

# OBITUARIES

## Jerrod Allen Nickelson

Dec. 8, 1977



Jerrod Allen Nickelson, 35, was born Dec. 8, 1977 in Hill City, to Oren Dean and Diana (Keith) Nickelson. He attended school in Hill City, where he was a 1997 graduate of Hill City High School. On March 23, 2002 he married Libby Elliott. To this union three children were born: Corgan, Caine and Cope.

From childhood until the day he passed, nature was a central part of Jerrod's life. He loved exploring the area creeks, seining minnows, digging for worms and catching salamanders. He was also fond of hunting birds, snakes, and all varieties of animals and enjoyed cooking and eating his take.

As he grew older, he was uniquely crafty and inventive, from designing artistic sculptures to creating practical items to building toys and gifts for family, friends, and his children.

Jerrod had a passion for working with honeybees and producing honey. His desire to understand things and his self-taught nature allowed him to produce different flavors and colors of honey. He learned quickly and had an innate gift for understanding the importance of every step and detail. To folks within the honeybee world, even those who had much more experience than he, he was known affectionately

as the "Bee Whisperer." His talents for mechanics and welding were effortless. While the rest of us always knew we had a knowledgeable and hard-working person to count on for things that needed fixed or rebuilt, his pursuit and proficiency of things of this nature provided him peace and pride. Perhaps the most telling aspect of his passions is that he was less concerned with making money than with the quality of his work.

One of the joys of his life was taking his family fishing and camping. While he loved all of nature, he was much more inclined to go to a no-name pond or a random bend in the creek than to anywhere with capital letters in the title. This was because he loved peace and quiet most of all, whether blue skies or nighttime stars.

One of his children's favorite recent memories was an overnight campout at a small pond. After swimming and hunting bullfrogs, they had a peace-

ful night under a beautiful sky of stars and a Totino's frozen pizza cooked to a perfect char over the campfire. He pointed out constellations, passed on his knowledge of nature and they then bedded down for the night in his metal twin...the 1979 Ford Bronco.

Jerrod was unconventional, unpretentious, and of course... ornery. He was also quietly passionate. When he loved, he loved with every fiber of his being and he loved for life. The most important things to him were his children, as evidenced by the tears that would well in his eyes when he retold them the stories of the day they were born. No detail was ever forgotten.

Jerrod was preceded in death by his father Oren; paternal grandfather Russell Nickelson; maternal grandparents: Orville "Bud" Keith, Madeline Keith and Eva Keith; uncles: Allen Nickelson and Roger Nickelson; nephew Andrew Rule; and cousin Brian Keith.

Leaving to mourn his passing are Libby of Norton; his children: Corgan Paige, Caine Allen and Cope William of Norton; his mother Diana Nickelson of Penokee; a brother Jay Nickelson of Penokee; grandmother Jean Nickelson of WaKeeney; in-laws Bill and Kay Elliott of Hill City; brother-in-law Nate Elliott of Hays; sister-in-law Valery and husband Jason Rule, nephews J. Elliott and Payton and niece Lauren, of Hays; many other relatives and friends; and Chris, Mindy, Kolton, Wyatt, Weston and Shelby Harting of Norton, who loved him unconditionally and treated him as family.

There are no services planned at this time.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Thomas Rowe Memorial Fund c/o Enfield Funeral Home, 215 W. Main, Norton, KS 67654. Condolences to www.enfieldfh.com

## Thomas Robert Rowe

April 19, 1944 - April 24, 2013

Thomas Robert Rowe was born April 19, 1944, in Star, Idaho, and passed away at the Norton County Hospital in Norton, Kansas, on April 24, 2013, at the age of 69.

Tom grew up in Idaho and attended rural schools there. He married Carla Kent in Idaho, and they were married for 50 years. They made their home in Idaho and Colorado, where Tom was a truck driver for many years. They later moved to Carla's hometown of Norton.

Tom enjoyed working and greatly loved his family.

Survivors include: his wife, Carla Rowe, Nor-

ton; three daughters, Cynthia Rowe, Joplin, Mo.; Stephanie Stewart, Hamburg, Pa.; and Sheila Marie Gudy, of Colorado; one brother, Frank Rowe, Star, Idaho; three grandchildren; other relatives and friends.

Tom was preceded in death by his mother, Emily Bievens, his father, and one brother, Earl Rowe.

