

# Chorus performs March 4 in Colby

On Saturday, March 4, area residents are welcome to celebrate 25 years of 'Barbershop Harmony on the High Plains' by traveling on a riverboat cruise with northwest Kansas's renowned Tumbleweed Barbershop Chorus entertaining on the voyage. The stage is a mock paddle-wheel riverboat with a gang plank, smoke stacks, captain's cabin, the boat whistle, the whole bit, erected on the entire stage area of Frahm Theater.

The "Showboat" boarding times will be at 2:30 p.m. of at 7:30 p.m. at the Colby community Cultural Arts Center/ Frahm Theater in Colby. The chorus members will be portrayed as various deck hands, passengers, gamblers, old people, aristocrats and their "ladies," and of course a "villain," their primary cruise mission is to entertain their guests as they go *Cruising Down The River*, and on the musical "Showboat" Cruise.

Two guest headliner quartets will

accompany the Tumbleweed Chorus on this 25th anniversary cruise: the feature quartet is the International 12th ranked "12th Street Rag" quartet from Kansas City, Omaha and St. Louise and "U.S. Male" from Sterling, Colo. The Colby Chapter quartet, "Lasting Impressions" will also be signing on the "Showboat" deck during the cruise.

Piloting the boat down the river will be the chorus director, Don Kready, former chorus directors, Vaughn Lippoldt and Mike Linden, and former chorus members rejoining the Tumbleweed Chorus in this 25th anniversary "Celebration Extravaganza."

Join the fun in Colby. The Tumbleweed chorus would certainly hate to see you "miss the boat."

For local tickets or information please call (785) 462-3004 or 462-2474 or 460-6552. Outside Colby, call (800) 279-8208.

Jim Rarick of Cheyenne County is a member of the chorus.



**VALENTINE'S DAY** brought to some lucky recipients a singing telegram by the high school vocal, band and advanced music classes. Singing the telegram were from the left: Saw-

yer White, Sam Marin, Sheryl Miller, Ashley Dowgwillo and Jade DeGood.

*Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick*

## Obituaries

### Ricky Lynn Pettijohn

Sept. 4, 1950 - Feb. 3, 2006

Ricky Lynn Pettijohn was born Sept. 4, 1950, at Hays, Kan., to Darrel and Clara Pettijohn. He died of a heart attack on Feb. 3, 2006, at 3:40 a.m. at the Cheyenne County Hospital in St. Francis.

He lived in Palco and attended school there until 1965 when the family moved to Stafford. He attended high school in Stafford and went to vocational school in Beloit for two years studying heavy equipment.

In 1971, he married Paula Dixon in Stafford. They had two sons, Darrell Marvin and Kirk Allen. In 1995, he married Eloyce Ohlstrom at Burlington, Colo., and they lived in St. Francis. She died in 2004.

Rick worked at Jeff's Tractor Service in Great Bend and for dairy farmers in the Larned and Nickerson areas. He worked for IH Case of several years while living in Kimbel, Neb., and Burlington. He was presently employed by the city of St. Francis.

He was preceded in death by his father, Darrel, his wife, Eloyce, and grandchild, Logan.

He is survived by his mother, Clara Pettijohn; his son, Darrell Pettijohn and his wife, Tammy, and their daughters, Lakyn and Layne of St. Francis; his son, Kirk Pettijohn of Bagram, Afghanistan, and his daughter Shana of Yuma, Ariz.; his brother, Greg Pettijohn and his wife, Alice of Stafford; his brother, Frank Pettijohn of Mayfield, Ky.; his sister, Darolyn Bullard and her husband, Clinton of Stafford; three nieces, three nephews and a great-niece and nephew.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, Feb. 7, at the United Methodist church in St. Francis with Reverend Morita Truman officiating.

Casket bearers were members of the city crew - Jim Rayrick, J.R. Landenberger, Scott Houtman, Ben Smull, Eric Fiala, Dan Blair, Chet Gardner, John Larson, Glenn Schliep, Earl Hankins, Dale Hill and Mike Meyer.

Interment was in the St. Francis Cemetery, St. Francis.

Arrangements were by Knodel Funeral Home.

### Eunice Maye Officer

April 8, 1916 - Feb. 10, 2006

Eunice Maye (Gaines) Officer was born April 8, 1916, to Claude R. Gaines and Edith B. (Smith) Gaines in McDonald, Kan., and died on Feb. 10, 2006, at the age of 89 years, 10 months and two days in Atwood at the Good Samaritan Home where she had been a resident for three weeks.

Eunice was born in her parent's home at 405 Decatur. She lived in this house until the age of 14. Her family then moved across the alley to 412 Jewell Avenue. This is the same house that she lived in for the past 39 years. She attended the McDonald schools and graduated from high school in 1934 with perfect attendance.

She went on to Fort Hays State University with the anticipation of being a teacher. Because her father became ill, she was only able to pursue her degree for one year. While he was in the hospital in Denver, she stayed home to take care of her younger sisters, Jadean and Ratha Lea.

