

First birthday honored



Githens

Carson Tyler Githens celebrated his first birthday the last weekend in October at his home in Denver. His big sister, Megan helped him celebrate with many other relatives and friends.

Carson is the son of Kelli Githens and the grandson of Eddy and Sherry Schultz, St. Francis. Great-grandparents are the late Ed

and Martha Schultz and Emil and Em Peter.

Introducing

Allison Rose Isernhagen, daughter of Jonathan and Jennifer Isernhagen of Keller, Texas, was born on Oct. 15, 2010, in Fort Worth, Texas.

Grandparents of Allison include Glenn and Louanne Isernhagen of St. Francis and Bob and Cinda Kraft of Dallas, Texas.

Great-grandparents are Alice Isernhagen of St. Francis, Marion Kraft of Dallas and Rose Black of Waco, Texas.



Isernhagen

St. Francis News

Van and Nola Burrus, Glori and Amanda Milne, Greg Neel and Kelly and Penny Gienger of St. Francis attended the Oct. 23 wedding of Whitney Green and Michael Balaskovits in Rio Rancho, N.M. Whitney is the daughter of Gwyn and Wendell Green and the granddaughter of the late Warren and Catherine Gienger. Others attending the ceremony included Steve and Leanna Johnson of El Dorado; Mark Johnson of Shawnee, and Jason, Heidi, Bryson and Brenna Perez of Andover.

Thanksgiving guests of Philip and Maxine Crawford were: daughter, Virginia McKeown and husband, Daniel of Weber; son, Larry of Norton on Saturday, Nov. 20. Thanksgiving day guests were daughter, Delores Rabas and husband, William, granddaughter, Kimberly Ryan and husband, Michael and son, Treiton of Russell and granddaughter, Sarah Rabas and fiancé, Darin Martin and his son Randall of Claffin.

Donna and Norvin Northrup, Debra and George Harper; Loreta and Randall Raile were Thanksgiving dinner guests of Eric and Kayce Harper in Benkelman.

Donna and Norvin Northrup drove to Flagler, Colo., Friday where they met Troy, Brenda, Autumn and Tyler Dankenbring of Aurora, Colo., for dinner and visiting.

Betty Jean Winston spent from Tuesday through Saturday morning in Overland Park with Shawn and Leigh Legere, Chase and Miles. On Saturday she traveled to Ellsworth to be with Dan Winston and Jean Winston, returning to St. Francis late afternoon on Sunday.

Leigh Legere was a house guest of Betty Jean from Thursday, Nov. 11, to Sunday, Nov. 14.

Club Clip

Cheyenne County Hospital Guild

The Cheyenne County Hospital Guild met at 2 p.m. at the senior center, with 10 members present.

The program was presented by Debbie Fiala, director of the high school choir, the entertainment was "Christmas Send-off, a quartet and drums."

The meeting was called to order by President Eilene Nolan. The

minutes were read and a treasurer's report was given by Anita Miller, acting for Dolores Kincheloe. She reported \$361.48 in checking and \$254.11 in savings. The meeting was adjourned.

Refreshments were served by hostesses, Eilene Nolan, Donna Northrup and Annette Erskin. The new ticket total is \$110,745.45.



Dixie Lee Keller

June 10, 1926 - Dec. 1, 2010

Dixie Lee (Walters) Keller was born at the family home in Lawn Ridge Township, Cheyenne County, Kan., on June 10, 1926. The oldest child of Roy and Bertha Waters, Dixie was the first of five children. She grew up on Grandview Farm, the Waters homestead, surrounded by golden wheat fields and a vast blue sky.

Dixie was baptized at the Lawn Ridge Methodist Church. She grew up on the farm with her sisters, brother and cousins, enjoying outdoor life, farm activities and milking cows.

Dixie attended Lawn Ridge grammar school then high school in St. Francis, boarding with her sister, Dona and her cousin, Joyce (Gardner) Kyman. She was a member of the National Honor Society.

Upon graduation, Dixie received teacher's training at Fort Hays and Colorado State Teacher's College. Dixie returned to the St. Francis area, teaching at the Neville School in the western part of the county.

