

Patricia Jean Cook

Nov. 29, 1928 - Feb. 23, 2012

On Feb. 23, 2012, Patricia Jean Cook died after a hard-fought battle with lung cancer at the age of 83. She was surrounded by her family.



Cook

A celebration of her life was held Saturday at the United Methodist Church, St. Francis.

Pat was born Nov. 29, 1928, in Chicago, Ill., and was the daughter of Tom and Alice Ballard.

She spent her younger years in Parks, Neb., and vividly remembered the flood of 1935. The family then moved to Benkelman, Neb., in 1942, where she was a cheerleader for the Benkelman Bulldogs and homecoming queen her senior year.

After graduation, Patricia moved to Denver and attended Central Business College. Upon completion of business school, she went to work for Denver Public Works as a comptometer operator.

Her weekends were spent dancing at various ballrooms with the love of her life, Lt. Warren Cook (when he could obtain a leave pass from Fort Carson in Colorado Springs). They were married in 1948 in the United Methodist Church in Benkelman.

They started their married life together in a small home in St. Francis. Pat worked as a "holiday employee" for Ben Franklins and when she and Warren moved to the farm just west of town, she helped with the dairy business while raising their family. When they moved back to town, she worked part time at the Style Shoppe.

Willard Haddon Zwegardt

June 16, 1928 - Feb. 18, 2012

Willard Haddon Zwegardt was born June 16, 1928, to Fred W. and Katie Hust Zwegardt at the farm home west of St. Francis, Kan. He was baptized and confirmed at Salem Lutheran Church by Pastor O.H. Zweilinger.

He was the fifth of six children born to this closely knit family. From the time they attended country school together, on through their adult lives, they were always in close contact with each other's families.

Willard graduated from St. Francis Community High School in 1947 and began farming with his father. In 1950, he and Donna Clapper were married and they moved to the family farm. Link Willard joined the family in 1960 and Deonn Gae in 1963. Willard was a devoted husband, father and grandfather.

He enjoyed all aspects of ranching and farming and was very innovative. He greatly enjoyed the challenge of acquiring a parcel of land, a machine, or a new breed of cattle and then improving it.

Even in his later years when he was unable to directly participate in the farming operation, he was always interested in the work being done there.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Donna; his son, Link (Juhnja) Zwegardt and daughter, Deonn (Kip) Wiese; grandchildren, Ryan Zwegardt, Garden City; Garrett Zwegardt, Lawrence; Candice Wiese, Colby; and Cole Wiese, St. Francis; brother, Delmer (Lavonne) Zwegardt, Parker, Colo.; sister, Alice (Roger) Coffin, Parker; sisters-in-law Betty Zwegardt, Parker, Bernice Zwegardt, St. Francis, Mary El Clapper, Springfield, Mo., and Victoria Clapper, St. Francis; brother-in-law Tom (Norma) Clapper, Troutdale, Ore.; cousins, Robert Zwegardt and Tobe Zwegardt and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Pat was a Wolf Pack scout leader, a member of Ramblers, Garden Club and Eastern Star. She taught Sunday school at the First Christian Church and loved playing bridge with her friends.

She devoted much of her time and energy as a caregiver. Though not flashy or flamboyant, she was the best quiet supporter anyone could ask for, always putting her family first.

She is survived by her husband, Warren; daughter and two sons, Teresa and Troy Porter of St. Francis, Dr. Randy and Karen Cook of Hays, Kan., and Dr. Kelly Cook of Phoenix, Ariz.; six grandchildren: Wade, Brenda, Mindy, Ryan, Tanner and Kaci; and four great-grandchildren: Paige and Gage Porter and Mia and Tyler Forrester, as well as family and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Tom and Alice Ballard, and sister, Elaine Blank Raichart.

She will be missed by the husband she danced through life with, her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren that she always held in her arms and her heart. Her smile, compassion and great sense of humor will be missed by many.

Funeral services were held Feb. 25 at the United Methodist Church in St. Francis with Rev. Warren Cico officiating. Casket bearers were Wade Porter, Ryan Cook, Tanner Cook, Gale Cook, Kelly Frewen and Mike Frewen.

Interment was in the St. Francis Cemetery. Arrangements were made by Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis.

