

Pause to remember blessings

Recently, I was browsing through a stack of old *Life* magazines in an antique shop. They have great pictures, huge full-page ads.

Most of the ones in the stack were from the '70s. One ad that caught my eye portrayed attractive people, all with a bottle of Coke soft drink, smiling and enjoying themselves. It was obviously posed to feature the Coca-Cola product. But what caught my eye was the slogan "The Pause that Refreshes."

Let me tell you why that caught my interest by taking you to a Bible story – a favorite of mine.

This scripture from Joshua came unbidden to mind. It's the capstone of the miraculous event where God's people, the Israelites, were commanded by God to cross the Jordan River – at flood stage – and go in and "possess the land which the Lord your God has given you." It's the beginning of a whole series of miracles God does to bring his people back to "The Promised Land."

In the narrative, God commands Joshua to tell the priests to put the Ark of the Covenant, the Jews' most sacred object, on their shoulders, march down to the edge of the swollen, overflowing river, and walk right into the water.

What happens? When they obey, the river rolls back, dammed up by God's mighty hand. God's people march across that flooded river on dry ground.

In the process of crossing, Joshua asks 12 strong men to each pick up a rock from the bottom of that river, as big as they can carry, and make a big pile of them, carefully stacked up, on the shoreline of the river. Why?



Eugene Rothfuss

• From the Pulpit

Scripture tells us, Joshua 4:19-24: "On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan.

"He said to the Israelites, "In the future when your descendants ask their parents, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.' For the Lord your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The Lord your God did to the Jordan what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over.

"He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your God."

God is good – and he wants us to remember what he has done for us often.

He is a God of judgment, too. In James 2:12 we read, "Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful." But then it concludes "Mercy triumphs over judgement." Later, James tells us that God gives us more grace and the Lord is full of compassion and mercy. Friends, God

is good. Like the Israelites, he blesses us with miracles, both big and small.

Can you read this article? Then you have at least a modicum of eyesight with which to read – a gift from God. Can you hear the birds singing outside your window in the morning, trilling out their song of praise to their creator? Great! Then God has blessed you with the gift of hearing. Can you get out of bed in the morning and make your way through the day? Awesome! Then God has blessed you with feet and hands that do your bidding.

We tend to have emotional tunnel vision. By that, I mean we focus in on some negative circumstance or event in our lives, something that is absorbing all our attention. The car is broken down, the bills are high and the income is low, the child is sick and the boss is pushing you to meet a deadline, the husband has lost his job or the wife is sick and tired of hers, school has started and the kids are causing problems. You name it, there are negative situations in our lives that suck us in and cause us to cringe in fear or explode in frustration.

Can I urge you to take a pause that refreshes? Not drink a Coca-Cola. Rather, take time to sit down in a quiet place and begin a list of all the blessings God has poured into your life. Write them down. Make the list long.

Start with things we take for granted, like air to breathe, cool weather in August in Kansas, reasonably good health, enough food for today, clothes to wear, a place to live that is warm in winter and dry when it rains. Thank

him for family and friends, for your church family, for a loving God who offers salvation full and free to all who will come to him through our Savior Jesus.

Thank him for the promise of Heaven and the promise of sufficiency. Thank him for eyes that see, ears that hear, hands and feet that function, tongues that enable us to talk and taste. Thank him for a body that functions properly. Did you know that the Orthodox Jews even have a prayer they pray when their body is eliminating waste, thanking God that kidneys and intestines work? Now that's fulfilling the scripture in Thessalonians 5:16 that tells us to "Rejoice always. Pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."

You may have big things in your life to thank him for; I've had cancer, three different kinds, and God through the hands and minds of doctors has healed me of all of them. 1989 – tumor pressing on my optic nerve; 1993 – leukemia; 2011 – colon cancer. I have much to praise God for. But also the little things – three wonderful daughters who all love and serve God; two beautiful granddaughters, 3 and 5 years old, who love life and their grandpa. For a mind that can give God praise and worship and preach his Word.

How refreshing it is to stop and praise God for his goodness!

Gene Rothfuss is pastor of the Colby Wesleyan Church, 320 W. Pine. You can reach him at (785) 462-8391 or (785) 443-1448.

Deaths

Gerald A. Schaffer

Gerald A. Schaffer, 73, Hoxie, died Thursday, Aug. 29, 2013, at the Prairie Senior Living Complex in Colby.

He was born Nov. 28, 1939, in Hoxie, the son of John P. and Regina (Kinderknecht) Schaffer. They preceded him in death.

He served in the Army. On Aug. 8, 1964, he married Darlene Moos at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Grinnell.

Survivors include his wife, of the home; two sons, Steve (Laura) Schaffer, Lone Tree, Colo., and Robert (Amy) Schaffer, Scottsdale, Ariz.; two daughters, Susan (Roger) May, Oberlin; and Sharon (Gene) Lancaster, Independence, Mo.; a brothers, Jim (Patty) Schaf-

fer, Hays; and 10 grandchildren. Services will be at 10 a.m. Monday, Sept. 2, 2013, at the St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church in Hoxie, with burial in the church's cemetery and military rites by the Fort Riley Honor Guard.

Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. Sunday at the Mickey-Leopold Funeral Home, with family receiving friends from 6 to 7 p.m. and a vigil service at 7 p.m.

