

101st birthday celebrated July 3

Amelia Banister, with the help of family and friends, celebrated her July Fourth 101 birthday on Sunday, July 3, in the Good Samaritan dining hall in Atwood. Family who attended to celebrate this momentous occasion were her daughter, Karlyne Atchison; sons, Jim and wife Cheryl, George and wife Kathy, and Kent and wife Joan, all of McDonald.



Amelia Banister

Grandchildren attending included Tammi and Wade Carmichael, Bird City; Jamie Banister, Hyattsville, Md.; Amanda and Brandon Winter, Andale; and David Banister, Salina. Great-grandchildren who helped their great-grandma celebrate were Teryn and Ty Carmichael, Bird City; and the youngest great-granddaughter, Avery Winter of Andale. Brother-in-law, Donnie Banister also took part in the festivities. Nephew Lanny DeGood of St. Francis along with his daughter Lanissa and her children of Denver also attended as did Coy DeGood, Atwood. Cake and ice cream were served to all the guests after the happy birthday song was sung to the birthday celebrant. Amelia

received many cards and beautiful vases of flowers to commemorate this milestone in her life. Granddaughter Debi Banister, Topeka, joined the group later in the evening.



DAVID JONKER (left) and Peter Germishuys of South Africa, work for Meier Harvesting during the harvest season. Jonker and Germishuys are foreign summer workers who have been here a month. They are busy washing the equipment before hitting the road to South Dakota, the next stop.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

Harvesters find the weather here hot

By Norma Martinez
normamartinez@wildblue.net
Monday found harvesters working in the high 90- and 100-plus-degree weather cutting wheat. Several of the outfits have already headed out of town to stay on schedule for their next

destinations. Mike Meier, with Meier Harvesting from Zeeland, N.D., had his two workers out washing up the equipment, and getting packed up to move on to Oneida, S.D. They have been here for a month. When asked

how the harvest went, he said, "The wheat is excellent, but the weather has been bad." They usually expect such delays, but not for this long. Mr. Meier grew up in a family of harvesters and signed up with a crew when he was 16 years old.

By the time he turned 19, he had enough money saved to buy his first combine. He now has three combines and a "green crew" John Deer tractor. Mike's wife, Jan, travels with him, does the cooking and helps with the moving. They have four children ages 3-10 years of age, and bring Rachel, an 18-year-old girl, with them to help out with the children. In June they start harvesting in Oklahoma City, then on to Anthony and Marysville, then Bird City. Next stop is South Dakota.

The Meiers hire their help through a labor agency who brings in labor from foreign countries. This year they have David Jonker and Peter Germishuys, two young men from South Africa, with them. This is the first year for Peter and the second year for David and the Meier's 9th year for doing this.

Mr. Meier's starts getting these workers ready to come in April and they have to have their Social Security cards and driver's licenses by June.

"The driver's licenses are the biggest issues," he said.

He pays all the air travel expenses for their arrival and return, and all their expenses while here. They work from June to Thanksgiving and sometimes just before Christmas.

When asked how the children like spending their vacations traveling with the harvest, Mike said, "Each stop they take they have different things going to entertain them. They have made lots of friends while staying at each spot."

In Bird City, they harvest for Waldon Farms and they have a pond they love to play in. They also enjoy the swimming pool as well as they all have bikes to ride.



DAWN PETTY joined Judy Corder, Western Music Association International Yodeling Champion, on stage at the concert Saturday night.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Yodeling champ entertains July 16

On July 16, local area residents attended a concert of Judy Coder, Patsy Montana National Yodeling Champion and Western Music Association International Yodeling Champion. The concert was performed in the Bird City American Legion Hall. Dawn Petty of Bird City, and also a Western American Association member, sponsored the concert. With a crowd of nearly 75 people, Ms. Coder, a Kansas cowgirl, entertained over 2 hours with her guitar playing, whimsical stories along with her folksy cowboy and cowgirl songs. However, what the audience came to hear was her yodeling and they were not disappointed. Many times during her performance, there could

be heard laughing, sighing, clapping, and people voicing they knew a song.

During intermission, the audience was invited to have a piece of homemade pie provided by local area residents. It had been a fund raiser for the Cheylin Music Department.

Once back on stage, Ms. Coder talked about the songs she sings, many not her own simply because there are great song writers, and introduced a song written by Ms. Petty, "Liberty Waltz." Ms. Petty played her violin and Ms. Coder sang the words and played her guitar.

The concert ended with a request for Ms. Coder to sing an Alpine Yodel. It was an evening of good, family entertainment.

Letter to the Editor

Letter to the Editor:
Please carefully consider the implications of the Aug. 2 vote to subsidize the Good Samaritan Society of Sioux Falls, S.D. I am 100 percent supportive of maintaining a nursing facility in Cheyenne County. Yet, here are a few of my concerns: First, I think we have the cart before the horse. Is there anything in writing that assures us that Good Samaritan Society will sell the county the facility for \$1 if the levy passes? I understand there is not. Due to the lack of accountability and in my opinion, integrity, from Good Samaritan Society how do we have assurance of the reliability of their statements thus far? We don't. The news from corporate headquarters has continuously changed throughout this incident.

