

# Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick

This time of year people of many beliefs stop to reflect. Whether you are Christian, Jewish, Muslim or hold to whatever faith it is, it is good to take time and see where you are and where you are going spiritually. I have to share a special moment I had this Christmas. Christmas Eve, our daughter, Lexi, had a part in the church service at Salem Lutheran Church. She did a great job with her lines. It doesn't matter if you are not a Lutheran, if you enjoy history and old churches, a visit to Salem is worth the trip. It is located in the country on Road 9, about eight miles northwest of St. Francis. The church was built in 1901 by German Lutherans who had immigrated to the high plains of Kansas. While sitting in the pews and listening to the wind whip outside, it takes little imagination to join those who built the beautiful church.

But my special moment came when most of the lights were turned off on Christmas Eve and the only light was from the candles we held. The congregation sang "Silent Night, Holy Night." It sounded nice, as it always had to me before, then a handful of singers performed the final stanza in German! The original carol is called "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht." It was written by an assistant pastor, Fr. Joseph Mohr, and introduced on Christmas Eve, 1818, in the village church of Oberndorf, Austria. Mohr's friend, a musician and school teacher, Franz Gruber, arranged the music. At a Midnight Mass at the St. Nicholas Church, some 180 years ago, Fr. Mohr played a guitar and the choir sang in German. Somehow, in that old country church on that blessed night, all was calm and all was bright. Or, should I say, "Alles schlaft; einsam wacht."

# Obituary

**Kenneth Lloyd Peck**

Oct. 4, 1916 - Dec. 21, 2006  
Longtime Goodland, Kan., resident Kenneth Lloyd Peck, 90, died Thursday, Dec. 21, 2006, at Goodland Regional Medical Center.

He was born Oct. 4, 1916, in Wymore, Neb., the only child of Robert and Dencie (Harris) Peck. The family moved to Bird City in 1917, where Kenneth grew up and attended the local schools, graduating from Bird City High School.

On April 5, 1939, he married Viola Kehlbeck. He served in the United States Army from October 1943 to January 1946, stationed in Europe with the 17th Base Post Office.

The Pecks moved to Atwood in 1946, where he worked at the post office. In 1951, they moved to Goodland where Kenneth continued working as assistant postmaster in the post office, retiring in 1972 after 35 years of service.

He was a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, where he had served as treasurer. Other memberships included Lutheran Brotherhood, Veterans of Foreign Wars - Lowell Coleman Post 1133, Goodland Elks Lodge 1528 and

Promenader Square Dance Club. He enjoyed fishing, traveling, playing cards and square dancing. He was especially proud of his nine grandchildren.

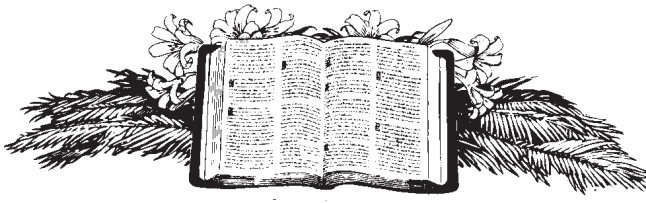
In 2002, the Pecks moved to Wheatridge Acres and later to the Sherman County Good Samaritan Center.

Preceding him in death were his parents, a grandson, Brian VanAllen, and a great-grandson, David Baney.

Surviving family includes his wife, Viola Peck, Goodland; two sons, Doug Peck and his wife, Cheryl, Goodland; Kenneth Peck Jr. and his wife, Patty, Winter Springs, Fla.; two daughters, Barbara VanAllen and her husband, Robert, Wheeler; Rebecca Baney and her husband, Rick, Des Moines, Iowa; eight grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

The funeral was Dec. 28, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, with Reverend H.A. Lycett officiating. Burial followed in the Goodland Cemetery.

Memorials may be designated to the Kenneth Peck Memorial, and may be left at or mailed to Koons Funeral Home, 211 North Main, Goodland, KS 67735-1555.



# Bulletin Board

**McDonald Seniors**

The McDonald Seniors will have a potluck dinner and meeting on New Year's Day, Jan. 1.

**York College choir**

York College Concert Choir Tour, York, Neb., will be coming to St. Francis to entertain at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 3, at the St. Francis Community High School.