There are no services planned at this time. Memorial contributions can be made to the Thomas Rowe Memorial Fund c/o Enfield Funeral Home, 215 W. Main, Norton, KS 67654. Condolences to www.enfieldfh.com

## Kenneth Mechsner

March 26, 1917 - Feb. 22, 2013

Kenneth Mechsner, 95, passed away Feb. 22, 2013 at California Mission Inn Rest Home in Rosemead, Calif.

Ken was born in Esbon, Kan., the third son of Robert and Ella Mechsner. At age three, he and his parents and two brothers, Ed and Don moved to Norton. He attended Mt. Zion Country School and Norton Community High School. In 1937, he moved to California. He was in the U.S. Navy during World War II and afterwards he worked at Schobers Machine Shops in Al-

hombra, Calif. He later bought the business.

On July 25, 1946, he married Britmart Jamison.

Survivors are wife Brit, three sons, Mike and wife Linda Mechsner, Austin, Texas; Martin and wife Edna Mechsner, Grand Hills, Calif.; Steven and wife Amanda Mechsner, Thousand Oaks, Calif.; daughter, Susan Mechsner, Redondo Beach, Calif.; sister, Helen Holbrook, Norton; sister-in-law, Wanda Mechsner, Norton; four grandchildren, two great-grandchil-

dren, four nephews and a niece.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers, Ed, Don and Jack, one sister, Alice Donovan, two sisters-in-law, two brothers-in-law and three nephews.

He enjoyed growing many flowers, especially orchids in his back yard green house. He also liked to cook and bake.

Burial was Feb. 27, 2013 in Rose Hill Cemetery in Pasadena, Calif.

## Kansas State Crops Team ends strong

The Kansas State University Crops Team took second place in the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture national crops contest held recently at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. The team also competed in the Iowa State Invitational contest at Ames, Iowa in February and the Regional NACTA contest hosted at K-State in March.

At the national contest, a total of 19 teams competed, including 11 four-year and eight two-year programs. In the two-year division, Hutchinson Community College placed first.

The contest consists of four components: laboratory practical, agronomic exam, math practical and plant and seed identification. In the laboratory practical, competitors identify insects, diseases, crop products and equipment, plus determine crop growth stages, interpret pesticide labels or seed tags, name plant structures, evaluate crop production problems and describe soil properties.

The agronomic exam evaluated knowledge of crop production and management; crop physiology and breeding; soil properties; soil fertility; tillage; crop harvesting and storage; and weeds, insects and diseases. The math practical includes

equipment calibration and various other agronomic calculations. Seed and plant identification requires contestants to learn more than 250 plant and seed samples.

Students competing on the K-State national team were Cameron Alderfer, Centralia, Kan.; Michael Poland, Chapman, Kan.; David Abel, Wichita, Kan.; Blaine Bogner, Mulvane, Kan.; and Trent Newell, Oskaloosa, Kan. -- all seniors majoring in agronomy. The alternate was Hannah Anderson, Newton, Kan., a junior in agricultural education. Also competing in the regional events at Iowa and K-State were agronomy seniors Hannah Christen, Oregon, Ill., and Katie Martin, Glasco, Kan. Kevin Donnelly, professor of agronomy, served as coach for the team.

Top individual placings for the K-State team at the national contests were Cameron Alderfer, fifth overall and third in plant and seed identification; Michael Poland, eighth overall and second in ID; David Abel, 10th overall; and Blaine Bogner, fifth in exam. At the K-State contest, Poland was first overall and Alderfer was third, while at Iowa State, Alderfer was fourth and Poland was fifth.

## City-wide clean-up



Norton City workers Ed Lively, Richard McKenna and Cory Urban spent their days this week cleaning up piles of debris, trash and limbs during the Norton City Wide Clean-Up. The city as well as the county offers this twice a year to residents. This is a great way to get rid of the stuff accumulated over the winter.

— Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

## The unusual and surprising

Kay Melia

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Many of us are, shall I say, "surprised" at the lateness of the new garden season. Others of us might choose a stronger word to describe our situation. But as I hang out close to the fireplace when I should be outside planting something, I thought it might be a good time to talk about a few other surprises. Or in this scenario, the unusual or surprising pieces of plant life that we read about, and even plant, in our own gardens.