Donations may be sent to the United Methodist Church and Northwest Kansas Hospice Care.

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Preceding him in death were his parents, one sister, Lydia Krien; brothers, Leonard and Ruben; granddaughters, Sheena Tagmeyer and Christa Navarro.

Willard died on Feb. 18, 2012, at the Good Samaritan Village, St. Francis.

Funeral services were held Feb. 24 at Peace Lutheran Church, St. Francis, with Pastor Randy Nelson officiating. Casket bearers were Ryan Zwegardt, Garrett Zwegardt, Cole Wiese, Bill Brown, Gale Walz and Tim Lauren.

Interment was in the St. Francis Cemetery. Knodel Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Barbara Ann Atha

May 17, 1939 - Feb. 23, 2012

Barbara Ann Atha, 72, of Hutchinson, Kan., died Feb. 23, 2012, at Hutchinson Regional Medical Center.



Atha

She was born May 17, 1939, in St. Francis, Kan., the daughter of Glen and Alice Walter Neitzel. She graduated from St. Francis Community High School and received her bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Kansas State University.

She taught home economics in the Junction City and Hutchinson Public Schools for 35 years and was a member of Countryside Baptist Church.

On Feb. 10, 1962, she married Stanley Pearson. She later married Larry Atha on Dec. 27, 1985, in Junction City. He died June 15, 2002.

Survivors include her son Carl Pearson, Junction City, daughter Gwen Sayler, Dallas, Texas, father Glen Neitzel, Goodland, and sister Karen Sutter, Junction City, and five grandchildren; Brandon Sayler, Allison Sayler, Gabby Scheidt, Anjelica Scheidt and Emilie Pearson.

She was preceded in death by her mother, and a brother Bill Neitzel.

Funeral service was held on Monday, Feb. 27, at Countryside Baptist Church. Burial followed in Penwell-Gabel Cemetery and Mausoleum.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in care of the funeral home. Visit www.penwell-gabelhutchinson.com to leave the family a personal message.

Rudy (Rudolf) Zwegardt

Aug. 10, 1928 - Feb. 16, 2012

Rudy (Rudolf) Zwegardt, 83, died on Feb. 16, 2012, in Westcliffe, Colo.

Rudy was born to John and Katherine (Wall) Zwegardt on Aug. 10, 1928, on a farm near St. Francis, Kan. Rudy had a brother Reinhold Zwegardt and two sisters, Gertrude Black and Irene Schiesler.

Rudy attended a rural school outside of St. Francis and then high school in Haigler, Neb. He married Edith Marie Bullock on May 2, 1948, in Benkelman, Neb.

Rudy worked as a farmer and mechanic. He and Edith moved to Englewood, Colo., in 1956. He retired from Martin Marietta after more than 30 years of service.

They had recently moved to Westcliffe where they lived at the time of his death. During his life, Rudy loved to camp and fish. Additionally he was an avid motorcycleist, snowmobiler, and tractor puller. Rudy was a dedicated family man.

Rudy was preceded in death by his parents, his brother and one sister.

He is survived by his wife, Edith of Westcliffe; sister, Irene Schiesler of Sharon Springs, Kan.; children, Johnnie and Pat Zwegardt of Westcliffe, and Ronald and Lucinda Zwegardt of Hudson, Colo.; his grandchildren, Stuart Zwegardt of Commerce City, Colo., and Nicci Beauprez of Hudson; and two great-grandchildren, Jenna and John Beauprez of Hudson.

A luncheon will be served at noon prior to the memorial service at 1:30 p.m., Monday, March 5, 2012, at the Salem Lutheran Church, rural St. Francis.

Arrangements handled through Holt Family Funeral Home. Online condolences @ www.holtfamilyfuneralhome.com.

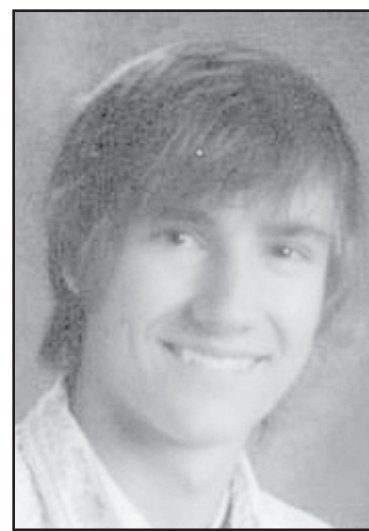
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Logan Whitmore



Sarah Whitmore

Students selected for honor band

One of the highest achievements a high school music student may earn is to be selected for the Kansas Music Educators Association State-Wide Honor Band, Orchestra or Choir. Participants in the honor groups are considered to be the finest student musicians in Kansas.

