

Obituaries

Maria Eva (Becker) Kamla

Aug. 10, 1936-July 13, 2014

Maria Eva (Becker) Kamla, 77, died on July 13, 2014, in St. Francis, Kan.

Maria was born Aug. 10, 1936, in Munich, Germany. During WWII her family was forced to flee to Linz, Austria, where they lived for several years. Near the end of WWII, they returned to Munich. She completed a technical education in drafting and worked for Siemens.

In 1954, she met John Kamla of St. Francis, who was stationed in Munich after the Korean War. They were married October 23, 1954 and returned to John's parents' farm in February, 1955, where they lived for a brief time and help on the farm.

Soon John bought land seven miles south of Bird City, where

he and Maria lived for the next 52 years. A tornado destroyed John and Maria's home in March of 2007, prompting a move to town.

Maria became a U.S. citizen on April 18, 1966 and was very proud of her achievement. Maria was a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Bird City. Over the years, she attended Bible study groups and assisted with Vacation Bible School. Maria made several trips to Munich to visit her family, the most recent being in May 2013.

Those left to remember Maria are her children Frederick and Monika (Bonavia), granddaughter Ceara, sisters Elisabeth Huber and Monika Kammermeier, brother Wilhelm and nephew Robert, all of Munich, Germany, sisters-in-

law Louise Schlepp and Marie Pothoff, and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband John, four children David, Katherine, Edward and Bryan, and her parents, Heinrich and Monika (Koller).

The family suggests memorials to The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Bird City Emergency medical technician services or Hospice Services.

"Perhaps they are not stars, but rather openings in heaven where the love of our lost ones pours through and shines down upon us to let us know they are happy" - Eskimo Proverb.

Clyde Burnham Gleason

Jan. 23, 1929- July 12, 2014

Clyde Burnham Gleason, age 85, of Hays, formerly of Bird City, died Saturday, July 12, 2014.

He was born on Jan. 23, 1929 south of Bird City on the family farm the tenth child of Philander Clark (Pood) and Cora Gleason.

Clyde grew up on the farm with his older brothers and sisters and went on to attend Bird City High School and played two years of football.

Clyde married Wilma Powell on Aug. 20, 1950. Together they lived on the Gleason family farm where they farmed and were blessed with two daughters, Sandy and Shona. Years later they bought a house and moved to town. Clyde continued farming and also worked for the Bird City Co-op elevator for 25 dedicated years. As time went on he scaled down his farming due

to health reasons, but farmed for all the years his body would let him. They then decided to move to Plainville to be closer to their daughters. Clyde was an accomplished wood worker, a talent that some of us didn't know. He made furniture for his wife, children and grandchildren. He also had a hobby of gardening and was very good at it.

He enjoyed sports of all kinds. He talked football with his daughter Shona, and Nascar racing with his other daughter, Sandy and husband Merf. He always enjoyed hearing about the drag races that his son-in-law would race in.

Clyde had a love of life in general. He also had a great sense of humor which was seen in the gleam of his eye.

He is preceded in death by his

parents; five brothers, Joseph, Bill, Lyode, CL (Tom), Junior (JC), three sisters, Erma, Frances, Louise Sawyer, three sister-in-laws, Ida, Leila, Betty, and his grandson, Wade Lee.

Uncle Clyde leaves his wife Wilma of Hays, two daughters, Sandy and Merf of Hays, Shona of Ellis, a grandson, Wayne Lee and wife Kellie of Aurora, Colo.; two grandsons, Jacob and Carson; two great granddaughters, Megan and Olivia his twin brother Claude of Bird City and numerous nieces, nephews and a host of friends.



New wildlife group starts

Amanda Miller

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Some people across town may have been asked if they would like to purchase tickets to a Hunting Heritage Banquet held in September. Cheyenne County has started a new chapter of the National Wild Turkey Foundation, and they are throwing a banquet this fall to raise money and awareness for the group.

Not to be confused with Cheyenne County Wildlife, the National Wild Turkey Foundation is a new wildlife habitat conservation chapter in Cheyenne County. The foundation currently has five board members, consisting of members from both Bird City and St. Francis. Josh Moberly, owner of Mobe's Archery, is president of the chapter.

The national nonprofit organization was founded in 1973, and has local chapters in every state. Their main objective is the conservation of wild turkey and the preservation of hunting heritage.

One of the ways they hope to achieve their goals is by encouraging youth development outdoors. The organization has already donated \$4,000 the

local Cheyenne County 4-H Deadeye Archery Club to buy targets and encourage participation. They have also donated \$625 to the local 4-H Shooting Sports Shotgun youths.

The other way the National Wild Turkey Foundation achieves their goals is through conservation. The organization states that we lose an average of 6,000 acres a day to urban development. They have spent more than \$412 million to conserve nearly 17.25 million acres of habitat. That area is larger than the state of West Virginia!

When they were founded in 1973, there were approximately 1.5 million wild turkeys in North America. After 40 years of dedicated work, that number hit a historic high of almost 7 million turkeys. However in recent years, the national turkey populations have been declining again.

The National Wild Turkey Foundation states on it's website that hunters pay for 80 percent of the budgets for state wildlife agencies. Hunters pay for conservation through license sales and excise taxes on guns, ammunition and related gear. This is why the organization is en-

couraging the next generation of hunters.

The average American hunter is 42 years old. The majority are men. The National Wild Turkey Foundation encourages women and young hunters through different programs. Right now the percentage of total Kansas population that owns a hunting license is 6 percent. That number leaves a lot of room for improvement.

Money raised through the Hunting Heritage Banquet is used to conduct Hunting Heritage Super Fund projects, including conservation and outreach projects in the states raising the funds. The banquet in September will have games, raffles and auctions with chances to win National Wild Turkey Foundation merchandise and firearms.

Josh said that he really likes the organization because of their commitment to encouraging youth in the community to give hunting a try.

Don't forget to buy a ticket from one of the young 4-H students that is selling them to the banquet. There will be a lot of beautiful items auctioned off, and it is all for a good cause!

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