**Open house**

Roxie Neitzel and staff will hold an appreciation open house from 1 to 5 p.m. on Friday at Netzel Insurance office, 208 W. Washington. Stop by for refreshments.

**Historical Society**

The Cheyenne County Historical Society will hold an installation of officers at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 9.

**Cheyenne County Commissioners**

The Cheyenne County Commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. Friday in the commissioners' room in the courthouse in St. Francis.

**Cheyenne County Kansans for Life**

The Cheyenne County Kansans for Life will meet Tuesday, Jan. 2 at the Peace Lutheran Church, 202 N. College in St. Francis at 7:30 p.m. All are invited to join in praying, learning, and fellowshiping as we work to-

gether to provide "Life for All".

**Fair Board**

The Cheyenne County Fair Board will hold its regular monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Jan. 4, at the commissioner's room at the courthouse.

**Late publication**

The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times will publish one day later during the Christmas and New Year's holidays. The newspapers will go to the post offices on Dec. 28 and Jan. 4 instead of Dec. 27 and Jan. 3. The staff of The Herald and Times wish everyone a happy holiday.

**Veterans' Affairs Representative**

Jody Tubbs of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs will be in St. Francis at 9:30 a.m. at the County Clerk's office to assist veterans and their dependents with VA claims work. The representative will be in St. Francis the first (Jan. 4) and third (Jan. 18) Thursdays of every month. If you are unable to contact Ms. Tubbs in St. Francis, you may contact the office in Colby any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday. That phone number is 785-462-3572.

**Bicycles still being collected**

The Lions Club is still collecting bicycles to take to the Norton Cor-

rectional facility to be repair. The bicycles made be taken to the Saint Francis Herald office for later pickup. Please bring to front door of Herald.

**Recovery Today/Narcotics Anonymous**

Recovery Today group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at 8 p.m. on Sunday nights at the United Methodist Educational Building. Call (785) 332-6542 or 8607 for more information.

**Sainty Serenity Seekers/Alcoholics Anonymous**

Sainty Serenity Seekers open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous is held at 7:30 p.m. each Thursday evening at the United Methodist Education Building at 104 W. Webster, St. Francis. Call (785) 332-6542 for more information

**Northwest Kansas Family Shelter**

Northwest Kansas Family Shelter provides 24-hour-7 day-a-week services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. For information or if you are in need of assistance, please call the toll-free number 1-800-794-4624.

## Introducing

**Kamie Rae Purvis**

Stan and Becky Purvis announce the birth of a daughter, Kamie Rae, born on Dec. 22, 2006, at the Goodland Medical Center. She weighed 6 pounds, 4 ounces and was 19-inches long. She will have a lot of playmates as she has two brothers, Mac and L.J., and one sister, Katie Jo.

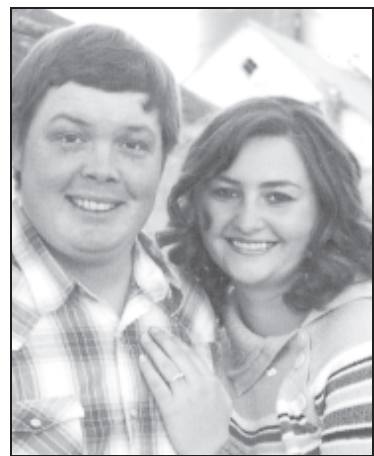
Grandparents are Jerry and Betty Knapp of McDonald and Joyce and Elmer Purvis of Goodland.

# Couple to exchange wedding vows on Jan. 6

A.J. and Sherry Jones of St. Francis would like to announce the engagement of their daughter, Amanda Lynn to Jason Lee Barnhart, son of Doug and Sandy Barnhart of St. Francis.

Amanda is the granddaughter of Manson and Bonnie Jones, St. Francis, and Arlene Sharp, Estes Park, Colo. Jason is the grandson of Jerdene and Barbara Barnhart, Ilene Raile and the late Clarence Raile, all of St. Francis.

The couple plan to be married Jan. 6 at the United Methodist Church in St. Francis.



