Ann and Andy event was to be held Tuesday.

Relda Galli had the program. Her guest was Sean Hankin, who discussed his 18-year career in the Navy and his 12 years of service on a submarine.

Hankin said that submarine duty is given by volunteering rather than by assignment. Each sailor who volunteers for submarine service must pass a series of tests to determine if he is compatible with submarine life.

Hankin served as a machinist's mate and served on several nuclear submarines: USS Bremerton, USS City of Corpus Christi, USS

Dallas and USS Pargo. He said the submarines are refueled every 15 years and carry a 90- to 120-day food supply for a crew of around 150.

Hankin served on the USS Bremerton for a total of 5 1/2 years and was part of the crew on its first commission. He said, of the submarines he served on, the USS Bremerton is the only one still active in the Navy.