While attending a high school alumni dance, she met her future husband, Robert Keller. Dixie and Bob were married at Grandview Farm on Sept. 7, 1947, spending their honeymoon in Colorado Springs. Dixie moved to the Keller farm north of St. Francis, her home of the next 45 years. The young family grew with the birth of Ann in 1949 and Jorn in 1952.

The Kellers grew wheat and raised Hereford cattle. Dixie enjoyed both the peace and the activity of farm life. She was an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church, then Peace Lutheran Church, a leader in the Plum Creek 4-H Club, and she belonged to several clubs. She enjoyed school activities, the wheat harvest and her favorite hobby, bird watching.

As Dixie and Bob moved toward retirement, they began spending winters with their children in Arizona and in California. They purchased a home in Mesa, Ariz., where Dixie enjoyed the

warm winter sunshine, the beautiful Sonora desert and year-round humming birds.

In 1992, Dixie and her husband moved to their home on River Street in St. Francis. There she enjoyed many friends and relatives and the kindness of her neighbors.

She died in Oberlin on Dec. 1, 2010.

Dixie was preceded in death by her parents, Roy and Bertha Waters and her sisters, Dona Sherlock and Beth Heitschmidt.

She is survived by Robert, her husband of 63 years; her daughter, Ann Isaac and son-in-law, Stan, of Dinuba, Calif.; her son, Jorn of Scottsdale, Ariz.; her granddaughter, Stephanie Cabrera and husband, Ernie, also of Dinuba and great-grandchildren Aneasha, Jazmine, Jacob and Damian; and also grandson, Jason Isaac, of South Lake Tahoe, Calif.

Also surviving her is her brother, Jerry Waters, and wife, Janice, of Bethesda, Md.; her brother-in-law, Ernie Heitschmidt, of Guyton, Okla., and her sister, Cathy Brunswig, and husband, Chuck of Fort Collins, Colo. Additional survivors are sister-in-law, Bertha Hilt, brother-in-law, Elton Keller and wife, Ella Mae and sister-in-law, Vinta Keller. A host of nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews will always remember Aunt Dixie.

Dixie spent her life helping people. She was known for her kindness and patience and for the loving warmth of her smile. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Funeral services were held on Dec. 6 at Peace Lutheran Church, St. Francis, with Pastor Ken Hart officiating.

Casket bearers were Jason Isaac, Carl Brunswig, Mike Brunswig, Paul Brunswig, Jeff Waters, Brent Waters, Roy Heitschmidt and Steven Heitschmidt.

Interment was in the St. Francis Cemetery.

Arrangements were by Knodel Funeral Home.

Mercle Leone Tiff

April 12, 1915 - Nov. 14, 2010

Mercle Leone Likes Van Horn Tiff died on Nov. 14, 2010, in Longmont, Colo. She was born on April 12, 1915, to George Franklin Likes and Elizabeth E. Huffman Likes in Yuma County near Kirk, Colo.

Mercle lived on the family homestead until graduating from high school in Kirk. She then went to live with her Aunt Estelle in Florida, to go to secretarial school. She returned to Wray, Colo., and took a job in the welfare office at the Yuma County Courthouse. It was there she met and married Raymond Van Horn who was a widower with six children.

To this union another six children were born. Raymond Van Horn then was killed in a farming accident leaving her with six small children when she then met and married neighbor, Frank Tiff in June of 1956.

From this union two more children were born. They sold their ranch in western Kansas and moved

to Steamboat Springs, Colo., to ranch there. The Tiffs then sold the ranch and bought a motel in town, then moving to Oregon, then back to Colorado, to the current town of Longmont in 1971. They have made it their home ever since.

Mercle is preceded in death by her parents and two brothers, Howard Likes and George Likes, her first husband, Raymond Van Horn, stepchildren, Frank Van Horn, Buddy Van Horn, Link Van Horn, Mary Van Horn Edwards, and her own son, Butch Van Horn and daughter, Ellen Van Horn Meents.

She is survived by her husband, Frank Tiff, step daughters, Edith Van Horn Roundtree, Lois Van Horn Zuege, and children, Betsy Van Horn Truax Zimmerman, Larry Van Horn, Rick Van Horn, Roger Van Horn, Cindy Tiff Church and Steve Tiff, also her 22 grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Obituaries

Katherine Helen Fitzgibbons

March 11, 1943 - Dec. 4, 2010

Longtime Goodland, Kan., resident Katherine Helen Fitzgibbons, 67, died Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010, at Hays Medical Center.