Barnhart — Jones

# Engagement announced

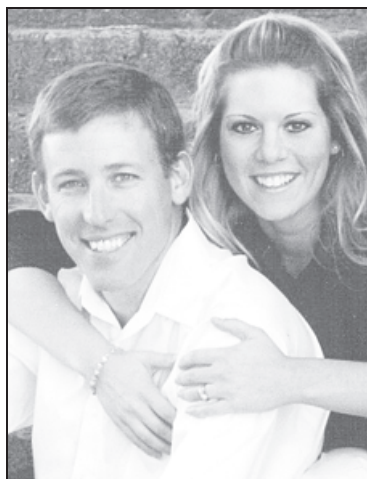
Gary and Mary Moore of Bird City announce the engagement of their daughter Brandi Moore to Terry Niblock of Brewster.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Cheylin High School and York College. She currently coaches at Grinnell/Wheatland Schools and works for Thomas County Head Start in Colby.

The groom-to-be is a graduate of Winona High School. He is currently employed by Frontier Equity in Brewster.

Brandi is the granddaughter of Bob and Leona Scantland of Greeley, Colo., Willard and Dorothy Moore of Bird City, and the late Maxine Moore.

Terry is the son of Loretta Niblock of Stockton and the late Henry Niblock. He is the grandson of the late Charles and Cecilia Kolbet and



Niblock — Moore

the late Rachel Niblock.

They will be united in marriage at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Colby on Jan. 10.

**Happy 25th Anniversary**  
**BENNIE & KATHY WEBER**  
**Friday, Dec. 29**  
Cards may be sent to: P.O. Box 376; St. Francis, KS 67756  
Children: Lenny & Christy Weber, Winfield, KS; Joyce & Craig Kerbs, Fort Morgan, CO; Mike & Dede, Akron, CO.  
Grandchildren: Vanessa, Kyle, Levi & Amanda Weber; Jeremy & Brandie Kerbs, Lacey Kerbs; Drew, Hailey & Elle Weber. Great-Grandchild Skye Tomlin

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**OPEN HOUSE**  
Friday, December 29 ~ 1-5 p.m.  
*In appreciation of your business, please join us for refreshments.*  
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**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**BIRD CITY CENTURY II**  
Development Foundation  
"A COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE BIRD CITY COMMUNITY."

**New Year's Eve Teen Dance**  
Sun., Dec. 31  
4-8 p.m.  
DJ's: B&D  
Cover Charge - Party Favors Included  
**Adult Dance**  
9 p.m.-1 a.m.  
DJ: Ken Bowersox  
**BETH'S BAR & GRILL**  
Benkelman, Neb.

**The Bird City Times**  
(USPS 056-720)  
Serving the communities of Bird City and McDonald

Casey McCormick, Editor  
Melinda Basnett, Associate Editor  
Karen Krien - Publisher  
Shawn C. McCormick - Adv. Mgr.

Periodicals postage paid at Bird City, Kansas 67731-0220  
Phone (785) 538-2289  
Fax (785) 332-3001  
Or Phone (785) 332-3162  
E-Mail bctimes@nwkansas.com  
Published every Thursday \$30 per year in Cheyenne and surrounding counties; other in-state and all out-of-state subscriptions, \$34 (strictly in advance).

**Postmaster: Send address correction to P.O. Box 220 Bird City, Kansas 67731-0220**

Official City Newspaper  
Published Weekly By  
Nor'West Newspapers, Incorporated  
Bird City, KS 67731

**SHOWTIME: 7:30 p.m.** 1 hour, 40 min.

**Dec. 29, 30 & 31 The Nativity Story**  
Starring: Keisha Castle-Hughes, Shohreh Aghdashloo, Oscar Isaac, Ciaran Hinds, Shaun Toub  
Drama & Politics/Religion  
Rating: PG for some violent content.

**Cheyenne Theater** St. Francis, KS  
785-332-2747  
Children 11 & under: \$2 12-18 yr.: \$3 Senior Citizens: \$3 Adults: \$4

**Business Directory**  
To list your business, call 785-332-3162.

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785-332-2104

**NOTICE**

Due to the number of flu and cold cases within our community we are closing the hospital to ALL non-immediate family members.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

— Cheyenne County Hospital Administration

**Corrections**

The Saint Francis Herald will correct or clarify any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at 332-3162 to report errors. We believe that news stories should be fair and factual, and appreciate your calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

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