

OBITUARIES

Anna Pakkebier Van Loenen March 4, 1927 - March 10, 2013

Anna Pakkebier Van Loenen, daughter of Henry G. Pakkebier and Alie Tien, was born on March 4, 1927 in rural Prairie View, and passed away at the age of 86 on March 10, 2013 at the Hays Medical Center in Hays.

Anna graduated from Luctor School in 1940 and from Prairie View High School in 1944. Following graduation, she worked at the Wolters' Mercantile in Prairie View. On Oct. 30, 1946, she married Buford Van Loenen at the Luctor Christian Reformed Church. The couple lived on a farm southeast of Prairie View until they moved to Prairie View in 1952. This union was blessed with five children.

Anna went by many names and wore many hats during her lifetime. Her family fondly called her "Mom, Ma, Annabelle, Anna, "27," Grams, Pink Lady, Grammy, Grammy Great and Chuck Wagon. She was deeply involved in homemaking; often sewing dresses in triplicate. Lucky youngest daughter Amy got to wear all three sizes! Her home was always known as Grand Central Station. Anna's children, grandchildren and their friends were always welcome, a pot of coffee always brewing on the kitchen counter, and always room for one more person at her kitchen table. Family and friends provided a steady stream of visits and phone calls.

Buford found success in the construction business because he could always count on Anna, his partner for life, to help him in his business enterprises. In the beginning, she did payroll for the construction company. Later, she ordered oil for the sealing crew, picked up and delivered parts, manned her post at the two-way radio, and kept the books for the farm. She was currently on the Board of Directors of Farmers State Bank and had previously served as chairman of the board.

She and Buford enjoyed

spending time at their cabin in Poudre Canyon, Colo. They especially enjoyed their time together as they traveled to various places around the world. The best and most anticipated destination on any trip for Anna was always the trip "back home." Anna relished the time that she spent with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and the influence she had on them will last forever. Anna felt especially blessed to have had the love and support of her husband Buford for 53 years, which included both facing family hardships and celebrating life's successes.

Anna was a great inspiration to her friends and especially to her family. Dealing with the loss of two children, her husband, and the many health issues she struggled with were a test to her will, but through it all, she never lost faith in God. Whenever possible, she still attended church, and if her attendance wasn't possible she watched the taped version of the service.

Anna was the foundation of her family, and took such pride in each member's achievements and growth. No matter the life events, great or small, of those in her family, she was there. She loved being a part of basketball games, school plays, parents' weekends, graduations, weddings and especially the births of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She loved seeing every picture and watching every video of her family. Her only regret was that she knew that she would not be able to attend the weddings this fall.

Anna made her profession of faith at The Luctor Christian Reformed church, and after marriage became an active member of the Prairie View Reformed Church. She participated in the Gleaners and Dorcas Circles, and was the contact person for prayer chains. She was also a volunteer for the annual Hospice fundraiser dinner.

Preceding her in death were

her parents, Henry and Alie; husband, Buford; one son, Buford Junior; one daughter, Amy Jeanne; two brothers, Henry and Gerrit Pakkebier; and one brother-in-law, Gerald Van Loenen.

She is survived by one son, Rodger Van Loenen and wife Shirley of Prairie View; two daughters, Beverly Schemper and husband Kenneth of Prairie View, and Linda Levene and husband Alan of Tucson, Ariz.; eight grandchildren, Anissa Kats and husband Mark of Prairie View, Beau Van Loenen and fiancé Jenny Noel of Logan, Lee Van Loenen of Kansas City, Shaley Van Loenen and fiancé Bryant Johnson of Clay Center, Heather Boysel and husband Jason of Phoenix, Ariz., Megan Levene and husband Andy McDonald of Seattle, Wash., Rebecca Agnew and husband John of Broomfield, Colo., and Laura Long and husband Dave of Scottsdale, Ariz.; six great-grandchildren, Mara and Tobin Kats of Prairie View, Violet Boysel of Phoenix, Ariz., and Elizabeth, Brendan and Caitlin Agnew of Broomfield, Colo.; one sister, Sylvia Kats of Norton; two brothers, Tennis Pakkebier and wife Jo of Prairie View, and Marvin Pakkebier and wife Nelda of LaCrosse; four sister-in-laws, June Van Loenen of Prairie View, Marie Pakkebier of Densmore, Bette Tien and husband Clarence of Prairie View, Marie Hogan and husband Wilmer of Lincolnshire, Ill.; and one brother-in-law, James Van Loenen and wife Barbara of Madison, Wis. .

Anna will truly be missed by her family and friends, but all count themselves blessed for having experienced the constant love of this kind and thoughtful woman who was a "fighter" until she drew her last breath and went to heaven to be with her husband, Buford and her children, Junior and Amy. Love you Mom...Grammy...and Grammy Great.

Patricia C. Smith June 19, 1956 - March 15, 2013

Patricia C. Smith, daughter of Cap and Zella (Wells) Lanier, was born June 19, 1956, in Amarillo, Texas, and passed away at the Andbe Home, Norton, on March 15, 2013, at the age of 56.