St. Francis Community High School students Sarah Whitmore, a junior, and Logan Whitmore, a senior, participated in the 2012 all-State Honor Band.

Students are selected via a rigorous audition process that begins at the district level. Logan and Sarah had auditioned for and performed with the Northwest Kansas, Kansas Music Educators Association Honor Band in Hays in December. The next step was a live audition in Salina on Jan. 7. Of the 94 flute players from across the state who auditioned, Sarah was one of 10 selected for 1-2-3-4 A Concert Band. Logan was one of 14 trumpet players selected out of 97 who auditioned.

Logan and Sarah traveled to Wichita on Feb. 23-25 for the Kansas Music Educators Association In-Service Workshop, which is attended by music educators from across the state. The concert band rehearsed Thursday through Saturday morning, and then presented a concert at the Century II Concert Hall on Saturday afternoon. The Honor Band was under the direction of Ralph Ford, former Professor of Music and Director of Bands at Troy University.

Last year Logan became the first instrumental music student from St. Francis to qualify for the All-State Honor Band. He and Sarah have both participated in numerous honor bands and have received many music awards and recognition throughout their high school careers. Logan plans to continue his musical endeavors in college as a member of the K-State Pride of Wildcatland Marching Band.

Sarah and Logan are students of Debbie Fiala, St. Francis Community High School music director. They also receive private instruction from Neal Russell, retired band director in Oberlin.

Across the County

Colostrum is vital food for newborn calves

Colostrum intake is critical for the newborn calf. At birth, a calf's immune system is not fully developed. Therefore, the calf must rely on colostrum from the cow until its own immune system is totally functional (about 1 to 2 months of age). Colostrum contains antibodies or immunoglobulins necessary to provide the calf with protection from disease.

For colostrum to be most effective, the calf must receive 1 quart within six hours after birth and a total of 2 to 3 quarts within 12 hours of birth. After that time, the calf's gut begins to "close" and absorbing the antibodies in colostrum becomes more difficult. At six hours after birth, calves absorb 66 percent of the immunoglobulins in colostrum, but at 36 hours after birth they are able to absorb only 7 percent of immunoglobulins.

So how much does a calf need? As a general rule of thumb, a calf should receive 5 percent to 6 percent of its body weight as colostrum within the first six hours of life. That same amount should be fed again when the calf is about 12 hours old. Colostrum weighs approximately 8 pounds per gallon. For an 80-pound calf, this equates to approximately 2 quarts (4 pounds) of colostrum per feeding.

Place frozen colostrum and its container in warm water (110 F) and stir every five minutes. The colostrum should be warmed to 104 to 110 F.

Thaw colostrum in a microwave oven. Set the oven at no more than 60-percent power for gentle thawing. Agitate or stir the colostrum frequently to assure even thawing and warming. This is important since many microwaves do not heat material evenly. Warm the colostrum to 104 F.

Breed type and cow age affect the amount of colostrum a cow produces. Dairy breeds produce more than beef breeds and mature cows produce more than heifers. Cows on higher planes of nutrition also produce more colostrum than cows on a low plane.

Calves that experience a difficult or prolonged birth tend to take longer to stand and nurse, resulting in a weak calf that lacks the proper immunoglobulin protection necessary to fend off disease threats. These calves may need to be tube fed colostrum or given colostrum substitutes.

The Johne's disease risk
Johne's disease (Myobacterium paratuberculosis) can be spread to herds through infected colostrum. Producers using colostrum from another cow as a supplement should be sure the cow from which they get it is free of the disease.

Proper colostrum management is essential to the health of newborn calves. Making sure calves get adequate colostrum will improve health and ensure the calf gets off to a proper start in life. Contact the Cheyenne County Extension office at 332-3171 or cfear@ksu.edu with questions or comments.

Until next week - Marty

By Marty Fear



County Extension Agent

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