The family suggests memorials to the church or the Sheridan Amusement Co., in care of the funeral home, Box 987, Hoxie, Kan., 67740.

Condolences for the family may be left at www.mickeyleopoldfuneral.com.

Fort Scott to show 7,000 flags for fallen

Fort Scott National Historic Site will fly 7,000 flags to honor the nearly 7,000 fallen Americans who have died in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The opening ceremony for the Symbols of Sacrifice event is from 11:30 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 7, on the bricks in front of the historic site.

A drummer and bagpipe player from the Kansas City St. Andrew Pipes and Drums will open the ceremony.

At 12:40 p.m., the Field of Honor on the fort parade ground will formally open to visitors during the playing of "Amazing Grace."

From 7 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., downtown Main St. visitors will hear the reading of the honored dead.

"While much is known about the very important ongoing work to provide assistance to our injured warriors, we cannot forget those heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice for each one of us, nor can we forget the fami-

lies whose love was always with them," said Anne Emerson, event coordinator.

Symbols of Sacrifice, an event sponsored by the not-for-profit Friends of Fort Scott National Historic Site Inc., will also have programs on Wednesday, Sept. 11, to honor the victims of the attacks on Sept. 11, 2011, including the first responders.

The Sept. 11 remembrance events include a reading of the roll of dead from 7:30 to 11:30 and a remembrance ceremony from noon to 12:45 p.m.

More than \$11,000 was raised from area donors to make the events possible.

Markets

	Quotes as of close of previous business day
Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$6.91
Corn (bushel)	\$6.37
Milo (hundredweight)	\$10.09
Soybeans (bushel)	\$13.73

Colby native to sing at fair

Colby native Lenay (Rundel) Marteny will sing at the Kansas State Fair this year, held from Friday, Sept. 6 to Sunday, Sept. 15, in Hutchinson. She will perform at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Sept. 7.

Marteny graduated from Colby High School in 1999. She was actively involved in choir during high school and while attending Colby Community College.

She has performed on various stages throughout the state, said her mother, Pam Arnold. Marteny's performances have included Colby's Picnic in the Park events and previous performances at the state fair.

Her performances are free to fair goers.



Lenay Marteny

Robbery goes wrong

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) – Police in Portland say a man robbed a Bank of the West branch, walked outside and grabbed a taxi. After that, the whole caper unraveled.

Sgt. Pete Simpson said a dye packet in the stolen money exploded as the man sat in the taxi's back seat, covering his hands in red paint.

The police spokesman says the robber got out of the cab and started running through a construction site. Workers thought that was odd and when asked if they'd seen a guy who just robbed the nearby bank, they took off after the runner.

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.

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Services Directory

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



FAITH FELLOWSHIP CHURCH, Pastor Dan Keel, 815 W. 3rd, Sundays at 2 p.m. 785-462-0512.

CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH, 1890 S. Franklin Ave. - Colby Community Building. Pastor Eric Overmiller. Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. www.celebratejesus.org

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. 785-671-4020.

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.

COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD, 245 W. College Dr., Colby. Pastor Steve Todd. Sunday School 9 a.m. for all ages. Worship 10:15 a.m. Kid's Church for Kindergarten- 5th grade during Worship Service. Nursery available for kids birth - 5 yrs old. Wednesday night: Family night September - May. Meal served 6 - 6:30 p.m. CD Kidz for kids birth - 5th grade, Youth Group for 6th - 12th graders and Adult Bible Study at 7 p.m. 785-462-8234. cdag@st-tel.net.

BEREAN BIBLE FELLOWSHIP, 1000 S. Franklin, 785-460-2763, www.colbyberean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Pastor Mark Carlton, Youth Pastor Ben Phillips. Middle School Youth 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.

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Rev. James Bridges, 615 W. Webster, 785-462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m.; Bible Study: 6:30 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. on Wednesday's. Contemporary Evening Service at 4 p.m. through the semester.

PLEASANT HOME CHURCH, Pastor, Perry Baird, 785-728-7380, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (MST)

MINGO BIBLE CHURCH, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: 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. First Sunday of month - carry-in dinner following morning worship.

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Reverend Andrew Sonneborn, 515 W. 4th, 785-462-6342, Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Podcasts of the worship services are available at the church website colbypres.org.

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

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 Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, 1145 S. Franklin - 785-460-6605, President Andy Rose, 785-460-6807. 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 by appointment. Call 785-462-3571.

REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC., 345 N. Franklin, Dr. W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Class, Sunday, 9 a.m., Sunday worship, 10 a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Centers (Bible School), 6 p.m. Shop online at: www.rmregionalchurch.com.

COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. James Markdock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 785-460-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. www.colbyumc.org

CHURCH OF CHRIST, 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

OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH, 217 Main St., Brewster, 785-694-2751. Sunday worship 10:00 a.m.

This feature is sponsored by these business firms as a contribution to the religious life of the community.



Berean Bible Fellowship

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, (Disciples of Christ), 385 W. 3rd - 785-460-2718, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Rev. Robert Alexander, East 5th & Country Club, 785-462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Beginning Sept. 2 - Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15 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 Mike Bauthn, 785-694-2278, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

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 (adults) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. 7:00 p.m. Children's Ministries (Royal Rangers/Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Prayer, Tue. 5:30 p.m. - Women's Bible Study.

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