



**RESIDENT OF THE MONTH** — l to r Keelie Lanka, activity assistant, interviews LaVera Beringer, as her children Elaine Wiseman, Alice Raile and Larry Beringer listen.

## Village resident is honored

**By Karen Krien**  
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The Good Samaritan Village's resident of the month for March is LaVera (Raile) Beringer. She celebrated the afternoon with family, friends and Village residents and staff.

LaVera, the daughter of Joseph and Emma Raile, was born on March 23, 1928, on the family farm in Cheyenne County. The oldest child, her siblings included Darlene, Marcella, Lillian and Merlyn.

She grew up milking cows, separating milk, gathering eggs, feeding animals and helping at harvest time. She had to shock the oats and grain, and in harvest, she scooped the wheat into the bins. Chores included helping her mother with the gardening and bringing the cows in to milk.

A favorite childhood memory was when she rode the bus from Haigler to Sutton, Neb., and from Goodland to Salina.

Her sister, Darlene, who was at the celebration, told about their dog, Tippy, who didn't like lightning and thunder. They also had a pony, Dandy, which LaVera rode bareback to get the mail.

She attended German Plains District 18 school to the eighth grade which was 2 3/4 miles away which she and her siblings walked. She especially liked "rithmetic" as well as spelling but did not like history! Her eighth grade teacher was Dalton Cody but her favorite teacher was Vera Rockwell who taught in the school for three years.

She was working at the Equity grocery store, stocking crackers when she met her future husband, Edwin Alvin Beringer. Edwin had returned from the war. It was a May day in 1946, she said, and he asked her if she had plans for the night.

They married in the little Evangelical United Brethren country church on Jan. 19, 1947, and lived on the farm south of Salem Lutheran Church in northwest Kansas. The had four children, Elaine, Alice, Larry and Karen.

She said that getting married and having a great family life were the



**At the Edwin and LaVera Beringer Farm**

nicest change in her life. The went on trips to California, Oregon, Florida and Canada.

Son, Larry, told about his mother teaching him to drive the tractor and work the fields. He also commented on her ability to drive the truck loaded with wheat, never stripping a gear.

Elaine said she never wanted to work outside so she worked inside and learned to iron everything from hankies to overalls.

LaVera's granddaughter, Carol Wiseman, said she and her two siblings loved to spend time on the farm with the grandparents. She remembers two of them riding on the floor of the combine with Grandpa and the other in the truck with Grandma. She recalled how well the grandparents worked together at harvest with Grandma driving the truck so Grandpa could fill it with wheat.

Elaine's husband, Jim Wiseman, told about the first time he went to the Beringer's home when they were butchering. He said he had never seen a hog's head boiling. He talked about homemade liverwurst. The family loves it, he said, but he only ate it once.

Carol also told about what a good cook her grandmother was, especially remembering the homemade noodles hanging everywhere and canning peaches.

LaVera's hobbies included embroidering, painting buildings outside and playing cards.

After her husband died, she was still able to live at home for a number of years. She came to the Village to live on Dec. 29, 2008.

Her advice to kids today is "when you are working, don't quit the job until you have another one!"



**Edwin and LaVera Beringer**

## Board to restore auditorium

**By Karen Krien**  
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The Beecher Island Battleground is just over the Kansas line into Yuma County, Colo. The site is almost a surprise as the traveler tops the hills from either the north or south roads. It is tucked down along the Arikaree River where large cottonwood trees shade those spending time at the campground.

The area was the site of a battle with between Col. George Forsyth, his company and a large party of Indians comprising of Northern Cheyennes, Ogallalah and Brule Sioux known as the Dog Soldiers commanded by Chief Roman Nose. The battle was held on Sept. 17, 18 and 19, 1868.

The Beecher Island Battleground Board is now seeking a grant to restore the auditorium which was built in 1927. Mark Mahlberg, president of the board, said there are indications that they will get a Colorado Historical Society grant.

The auditorium was constructed with funds raised from both the state of Kansas and Colorado. At that time, \$10,000 was spent with each state giving \$5,000.

The auditorium is used each year to hold programs during the Beecher Island Days held in the fall. Occasionally a wedding or other event is held in the 83-year-old building. When completed, the board hopes that others will utilize the building and it will better served the people of the area.

The auditorium construction is unique with it's brick chimney which rises from the ground upward to several feet about the peak of the wall. The top of the chimney has an arched opening on each side, giving it the appearance of a small bell tower. It is capped with a square concrete roof.

It is believed that the opposite side of the building was supposed to have the same construction. Mr. Mahlberg said they think the builders ran out of money so finished it off with the planks.

The building is covered with stucco but, that is not original to the building. With the grant, the stucco will be removed and the hollow clay blocks will be exposed. The front of the building is wooden planks. The stucco was added to the wooden planks.

The windows are tall and unusual. Each window is made up of four multi-light windows with

metal frames and wood surrounds. Thick wood mullions with scalloped edges separate these windows from each other.

In the 1960s, to cut down on the afternoon sun, the glass was coated in an opaque paint. Each large window has an angled brick soldiers sill and a heavy-shaped mission-style timber lintel.