Second, is there a time limit and/or dollar limit on levying the 6 mills? Is it forever? Is it when \$1 million is raised? Is it when \$100 million is raised? I would fully support this levy if it were for the county to build a new building from the ground up. In the current scenario we are subsidizing a dilapidated building, which, at the time of the fire, was without air conditioning in the west wing; quite uncomfortable for our loved ones and staff.

Sharon Springs is currently building a beautiful new facility

with 24 spacious resident rooms; each with its own shower, toilet, and lavatory, and six assisted living rooms. They will have a highly efficient building with lower utilities, warranties on new equipment, less maintenance costs for many years to come, and many more benefits. The bids were opened on July 17 and the lowest bid was \$3,489,000. Not too bad.

Third, how long are we committed to a management contract with Good Samaritan Society? Currently it's 5 years? Good Samaritan Society is a powerful, large corporation. We've already seen how they operate; that their "word" isn't trustworthy. There are a number of nursing facility management companies willing to come to Cheyenne County who, according to my research, charge significantly less than we fork over to Good Samaritan Society.

After the fire, folks were gathering funds to help the staff through Christmas. In lieu of a financial gift, Morris Plumbing donated one week of free labor and equipment. I was hoping to help get the facility back up and running more quickly. I was told that the insurance company required their own contractors. -30 years in the industry...I've never heard of such a thing!

Fourth, wouldn't it be nice at this point to explain to the voters

how the insurance money was applied? Yes, it is their company, it's their money. But the profits from the Good Samaritan Society Village all these years paid that premium. An early report was that Good Samaritan Society got \$1.2 million in insurance. Where is it? If Good Samaritan Society doesn't feel it's not our right to ask, then do we really want to go into business with them?

Fifth, let me see if I have this right...the taxpayers will subsidize Good Samaritan Society and the facility continues to pay a management fee from the profits? Nice move. If we build our own facility, then we, the taxpayers, get the profit and it gets reinvested in the county or the facility, not in South Dakota.

Sixth, if this passes then we need to push for creating a board of directors to directly oversee the financial reports of the facility. There needs to be full disclosure and transparency due to the involvement of taxpayer dollars.

Americans' current tax liability is 34 cents of each dollar. I hope to make it to the one public forum just days before the election, to answer my questions. However, to keep up with Uncle Sam, I have to work long hours and deal with a lot of doo.

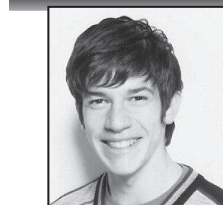
Kelly Morris
St. Francis

Wesleyan Church Speakers

Sunday, July 24
During Sunday School at 9:45 and the 11 a.m. church service
Shawn Carson will be a guest speaker.

Sunday, July 31
Special Sunday evening service at 6 p.m.
Missionary from Zimbabwe,
Pastor Cainos will be a guest speaker.
You don't want to miss either of these speakers
For more information call 785-626-2076

SIZZLING SUMMER



Patrick from France, 17 yrs. Loves the outdoors and playing soccer. Patrick's dream has been to spend time in America learning about our customs and attending American high school.



Elisa from Italy, 16 yrs. Likes to play tennis, swim, loves to dance. Elisa hopes to play American softball and learn American 'slang' while in the USA.

HOST AN EXCHANGE STUDENT TODAY!
(for 3, 5 or 10 months)

Make this year the most exciting, enriching year ever for you and your family. Share your world with a young foreign visitor from abroad. Welcome a high school student, 15-18 years old, from Italy, France, Norway, Denmark, Spain, Germany, Brazil, Thailand or China as part of your family for a school year (or less) and make an overseas friend for life.

For more information or to select your own exchange student please call:
Ginny at (785) 332-3414
or
Marcy at 1-800-888-9040 (Toll Free)
or e-mail us at info@world-heritage.org

www.whhosts.com
World Heritage is a public benefit, non-profit organization based in Laguna Beach, CA.

Frontier Medical Rejuvenation
IPL Hair Removal
IPL Photo Facials
Acne Treatments
Laser Spider Vein Treatments
Dr. Rebecca Allard
607 South Benton St. (785) 772-1906
St. Francis, Kansas 67756 www.frontier-med.com

ESTATE AUCTION
Stan & LaNeta Carlock
Saturday, July 23 • 10 a.m. MDT
American Legion Community Building, Haigler, Ne.
Porter Ave., north side of Hwy. 34
Items featured: Classic Auto, Golf Cart, Antiques, Collectibles, Furniture, Hummels, Jewelry & Misc
FOR MORE INFO & PICTURES VISIT <http://midwestauction.com>
Since 1969
RAMBAT AUCTION
785-426-2049 Bird City, KS Cell: 785-332-0452