She attended the Friona, Texas School system. And made her home in Friona, Texas, Jennings and Norton. Pat enjoyed doing crossword puzzles, and cross-stitch work.

Survivors include: Lisa Meares, Solomon; Gary Burton, Amarillo, Texas; Jerry Lanier, Friona, Texas; Bill Well, Round Rock, Texas; Donnie Lanier, Friona, Texas; other relatives and friends.

Pat was preceded in death by her parents, one sister, and one brother.

Cremation was selected with a private inurnment by family at a later date.

Conference to focus on positive approach to aging

Aging brings changes in life and lifestyle, as well as new challenges, and opportunities.

Making the most of inevitable changes and meeting the challenges, while also taking advantage of opportunities will be the focus of the 2013 edition of northwest Kansas' spring conference on aging: Full Circle: "The Best is Yet to Be."

The popular event will be April 26 at the Gateway Fellowship Church Impact Center (Sunshine Avenue and E. 2nd St.) in Oakley, Kan., said Tranda Watts, K-State Research and Extension multi-county agent and conference spokesperson.

The conference program is scheduled 9:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The 2013 lineup of speakers will feature Karen Ridder, from Topeka, Kan., representing the Kansas Humanities Council, as keynote speaker.

Ridder will present "Bucket Lists and Looking Back" as she encourages attendees to reflect on accomplishments and consider what they might like to do as they approach the closing chapters of their lives.

Deb Sellers will offer tips for adapting to challenges associated with aging, and encourage attendees to examine their beliefs about aging and consider aging as another stage in life's journey.

Sellers, who is K-State Research and Extension's state specialist on adult development and aging, based on the Kan-

sas State University campus in Manhattan, advocates a positive approach to the challenges and opportunities associated with each stage in life.

Attendees may attend three of six break-out sessions. Presentations and presenters include:

- * Falling Less in Kansas: Reducing Risks - Teresa Radebaugh, Carl and Rozina Cassat professor in aging, and director, Regional Institute on Aging, Wichita State University, Wichita, Kan. Radebaugh, who acknowledges that falls can be devastating for older adults and may result in life-changing injuries -- or death, will offer ideas on reducing the risks in everyday life.

- * The Who, When, Where, What and How of Guardianship vs. Conservatorship - Randy Clinkscales, attorney with Clinkscales Elder Law Practice, Hays, Kan., will explain the differences between the two and help attendees consider current needs while planning for future needs.

- * Behind Closed Doors: Intimacy and Aging - Gayle Doll, director of the Center on Aging in the College of Human Ecology at Kansas State University, Manhattan. Doll will address preconceived notions about sexuality and aging, and growing older without repressing sexuality.

- * Legal Issues and Farm Succession - Michael Irvin, Kansas Farm Bureau. Irvin, who grew up on a farm in Goodland, Kan.,

is an attorney and knowledgeable about issues that many families face.

- * Getting Financially Prepared: Avoid Disaster - Jamie Rathbun, K-State Research and Extension family and consumer sciences agent in Ellsworth County, Kan. Rathbun will give tips for ensuring that records and other essential documents are up to date, stored safely, and can be accessed in the event of a disaster.

- * Mental Health Crisis Intervention/Mental Health First Aid - Ken Loos, High Plains Mental Health Agency, Hays, Kan. Loos will offer tips for framing effective communications during a health crisis.

The cost to attend is \$25 per person or \$40 for two family members, and includes conference materials, a noon meal, and facility fees for registrations received by April 19, 2013.

Registration at the door is \$35 per person; lunch and conference materials cannot be guaranteed for registrations at the door.

For registration or more information, go to www.northwest.ksu.edu or call Diann Gerstner, K-State Research and Extension family and consumer sciences agent in Thomas County at 785-460-4582.

Call Mike with all your social news.
877-3361

The sights, sounds and smells of Easter

Sunlight washes across the church pew where I sit with my family on this beautiful Easter morning. Long olive green pebbled glass panels frame stained glass Biblical scenes, tinting the light a strange greenish shade, almost as if we're underwater. Ahead of us is an entire row of the Hutchinson family and in front of them a cluster of Heckmans. My dad would sure like to have enough family to fill a church pew but he has just Mama and me usually. Today he is just beaming because Roger has come with us.

Ann couldn't come home this year so she sent us wonderful surprises. Last week a box came that had festive new hats for Mama and me and snazzy neckties for Daddy and Roger. Then yesterday a glossy white florist box arrived with corsages and boutonnières nestled in green, waxy paper. Boy, are we elegant today! Mama's hat is pale blue with a veil and white flowers, the prettiest hat in a church full of pretty hats. I feel just like Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm in my wide-brimmed straw skimmer. It has white daisies, red poppies and little blue flowers around it and a bow with long navy blue streamers. Mama even let me wear my hair brushed out today.