Eunice married James Curtis Officer on June 23, 1940. To this union one son was born on March 27, 1943, Lynn Roger Officer.

Curt and Eunice moved to the Colorado area from 1940 to 1944, moving often to various farms. In

the fall of 1944, they moved to Roger Pemperton's farm, now known as the Lazy H Ranch 1 1/2 miles south of McDonald. In 1952, they bought a farm 2 miles west and 2 miles south of McDonald and continued to farm until 1966. Lynn married Rita June (Dewey) Officer on April 23, 1967. At that time Lynn and Rita moved to the farm and Curt and Eunice moved to McDonald. The home at 412 Jewel sat empty since August of 1964 when Eunice's mother died. Curt and Eunice moved in and remodeled it to their liking.

Eunice was a member of the McDonald Town and Country Garden Club as well as a loyal and longstanding member of the McDonald Ladies Guild.

She enjoyed embroidery, crocheting, and quilting. She loved her flower garden and being surrounded by family. She was a homemaker and helped on the farm most of her life. When Lynn was in high school, she was the high school cook with Ratha Lea. According to Lynn, she was asked to cook because of her reputation for delicious food but some think she wanted to be there to keep him out of trouble.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Curt, and sister, Jadean of Sydney, Neb.

Left to celebrate her life is her son, Lynn Officer and his wife, Rita of McDonald; her grandchildren, Melissa Regier and her husband, Randy of Monument, Mark Officer and his wife, Dawn and Michael Officer and his wife, Erin, all of Tulsa, Okla., and Marilee Gundlach and her husband, Mark of Flower Mound, Texas; her great-grandchildren, Kale, Ariel and Alexi Regier, Curtis, Kaylyn and Caleb Officer, a baby due on April 8, Eunice's birthday, who will be born to Michael and Erin, and Seth Gundlach and his new brother or sister who will arrive in mid-July; her sister, Ratha Lea Loker and several nieces and nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.

A Celebration of the Life of Eunice M. Gaines Officer was held on Monday, Feb. 13, at the Federated Church of McDonald with Pastor Greg Moyer officiating.

Casket bearers were Mark Officer, Randy Regier, Michael Officer, Mark Gundlach, Dan Hubbard, Dave Hubbard, Chad Loker.

Interment was in the Grace Cemetery, McDonald.

A memorial has been established in Eunice's name to the McDonald Federated Church and Heartland Christian School of Colby.

### Charlotte Sophie Hempeler

Sept. 27, 1910 - Feb. 1, 2006

Charlotte (Lottie) Sophie Hempeler was born to Louis and Sophie Marie (Anholz) Hempeler in Cook, Johnson County, Neb. on Sept. 27, 1910. During her early childhood the family made several moves from Nebraska to northern Minnesota, Iowa, and McDonald, Blakeman, and rural Bird City. In 1924 they bought a farm northeast of Bird City where they resided until 1981.

Lottie was baptized on October 17, 1910, in the German language at the Evangelical Lutheran Church by Pastor Johannes Lohmann in Bird City by Pastor A. G. Bretthauer. She completed the eighth grade at school district 11 in rural Bird City. She was awarded a Certificate of Merit which in part stated, "Punctuality and regularity in all activities of life are essential virtues and requirements for successful living," which she exemplified the rest of her life.

As a young girl she helped her brother Alvin on the farm while their dad was doing carpentry work for a living away from home.

Lottie had a special gift of art. She crocheted many beautiful doilies; one communion doily which is framed and hanging on the west wall of the church will remain a testament of both her talent and her love for her church. She also pieced and quilted many quilts, made banners for her church even after her eyesight was failing, and made most of her clothes.

She was active in the Women of the Church, holding several offices over the years. After moving into town she enjoyed learning and doing ceramics. She shared her finished products with many of her neighbors and friends.

In July, 2003 Alvin became very ill. Lottie was experiencing serious loss of sight making it difficult for them to live at home. It was at this time that the two decided to become residents of the Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis.

Lottie is preceded in death by her parents and brother Alvin. She leaves to mourn her caregivers, Keith and Hulda Dorsch, relatives and friends.

A Celebration of Life was held at St. John Lutheran Church in Bird City on Feb. 6 with Pastor Charlotte Strecker-Baseler officiating.

Casket bearers were Doug Hempeler, Stan Dorsch, Dan Busse, Gilbert Antholz, Norman Dorsch, Steve Dorsch. Interment was at Bird City Cemetery, Bird City, Kansas.

Burial was in the Bird City Cemetery.

Arrangements of Knodel Funeral Home.

## Survey finds groundwater leveling drops 6 inches

Groundwater levels across central and western Kansas dropped an average of about 6 inches last year. These preliminary numbers were compiled by the Kansas Geological Survey, based at the University of Kansas.

