



FORMER YOUNG MISS Mandie Walden holds the flag for the opening ceremony. Times staff photo by Karen Krien

Sainty girls takes Young Miss title

By Karen Krien

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St. Francis girl, Dale Northrup, took home the title of 2010 Cheyenne County Young Miss at Saturday's program. She was one of three girls performing.

Held in the school auditorium in St. Francis, the first runner up was Amber Smull, and second runner up was Emily Mullins, both of St. Francis. Dale was also voted the Contestant's Choice Award.

Each contestant was judged in the following categories: Academics, Individual Interview, Performing Arts, Endurance and Grace and Elegance. The Performing Arts involved the individual talent performed Saturday night and the Endurance award was for the group dance. Grace and Elegance consisted of the contestants' evening gown presentation. The Academics category is worth 30 percent of the scoring.

Dale earned the Academics and Individual Interview awards. Amber Smull, dancing a lyrical dance to "The Climb," won the Performing Arts presentation. She also took the Endurance and Grace and Elegance categories.

The 2009 Cheyenne County Young Miss, Mandie Walden, pre-

sented the flag while Cara Hunt sang the national anthem. Mandie and Cara also performed several numbers during the evening. Emcee was Robin Petersen.

A slide show presentation of the week's activities was shown before the judges retired to make their decisions.

Young men escorting the contestants were Benjamin Neitzel, Marvin Miller and Zach Zweygardt.

Judges for the Young Miss program were Lori West, Fargo, N.D., Danielle McAtee, St. Francis, Janae Bloom, Arkansas City, Marilee Kruse, Sterling, and Tiffany Wiley, Westminster, Colo. The scholastic judges included a panel with educational backgrounds.

Dana Rose, director of the Young Miss program, said the goal of the Cheyenne County Young Miss is to boost self-esteem, build character, encourage educational value, motivate creativity and stimulate competitiveness in college-bound senior girls. The contestants are also awarded numerous scholarships.

The 2011 Cheyenne County Young Miss program has been tentatively planned for June. This year's juniors will be the participants.

Harvest underway



THE COMBINES ARE GOING — Don and Donna Wright are among some of the farmers in the area who have started cutting wheat. Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Obituary

Frances Ellen (Greene) Erickson

Sept. 2, 1916 - June 19, 2009

Frances Ellen (Greene) Erickson, age 92, of McDonald, Kan., died June 19, 2009, at the Rawlins County Hospital after suffering a stroke.

Frances was born Sept. 2, 1916, to Edward and Anna Greene at Hiawatha, Neb. She was the youngest of eight children.

Although all that is left of Hiawatha is a cemetery, her parents ran a store and post office at that time. Hiawatha also included a school and a church. Francis attended school there and her folks boarded the teacher. She said that she could never get away from her teacher.

She attended high school in Benkelman, Neb., south of Hiawatha. She stayed with families and kept house for them during the weeks after school and she returned to her country home on weekends.

Frances graduated in 1934, and seldom missed an alumni banquet. She loved to see all her friends and classmates.

She met and married Axel Erickson in July 1934, and they had four children, Glenn, Wayne, Rick and Kay.

She worked in Benkelman at Ireland Store, the Circle B Motel and Chick's Bakery and Restaurant. Axel and Frances spent their earlier years in Benkelman and six months working in the canneries in Hood River, Ore., and returned to Benkelman.

They moved to Fort Morgan, Colo., in 1966, where Axel became too ill to work due to asthma. Frances worked at a restaurant for a while and then at the Fort Morgan Hospital as a nurses aide and later worked in the obstetric ward with the babies. She said she enjoyed this best. While there, she helped deliver several great-grandchildren of her own. She retired just short of 20 years.

After retiring, Francis moved

to McDonald in 1991, where her daughter, Kay and husband, Gail Miller and family lived.

Frances loved to travel, having been able to take a couple of trips with relatives to Ireland and finding cousins there, as her parents both came from Ireland as young adults. She also traveled to the northwest states of Oregon, spending time with sisters in California, also trips to the northeast states and Canada with side trips to Las Vegas and the southeastern states.

She was the one who loved family and enjoyed all of her friends. Frances had accepted the Lord and said she was looking forward to seeing her family and friends again as she was the last of her family.

Survivors include sons, Glenn and wife, Earlene Erickson of Fort Morgan, Wayne and wife, Kandy Erickson of Brush, Colo., and Rick and wife, Judy Erickson of Fort Morgan, Colo.; daughter, Kay and husband, Gail Miller of McDonald; 17 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren; also numerous nieces, nephews, friends and one sister-in-law, Alma Greene of California.

Preceding her in death were her

parents, her husband, Alex Erickson in 1976; her brothers, Bill and wife, Helen Greene, Joe and wife, Vera Greene and Eddie Greene; sisters; Lorraine and husband, Don Thurlley, Marian and husband, Arlo Kellogg, Marguerite and husband, Charley Gewhart, Helen and husband, Eddie McLaughlin and a grandson, Loren Miller.

Funeral services were conducted on June 23 at the Federated Church in McDonald with Pastor Mark Adams and Pastor Paul Fischbach

officiating.

Casket bearers included her grandsons: Paul Erickson, David Erickson, Phillip Erickson, Randy Miller, Brian Miller, Jamie Miller, Curt Erickson and Matthew Erickson.

Graveside services and interment were held at the Benkelman Cemetery in Benkelman.

A memorial has been established in her name to Talking Books and may be left at the Williams Funeral Home or sent to the family.

McDonald News

Remember the card shower for Amelia Banister for her 99th birthday on July 4.

Kenny and Phyllis Wilkinson were Wednesday afternoon visitors of Laddie and Vera Kacirek.

Doug Tongish was a Saturday visitor of his mother, Joan Tongish.

Karlyne Atchison and Amelia Banister were Sunday lunch guests of Kent and Joan Banister.

Betty Lewis was a patient at the Rawlins County Health Center this past week.

A.B. and Judy Fisher spent from Sunday to Friday in Wisconsin visiting Abe and Janet Fisher and boys.

Robin Miller, Autumn and Ivy of Clarksville, Ark., and Kelsi Miller of Bird City were Saturday visitors of Gail and Kay Miller. Randy, Sue and Justin Miller were also visitors.

Brian and Dawn Miller and family and Randy Miller were Sunday afternoon visitors of Gail and Kay Miller.



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