



RESIDENT OF THE MONTH — Viola Peck is honored at a party held at the Good Samaritan Village. Her children Doug Peck and Barbara Van Allen help her celebrate.

Herald Staff photo by Karen Krien

Resident honored at Village

By Karen Krien

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Viola Peck was honored as the Good Samaritan Village Resident of the Month on Thursday. Residents, staff and two of her children, Barb Van Allen and Doug Peck, as well as other family members, were there to help her celebrate.

Viola was born on Jan. 21, 1918, in Bird City to Fred and Gesiena Kehlbeck. She had nine siblings, including six brothers: Leonard, Fritz, Johnny, Ernie, Henry and Curly; and three sisters: Ad, Bern and Edna. She is the last living sibling.

There were some big changes in her life, especially when her mother died and her father remar-

ried.

She said she grew up knowing how to work. With a big family, she said, everyone had to work together. Her children said she often talked about picking potato bugs off the potato plants as being one of her jobs.

She went to grade school and high school in Bird City, graduating in 1935. While she was in high school, she met her future husband, Kenneth Loyd Peck. On Oct. 5, 1939, they were married in Bird City. They had four children, Barbara, Douglas, Kenneth Junior and Rebecca. She has nine grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

She was a housewife. During her married life, she lived in Bird



Mr. and Mrs. Peck

City, Atwood and Goodland. In November 2007, she moved to the Good Samaritan Village.

Family to help raise money

In Louisville, a small town near Boulder, Colo., lives a family who call themselves "The Ransom Notes." They will spotlight a fund-raising concert at the United Methodist Church, in St. Francis, at 2 p.m. on Nov. 9. Their goal is to help raise funds for new siding for Ye Olde Country Church next to the Cheyenne County Museum on U.S. 36, St. Francis. The museum is a significant reminder of the area's history and Christian background.

Saturday night, Nov. 7, at 7 p.m., they will also play a few numbers during an old-fashioned hymn sing at Ye Olde Country Church. Miriam Yonkey will play the old pump organ to accompany a couple of the hymns. Other local talent will perform during the Sunday concert.

Amanda Ransom, 20; Michael, 16; and Amelia, 14, travel in a Winnebago when they are performing. They sing and play classical, religious, and bluegrass music on various instruments. Amelia is the most versatile as she plays the violin, guitar, mandolin and viola but also sings.

The oldest of the Ransoms, Amanda, mostly plays the violin but branches out into mandolin, guitar, piano and string bass. She is a student at Chamber College in Greeley, Colo., majoring in music with a minor in women's ministry.

Michael is a junior and Amelia, a freshman. Both are home schooled by their mother, but they also take some online classes and college courses.

Michael plays cello and mandolin and sings. He is one of those rare musicians who can stand and even dance, while he plays the cello. He especially enjoys performing "The Golden Apple Dance." Previously, he played the piano and has branched out a little in violin.

A typical day for the Ransoms consists of their studies and practice, ending with bluegrass band practice in the family's basement. They used to perform mostly classical music, but as they entered their teen years, they became interested in bluegrass.

The group has used the Suzuki method of musical training. Amanda began the method at age 9, Michael



MICHAEL RANSOM plays his cello. The Ransoms will be performing in St. Francis on Nov. 9.

at 8, and Amelia at 4.

The children come from a musical background. Their grandparents were self-taught musicians in guitar, trumpet, piano and vocal. For many years, they did some musical ministry at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Herington, a parish served from 1971-1981 by Pastor David Rossbach of St. Francis.

For a typical performance, "The Ransom Notes" get \$300 to \$500 an hour, but they see their music basically as a ministry. Up to 30 percent of what they receive between Thanksgiving and Christmas is set aside for charity, especially for "those people who slip between the cracks."

Each year, they average 20-30 Christmas performances at hospitals, malls, restaurants, antique shows, art fairs, etc. Then their parents provide matching funds for what the children

set aside for charity.

"The Ransom Notes" have an April 2009 invitation to play a series of concerts in London with a violinist friend. They also have an invitation to share their music with a Christian community in Korea.

Area residents are asked to tune in to KLOE, Goodland, from 9:30 to 10 mountain standard time on Saturday, Nov. 9, for Curtis Duncan's interview of the Ransom family.

The Cheyenne County Historical Society is hosting both the concert and the hymn sing. They hope for a large attendance at both events. Free-will offerings will be supplemented with funds by Thrivent Financial. This might also be a good time for businesses and organizations, who wish to do so, to contribute a donation. Ye Olde Country Church is available for family gatherings, weddings, baptisms, special worship services, small programs, etc.

Fun Facts

- The wood stork, also known as the wood ibis, is the only true stork native to the United States.
- The first holes-in-one scored

by both a father and son in the same game of golf were shot by Charles H. Calhoun Sr. and Jr. on August 24, 1932.

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Happy 40th Birthday on November 1, Clayton!



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Honor Our Veterans
this election year
by exercising your right to vote on
Tuesday, November 4

I would appreciate your continued support in the General Election,
Tuesday, November 4.

Ralph Ostmeier
State Senate 40th District

Paid by Ostmeier Senate Campaign Fund - Lori Edwards, Treasurer

You're Invited
to a Come & Go
Pampered Chef Bridal Shower
for Amanda Banister
Bride elect of Brandon Winter
Friday, Nov. 7, 10 a.m. to noon
at the Bird City Catholic Church



Thanks for your support and confidence in me.
Your vote in the General Election is appreciated.
Terry Miller, County Clerk

Political Ad paid for by Terry Miller for County Clerk, Terry Miller Treasurer

Re-Elect
John Faber
120th District Representative



"During the last twelve years that I have served in the House of Representatives, I have cast over 10,000 votes. I have worked hard for the best interests of our district, studying the issues and their importance for the citizens of Northwest Kansas as well as for the state.

Kansas faces many challenges, but I am optimistic about our future. I want to continue developing new and innovative ways to create economic opportunities for rural Kansas. I appreciate the trust that my constituents have placed in me, and I will continue to work hard to serve their needs in Topeka."

John has the experience we need and the vision to succeed:

- Votes to protect "home owned carnivals" from government regulation.
- Also serves on the Education Committee, Education Budget Committee, and Joint Committee on rules and regulations.
- Understands the importance of hard work and cooperation and the issues facing the 120th District.

Paid for by The Campaign to elect John Faber, Ed Carson, Treasurer.

Be Inspired Everyday!

November 7 and 8-Holiday Open House.
We will show you the latest in holiday home fashion. YOU WILL BE WOWED! Load everybody up and come on over!

Friday the 7th-Two demonstrations at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.-
Seasonal Circle-Create a cheerful holiday wreath! We'll help show you how with your own kit (fee charged).
Unforgettable Cocktail Party 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday the 8th-Two demonstrations from 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.- Gift Giving Guide and Unforgettable Gift Wrapping- We have come up with some delightful ideas to help make the holidays more merry and bright! We will also show you unforgettable ways to wrap it all up in fabulous festive styles.



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