Mr. Mahlberg said the stage was not finished when the structure was built. Later, probably in the 1970s, it was finished with paneling. Above the stage is an ornamental long wood beam which is now covered by the dark paneling. The stage will be reconstructed to look like a stage built in 1927.

There was a coal-burning stove which had been removed and there

was no heat in the building. When the building renovation is complete, it will have heat in the floor so it will not change the looks of the building.

Construction on the building will not begin until after the Beecher Days Reunion. Also located on the grounds is a battle monument. The original monument was built in 1905. In 1935, the flood of 1934 toppled the monument and erased the island it stood on. Several parts of the stone monument were found however, the lowest granite base and the upper inscribed stone and remainder of the the obelisk were never located.

In 2006, the monument was restored with funds raised from donations.

## Musical comedy to be presented in Oakley

A new musical comedy, *Church Basement Ladies*, is a large production celebration of the church basement kitchen and the women who work there. They will perform in the Oakley High School Auditorium on Friday at 7:30 p.m.

The comedy features four distinct characters and their relationships as they organize the food and solve the problems of a rural Minnesota church about to undergo changes in 1965.


From the elderly matriarch of the kitchen to the young bride-to-be learning the proper order of things, we see them handle a record breaking Christmas dinner, the funeral of a dear friend, a Hawaiian Easter Fund Raiser, and, of course, a steaming hot July wedding.

They stave off potential disas-

ters, share and debate recipes, instruct the young, and keep the pastor on due course while thoroughly enjoying, (and tolerating) each other as the true "steel magnolias" of the church. Funny and down to earth, audiences will recognize these ladies as they witness the church year unfold from below the house of God.

The script is by Jessica Zuehlke and Jim Stowell and is based on the humorous novel *Growing Up Lutheran* by Janet Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson. Music and lyrics are by composer Drew Jansen, who gave us the music for the popular long-running hit musical, *How To Talk Minnesotan*.

Admission for the evening is by Western Plains Arts Association season ticket, or at the door.




### Frontier Ag

*Bird City Service Station*

*Starting March 22nd we will be upgrading our fuel pumps*

*However we will continue to operate*

**Please excuse the inconvenience**



### Big Brothers Big Sisters

will get rollin' on the annual Bowl For Kids' Sake fundraisers Tuesday, Mar. 23. The event will take place at the Cheyenne Bowl with Bowl times at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. For more information or to get a pledge packet, please contact Bridgette Antholtz at 785-332-3333 or Stephane Workman at 785-332-3100.

### Ladies Fiesta Night

**March 26th - Riverside Dining Room**  
**6:30 - 8:00 pm**

**Premier Designs Jewelry - Sherri Stang**  
**Enjoy a head massage and see new hair products - Denise Andrist**

**Mary Kay Products - Teri Richards - Jolene Dodd**  
**Pampered Chef - Sharissa Andrist**  
**Door Prizes and Fiesta Food**

### HILT LAND AUCTION

**400± ACRES SHERMAN CO., KS**  
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**THURS., APRIL 8 - 10:30 A.M. CT**  
Riverside Recreation  
W. Highway 36. - St. Francis, KS  
Harvey Hilt, Seller

**Tract 1 - 80± ac. - W/2NW/4 Sec. 6, 6-41**  
(76.73 ac. excellent, level dryland; 2.82 ac. CRP)

**Tract 2 - 320± ac. - S/2 Sec. 6, 6-41**  
(273.53 ac. nice grassland; 24.53 ac. CRP; 10 ac. cropland; 8.61 ac. home & improvements)

Land is just south of the Sherman/Cheyenne Co. line, on Sherman Co. Rd. 7. Call or see website for driving directions.



*Improvements include 3-bdrm. home with hardwood floors; barn; quonset, granary & other buildings*

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**Attend the 1st Annual Cheylin Entrepreneurship Fair**  
**Tuesday, March 23, 2010**  
**Cheylin High School Gymnasium**

**9:30 a.m. view participant projects & visit with resource partners**  
(16 participants, Cheylin 7-12 grades)

**10:30 a.m. Speaker, Val Riess, Weskan entrepreneur**

**11 a.m. Announcement of Award Winners**

**\$500 - \$300 - \$200**

  
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Sit down to enjoy or take it on the road.  
All at a "Down Home" price.  
(Eddie's breakfast burritos are back!)  
**Highway 36, St. Francis • 785-332-2905**



### Cheyenne County Wildlife Banquet

**Friday, March 26**  
**Dinner from 6:30-8 p.m.**

Cheyenne County Fairgrounds, St. Francis

Tickets available at \*Bumper To Bumper \*Owens True Value  
\*Frontier Equity \*Republican Valley Auto Parts  
\*Mobe's Archery Supply \*C.C.W.I Board member

**Only 300 tickets will be sold —**  
**there will be no more available and none at the door.**

At the banquet will be a Diamond Grade 12 ga. shotgun along with 16 other guns with the 25th CCWI logo engraved on the stock.

Stop by Ross Mfg., 301 W. Washington, St. Francis,  
to view the 48-gun Liberty Safe.  
Gun cabinet, made by Cliff Semler,  
on display at First National Bank.

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