Kathy was born March 11, 1943, at Colby, the daughter of Anna Caroline (Geerdes) and Theodore Mathias Reinert. She grew up on a farm near Seguin. "Katie," as her dad called her, helped with chores, gardening, and breakfast-making. It was known that she sometimes liked to hide when her older sister, Mary called upon her to watch baby sister Ruthie, "the nuisance," but she later felt great joy when called upon to help tend her grandchildren.

She learned to bake under the watchful eye of her mom. Kathy was in 4-H, and somewhere along the line, she learned to make the flakiest pie crusts. She loved to cook, sew, can and garden.

Kathy graduated from Sheridan County High School in 1961, and then furthered her education at Sisters of St. Joseph School of Nursing at Marymount College in Salina, becoming a registered nurse. Her first job was in Topeka as a pediatric nurse, and later she worked in Cheyenne, Wyo. For many years, she worked at the hospital in Goodland, and also as the Sherman County Health Nurse.

On Sept. 13, 1969, she and Peter Patrick Fitzgibbons were married at Our Lady Of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Goodland, in which they were active members. The marriage came with three small children, who were placed in the back pew of the church for the wedding.

As she walked down the aisle, they all hollered out "Hi, Kathy." Later Kari and Mike came along to complete the family, and there was also her other "son" Joe, who often got stuck watching all five of the lively brood. Kathy took the adventures of this bunch calmly, but every once in a while, her wit would sneak in and keep everyone on their toes.

After her retirement, she spent her time doing what she always enjoyed...taking care of her grand-

kids, cooking, gardening, reading, sewing, and most of all, "tending Pete."

Preceding her in death were her parents.

Surviving family includes her husband, Pete Fitzgibbons of Goodland; daughter, Jennifer Brennan and her husband, Karl of Taos, N.M.; daughter, Tracy Neitzel and her husband, Todd of St. Francis; son, Patrick Fitzgibbons and his wife, Denise of Colorado Springs, Colo.; daughter, Kari Whittington and her husband, Greg of Goodland; son, Michael Fitzgibbons and his wife, Rachael of Gardner; 11 grandchildren, Joseph Fitzgibbons and his wife, Meghan; Kindra Brennan, all of Taos; Colton Neitzel; Cutter Neitzel, both of St. Francis; Shandi Gilmer of Colorado Springs; Zane Gilmer of Cheyenne, Wyo.; Theresa Sears and her husband, Nathan of Brush, Colo.; MaKayla Fitzgibbons; Brooklyn Whittington, Logan Whittington, all of Goodland; Anna Fitzgibbons of Gardner; five great-grandchildren, Jillian Bailey, Emily Gonzales, Thomas Sears, Brennan Fitzgibbons, Isaiah Gonzales; eight siblings, Mary Ritter and her husband, Vince of Topeka; Sister Anne Martin of Concordia; MaDonna Cully and her husband, Bob of Chanute; Wilfred Reinert of Seguin; Caroline Jacobs and her husband, Herman of Dresden; Janet Berger and her husband, Rich of Nicholasville, Ky.; Dennis Reinert and his wife, Angie of Lamar, Colo.; Ruth Reinert of Dodge City.

Mass of Christian Burial was Tuesday, Dec. 7, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Goodland, with Father Norbert Dlabal presiding. Burial followed in the Goodland Cemetery. A vigil and rosary was held on Monday, Dec. 6, at Koons Chapel.

Memorials may be designated to the Kathy Fitzgibbons Memorial Nursing Scholarship, and may be left at or mailed to Koons Funeral Home, 211 N. Main, Goodland, KS 67735-1555.

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Texas Red's BBQ

will be at St. Francis Super's
Wednesday, Dec. 8
thru
Saturday, Dec. 11



Beef brisket, smoked pork, turkey breast, ribs & sausage

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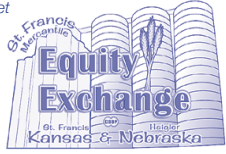
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The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times Will be CLOSED



Friday, Dec. 24 & Friday, Dec. 31

Advocate Deadline for Dec. 29 will be noon, Thursday, Dec. 23

The staff at the St. Francis Herald and Bird City Times wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!