

DIRECTORY

AROUND THE STATE

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Argonia

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Margaret B. Riley

MINNEOLA – Margaret Belle Fleener Riley, 89, died October 31, 2009, at her home in Arvada, Colorado. She was born July 11, 1920, in Greensburg, Kansas, the daughter of Weaver Leavitt and Emily Belle Beck Fleener. She was a homemaker. She had lived in Greensburg, Minneola, and Arvada, Colorado. Margaret was a member of the Minneola Community Church, and the Civic Club, of Minneola. She graduated from Greensburg High School in 1938, and earned a teaching certificate from Emporia State Teachers College. She taught first grade at Minneola.

On July 16, 1946, Margaret married Glen Riley in Greensburg. He preceded her in death March 4, 1987. She is survived by: two sons, Steve, Hutchinson, and John and wife Connie, Arvada, Colorado; two daughters, Glenda Riley, Hutchinson, and Mary Foutz, Arlington, Texas; two brothers, John and wife Barbara Fleener, Greensburg, and Paul and wife Shirley Fleener, Manhattan; brother-in-law, Richard and wife Maxine Spare, Hutchinson; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. She was also preceded in death by an infant son, Jerry Wayne Riley, son-in-law, Jerry Foutz, and a sister, Neva Jean Spare. Funeral will be at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday November 4, 2009, in the Minneola Community Church, Minneola, with the Rev. Robert Seth presiding. Visitation will be from 10:30 a.m. to noon Wednesday morning at the church. Gifts in Margaret's name are suggested to the donor's choice, in care of Fleener Funeral Home, 514 S. Main, Greensburg, Kansas, 67054.

Virginia Crawford

CHENEY – Virginia Crawford, 85, died Nov. 2, 2009, at Golden Age Home, Cheney. She was born May 18, 1924, in Orleans, Vt., to Urban and Blanche Gray Spencer.

On Sept. 2, 1947, she married Fred Ellis Crawford. He preceded her in death. Survivors include: daughters, Jacque and Van Bolinger, and Anita and Tom Montgomery; a sister, Shirley Spencer; eight grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

Funeral will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Trinity United Christian Church, Cheney. Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, with the family present 7 to 8 p.m. at Lanterman Funeral Home, Cheney. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery. Memorials may be sent to Trinity United Christian Church, in care of the funeral home.

Rolinda Ann Koett

BELPRE – Rolinda Ann Koett, 56, died Nov. 2, 2009, at Via Christi Hospital-St. Francis, Wichita.

Arrangements are pending with Morell Funeral Home, Larned.

Deborah Jo Parker

BERRYTON – Deborah Jo Parker of Berryton, KS passed away Nov. 2, 2009, at Midland Hospice House in Topeka, KS with loved ones by her side following a courageous battle with brain cancer. She was born on Nov. 11, 1950, in Hays, KS to Albert and Lenore Ryder.

A 1968 graduate of Macksville High School in Macksville, KS, she attended Hutchinson Community College before moving to New York in 1970. She returned to Kansas with her family in 1978 and lived in the Topeka vicinity until her death. In July 1995, Debbie married Dennis Parker (the love of her life) in Las Vegas, NV.

Her hobbies included fishing, football, travel and caring for her cats and chickens. Most of all, she loved spending time with her family.

Debbie was a federal employee for the past 20+ years, most recently with the Department of Homeland Security in Topeka, KS.

She was preceded in death by her parents and brother, Billy Russell who died at birth.

Survivors include: husband, Dennis Parker; son, Steven Saiya and wife Trudi; daughter, Sheri Saiya; son, Frank Saiya and wife Abbi, all of Topeka, KS; stepdaughter, Michelle Neugent and husband Ron, of Wichita, KS; daughter-in-law, Evelyn Parker of Auburn, KS; six grandchildren; sister, Barbara Buechle and husband Art, of Basehor, KS; nieces, nephews and many other relatives and friends. Debbie was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend, who will be forever missed by all whose lives she touched.

Cremation has taken place and a memorial service to celebrate her life will be held at 3 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6 at Penwell-Gabel Mid Town Chapel. Family will receive friends one hour prior to service.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions in Debbie's memory to the National Brain Tumor Society, 124 Watertown Street, Suite 2D, Watertown, MA 02472, www.braintumor.org. or American Cancer Society, 1315 SW Arrowhead Rd. Topeka, KS 66604.

To leave a special message online for the family, visit www.PenwellGabelTopeka.com.

