

Couple wedded by grandfather

Bridgette Diane Allen and Brian Matthew Rankin, both of Topeka, were married in a double-ring ceremony on June 7, 2008, at the United Methodist Church in Washington, Kan. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Susan Sawyer and the bride's grandfather Rev. OM Allen.

The bride is the daughter of Tim and Kelly Allen, Clay Center. The groom is the son of Ronda Loyd, Clay Center, and Riley and Pam Rankin, Santa Rosa, Calif.

The bride was escorted down the aisle by her father. She wore an ivory A-line dress with champagne beaded lace appliques and tulle-draped pick-up skirt. Her veil was a two-tiered fingertip-length ivory veil with a beaded metallic-edge and floral motifs.

The maid of honor was Kara Marsh of Topeka. Bridesmaids were Megan McGuire, Madison; Stephanie Rankin, Kansas City, sister of the groom; and Talaya Schwartz, Great Bend. They wore sugarplum- and berry-colored A-line satin, strapless long gowns with a sweetheart bodice that gathered to the side.

The groom wore a chocolate brown two-button, single-breasted tuxedo with an ivory vest and ivory Windsor tie.

His best man was Justin Steintert, Overland Park. Groomsmen were Dr. David Rankin, San Diego, brother of the groom; Kyle Allen,

Manhattan, brother of the bride; and Kelly Condray, Topeka. They wore chocolate-colored tuxedos with a latte-colored full-back vest and Windsor tie.

Pianist was Kayci Strickland of Hoisington. Candle lighters were the mothers of the bride and groom.

Ushers were Tyler Krien, Salina, uncle of the bride; Ryan Bloom, Gardner, Luke Chaffee, Randolph, Tyler Hartenbower, Maryville, Mo., and David Frigon, Manhattan.

Guest book and gift attendants were Jamie and Jessie Krien of Waverly, Neb., cousins of the bride.

Brian's grandmother, Mary Virginia Young, Clay Center, was unable to attend the ceremony.

Bridgette's grandparents are Rev. OM and Joyce Allen of Clay Center, and Billy and Karen Krien of St. Francis. Great-grandparents are Bill and Leone Krien of St. Francis, and Ed and Wanita Kroepelin of Finley, N.D.

The reception and dance were held at Mayberry's Cafe in Washington following the wedding. Hosts were Lowell and Robyn Marsh, Clay Center, Don and Carolyn Garwood, Morganville, and Troy and Jan Krien, Waverly.

Following a honeymoon in Montego Bay, Jamaica, the couple is at home in Westmoreland.

Bridgette grew up in Clay Center, graduating from Clay



Mr. and Mrs. Brian Rankin

Center High School in 2001. She went on to graduate from Fort Hays State University in 2005 with degrees in English and secondary education. She is an English teacher at Rock Creek Junior High.

Brian also grew up in Clay

Center, graduating from Clay Center High School in 2000. He graduated from Kansas State University, Manhattan, in 2004 with a degree in business administration in marketing. He is an assistant manager for Walgreens in Manhattan.

Couple plans October wedding

Leigh Ann Faulkender and Michael Thomas Bandel are planning an Oct. 4 wedding at the United Methodist Church in St. Francis.

Parents of the couple are Joyce Faulkender and Roger Faulkender and Tom and Sandy Bandel, all of St. Francis.

The bride-elect is a 2002 graduate from the University of Wyoming and is self-employed at L.A. Accounting. The prospective bridegroom is a 1990 graduate from Kansas State University and is employed at Bankwest in St. Francis.

Leigh Ann is the granddaughter of Hazel Douthit, and Mike is the grandson of Lucille Price, both of St. Francis.



Faulkender and Bandel

Introducing

Joel Todd Gilliland

Molly Gilliland welcomed her baby brother, Joel Todd Gilliland, to her family on Aug. 14, 2008. Joel was born at 4:45 a.m. at the Cheyenne County Hospital in St. Francis. He weighed 6 pounds, 3 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long. Also welcoming Joel were his father and mother, Dustin and Kari Gilliland of St. Francis.

Grandparents are Jim and Ruth Milliken of St. Francis and Don and Sherry Gilliland of Bird City. Great-grandmothers are Ethel Whitten and Ilone Ketter, both of St. Francis, and Reta Milliken of Williamsburg.



Joel Todd Gilliland

Teacher sings and yodels for show

Judy Coder and her Pride of the Prairie Band will be the entertainment at the Beecher Island Reunion at 7 p.m. on Friday. She is will be singing and yodeling during the show.



Coder

Whether Judy is leading "the hottest cowboy band in Kansas" or providing an elementary school educational program, the result is always an audience captivated by the quality of her performance.

A native of Wichita, Ms. Coder grew up listening to and studying classical music. She moved

to Topeka to study music at Washburn University where she graduated Magna Cum Laude.

While teaching music in the public schools, Judy continued to perform in the classical style, singing an occasional aria with the Topeka Opera Society and Concert Association, and as a frequent lyric soprano soloist with the Topeka Festival Singers.

At the urging of her father-in-law, she performed with the Elmont Opry, a church fund raiser. Through this start she became involved in bluegrass and then, after being exposed to the music and yodeling of Patsy Montana, fell in love with western music. As her

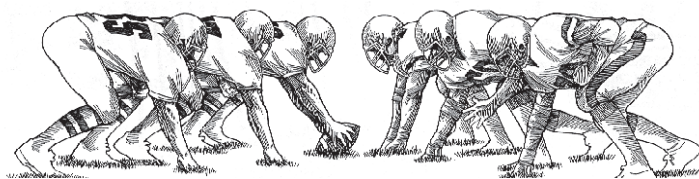
popularity as a western singer and recording artist grew, Ms. Coder decided in 2000 to "give up the day job" and pursue her western music interests full time.

