

# Obituary

## Vera Kacirek

Feb. 13, 1922 - March 3, 2014



Vera Kacirek

Vera (Harper) Kacirek was born on Feb. 13, 1922, at the farm home north-west Rawlins County. She was the youngest daughter of Elmer C. Harper and Bessie (Hatch) Harper.

In 1930, the family moved to Benkelman, Neb., where Vera attended grade and high school, graduating with the class of 1939. She attended Hastings College, acquiring a teaching degree.

After teaching one year at Sumner, Neb., she taught fifth grade in Benkelman. On Jan. 15, 1945 she married Laddie Kacirek at St. John's Catholic Church in Beardsley.

They made their home on a farm north of McDonald. In 1959 they moved to a new home built by Laddie and his father, Theo Kacirek.

Three children came to make a complete family. They were Douglas Linn, Linda Susan and David Kevin.

Vera continued her love of working with children by being a 4-H leader for 21 years, and taught a second grade catechism class at St. Joseph's Church in Bird City. After raising her own children, her joy was her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was a member of St. Joseph's Church, Bird City, St. Joseph's Altar Society and McDonald Area Development. Through her love of gardening she joined Kansas Associated Garden Club

in 1961. She served as president of the McDonald Garden Club, as well as holding district, state, and regional offices. For many years, Vera and Laddie enjoyed traveling to polka dances with the Sunflower Polka Club.

Vera and Laddie moved to Prairie Plaza Retirement Center in Atwood in 2008. There, they continued to make new friends and supported the community. In April 2011, Vera and Laddie moved to the Oberlin Good Samaritan. There, Vera was loved by her caregivers and received wonderful care. Many looked forward to seeing her beautiful smile each day.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Elmer and Bessie Harper; her husband's parents Theo and Josie Kacirek, who she loved dearly; one son Douglas Kacirek, and two sisters Velma

Mayfield and Leola Jakel, and her loving husband Laddie of 66 years.

She is survived by her daughter Susie Sabatka and husband RJ; son, David Kacirek and wife Becky; four granddaughters, three grandsons, and 12 great-grandchildren, sister-in-law, Phyllis Wilkinson and husband Kenneth, nieces, nephews, and a host of friends.

Visitation was held Thursday, March 6, at Baalman Mortuary, Atwood. Vigil service was held at 6 p.m.; funeral Mass was held Friday, March 7, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Atwood. Memorials are suggested to Good Samaritan Society Decatur County in care of Baalman Mortuary, 109 N 2nd St, Atwood KS 67730. Online condolences: www.baalmanmortuary.com

# Fair board buys portable sale arena

By Amanda Miller  
amiller@nwkans.com

The Cheyenne County Fair Board met Thursday, March 6. A portable sale arena has been found that the board decided to purchase. Also, a letter was received addressing the water shortage of the Ogallala Aquifer, and suggesting the mud volleyball tournament be cancelled or moved to the new sand pits.

A portable sale arena was found by Drew Flemming for the price of \$3,500, which is at a cheaper price than others that were found. After some discussion, it was agreed to purchase the arena. Treasurer Sarah Kinzer issued a check for Mr. Flemming to take with him to purchase the portable arena.

President Dick Bursch read a

letter from Dave Flemming about the mud volleyball tournament. The letter addressed the water shortage of the Ogallala Aquifer, and suggested that the tournament be cancelled or moved to the sand pits south of the swimming pool. The board decided to continue with the mud volleyball tournament this year, with the possibility of the tournament being cancelled in 2015.

In a follow up from last meeting, treasurer Sarah Kinzer reported that she reissued all fair checks from 2011-2012. She will also reissue all uncashed checks from 2013, and all checks can be picked up at the extension office.

Sometime in February, the heat in the Exhibit Building was turned off. Two pipes broke causing a

large water leak. Signs are to be made stating that the heat is not to be lower than 50 degrees. Also, Ms. Kinzer reported that the carbon monoxide reading in the water heater room is significantly high. President Bursch said he would visit with Heartland HVAC about having the room properly ventilated.

The judge Blake Krien selected has agreed to judge the demolition derby this year. Mr. Krien asked the board what their opinion was of running a Calcutta class. After some discussion, Mr. Bursch and Mr. Krien said they would visit with the Cheyenne County Attorney and County Commissioners about it.

**Extension agent report**  
Marty Fear, Cheyenne County

Extension Agent, reported that he and Linda Elfers have mailed out the 2014 Fair Book Ad letter and submission form.

Mr. Fear also discussed the new swine disease that is from Canada. Due to this highly contagious disease, there will be no spring swine weigh. Marty will tag the pigs himself at their farms.

Finally, Mr. Fear noted that there is still no swine superintendent or rifle instructor. If anyone knows of any interested participants to be superintendents, they are to let the extension office know.

