

By Amanda Miller  
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President Barack Obama honored Jack Weinstein, who was a resident of St. Francis, with the nation's highest honor in one of the largest Medal of Honor ceremonies in history. Cheyenne County resident Nancy Weinstein was invited to Washington, D.C. to accept the Medal of Honor on behalf of her late husband.

Nancy went with her daughter Judy, son Randy, Cindy Fiedler, Arlene Walz and Arlene's daughters, Janna Wilhelm and Marta Walz, to Washington, D.C. She and Judy flew out on March 16. When she arrived, there was an escort waiting for her at the airport to take her to her hotel, the Sheraton, at Pentagon City. Nancy said she could look out her window and see the Pentagon, and the memorial from when a plane struck the building on 9/11.

On March 18, she got to meet President Obama, as she was presented with the prestigious award on behalf of Jack. Nancy said that the White House was "like a museum," with paintings, antique furniture, and elegant decorations. She was led into the Oval Office, where she met the President.

"It was awesome. He is such a compassionate, caring person," she said. "And he treated us as though we were the same status." She said the President gave everyone hugs.

As she accepted the medal on behalf of Jack, the President held her hand. She said this made her feel at ease, as the entire day was overwhelming.

"The entire trip was like I was walking in a dream. I haven't really come out of it yet."

On March 19, she visited the Pentagon, where she was presented the Medal of Honor Flag by Secretary of Army John McHugh. She said the Pentagon was like a city, completely self-sufficient.

"It was really something to see," Nancy said.

Nancy said she was proud to accept the medal for her husband of 54 years. The two were close, and they had met before he was drafted into the Army.

She met him when she was 16. Nancy was living in Lamar, Mo. where she is from. Jack's parents had moved to a farm outside of Lamar, so he was living there as well. She saw him from across the room at a dance one night. The very next night, he drove her home from the skating rink. They dated from then on.

Jack Weinstein was drafted into the Army in 1950. He was a Cheyenne County native, but was living in Lamar when he was drafted. He completed his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood. He was then shipped to Korea on April 24, where he spent the next one and a half years.

Jack was trained in the 21st Infantry Regiment, Company G of the 24th Division. According to the U.S. Army Center of Military History, the 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Division, was the first fighting unit deployed to Korea at the start of hostilities when North Korean forces invaded South Korea. The 24th Division fought the first battle of the Korean War at Osan, South Korea.

On Oct. 19, 1951, Sergeant Weinstein was a member of the platoon which had just secured a strategic hill position from the enemy in the vicinity of Kumson, Korea. However, the enemy immediately launched a fierce counterattack against the platoon. His unit "was hit," according to the regimental report, "by a fierce counterattack by about 30 fanatical Chinese Communist troops."



**PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA presents the Medal of Honor award to Nancy Weinstein, on behalf of her husband, Sgt. Jack Weinstein, at the White House in Washington, D.C., March 18, 2014. (U.S. Army photo by Mr. Leroy Council/Released)**

Most of the members of the platoon had been wounded in the previous action and withdrew under the heavy attack. Sergeant Weinstein saw that it was necessary to withdraw the men but, in order for them to withdraw, there would need to be cover for them. Sergeant Weinstein volunteered to stay, firing on the enemy.

After killing six men, he was out of ammunition and was injured. Instead of leaving, he started gathering enemy grenades which lay round him and threw them at the enemy. Alone and unaided, he held the ground his platoon had fought hard to take. The enemy suffered many casualties. On a broken leg, and against overwhelming odds, he held out until friendly forces were able to move in and the enemy was driven back again.

"He was doing it for his guys under him," Nancy explained. His outstanding courage and complete disregard for his own life was an inspiration to his comrades. It was this act of heroism that earned him the Distinguished Service Cross, and now the Medal of Honor.

Sergeant Weinstein also received the Purple Heart with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, Presidential Unit Citation, Combat Infantryman Badge, United Nations Service Medal, and Republic of Korea-Korean War Service Medal.

Nancy talked about the stories Jack had told. He said the men suffered many hardships. The cold weather found them with not enough clothes to keep them warm. Often, their clothes and shoes were wet. Supplies were slow reaching them, often brought by new troops coming in or dropped from planes. There were weeks when they didn't have a bath, lacked personal grooming supplies and food.

Mrs. Weinstein said Jack didn't talk much about his experiences, and he never said he regretted his service in the Army.

"He just said it was his duty," she said.

Sergeant Weinstein wrote a letter during the Korean War which was printed in an area newspaper:

Dear Mom and Dad,  
Received my birthday package today. The cake was swell, kinda flat when it got here, but still good.

Think we are getting relieved today. Hope so anyway. I went back to the line the other day,

fell off a cliff and twisted my knee yesterday, so am back down again.

I can't walk on it so there must be something wrong somewhere. If it isn't better in the morning, I will turn (the injury) into the medic.

My arm is still a little stiff but think it will be all right soon. Man, we got cut up this time, there are eight men left out of my platoon.

Most of them just had small wounds but still they were hit and I had to watch them go off the hill. A lot of boys were crying, all broke up. If I had had a brother, I know I wouldn't have been any closer to him than I was to my men.

