

Emergency medical technician class starts

By Karen Krien

Larry Gabel, emergency medical service director, reported that a new emergency medical technician class will be starting the first part of January. Any one interested in serving as a technician in St. Francis or Bird City is urged to call him at 785-332-8143 or 785-332-2844.

The technician course is a 6-month class and students generally meet two nights a week from 7 to 10 p.m. and several Saturdays in March or April. The first two month's classes will probably be held in St. Francis and the rest held in Bird City. The student, upon completing the

class and passing the tests will earn 12 credit hours from Colby Community College. The class is paid for by the county as long as the student serves as an emergency medical technician after passing the tests. There are a few expenses for books and other miscellaneous items which the student must pay for.

Director Gabel asks that anyone having interest in being an emergency medical technician to please call him.

"There is a need for more technicians in the county, especially in Bird City. I'll be glad to answer any questions," he said.



Are you hoping for a White Christmas?

Occasional winter storms around Christmas remind us that the High Plains can be a winter wonderland during the holidays. However, the chance of having snow actually fall on Christmas Day, or having snow on the ground Christmas morning from a previous snowfall are actually rather low.

Looking back through weather records for the past 40 years, the year with the most snow on the ground Christmas morning occurred in 1982, when snow depth measured 10 inches at the Goodland National Weather Service office. In more recent years, northwest Kansas residents awoke to 5 inches of snow on Christmas morning in 1997, and 2 inches of snow in 1998. Most people likely remember these years as having a white Christmas.

But overall, only 10 years out of the past 41 have had one inch or greater snow depth on Christmas morning...which works out to be 24 percent of the years. The odds of receiving snow on Christmas Day are also quite low. Since 1960, in only 6 years of the 41 has snowfall measured a tenth of an inch or greater during the day...or 15 percent of the years.

The weather pattern this fall has not been favorable for precipitation in north-

west Kansas. In Cheyenne County, November was a warm and dry month with only 23 hundredths of an inch of moisture, and less than a tenth of an inch of snowfall. Continuing this trend, temperatures through mid-December have averaged almost 6 degrees above normal, and no precipitation has been recorded so far this month.

Longer-range computer models hint at a weather system developing in the Western United States during Christmas week, which signals a small hope of moisture eventually moving out onto the plains.

However, until then, more dry weather is expected for the Tri-State area. Although the prospect of waking up Christmas morning to a coating of snow does not look favorable, "Christmas Magic" sometimes has a way of making things right.

For climatological probabilities of a white Christmas across the entire country visit: <http://lwf.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/extremes/christmas.html>

Those traveling through the tri-state area this holiday, should plan to drive safely and check for National Weather Service Forecasts, Watches, Warnings and Advisories on NOAA Weather Radio, or visit the web site at: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/gld/>



CHOIR CONTEST had three entries. Winning first was the Hospital Choir (top); second place went to the Good Samaritan Village (center) and the First National Bank (bottom right) took third. Paul Rainbolt, (bottom left) begged the Hospital Choir leader Dr. Miller to take the traveling trophy. It was lots of fun for everyone singing.

Obituary

Gertrude A. (Larson) Wederski

Dec. 31, 1919 - Dec. 12, 2002

Gertrude A. (Larson) Wederski, 82, died Dec. 12, 2002, at Presbyterian St. Luke Medical Center in Denver, Colo.

She was born Dec. 31, 1919, in Cheyenne County, Kan., to Nels and Ada (VanWinkle) Larson.

On Feb. 29, 1940, she married Luduisk E. "Lew" Wederski at Atwood. She and her husband lived on a farm in rural Rawlins County, near Beardsley and moved to Atwood in 1956.

She was a homemaker and did cafe work, child and home care work. Mrs. Wederski was a former member of the Atwood Church of the Nazarene.

Preceding her in death were her parents; an infant daughter, Bertha Marie Wederski; husband, "Lew" on Feb. 17, 1991; brothers Frank and Henry Larson; sisters, Ella Walker, Amanda Most and Grace Withington.

