

Graduate plays in Shrine Bowl game

By Betty Jean Winston
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Ethan Zwegardt, St. Francis graduate and Indian football player, was a member of the West football team which earned their fourth straight Kansas Shrine Bowl victory on Saturday. The final score was 14-7. This was the first four-year winning streak in Shrine Bowl history.

Zwegardt reported that he was involved in playing offensive guard on every other series so all the players had the same amount of playing time. On one long series he played almost the whole quarter. He was also on the special after-touchdown attempt team.

"The Shriners had excellent arrangements for us," Zwegardt said. "We stayed at St. John Military Academy in Salina during the week of practice. They fed us well throughout the whole week. I ap-

preciate the efforts they put out for the players.

"I was so excited to be playing. It was such an honor to be chosen and a perfect way to end my high school career."

On the first day when the West team members arrived in Salina, there was a period of introduction of the players along with an opportunity to meet and hear from the coaches. He said the coaches were exceptional, really nice people. They then had time for two practice sessions.

Saturday was a special day, as the players traveled to St. Louis to visit a Shrine Hospital. First they went by bus to Kansas City and then by train to St. Louis.

"The trip was awesome," Zwegardt said. "Being at the Shrine Hospital really put into prospective why we were playing the game and why we were at camp all week."

He met and visited with a couple of the kids. He said he was very impressed with the hospital and how happy the kids were. They enjoyed meeting the players and the players found it a meaningful experience.

Players on both the East and West teams were composed of the top 68 football stars who played their final high school football season this past year. Team players were chosen by members of the media and coaches. Proceeds from all Shrine Bowl events support the Shriners' Hospitals for Children.

Sunday through Tuesday, the players prepared for the game with three-a-day practices.

Wednesday and Thursday they had two practices a day in Salina as they went into the finals days of preparation for the game.

Friday involved the move to Wichita and the team had their first practice at Cessna Stadium at Wichita State University.

"The players got along really well," Zwegardt said. "The coach said the team came together like never before."

That evening the Shrine Banquet was held which Zwegardt said everyone enjoyed. There was talk among the West team and coaches about making it four wins in a row. The East team had also arrived in Wichita from Emporia.

Saturday was the big day. The players rode on a flatbed trailer as part of the Shrine Parade. The rest of the day consisted of a team lunch, some down time and a team supper at 4 p.m. It was then time to get ready for the big game.

The West team scored the first touchdown of the night on a drive



Zwegardt

early in the game. The touchdown came on a run by Zimmerman of Junction City.

A 61-yard touchdown pass by the East team evened the score at 7-7. This was the one and only score which the West defensive allowed during the game.

The scoring for the game all took place early in the evening. Following the score being tied by the East team, the West offense took over on the East's 37-yard line due to a short punt by the East team.

Seven plays later the West had the necessary points to win the game. The West team had a good defensive team which carried them to the final buzzer.

"Playing football in St. Francis was an awesome experience," Zwegardt said. "I was well prepared."

Now that August is here, it is almost time for Ethan to head to Seward County Community College and Technical School in Liberal where he will be continuing his education.



Kelsi and Brandon Carver

Couple exchange vows during wedding

Kelsi Bowers and Brandon Carver were married April 18, 2009, at Hoxie Christian Church, Hoxie, with Derek Slack officiating.

Parents of the couple are Dan and Janelle Bowers, Bird City, Paula Carver, Hoxie, and Scot and Virginia Carver, Colby.

Grandparents of the couple are Carolyn Rosenfelt, Benkelman, Neb., and the late Gene Rosenfelt, the late Glenn and Leota Bowers, Margaret Taylor, Hoxie, and the late Howard Taylor and Ray and Velma Carver, Liebenthal.

Matron of honor was Lacey Mallory, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Amy Chessmore and Micalyn Scott.

Best man was Will Bates.

Groomsmen were Shane Went, cousin of the groom, and Brandon Offutt.

Ushers were J.R. Kaiser, Dusty Bell and Kyle Jones, and Adam Babcock, cousin of the groom.

Flower girl was Genesis Harvey, daughter of the groom. Ring bearer was Peyton Bates, son of the best man.

The bride is a 2002 graduate of Cheylin High School, Bird City, and is currently employed with United Bio Energy, Hoxie.

The groom is a 2003 graduate of Hoxie High School and is currently employed with the Hoxie Police Department.

The newlyweds are at home in Hoxie.

Obituaries

Arlene G. Merklin

Aug. 8, 1931 - July 10, 2009

Arlene G. Merklin of Benkelman, Neb., died Friday, July 10, 2009, at Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, Neb., at the age of 77.

She was born Aug. 8, 1931, at St. Francis, Kan., the eldest daughter of Frank and Lelya (Forsythe) Wollbach and grew up in the St. Francis area, attending grade and high school, graduating with the class of 1949. She attended her 60th class reunion on June 20.

After graduation, Arlene worked at a drug store and later for Jim Jones Caldwell Propane in St. Francis. In 1953, by chance, Arlene met David O. Merklin, who had just returned from military service to civilian life. She met him at a friend's apartment. After getting acquainted, Dave asked her for a date and she immediately said yes.

Later, Dave proposed and the two were married at the Presbyterian Church in Benkelman on June 2, 1957, officiated by Arlene's St. Francis preacher. This led to a lifetime of romance.

After a brief honeymoon, Dave and Arlene moved west of Benkelman on a farm that Dave and his brother owned. Times were really tough and Arlene helped milk the cows and looked after the livestock.

On June 8, 1958, they were blessed with a daughter, Gina Marie; son, David O. II was born Sept. 1, 1962; Arletta Elaine arrived Nov. 11, 1963, and Frank Albert was born Sept. 5, 1968.

