

# Resident honored at nursing home

By Karen Krien  
karen.k@nwkansas.com

Elsie Cook is the Good Samaritan Village Resident of the Month. Family, friends, Village residents and staff gathered to hear her story as Cathy Loop interviewed her on Wednesday, May 15.

Mrs. Cook was born on Feb. 19, 1923, near Haigler but she was raised in Cheyenne County. In fact, she spent most of her life in the county.

Her parents were Jacob and Rosie Straub. One of her memories of growing up was playing and "fussing" with siblings and there were lots to play and fuss with. She had nine siblings, brothers, Oscar, Paul and Harry, and sisters, Ida, Lucille, Bernice, Irene, and Luella. Elsie was the oldest.

She grew up on the farm northwest of St. Francis. Her sisters, Irene and Bernice, are still living there, she said.

She attended West country school which was a quarter of a mile away and they generally walked to school. She well remembers during the 1930s when the dirt blew so bad that it was black outside. We had to stay at the school all night, she said.

Her favorite subject in school was math. After she graduated from the eighth grade, she went to work for the Stassers and the Vandikes.

It was while working for the

one of the families that she met her husband, Curtis Miller. He was also working for the family and on Jan. 1, 1946, they were married.

She and Curtis had six children: Sam, Esther, Ann, Janis, Doris and Toni. She helped with the farm work, raised and butchered chickens, along with taking care of the kids.

As a young woman, she said one of the things she most remembered was the war stamps and the rationing of food, especially sugar.

In 1971, after 25 years of marriage, Curtis died. She then married John Cook in 1975. Both husbands served their country in the military. She also had a sister, son and grandson serve.

Through the years, Elsie was involved in the VFW, Farm Bureau Sunflower Club and Rebekahs. She enjoyed traveling to Dodge City to see Boot Hill, to the Black Hills, Salt Lake City, New Jersey and Las Vegas. She said she was only in Las Vegas once and did some gambling while there.

Her family, especially the grandchildren, had some fun stories to tell on her. Grandson, Chad Miller, said she butchered and cooked his 4-H duck and served it for dinner. She didn't tell us it was my duck until after we had eaten, he said.



**RESIDENT OF THE MONTH** — Elsie Cook, middle, is interviewed at her reception by Cathy Loop, left. Also pictured is Chad Miller.  
Herald staff photo by Karen Krien.

Tina Voorhies, granddaughter, said they would tease her and it would make Grandma so mad!

Daughter, Toni, said one day, she thought she could outrun her mother. I was wrong, she said. She chased me with a fly swatter in her hand until she caught me.

Her family talked about the hours she spent in the basement

cleaning chickens and getting them in the freezer. They also remembered the time spent picking sweet corn, then husking it, taking the kernels off the cobs and freezing it. We always had corn from the freezer and it was the best, Chad said.

Elsie was also known for nursing animals back to health. She nursed a baby bird to adulthood. Toni said she had to dig worms for it. Today, Toni still has the bird but now it eats bird seed.

She also nursed kittens after they had lost their mother. She made sure her cats were well fed. Chad remembered that every day, she fixed a pan of gravy and added bread which she fed to the cats. Elsie said it was cheaper than buying cat food.

Elsie's advice to young people is to always try to do the best you can at whatever you do! And, said Mrs. Loop, that is very good advice.

Following the recognition, everyone enjoyed a power-point presentation showing Elsie as a young girl, her family and other photos. Ice cream bars were then served.

# Garden still in need of donations

St Francis Community Garden has raised enough for the down payment on the greenhouse. Now we are working on the closing costs, insurance, start up costs, etc.

We are all very excited about growing some much needed produce to sell year-round at a reasonable price because there is no freight expense, said Dianna Padgett, one of the gardeners. We are thinking about the possibility of installing solar power that will be on the grid and might actually supplement the city's power supply.

We will be creating jobs, eventually many jobs, she said. We will have the space to rent to other businesses so they can grow as well. We will have a Farmer's Market for local gardeners and crafts people.

The budget allows for 25 percent of the produce to be given to local establishments, the hos-

pital, schools, Good Samaritan, and others. Last year, almost 800 pounds of food was distributed and it was fresh — just out of a garden plot.

Once the word gets out that we are open, said Bernadette Lunsford, one of the organizers, people from surrounding areas will come to St Francis to visit the greenhouse and buy gas or eat or visit the shops, bringing in more business for everyone.

"What starts out as fodder to a compost bin ends up as the rich soil for growth."