You will probably remember when the "yard long" bean was introduced in seed catalogs several decades ago. It's still there, which indicates to me that there are still many green bean lovers out there who insist on trying to get more for their money. After all, a yard long bean has a lot more bulk than a regular size green bean, so why not go for one that might feed a family of four with only 5 or 6 beans? I tried them many years ago, just like you did. I rigged up some kind of trellis for them to run on. I planted a whole packet of seed, 6 plants emerged, 2 of them died shortly thereafter, and the other four produced enough 5 inch beans for a small helping for two of us. So much for that fad.

A fad I didn't try, but one that

made a millionaire out of some very venturesome "would be" gardeners, is the upside-down tomato planting system. A couple of years ago, just about everyone bought one, but nowadays, hardly anyone will admit it. But they actually produced tomatoes, and they are still readily available today.

The newest offer of unusualness that I've seen showed up in at least one of the seed catalogs I received this year. It's called a Dwarf Fruit Cocktail" tree, described as an amazing "one tree orchard," that promises you production of six delicious varieties of fresh fruit from just this one tree! You'll likely pick peaches, plums, apricots, and nectarines. That's only four, not six as advertised, so I assume the other two are additional varieties of the aforementioned, if you understand what I'm saying. One tree, nicely grafted and 2 or 3 feet tall, \$19.99. Good luck with your fruit salad some day.

Ever hear of a Goji Berry? Well, you should, because

they're loaded with antioxidants, lots of vitamins, and are simply delicious. The plants can grow to 10 feet tall, and the leaves make delicious tea! When you order a Goji Berry, you also might want to order a Sea Berry bush or two. Sea Berries are hardy, up to 40 degrees below zero! I should have a few in my garden this spring.

Other growing things available for your garden this year include the giant Sakurajima radish that grows to the size of a 10 to 15 pound watermelon and is crisp to the last bite! Or how about a Banana Cantaloupe that resembles an 18 to 24 inch melon shaped like a banana? Yummy!

All the crops mentioned here are available from the same catalog. If you're interested in ordering something from this publication, you can have mine.

Oh, I forgot! Order one "Mosquito Shoo Geranium" at the regular price and get the second one for just a penny more!

## NOTICE!!

**Precision Hearing**  
has a New Technician that will  
be Serving this Area. His name is:  
**Scott Stone**  
**Precision Hearing, 113 W. Walnut**  
**Hill City, Kansas**  
**800-775-7391 - 785-421-2781**

*Jim Housh would like to say  
"Thank You" so much for your business!*

## CLUB NEWS

By Beverly Kindler

The GFWC Mid-Century Club annually sponsors the Creative Writing Contest. This contest is a project of GFWC of Kansas and GFWC International. There are categories for youth and for club women for poetry and short story.

Four youth submitted entries of short stories this year. The stories were written by Henry Boutwell, Connor Haresnape, Katelyn Skrdlant and Coral Stewart. The entries were judged in the Sixth District and then submitted for the state contest.

In the state contest Katelyn Skrdlant received first, Coral Stewart second and Connor Haresnape third. Youth entries are judged in grade categories.

All participants received certificates of recognition for their entries. The GFWC Rainbow Club presented monetary awards to the winners in youth categories.

April 26-  
May 1

Showing at the

**NORTON THEATRE**

**Olympus Has Fallen**

2 Hours, 9 Minutes (R)

Friday and Saturday: 8:00 p.m.

Sunday: 5:00 p.m.

Mon., Tues., Wed.: 7:00 p.m.

**42**

2 Hours, 18 Minutes  
(PG-13)



42 is a Non-Premiere movie - \$7.00 and \$6.00. \$3/tax on Sunday  
Olympus Has Fallen is a Non-Premiere movie - \$7.00 and \$6.00. \$3/tax on Sunday

**COMING SOON**

PREMIERING IN NORTON  
THURSDAY, MAY 2  
IRON MAN 3 - 9:00 P.M.

This ad is brought to you by The Norton Telegram

Call Mike with all  
your social news.

877-3361

mstephens@nwks.com

**COMING SOON - RELAY FOR LIFE FUNDRAISER** special movies. Come support the upcoming Relay for Life event here in Norton County with a free will donation movie on Sunday, May 5, at 2:00 p.m. There will also be FREE popcorn for this event as well. We will be playing: ET: The Extra Terrestrial (PG) and The Swiss Family Robinson (G). Come on out for this great event next Sunday, May 5, and support a great cause.