Don't know if I can stand this much longer myself. I know I am a grown boy but had to cry a little last night myself.

When he returned from the service, he married Nancy Rakestraw of Lamar and settled in St. Francis.

Jack was a truck driver and farmer. They had five children, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Jack died on April 20, 2006.

Nancy said that her husband would have been very honored. But she also said that he would have been really upset that he did not get it because of his name. Jack was not even Jewish, but the last name Weinstein prevented him from receiving the medal earlier.

The group of 24 men that received the Medal of Honor were identified following a congressionally mandated review. The review was ordered to ensure that eligible recipients of the country's highest recognition for valor were not bypassed due to prejudice.

Nancy said that he would have thought it was so wrong that these men did not get recognition just because of their ethnicity.

"But they are righting it now," she said.

## Legislative News *Ward Cassidy 120th State Rep*

The Gannon decision sent the matter of determining adequacy of funding back to the District Court. The decision fundamentally shifts focus from money inputs to outcomes. The Supreme Court's decision rejected the District Court's ruling that "suitability" of education under the state constitution is determined only by a dollar amount. Instead, the Supreme Court instructed the District Court to look toward outcomes to determine adequacy. The District Court is instructed to examine Kansas public education by adequacy based on the Rose Standard, which is already contained in current Kansas statute.

The Rose Standard is based on a Kentucky court case from 1977, and it states: "An efficient system of education must have as its goal to provide each and every child with seven components."

This ruling is going to be the cause

of much discussion. The Supreme Court, recognizing that the amount of money spent is not the sole determinant of adequacy of funding, indicates that the original school finance lawsuit known as Augenblick and Meyers is considered flawed. The Gannon decision clarified that school finance includes not only State General Fund spending (Base State Aid Per Pupil), but all other funding sources. This includes the cost of the teachers' retirement plan, known as KPERS, capital outlay spending, local funding, transportation, and even federal funding.

My personal opinion is that school funding will be reduced, in the years to come, and that school consolidation will be at the forefront of many discussions. What might have seemed to be a windfall to those filing the lawsuit might very well prove detrimental to education.

## School Menu

### Monday

Breakfast: Sausage cheese biscuit, yogurt, fruit cup, toast, and milk

Lunch: Ham and cheese sub, sweet potato fries, black bean com salsa, garden spinach salad, tropical fruit, mandarin oranges, and milk

### Tuesday

Breakfast: Whole grain waffle with syrup or peanut butter, fruit juice, fruit cup, cereal, and milk

Lunch: Spaghetti with meat sauce, seasoned peas, garlic toast, romaine and tomato salad, citrus applesauce, peaches, and milk

### Wednesday

*Seventh grade lunch favorites*

Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, fruit cup, fruit juice, cereal, and milk

Lunch: Chicken wrap, Spanish rice, corn, chocolate chip banana cake, frog eye salad, garden spinach salad, fresh strawberries, grapes, and milk

### Thursday

Breakfast: Egg taco with salsa, fruit cup, fruit juice, toast, and milk

Lunch: Baked ham, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, wheat roll with jelly, mixed lettuce salad, pears, fruit cocktail

## Public Notices

# Petition filed; people should file defenses

First published in the St. Francis Herald, Thursday March 20th, 2014. (12, 13, 14)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CHEYENNE COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of

EVERETT R. EGGERS, Deceased

CASE NO. 13 PR 01

(Petition Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)

### NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in this Court by Adam Deeds, duly appointed, qualified and acting Co-Executor of the Estate of Everett R. Eggers, deceased, praying Petitioner's acts be approved; account be settled and allowed; the heirs be determined; the Will and Valid Settlement Agreement be construed and the Estate be assigned to the persons entitled thereto; the Court find the allowances requested for attorneys' and expenses are reasonable and should be allowed; the costs be determined and ordered paid; the administration of the Estate be closed; upon the filing of receipts the Petitioner be finally discharged as the Co-Executors of the Estate of Everett R. Eggers, deceased, and the Petitioner be released from further liability.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before April 16, 2014 at 10:00 o'clock a.m. in the District Court, in St. Francis, Cheyenne County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

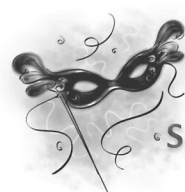
Adam Deeds,  
Co-Executor

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Amanda Miller      Carol Sloper

**The Saint Francis  
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## FARMER'S NIGHT

Sponsored by Bird City Community Club

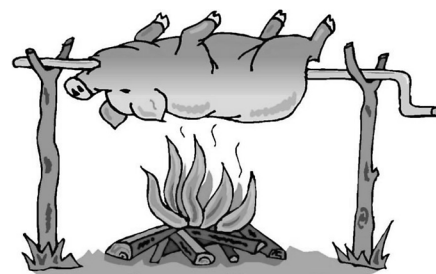
Saturday, April 12th

6:30 pm

American Legion Hall

The public is welcome to attend a delicious 'whole hog' style meal, followed by entertainment.

*Cheylin Schools, City of Bird City and Bird City Century II Development Foundation will all give brief updates on current happenings and projects in the works.*



## Business Directory

To list your business, call 785-332-3162.

### The Saint Francis Herald Bird City Times

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