Help us make this dream come true, for our town's sake. We still need \$30,000 to meet the budget but every penny helps. People can donate at the website at [www.stfranciscommunitygarden.org](http://www.stfranciscommunitygarden.org) or talk to a member of the board: Jason Padgett, Susan Griffin, Joe Caldart, Nathan Boyer, Dianna Padgett or Kale Dankenbring.

## Obituaries

### Edith Marie Zweygardt

Dec. 5, 1927 - May 13, 2013

Edith Marie Zweygardt, 85, died on May 13, 2013, in Williamsburg, Colo. Edith was born to Frank and Mable (Leech) Bullock on Dec. 5, 1927, in Cozad, Neb. She had one brother, Arden, and two sisters, Lila Mae Fraenkron and Mary Jeanette Smith.

Edith attended school in Haigler, Neb. She married Rudy Zweygardt on May 2, 1948, in Benkelman, Neb. In addition to raising her two sons, Johnnie and Ronald, and grandson, Stuart, Edith worked as a cook.

Rudy and Edith moved to Englewood, Colo., in 1956. Edith retired from Montgomery Wards after more than 20 years of service as a restaurant manager. She was living in Williamsburg at the time of her death.

During her life, Edith loved to cook, garden, camp and crafts. She was a hard working, kind and giving woman, dedicated to her family, church and community.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Rudy, her parents, her brother and one sister.

She is survived by her children Johnnie and Pat Zweygardt, Westcliffe, Colo., their children and grandchildren; Ronald and Lucinda Zweygardt, Hudson, Colo., their children and grandchildren; Edith's grandchildren Stuart Zweygardt, Lochbuie, Colo., and Nicci Beauprez, Hudson, Colo., and her children. Additionally, she is survived by her sister, Lila Mae of Evergreen, Colo., and numerous nieces and nephews, all of whom she dearly loved.

Services will be held at the Salem Lutheran Church in St. Francis, Kan., on May 25, at 2 p.m. with inurnment following at the Salem Cemetery directly following. Lunch will be served after the services.

Arrangements handled through Holt Family Funeral Home. Online condolences at [www.holtfamilyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.holtfamilyfuneralhomes.com).

# Local conservation district conducts cost share sign-up

Cheyenne County Conservation District is conducting a cost share sign-up May 20 through June 14, to accept requests for state financial assistance to install enduring conservation practices. The conservation district administers state cost share programs locally to improve water quality and reduce soil erosion. Funding is provided by the Kansas Department of Agriculture - Division of Conservation.

Landowners with natural resource concerns on their property are encouraged to visit the conservation district to discuss the possibility of receiving financial assistance. Natural resources concerns that are eligible are terraces, grassed waterways, field windbreaks, grass plantings, livestock water supplies, cross fencing, septic systems, and abandoned well

plugging. The sign-up does not guarantee approval of cost-share financial assistance. Projects started or completed prior to being approved for funding are not eligible for these funds.

Following the sign-up deadline each request is carefully reviewed to ensure eligibility. The proposed project is ranked according to a system developed by the county district. The ranking system ensures fairness to landowners and ensures cost-share funds are used to meet local conservation priorities. Landowners approved for the program are notified of the practice(s) approved and the estimated amount of cost-share that will be provided. Before the work can begin the contract must be approved by the division of conservation and must be signed by the landowner(s).

The Conservation District works closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to protect and conserve natural resources, primarily soil and water. Conservation practices funded with state cost-share funds must be installed and maintained according to specifications. It is necessary that landowners work closely with Natural Resources Conservation Service in the planning stages to ensure practices are applied correctly. Technical assistance for these practices is provided free of charge by the Department of Agriculture.

For more information concerning cost-share programs and other available services, contact Danielle Holzwarth, district manager, Cheyenne County Conservation District, 785-332-2341 ext 101.

**REAL ESTATE - Antiques/Collectibles - Shop & Garden - Household/Dishes**

**Pep and Fern Martin Estate and**      **Sat, June 1, 2013 - 10 a.m. MT**  
**Real Estate Auction**      **Sale Site: Legion Hall, Benkelman, NE**  
Lunch will be served.