Robert D. 'Bob' Boice

MANHATTAN – Robert D. "Bob" Boice, 45, died Oct. 30, 2009. He was born Sept. 7, 1964, the son of Robert and Wanda Hopkins Boice.

On April 13, 1996, he married Kim McKeeman. She survives. Other survivors include: sons, Shaun McDonald, Wesley and Kenneth Boice; daughter, Amanda McDonald; his mother; brother, James Boice; sisters, Sandra Shults and Kay Crawford; three grandchildren; three nieces; four nephews; three great-nieces; and a great-nephew.

Funeral 10 a.m. Thursday at Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, Manhattan. The family will greet friends from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home. Burial in the Ashland Cemetery south of Manhattan. Memorials to Kansas Fish and Game.

Jeannie Jacobsen

LYONS – Jeannie Jacobsen, 31, died Nov. 1, 2009, in Lyons. She was born Jan. 29, 1978, in San Antonio, to Harlow P. Jacobsen and Lynn L. Forbes. A resident of Lyons for seven years, formerly of Mesa, Ariz., she was the manager of Casey's General Store, Lyons.

On July 5, 2003, she married Chris Ferrara in Lyons. He survives. Other survivors include: a son, Anthony Peter Ferrara; daughters, Arianna Thomas, and Debi Thomas; her father; her mother; and sisters, Annette Jacobsen-Yastrzab and Maybeth Eberle. She was preceded in death by her grandparents.

Funeral 11 a.m. Friday at the United Methodist Church, Lyons. Visitation from 3 to 7 p.m. Thursday at Birzer Funeral Home, Lyons. Memorials to the Children's Education Fund.

Marie King

SUBLETTE – Marie King, 96, died Nov. 1, 2009, at Satanata Long Term Care Unit. She was born Dec. 21, 1912, in Barnett, Mo., to Sam and Eunice Miller Elliott Ratcliff. She moved from Albuquerque, N.M., to Sublette in 1970. She was a bookkeeper for a lumber company.

She belonged to the Southern Baptist Church, Sublette.

Survivors include: nephews, nieces, and her church family. She was preceded in death by her parents, and a brother, Beryl Ratcliff.

Funeral will be at 2 p.m. Friday at the Southern Baptist Church, Sublette. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday at Haskell County Funeral Home, Sublette. Burial will be in Haskell County Cemetery. Memorials may be sent to the Southern Baptist Church.

Robert L. Simon

MARIENTHAL – Robert "Bob" "RL" Leon Simon, 77, died Oct. 30, 2009, at the Wichita County LTCU, Leoti. He was born Nov. 30, 1931, to Edwin and Marie Ridder Simon.

On May 11, 1954, he married Mary Louise. She died Nov. 13, 1998. Survivors include: his companion, Lodusky "Ducky" Tricks; his children and their spouses, Ed and Jana, Jean and Steve Wells, Diana and Todd Long, and Connie and Darren McRae; 10 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Vigil was 7 p.m. Monday at St. Mary Catholic Church, Marienthal. Funeral 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at the church. Visitation was 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday at Price and Sons Funeral Home, Leoti. Burial in St. Mary Cemetery. Memorials to the Parkinson Foundation, Finney County Senior Citizen Center, or the Wichita County LTCU.

Norma J. Novotny

MCPHERSON – Norma J. Novotny, 79, died Nov. 1, 2009, in Wichita. She was born April 28, 1930, to Arnold and Bessie Fiala Novotny. In 1951, she married Galen Morley. In 2002, she married Leroy Hovorka. Survivors include: daughters, Anita Dunham, Marsha Morley, and Michele Simpson; sisters, Lorene Koukol, and Amy Morehead; brothers, Paul, and Jim; and seven grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, and a son, Wendell, 23, in 1979.

Funeral 10 a.m. Friday at the First Christian Church; the casket will be closed at the service. Graveside service 3:30 p.m. Friday in Bohemian Nation Cemetery, rural Narka. Visitation 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday with the family present 5 to 7 p.m. at Glidden-Ediger Chapel, McPherson. Memorials to Meals on Wheels, in care of the funeral home.

Janice K. Cook

ULYSSES – Janice Kay Cook, 64, died Nov. 2, 2009, in Oskaloosa, Iowa. She was born June 8, 1945, in Goodland, the daughter of Archie and Helen Horton Schoonover.