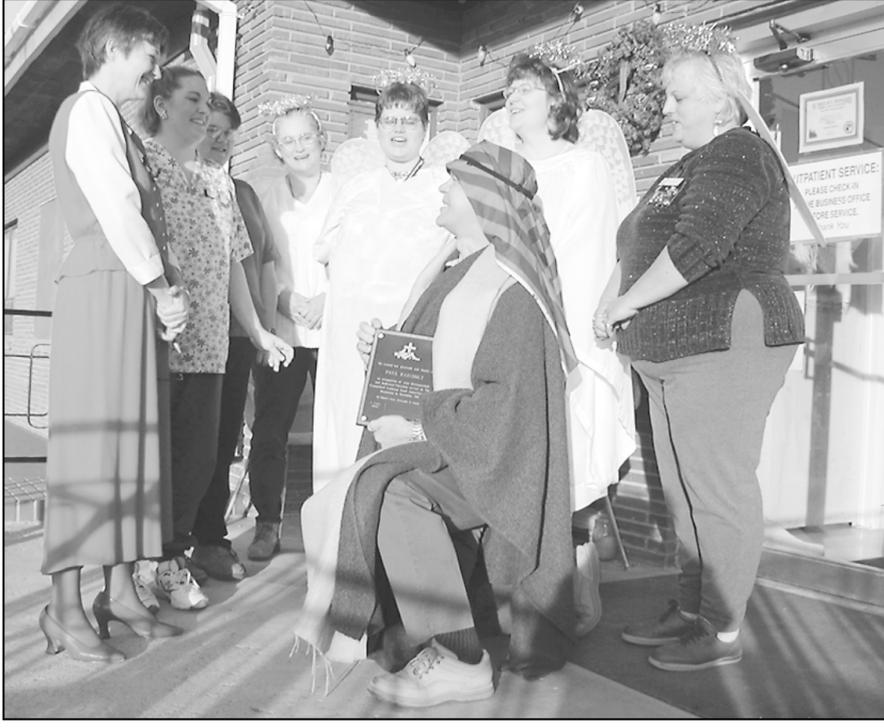
Survivors include sons Carl and wife, Cheryl, Atwood, Leon and wife, Jan Edison, Ellensburg, Wash.,

and Earl and wife, Darci, Bethune, Colo.; daughters, Bessie Ann Persinger, Atwood, Mary Lou Miller, Hill City, Betty Jane Unruh and husband, Jim, Colby, and Ila Mae Perdue and husband, James, Byers, Colo.; 21 grandchildren and 31 great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Dec. 17 at Brantley Funeral Chapel in Atwood with Reverend Terry McGuire officiating.

Interment was at Atwood Fairview Cemetery in Atwood.

Memorials may be given to the charity of the donor's choice.



St. Francis News

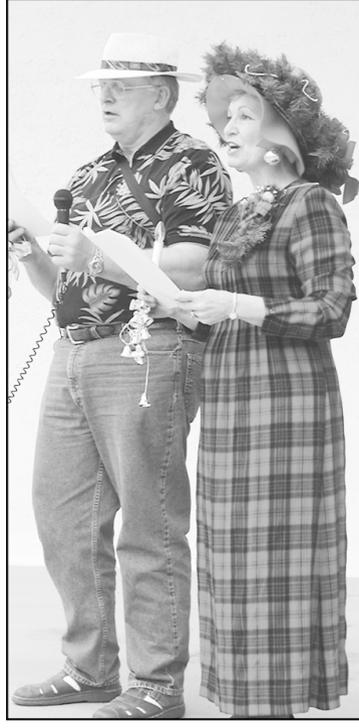
Harvey and Carol Forsythe attended the Greeley West High School Drama Department musical, "Once on This Island" on Nov. 22. Their nephew George Ford accompanied the performances at the piano.

The group was the "Main Stage Performing" on Dec. 7 in Denver in state competition.

George is also the grandson of Jack and Jo Ford.

Donna and Norvin Northrup were among guests at a neighborhood pre-Christmas get together at the home of Pete and Wanda Gienger on Saturday afternoon.

Sunday dinner guests in the home of Sylvia Raile were Toots Paxton of Goodland, Deloris Raile of Goodland, Clarence Henry of Almena, Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Raile, Laura Pugh, Thelma Raile and Violet Cranmer.



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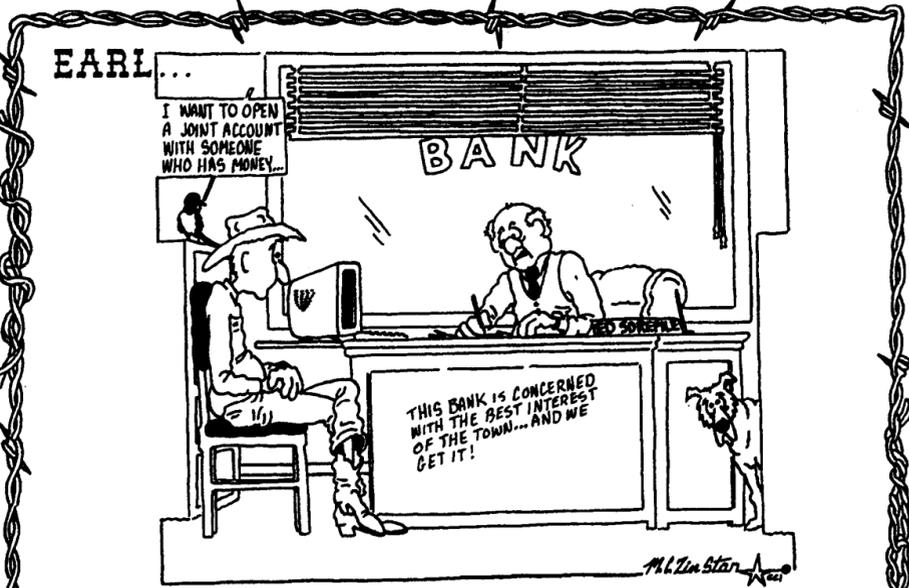
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