Arlene worked at the Benkelman Grade School cafeteria until she started a new job at the Independent Elevator for John Ham as a bookkeeper, where she excelled for years.

She then retired and looked after her husband, Dave, their children and grandchildren.

Arlene was a loyal member of the American Legion Auxiliary and the Red Hatters Club.

Preceding her in death were her parents, and son, David O. Merklin II.

She leaves to mourn her husband of 52 years; children, Gina Marie and husband, Carl Hunt; Arletta and Andy Craw, Frank and wife, Candie; grandchildren, Holly Hunt, Stephane (Hunt) and her husband, Mike Workman; Jessica (Hunt) and husband, Fred Durham, Cara Hunt and Jasper Hunt; Austin, Alyssa and Ashlan Craw; Cammi, Savannah and Braxton Merklin; great-granddaughter, Jordyn Nicole Hunt and unborn great-grandson, John Robert Cook III.

Visitation was held at Forch Funeral Chapel in Benkelman on Monday, July 13. Funeral services were held Tuesday, July 14, at the Benkelman Community Center with Pastor Bear Davis officiating.

Interment followed the services at the Benkelman Cemetery.

A memorial has been established in her name.

Mildred (Mickey) Elizabeth Lampe

April 6, 1919 - July 23, 2009

Mildred (affectionately known as Mickey) Elizabeth Lampe was born on April 6, 1919, to Dave and Mary Burchett. She was a life-long resident of Cheyenne County, Kan.

She resided at the Sarah Ann Hester Home in Benkelman, Neb., since Aug. 29, 2008. Mickey died on July 23, 2009, after a brief hospitalization at the Dundey County Hospital in Benkelman.

She attended the Northrup School District 35 through her grade school years and graduated from St. Francis High School in 1936.

Prior to her marriage to Mervin Lampe, in her parent's home in April of 1947, Mickey owned and operated a beauty salon in St. Francis.

On Dec. 21, 1947, she was baptized and confirmed by Pastor H. Stegemann at Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Francis.

In later years, she again worked as a beautician for a time for another shop owner. Mickey also worked several years in the Cheyenne County Register of Deeds office. She and

Mervin, farmed west of St. Francis for many years.

Mickey eventually moved to town in the early 1990s.

She was a long-time member of the Rising Star Rebekah Lodge 675 and Peace Lutheran Church.

Mickey will be remembered by her friends as fun loving. She enjoyed playing bridge, pitch and pinochle. She also loved to travel. Mickey was a Godparent to several children.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Mervin Lampe; sister, Blanche Reynolds, brother-in-law, Bion Reynolds; and dearly loved niece, JorJean Reynolds.

Funeral services were held on July 27 at the Peace Lutheran Church in St. Francis with Pastor Ken Hart officiating.

Casket bearers were Tim Stimbert, Ron Linner, Melvin Schleppe, Pat Stuart, Dale Henderson and Troy Stimbert.

Interment was in the St. Francis Cemetery.

Department heads give report at meeting

By Karen Krien

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Two department heads were present at the Thursday Cheyenne County Hospital Board meeting.

Erika Zimbelman, clinic manager, and Amelia Zuege, outpatient service and surgery manager, reported what was going on in their departments.

Clinic

Mrs. Zimbelman said that the change to four-day work week was going well with the staff. It should, she said, help with the productivity standard. In addition it will make more appointments available during the week.

She said Dr. Rebecca Allard would be off after the fair and Tyler Raile, physician assistant, would be back the last week of July after having shoulder surgery.

New this year is the free school physicals. The physicals, she said, are being done in conjunction with the county health department and are a service to the community.

The Farm Workers program, she said, has continued to grow with the employees at the Bird City Dairy and local feed yards.

Mrs. Zimbelman said she is spending a lot of time with collections. She said there were prob-

ably twice as many collection calls this month as there were last month. When asked the process of collections, she said the client first receives a statement; the second statement includes a sticker telling them they are past due; and the third statement is accompanied with a phone call.

Outpatient clinics/surgery

Mrs. Zuege said she sets up appointments for out-patient clinics and outreach doctors. She does surgery set up, and schedules echocardiograms, mammograms, and dexascans. Doctors she works with include Dr. Curtis, cardiologist, and Dr. Johnson, dermatologist, Dr. Reeves, podiatrist, Dr. Uyemura, cataract surgery, Dr. Saba, orthopedist; and Dr. Rubinowitz, oncology.

We are, she said, continuing to look for a urologist to come to St. Francis.

With this said, she reported that when the outreach doctors have surgery, there is often not enough room to handle the patient volume. It is hard - almost embarrassing, she said, to shuffle patients around to make room.

I know, she said, that the facility improvement plan calls for adding onto the hospital and that money is tight but, more room is definitely needed.

Introducing

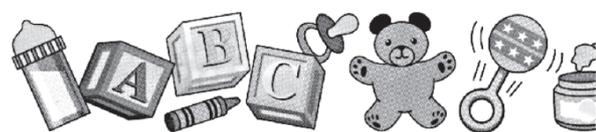
Cooper Elijah Weeden

Cooper Elijah Weeden, son of Jeff and Holly Weeden, was born July 17, 2009, at Mercy Health Center, Manhattan. He weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces and was 21-1/4 inches long. He was welcomed home by big sister, Leilani.

Grandparents are Gaylen and Dorothy Weeden of St. Francis and Dave and Frank Rigert of Rapid City, S. D.



Cooper Weeden



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Preregistration is required. Registration and further information about this event can be obtained at <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/sdi/events/sdievent.htm> or from Vicki Brown, 785-462-6281 or vbrown@ksu.edu