On Aug. 5, 1967, she married Seth Lee Cook. He died May 26, 2005. Survivors include: sons, Tim and wife Michelle Welsh, Laguna Niguel, Calif., and Chris and wife Shea, Oskaloosa, Iowa; her mother, Goodland; and three grandchildren; Tristana, Kinsey and Ethan Cook. She was preceded in death by her father and a sister, Judith Light.

Graveside service will be at 2 p.m. Friday in Goodland Cemetery, Goodland. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday at Grant County Funeral Home, Ulysses. Memorials may be sent to Mahaska County Hospice, in care of the funeral home.

Nguyet Lucas

DODGE CITY – Nguyet "Kim" Lucas, 60, died Nov. 2, 2009, at the Good Samaritan Center, Dodge City.

Arrangements are pending with Burkhart-Ziegler Funeral Chapel, Dodge City.

Charles Murray

ELKHART – Charles Walter Murray, 83, died Oct. 31, 2009, at Morton County Hospital, Elkhart. He was born Sept. 13, 1926, to Jess R. and Jeanie Ford Murray.

On Oct. 13, 1944, he married Carnie Imogene Landess. She died April 6, 2006. Survivors include: son, Charles Craig; daughters, Sharla Bentley, Debbie Nease, and Terri Houtz; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, John Hershel Murray.

Funeral 2 p.m. Wednesday at the First Baptist Church, Elkhart. Visitation 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Garnand Funeral Home, Elkhart. Burial in Elkhart Cemetery, with military graveside rites conducted. Memorials to the Elkhart Senior Citizens Center, Whistle Stop Park, or the donor's choice.

Omar Rodriguez

LIBERAL – Omar Miguel Rodriguez, 44, died Oct. 31, 2009, at Liberal. He was born June 22, 1965, in Cuba, the son of Leonel and Blanca Alcina Rodriguez.

He was a former resident of Survivors include: his wife, Verence Arcon, Liberal; son, Miguel Angel Rodriguez, Liberal; daughters, Yuneys Rodriguez and Elaine Coroniao, both of Cuba; stepson, Diego Cardona, Liberal; stepdaughter, Valentina Cardona, Liberal; brother, Luiz Manuel Alcina, Miami, Fla.; two sisters living in Cuba; and cousin, Luiz Alcina, Liberal. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Kitch-Brenneman Funeral Home Chapel, Liberal. Visitation 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

David W. Wedman

ARGONIA – David Wayne Wedman, 52, died Nov. 1, 2009. He was born Sept. 2, 1957, to Roger and Delores Hess Wedman.

On Jan. 29, 1992, he married Stephanie Watkins. She survives. Other survivors include: son, Nathan, Lawton, Okla.; his parents, Danville; brothers, Eugene, Anthony, Richard and Ronald, both of Argonia, and Galen, Medicine Lodge; and sisters, Linda Head, and Marie Webster, both of Argonia.

Rosary will be at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Danville, of the Joan of Arc Parish Community. Mass 10:30 a.m. Thursday at the church. Visitation noon to 8 p.m. Tuesday and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday at Prairie Rose Funeral Home, Harper. Burial in Danville Cemetery. Memorials to the David Wedman Memorial Fund.

Alvin B. Koehn

MONTEZUMA – Alvin B. Koehn, 93, died Nov. 1, 2009, at The Shepherd's Center, Cimarron. He was born Oct. 3, 1916, to Bernhard and Lena Wedel Koehn.

On Aug. 18, 1941, he married Anna Lee Aeschliman. She died Jan. 11, 1995. Survivors include: son, Jerry Lee; a grandson; a great-grandson; five step-grandchildren; seven step-great-grandchildren; and a step-great-great-grandson.

Funeral 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Gospel Fellowship Church, Montezuma. Visitation was from 2 to 8 p.m. Monday and will be from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Montezuma Funeral Home, Montezuma. Burial in Morningside Cemetery, with military graveside rites conducted. Memorials to Gospel Fellowship Church, The Shepherd's Center, or Hospice of the Prairie.

OBITUARY POLICY

The Hutchinson News publishes obituaries for residents of Kansas and former residents free of charge for the first 24 lines. There is a fee for additional information and photo. Flag emblems also can be added for a small fee. Obituaries should be written by families and submitted by mortuaries. Information about pricing can be obtained from the mortuary or by calling The News, (620) 694-5700, ext. 370.

House health bill totals \$1.2 trillion over a decade

■ Legislation would not increase the deficit, Pelosi spokesman says.