Ms. Coder's three-octave vocal range is not only great for the classics, but ideal for cowboy style yodeling. She has received several awards for her yodeling.

In May of 2003, Ms. Coder organized Judy Coder and Pride of the Prairie. The four-piece acoustic ensemble performs western swing, traditional music of the American west, and newer music closely tied to the North American cowboy. Ms. Coder writes the musical arrangements

for the group. The band's repertoire includes her unique arrangements of some of the biggest hits of the genre, including "Tumblin' Tumbleweeds," "Streets of Laredo," and "Cool Water."

Judy maintains her teaching certifications and provides historical reenactment educational programs throughout the nation to youth and adults. Her programs include Settling the Great Plains; The Wild, Wild Women of the Wild, Wild West; Real Cowboys and Cowgirls; The Early Days of Kansas; and of course, Patsy Montana: the Cowboy's Sweetheart.



Cousins have reunion

The Ekberg cousins gathered at Country Steak House at Fort Morgan on Saturday Sept. 6. The cousins are the descendants of O.E. and Bessie Ekberg, who raised all of their children at Beecher Island, Colo.

Those present included Bessie Rosa Dent, Wray, and daughter, Joyce Brown of Beecher Island; Marilyn Bruffett of Commerce City, Colo., and father, Harry Ekberg of Beecher Island;

Christine Elbest of Aurora, Colo.; Janice Cook of Longmont, Colo.; and Eldon and Patty Hessilius of Erie, Colo.; Roger and Ronda Schritter of Northglenn, Colo., and Bob Schritter of Evans, Colo., and driver, Gail; Alfred and Rhonda Renzelman of Haxton, Colo.; Jim and Joan Ekberg of Red Feather Lakes, Colo.; Willie Klie of Wray, Fred and Shelly Klie of St. Francis and Bonnie Jones of St. Francis.

Two workshops planned

"Charley Orchard, Land EKG, will lead two one-day workshops on Tracking Pasture Health for ranchers and land managers," said Tim Christian, Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition coordinator. "Ted Alexander's ranch is featured on Monday, Sept. 22, for the first workshop. Alexander's ranch is located along Highway 160 south of Sun City and west of Medicine Lodge."

The second workshop is set for Calvin Adams' ranch near Beloit on Monday, Sept. 29, Mr. Christian said. Mr. Orchard of Bozeman, Mont., is a nationally-known expert in rangeland monitoring and health. Each workshop site features a mixed grass prairie ecosystem so

ranchers and landowners from every part of the state should be able to relate to the plants found in the pastures. The techniques learned are applicable in any grazing land setting.

Both workshops start at 8 a.m. with registration. Enrollment for the workshops runs through Sept. 15. Workshop registration includes lunch onsite and each participant will leave the session with a field packet full of information and blank forms to get them started when you get home. Available slots are filling up, so interested people should register soon.

The outdoor, hands-on Land EKG training focuses on the myths of monitoring, the five most

useful monitoring techniques, grazing scoring methods, forage production calculations, understanding transects, production and grazing budgets, rapid ecological assessments, and interpreting the monitoring results to allow for positive actions. The Land EKG technique allows the user to consistently track relative soil and plant community health by assessing four basic ecological components: water cycling, nutrient cycling, energy flow, and biotic state - all depicted on an eco-graph.

For additional information on the range monitoring workshops, contact Tim Christian, coordinator at 620-241-3636, tchristian@kglc.org.

Book Review

Book review from

St. Francis Public Library

The Burnt House

By Faye Kellerman
At 8:15 in the morning, a small commuter plane carrying forty-seven passengers crashes into an apartment building in Granada Hills, California. Shock waves ripple through Los Angeles, as L.A.P.D. Lieutenant Peter Decker works overtime to calm rampant fears of a 9/11-type terror attack. But a grisly mystery lives inside the plane's charred and twisted wreckage; the unidentified bodies of four extra travelers. And there is no sign of an airline employee who was supposedly on the catastrophic flight.

Decker and his wife, Rina, have personal reasons of being profoundly shaken by the tragedy, since the "accident" occurred frighteningly close to their daughter Hannah's school. Luckily, their child and her schoolmates escaped unscathed. But the fate of the unaccounted-for flight attendant—twenty-eight-year-old Roseanne Dresden—remains a question mark more than a month after the horrific event, when the young woman's irate stepfather calls,

insisting that she was never onboard the doomed plane. Instead, he claims, she was most likely murdered by her abusive, unfaithful husband. But why, then, was Roseanne's name included on the passenger list?

Under intense pressure from the department to come up with answers, Decker launches an investigation that carries him down a path of tragic history, dangerous secrets, and deadly lies - and leads him to the corpse of a three-decades-

missing murder v victim. And as the jagged pieces slowly fall into place, a frightening picture begins to form; a mind-searing portrait of unimaginable evil that will challenge Decker's and Rina's own beliefs about guilt and innocence and justice.

Combining relentless suspense with intense, multilayered human drama, *The Burnt House* Faye Kellerman at her mesmerizing best.

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4-H Section

To be inserted in October.

This insert features a collection of articles celebrating 4-H Week and the 4-H Clubs in Cheyenne County.



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