

Obituaries

Amelia Holzworth Banister July 4, 1910 - Feb. 15, 2013

Amelia Pauline Holzwarth was born July 4, 1910 in a sod house on the family farm northwest of St. Francis, Kan., and died on Feb. 15, 2013, at the Good Samaritan Village in Atwood, Kan. She was 102 years of age.

She was the eldest of 11 children born to George and Julia Orth Holzwarth. Amelia was baptized as an infant and confirmed at the age of 12 in the Salem Evangelical Church in rural Cheyenne County.

She and her siblings would walk the 2 1/2 miles to the Smith Country School. Upon reaching the seventh grade, her father informed her that she had received enough education. So as an early teen she went to work in St. Francis for the Dr. Wark and Dr. Peck families, then later moving to McDonald to work for the Harrison, Dobbs and Benkelman families.

While working in McDonald she met the love of her life, Robert J. Banister. They were married on July 19, 1939. They were able to celebrate 60 years of marriage and were blessed with one daughter and three sons.

Eric Dean Smith

Nov. 5, 1958 - Feb. 10, 2013

Eric Dean Smith was born Nov. 5, 1958. He grew up on the western plains of Kansas in the farming community of Bird City. As a child, he loved the freedom of a small-town setting. He was lucky enough to grow up where everyone knew his name. Even at a young age, he held a fascination for all things mechanical – either putting something together or taking something apart, whether it was a bicycle, a clubhouse or a go-cart.

He attended the Cheylin schools of Bird City. He was confirmed at Immanuel United Methodist Church and was an avid Boy Scout. He attended Kansas State University earning a bachelor's degree in milling science. His residence was primarily in Vancouver, Wash.

Eric was a pioneer in the fledgling biomass fuel industry, specializing in wood pelleting. His technical expertise and endless hours of experimenting with dies and raw materials significantly affect the industry worldwide. He traveled extensively throughout the U.S., Canada, China, South America and Europe.

As a young married couple, they began their life southeast of McDonald on his Uncle Jim and Aunt Isa's farm where they lived in a small one-bedroom home, then later moved into the main house. Many Saturday evenings were spent watching Lawrence Welk and Gunsmoke on Ernie and Irene Kehlbeck's black and white television. Neighbors and friends often gathered to play Canasta, Bridge and Pinochle.

It was a given that anyone in need could depend on Bob and Amelia for their support. After his uncle's death, Bob and Amelia continued to farm until semi-retiring and moving into McDonald in 1975. They spent their retirement years traveling abroad to Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Germany, but their favorite trip by far was their trip to the Holy Land. It was during this trip that Bob and Amelia were re-baptized in the Jordan River by Reverend Charles Miller.

Amelia was member of the Federated Church in McDonald for 74 years and enjoyed quilting with the Ladies' Guild for 50 years. Her quilts were too numerous to

count and cherished by those who received them. She was able to quilt into her 90s until her eyesight would no longer allow her.

She was a 25 year member of the McDonald Garden Club and spent hours tending her garden and beautiful flowers. It was a rare day if you did not see her outside with a hoe in her hand. Her homemade rolls, both cinnamon and dinner, were a favorite everywhere she went, along with her crème candies she made every Christmas. Amelia and Bob shared their love of faith, family and farming.

Later in life, she loved attending high school football and basketball games even if none of her grandchildren were playing. She was a devoted Cheylin Cougar fan and her good health allowed her to attend these games even after she turned 100 years old.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, siblings Lillie (Raymond) Schuricht, Leonard (Lyda), Helen (Bill) Cole, Mona (Dale) Soehner, Bertha (Coy) DeGood, Alvin (Marie), Ted (Margaret), and Haddon (Cleone).

She is survived by her daughter Karlyne and sons Jim (Cheryl), George (Kathy) and Kent (Joan), all of McDonald, sisters Viola Jones of Sharon Springs and Lucile (Albert) Zimbelman of Carson City, Minn., sister-in-law Marie Holzwarth, grandchildren James, Art and Paula Atchison of Dallas, Texas, Tammi (Wade) Carmichael of Bird City, Ami (Kevin) Torrey of Rutherfordton, N.C., Jamie Banister of Washington, D.C., Amanda (Brandon) Winter of Andale, David of McDonald, Debi Banister of Topeka, great-grandchildren Dillon, Erika and Emily Atchison, Teryn and Ty Carmichael and Avery Winter, many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Funeral services were officiated by Pastor Mark Adams and Pastor Dan Carson at the Federated Church in McDonald on Feb. 20. Pallbearers were James Atchison, Art Atchison, David Banister, Wade Carmichael, Kevin Torrey, and Lanny DeGood. Interment was in Grace Cemetery in McDonald.

Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis, was in charge of the arrangements.

County road work begins end of month

At the end of the month, the county road and bridge crew will be ripping up asphalt on the "Douthit hill" north of St. Francis. They will also be working on 5.5 miles of the road south of the state shop (Road 14), 9 miles of Road 28 from Road M to D (the Edson Road), and 4 miles of Road 25 from U.S. 36 to Road R (north of Hendricks Grain).

The department, said Dave Flemming, supervisor, will be renting a soil stabilizer and a vibratory sheepsfoot packer to do the work. For two weeks, the

stabilizer will cost \$8,300 a week (\$16,600), the packer will cost \$1,830 a week (\$3,660). The cost also includes the insurance.

The total rent of the equipment, he said, will cost \$20,240. The work will be done early enough in the season so we got the equipment for a better price.

The work will take around two weeks, Mr. Flemming said. Because the equipment is only rented for two weeks, we will probably run longer hours and possibly work on Saturday to utilize our weekly rental.



PRAIRIE LAND works quickly to replace power lines before more high winds arrive.

Legislative News *Ward Cassidy 120th State Representative*

Medicaid

Expanding Medicaid coverage in Kansas is another hot topic for the Kansas Legislature this year. The federal government has indicated they will cover 100 percent of the expansion costs for the first several years and then reduce their participation to 90 percent. What the Governor and Legislature are unsure of is whether the federal government will be able to keep this commitment to the state of Kansas.

I am very aware of how once Kansas accepts federal money, how tied we become and how much paperwork is required to conform to federal standards.

As you know, it is imperative the federal government begins to address our national debt and the unfunded liabilities of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. As your representative, I have an obligation to ensure our state has the ability to cover the costs of this expansion now and in the future.

I understand there are Kansans struggling in these tough

economic times, and many simply lack the income to cover the high costs of medical care. I have heard from the Kansas Hospital Association, and they state a desire to see the approval of Medicaid expansion. They are concerned about lower health care reimbursement rates from the federal government and the desired outcome of the Affordable Care Act resulting in fewer Medicaid patients visiting the emergency room because of expanded health insurance coverage.

I have not yet seen the budget numbers or budget forecasts on the costs of expanding Medicaid coverage. Knowing the facts and figures will make the discussion more accurate.

All current Medicaid recipients were enrolled in the new KanCare program effective Jan. 1. In an earlier article, I listed the three main Managed Care Organizations for Kansas. The first problem is that as of Jan. 1, only 10 percent of those receiving services have their



card. This had an immediate effect on pharmacies, as patients had no way of getting their prescriptions. Also, pharmacists found out that several of the prescriptions cost them more to purchase than they could sell them for. It is very frustrating that we would start a program without all the pieces in place.

There has been a great deal of effort to insure continuity of care, but it is falling short. There is a wealth of information for interested persons at www.KanCare.Ks.gov. There is also a customer service number at (866) 305-5147. If all else fails, please contact me.

There will be a KanCare educational meeting in Colby on Feb. 20.

Student News

John Binning, McDonald, has graduated from Fort Hays State University with a bachelor's degree in information networking and telecommunications from Fort Hays State University.

Binning is one of 527 undergraduate and 125 graduate students who completed requirements for degrees in the fall 2012 semester.

Conservation section in this issue



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Legislative Town Hall Meetings

with Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer and Rep. Ward Cassidy, Rep. Couture-Lovelady

Saturday, February 23, 2013

8-9 a.m. CT	St. Francis	Cuppa Joe Espresso
10-11 a.m. CT	Atwood	Williams Bros. Grocery
12-1 p.m. CT	Oberlin	Decatur Co. Courthouse
2-3 p.m. CT	Norton	Town and Country Kitchen
4-5p.m. CT	Logan	Hampton Memorial Plaza

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