By DAVID ESPO

AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON – The health care bill headed for a vote in the House this week costs \$1.2 trillion or more over a decade, according to numerous Democratic officials and figures contained in an analysis by congressional budget experts, far higher than the \$900 billion cited by President Barack Obama as a price tag for his reform plan.

While the Congressional Budget Office has put the cost of expanding coverage in the legislation at roughly \$1 trillion, Democrats added billions more on higher spending for public health, a reinsurance program to hold down retiree health costs, payments for preventive services and more.

Many of the additions are designed to improve benefits or ease access to coverage in government programs. The officials, who provided overall cost estimates did so on condition of anonymity, saying they were not authorized to discuss them.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has referred repeatedly to the bill's net cost of \$894 billion over a decade for coverage.

Asked about the higher estimate, Pelosi spokesman Brendan Daly said the measure not only insures 36 million more Americans, it provides critical health insurance reform in a way that is fiscally sound.

"It will not add one dime to the deficit. In fact, the CBO said last week that it will reduce the deficit both in the first 10 years and in the second 10 years," Daly said.

Democrats have been intent on passing legislation this year to implement Obama's call for expanded coverage for millions, curbs on industry abuses and provisions to slow the rate of growth of health care costs nationally.

"Now, add it all up, and the plan I'm proposing will cost around \$900 billion over 10 years," the president said in a nationally televised speech in early September.

Whatever the final cost of legislation, the calendar is working increasingly against the White House and Democrats. While a House vote is possible late this week, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., may not be able to begin debate on the issue until the week before Thanksgiving.

Additionally, the Republican leader, Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, has hinted at efforts to extend the debate for weeks if not months, a timetable that could extend into 2010.

Half of US kids will get food stamps, study says

By LINDSEY TANNER

AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO – Nearly half of all U.S. children and 90 percent of black youngsters will be on food stamps at some point during childhood, and fallout from the current recession could push those numbers even higher, researchers say.

The estimate comes from an analysis of 30 years of national data, and it bolsters other recent evidence on the pervasiveness of youngsters at economic risk. It suggests that almost everyone knows a family who has received food stamps, or will in the future, said lead author Mark Rank, a sociologist at Washington University in St. Louis.

"Your neighbor may be using some of these programs but it's not the kind of thing people want to talk about," Rank said.

The analysis was released Monday in the November issue of Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine. The authors say it's a medical issue pediatricians need to be aware of because children on food stamps are at risk for malnutrition and other ills linked with poverty.

"This is a real danger sign

that we as a society need to do a lot more to protect children," Rank said.

Food stamps are a Department of Agriculture program for low-income individuals and families, covering most foods although not prepared hot foods or alcohol. For a family of four to be eligible, their annual take-home pay can't exceed about \$22,000.

According to a USDA report released last month, 28.4 million Americans received food stamps in an average month in 2008, and about half were younger than age 18. The average monthly benefit per household totaled \$222.

Rank and Cornell University sociologist Thomas Hirschl studied data from a nationally representative survey of 4,800 American households interviewed annually from 1968 through 1997 by the University of Michigan. About 18,000 adults and children were involved.

Overall, about 49 percent of all children were on food stamps at some point by the age of 20, the analysis found. That includes 90 percent of black children and 37 percent of whites. The analysis didn't include other ethnic groups.

RFK's killer goes to new facility

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES – An attorney for the man who assassinated Robert F. Kennedy said Monday his client was transferred from a prison that houses high-risk offenders to a new facility where his life could be in danger.

Attorney William F. Pepper said Sirhan Sirhan opposed the move from the California state prison in Corcoran, which houses high-risk prisoners such as Charles Manson, to Pleasant Valley State Prison in Coalinga.

"Our main concern is for his safety," said Laurie Dusek, an associate of Pepper. "We are not sure that Pleasant Valley has the ability to protect him. He is a target."

Oscar Hidalgo, a spokesman for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, said Sirhan, 65, had requested the transfer and wants to stay in Pleasant Valley.

"After discussing his hesitation with prison officials at Pleasant Valley, Sirhan Sirhan indicated he wanted to stay at the new facility after all," Hidalgo said.

Wind farm regulations are topic of meeting

By The News Staff

LARNED – A public information hearing on wind farm development in Pawnee County is set for 7 p.m. Wednesday at the

Pawnee County Courthouse, 715 Broadway.

Proposed development regulations will be the focus of the meeting by the Pawnee County Planning and Zoning Commission.