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**Open House Friday, May 31, 2013, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Real Estate will sell at 1 p.m. sale day**  
*(Offered as Public Auction this will include 1 corner 2 bedroom Ranch Home at 919 Fremont St., Benkelman, NE. The Home and the Lot across the street will be offered separately, then offered combined together, whichever will realize the better the most money. This home features a very nice Brick Finished basement detached 2-car garage. Nice yard, front & back of home. Full basement party finished. Kitchen area, family room, office area, & 1 year of credit from your banker is required prior to auction. This property is sold as is, where is, NO Warranties expressed or implied.*

**PARCEL NO. HOUSE: 20000707**  
**PARCEL NO. LOT: 20010381**  
ADDRESS: 919 Fremont St., Benkelman, NE.  
YEAR BUILT: 1960  
**HOUSE LOT SIZE: 7977'3487"**  
**LOT SIZE: 1007'7347"**  
**HOUSE LEGAL: Lot 1-5 24' Lot 20, Block 3, South Addition to Benkelman.**  
**LOT LEGAL: Lot 4, Block 6, South Addition to Benkelman.**  
**HOUSE SQ. FT: 1,264 sq. ft. on main floor & 1,080 sq. ft. in basement according to courthouse records.**  
**REAL ESTATE TAXES: 2012 on the Home \$1,442.42**  
2012 on the Lot \$48.08

**TITLE:** A Title Insurance Commitment showing good title will be provided. The cost of title insurance & taxes will be divided equally between purchaser and seller (50/50).

**POSSESSION:** Upon closing to be held on or before June 21, 2013.

**TERMS & PAYMENT:** Offered on a cash basis only. NO CONTINGENCIES. Purchaser will make a 20% deposit with the signing of the purchase agreement immediately following the auction. The remainder shall be due on or before June 21, 2013. A letter of credit from your banker is required prior to auction. This property is sold as is, where is, NO Warranties expressed or implied.

**AGENCY:** Ken Bremer & Bremer Auction & Realty are agents representing the seller. (Seller Agents)

**Auction Conducted by:**  
Bremer Auction & Realty  
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Kansas, NE 66407  
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[www.308auction.com](http://www.308auction.com)  
Ken Bremer, Auctioneer/Broker  
For viewing contact Bremer Auction & Realty.  
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**Household/Dishes**  
Consistent quantities. 15.5 cu ft MagicChef microwave  
C61 heavy-duty wicker/leather set: Two Bedrooms set, King (metal) Kitchen drop leaf table with chairs Oak dining table (metal) Beds, rockers, other chairs, table-covered ottoman  
Lots of nice cabinets & files, table-covered ottoman  
Glass topped office desk  
Bookshelves 27" color TV  
(2) Benkelman vacuum, like new Electro Band tape/cassette player Advance graphics equalizer Kenko movie projector/overhead projector Stereo & records  
Cameo PC25 copy machine  
(1) Sharp halogen down, set  
(1) Oak bar stool chairs     3 Swivel chairs  
Glass beer table  
Crate & Barrel "Nico" Angled curio cabinet Bookshelves, End table  
Hammocks, card table, TV trays  
Display racks  
Numerous cookbooks, books & encyclopedias  
Sewing basket, lots of fabric & thread  
Fancy silver tea set (gold, silver/crystal, brass, etc)  
Collection of blue glasses  
Black jettison set, King (metal)  
Fancy glasses, white & color plates  
Lots of silverware & bakeware (Piercing, pyrex, corning ware)  
Crate pots, wicker sets, can opener, toaster, etc  
Cookie jar, pitchers, skillets, etc  
Nice towels, handkerchiefs & heavy dishes  
Suzuki steel pots & pans, etc  
Lots of items too numerous to mention

**Shop & Garden**  
25 x 8 ft. extension, 15.5 cu ft B&D work bench, size 200 extension ladder, 60" & 40" step ladders 16 T chain hoist     Sew tables  
ShopVac (wet/dry), electric fans  
Garden/Mulch soil blower  
Dual action Tiger saw  
B&D hedge trimmer  
New steel saw, back saw, grinder  
Bookend climbing device & 100  
Wheel barrows, shovels, axes, axes etc  
Hammers, wrenches of all kinds, screwdrivers, saws, pliers, punches, chisels, 400 lbs  
Socket sets, staplers, levels, tapes, steel clamps, etc  
Electric drills, wood planes, sliding tools, oil cans, portable lights, etc.  
Garden hose, Scotts fertilizer spreader, lawn chairs, crockers  
Gas cans, 60" & 40" step ladders & 200 extension ladders

**Antiques/Collectibles**  
2 pc Bedroom set     Oak drop leaf table  
Crate's Four chair     Crockers chair  
(2) Barrel chairs  
(4) Oak antique chairs  
2 gallon crock, wagon wheel tub  
Antique acids, paper cutter, osmore bucket  
Copper boiler, cream cans, sled  
Kubota movie projector & overhead projector  
1960's sewing patterns, COOK'S  
Sewing machine in cabinet  
"Rembrandt" S.C. typewriter  
Bromelox adding machine  
(2) Bell & Howell compositions  
1980's movie magazines  
Curl iron hair pots  
Man Box, M. Whisker, WI antique candle

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