Up front Miss Myerly brings the organ prelude to a flourishing finish. Here comes the choir, marching in to "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today". As they pass the pews, we all rise and join in with them. First Presbyterian's gothic arches reverberate with "halleluiahs". The altar ladies have put on the gold trimmed white brocade altar cloths and the whole front of the chancel is ringed with Easter lilies. The smell of lilies and candle wax permeates the sanctuary, mingled with the scent of my carnation corsage. Reverend Kellison follows the choir in and the service begins. Solemn prayers and a joyous resurrection message, Communion service is passed hand-to-hand as we sing "He Shall Lead His Sheep". The choir anthem, "The Holy City", leaves us awestruck. Sue Bice's soprano just soars on the solo parts. We want to applaud but Presbyterians never clap in church, so we smile our appreciation. We lift our faces for

Child of the '40s Liza Deines



the benediction, then the closing hymn, "Up from the Grave He Arose". The organ thunders forth the "Alleluia Chorus" from Handel's "Messiah" as Miss Myerly gives it everything she's got. Everyone is standing and hugging and shaking hands and saying "Christ has risen!"

reply, "He is risen indeed!" Oh, I do love Easter Sunday best of all, even better than Christmas.

At home Mama has a huge ham in the oven. We spent all yesterday cooking. She made a fancy salad and light rolls while I stuffed celery and made carrot curls and radish roses for a relish plate. The table is spread out as far as it will go, set with Mama's Arvilla pattern china and the frosted grape iced tea glasses. We get home just as the relatives start arriving, loaded with pies and homemade butter, jars of olives and pickles, deviled eggs and layer cakes. Mama hurries to pop marshmallows on the sweet potato casserole while Daddy carves the ham. Everyone gathers around the table where we hold hands for table grace. Dad says that's to keep Roger and me out of the olives. We spend all afternoon munching and visiting and cleaning up the kitchen. Evening comes too soon.

And now our glorious day is over and all the company has driven off into the sunset laden with leftovers. Mama finally sits down, puts her feet up and sighs, "What a perfect day," she says. "Liza Beth, please fetch me two deviled eggs and some of those leftover stuffed celery sticks. I am too tired to "woodle." I giggle at the thought of Mama "woodling" but I woodle out to the kitchen and make up her plate. Roger and Daddy are out there eating the last of the pie and they are not arguing. It really IS a perfect day!

MY MAMA SAID: The sights and sounds and smells of Easter are surely gifts from God.

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Creating a relaxed family mealtime experience

Many children and teens who eat dinner at home are seated in front of a television or computer, or text on their phones a lot. They may not even be seated at a table, but rather on the floor, with a TV tray or other convenient surface. If this sounds like your house, you may want to make some changes to what you are "serving" your family for meals.

Creating a relaxed mealtime experience will help you to have healthier children and grandchildren and stronger family connections. Remove mealtime distractions by having family members turn off the television and computer and take phone calls and messages later. Instead, talk with each other and also focus on the meal. Encourage each family member to eat slowly and relax. Pay some attention to each family member and keep mealtime conversations pleasant. This really is not the time to try to solve family problems. A better time might be following a family meal and the regular clean up after the meal. This promotes family meals that are looked forward to by every-

Home ed Tranda Watts, Extension specialist



to contact your local K-State Research and Extension Office, or you may contact Tranda Watts, Multi-County Extension Specialist - Food, Nutrition, Health and Safety at twatts@ksu.edu.

one. They enable you to have a more positive influence on your youngsters.

On the other hand, eating meals often in front of a screen is a problem. The number of hours that children watch television or play video games is linked with their gaining excess body weight. One reason is because they ignore the signals from their bodies that they have eaten enough. Instead, they eat even in the absence of physical hunger.

Strive to enjoy relaxed family meals, free from electronic gadgets, often each week! In fact you may want to strive for a sit down family meal each day whether it is breakfast, lunch or dinner.

If you have questions related to family meals, please feel free

Happy 21st

Stephanie Love, Mom, Dad, Tiff

CLUB NEWS

By Beverly Kindler

GFWC Mid-Century Club held their February meeting in the Community Room at the Norton Public Library. Eunice Neiltopp and Geraldine Packer were hostesses. Guests for the meeting were Sandra Richards and Melinda Segura.

Virginia Will, president, conducted the business meeting.

Thank you's were read for the Club's contributions to the Post Prom Scholarship Fund and to God's Pantry.

Eunice Neiltopp reported that the club members would be delivering Meals on Wheels, April 8-14.

Reports were presented with information from the GFWC web site and the GFWC Club Woman.

The program was the showing of a DVD, "Stealing Lincoln's Body." This was the story about his death, the first state funeral and the concerns and challenges of getting the body from Washington D.C. to Springfield, Ill., for burial in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

Margaret Thomas will be hostess for the April 11 meeting of GFWC Mid-Century.

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March 15- March 20

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Safe Haven
2 Hours, 6 Minutes (PG-13)
Friday and Saturday: 8:00 p.m.
Sunday: 5:00 p.m.
Mon., Tues., Wed.: 7:00 p.m.
OZ: The Great and Powerful-in 3D
2 Hours, 21 Minutes (PG)

Let's Go to the Movie

Movie passes accepted for Safe Haven
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