**Next meeting**  
The next meeting for Cheyenne County Fair Board will be on Thursday, April 3 at 7 p.m. in the Commissioner's Room at the Courthouse.

## Legislative News *Ward Cassidy 120th State Rep*

There was only a two day legislative session last week. The big news came from the State Supreme Court on Friday at 9:30 am. The high court ordered the three-judge district court panel to consider whether the Legislature, by session's end, can eliminate disparities in funding school district capital outlay and Local Option Budget (LOB) supplemental funds. The basic idea is that wherever the student is from they should have a suitable and equitable education. Those two funds together would be about a \$130 million cost to the legislature.

The issue puts the three judge panel squarely between the Legislature and school districts. Most school districts want the funding, but they are aware that if the panel rejects the legislature efforts, they would lose lots of dollars because the panel was ordered to freeze funds if the inequities are not solved.

My belief is that if the Supreme Court would have ruled for a \$440 million settlement, which was the figure most thrown around, there would have been tremendous unrest between

the Legislature and Courts. I also believe our leadership would have just said no to the courts. This week should give us a good indication on how the Governor and Legislature will deal with the additional expense.

School lawsuits have gone on in Kansas since 1972 and it would be wonderful if a lasting solution could be found. I have said all along that Western Kansas education is not a problem. Everything I have seen shows me higher graduation rates, attendance rates, and outstanding student achievement from our area. Unfortunately, there is only one school finance formula.

Issues are heating up and it will become very interesting in Topeka the next few weeks. There is no doubt that the upcoming election will play a big part in how leadership proceeds.

A good news item: Kansas exports grew by more than 6% in 2013. There was \$12.45 billion in exports which is the second highest total in Kansas history. The three biggest areas we export to: Canada, China, and Mexico.

# Analysis will be given over new Farm Bill

Dr. Art Barnaby is conducting a series of six discussions around the state to explain the provisions of the new 2014 Farm Bill. He will be providing analysis of both the primary programs for the major crops in Kansas, as well as changes to crop insurance.

Dr. Barnaby is an agricultural economist at Kansas State University. The program will focus on the 2014 Farm Bill, updated government commodity programs, the "new" price loss coverage option and agriculture risk coverage option, and the supplemental coverage option. Dr. Barnaby's northwest stop will be in Rawlins County, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Atwood, on Monday March 24 from 10 a.m. to noon. It is open to

all producers interested in learning details of the Farm Bill as it relates to their farming operation.

No RSVP is required. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. For more information please contact the Cheyenne County Extension Office at 785-332-3171 or the Rawlins County Extension Office at 785-626-3192.

## Honor Roll

New and renewed Times subscriptions: Brendon Haack, Bird City; Kevin Burkhalter, Benkelman, Neb.; Dan Sowers, Bird City; George Banister, McDonald; Maj. Michael Lusk, San Antonio, Texas.



**MARCH BIRTHDAY celebrants enjoy cake at the Senior Center. Pictured are Dean Knapp, Barbara Waters, Dorothy Chipperfield, Dee Dorsch, Ruth Rooney, Carol Peters. Not pictured Norm Dorsch**



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**Trees for Sale**

The Cheyenne County Conservation District will be taking orders for trees and shrubs.

Order early to guarantee availability. Anyone may order in any amount. Trees will be available for pick up on Saturday, April 12, 2014, from 8 a.m. to noon.

We also sell heavy duty fabric weed barrier and drip supplies for your wind-breaks, gardens or landscaping projects. Stop by the office on West Highway 36, St. Francis or call 785-332-2341 ext. 101 to order your trees

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**Business Directory** To list your business, call 785-332-3162.

<p><b>The Saint Francis Herald</b> <i>Bird City Times</i> Advertising Manager <b>Tim Burr</b> tburr@nwkans.com</p> <p>Phone 719-761-6238 785-332-3162 PO Box 1050 785-332-3001 (fax) St. Francis, KS 67756 sf.herald@nwkans.com</p>	<p><b>Jensen's</b></p> <p><b>Kay Jensen - Owner</b> 785-332-2317</p> <p><b>Pete Jensen - Salesperson</b> 785-332-8215</p> <p>Box 281 - St. Francis, KS Call us for monuments to honor your loved one</p>
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*The Public is Invited...*

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Cheylin Entrepreneurship Fair**

**Thursday, March 27, 2014**

**Cheylin High School Gymnasium**

Stop by the E-Fair and check out the students' business projects.

**9:15am - View participant projects and visit with resource partners**

**10:15am - Speaker**

**11:00am - Announcement of Award Winners**

Any person or business interested in creating their own award, monetary or otherwise, and judge the participants with their own criteria, can contact Bird City Century II for additional information on how to make it happen!!

**Support our youth...our future!**  
\$500, \$300 & \$200 Scholarship Awards presented on behalf of Bird City Century II Development Foundation