The results are based on about 1,300 water wells that were measured in January by the survey and the Division of Water Resources of the Kansas Department of Agriculture. The wells cropped an average of 0.57 feet from January 2005, to January 2006. The average decline the previous year, from 2004 to 2005, was 0.17 feet. Most of the wells that were measured are used for irrigation. Many pump water from the Ogallala Aquifer, a part of the High Plains aquifer.

The biggest decline in water levels occurred in southwestern Kansas, where wells dropped an average of 1.15 feet from 2005 to 2006. That compares with a slight rise in water levels in the area in the previous year.

Water levels dropped about 6 feet in northwestern Kansas, about the same as the previous year. And they decline about a third of a foot in west-central Kansas.

Water levels were about the same in the Equus Beds area north of Wichita and declined about 0.1 feet in the Big Bend area of central Kansas.

Places that saw particularly notable declines include the area between Meade and Garden City, and the area between Hugoton and Liberal where water levels declined an average of 5 feet or more. However, water levels rose slightly in parts of

Morton and Staton counties with increases of more than 2.5 feet observed in western Grant County.

"Declines from 2005 to 2006 were greater than the previous year," said Brownie Wilson, water-data manager at the survey. "That may reflect a difference in weather patterns. While water levels declined more this year than last year, the declines are still not as steep as they were from 2000 to 2004, when western Kansas was particularly dry." The results of the measurements are provisional and are subject to revision based on additional analysis. Water level information is available on the survey's web site, [www.kgs.ku.edu/Magellan/WaterLevels/index.html](http://www.kgs.ku.edu/Magellan/WaterLevels/index.html).

## Kansas service announces funding for technology innovation grants

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist Harold L. Klaege, announced \$150,000 available funding for new technology under the Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG). Conservation Innovation Grants, a component of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), provides farmers and ranchers with the opportunity, through innovation, to address some of the states most pressing natural resource conservation needs.

"These grants offer an opportunity to promote public-private partnerships and support the agency's agenda to provide innovative technologies and approaches to environmental enhancement and protection on working agriculture lands," Mr. Klaege said.

State, Tribal, and local governmental entities, non-governmental organizations, and individuals may apply. Project proposals should demonstrate the use of innovative technologies or approaches to address a natural resource concern. Project results are expected to improve and create the transfer of conservation technologies, management systems, and innovative approaches (such as market-based systems) into Natural Resources Conservation Service technical manuals or guides or to the private

sector.

Applications are due in the Kansas Natural Resources Conservation Service state office by April 28. Project proposals will be evaluated with the assistance of the Kansas State Technical Committee based on the criteria identified in the request for proposal.

Selected applicants may receive grants up to 50 percent of the total project cost, not to exceed \$50,000.

Applicants must provide non-federal matching funds for at least 50 percent of the project cost, of which 50 percent may be from in-kind contributions. Projects may be single or multi-year, not to exceed three years.

Additional information, the request for proposals, and related forms are located on the web at <http://www.ks.nrcs.gov/programs/cig> or at <http://www.grants.gov>.

## Club Clip

### Ramblers Club

Ramblers Club met at the Cheyenne Manor on Wednesday, Feb., 8, for a lovely valentine luncheon.

Betty Winston introduced guests, Betty and Gordon Orth, who told about their guitar business, followed by a very interesting tour and demonstration at their shop, where

they manufacture the guitar pins, which are mainly sold to three large family businesses. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed seeing and hearing about this local unusual business.

The next meeting will be March 8 at the home of Elaine Kehlbeck, with Margaret Shay as co-hostess.

## nwkansas.com

INTERNET Access as low as \$14.92/month

□ Tech help Available □ Hookup Same Day as Signup

### The Saint Francis Herald

• P.O. Box 1050; St. Francis 785-332-3162

The world. As close as your phone. 785-332-3162

## **GARAGE SALE**

### **IN WRAY**

**Thurs., Fri. & Sat. •• Feb. 16, 17 & 18**

**Girls & Boys Track Shoes**

**\$5-\$40**

Discontinued SAS Shoes for Men & Women ...

Greatly Reduced!

We also have a \$5.00 Table and a \$10.00 Table

Plus... Clearance Racks 20% OFF

Sorry no returns on Sale Items!

**Boys Baseball Shoes**

**\$5-\$40**


**Todd & TALEA Churchwell - OWNERS**

**Town & Country Shoes**

**327 MAIN ST. • WRAY, COLO. • 970-332-4852**

**Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. & Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. MT**

## **PAST REFLECTIONS**



**Cherry Creek Band - 1920's**

Left to right:  
B.L. Zweggardt,  
John Zweggardt,  
Jake (J.E.) Zweggardt,  
Fred Zweggardt,  
August Zweggardt,  
George Isernhagen,  
Louie Zweggardt,  
Gottlieb Burr,  
Otto Zeilinger.

*Photo courtesy of Tobe Zweggardt*

**St. Francis**

**785-332-2113**

**Haigler**

**308-297-3223**

## **St. Francis EQUITY**