

The Gleason twins, Claude and Clyde, will be 85 years old Jan. 23.

Rough Writers read stories at Old Country Church

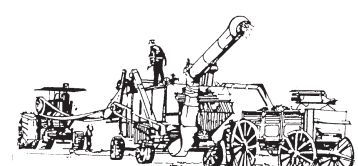
The public is invited to the Old Country Church in St. Francis on Sunday, Jan. 26, from 2 to 3 p.m. for "Mysteries of the Past," readings on the history of Bird City. Stories on homesteading and archeology, among other topics, will be presented.

Writers of these histories are members of the Bird City Historical Association. "Mysteries of the Past" was a monthly compilation of articles of historical interest. Each member of the association chose a category, and then wrote a story. The stories were included in eight monthly issues published about a year ago. They were distributed for student use to Cheylin Schools in

the 2012-2013 school year. Dorthy Mast is president of the association. Vice president Marsha Magley is organizing Sunday's event.

This Rough Writers Read is the eighth in a series of quarterly readings at the Old Country Church, located near the Cheyenne County Museum on U.S. 36. These events are sponsored by the Cheyenne County Historical Society.

The Rough Writers have been gathering monthly during the school year since September 2007. Their primary purpose is to encourage each other "to write and to keep on writing." Some also assist with monthly writing



workshops at the Good Samaritan Village. They published the book Memories & Musings of the residents of the Good Samaritan Village, available through the Cheyenne County Historical Society.

The Rough Writers plan to host more readings on a quarterly basis. Call Lucille Rossbach, 785-332-8903, if interested in doing a reading or joining the Rough Writers.

Hospital board swears in new board member at meeting

By Amanda Miller
amiller@nwkans.com

The Cheyenne County Hospital Board met on Jan. 16 to swear in a new board member and elect officers for the year.

The board took time to acknowledge the service of commitment and caring that Kari Gilliland has given to the hospital and clinic over the past eight years. Mrs. Gilliland brought leadership to the team, and led the board through some difficult times. Members said that her positive attitude, foresight and wisdom provided a solid path for them to follow. Mrs. Gilliland will be missed.

With the departure of Kari Gilliland, new board member Roxie Neitzel was sworn in by Deb Lindsten. Mrs. Neitzel was chosen by the Cheyenne County Commissioners to fill the board position. This was her first board meeting.

The hospital board elected officers for 2014. Jane Young was elected President. Mike Bandel was elected Vice President/

Secretary, and Erika Zimelman was elected Treasurer.

Equipment and staff

The hospital is currently exploring the feasibility of initiating a sleep lab. The lab could be up and running by April with the company Rural Sleep Solutions.

The hospital is currently working on obtaining a pulmonologist and an oncologist as additions to the specialty clinicians staff.

Dr. Swinehardt, a dermatologist from Denver, began seeing patients in December.

The capability of doing Dexa Scan in-house is being explored. This would mean purchasing a machine that would cost between \$27,000 - \$35,000. As mentioned at the previous hospital board meeting, the Dexa Scan that was coming to St. Francis discontinued services at the beginning of this year. Travel time and expenses were cited for discontinuing the service.

Hospital policy

The 2014 Strategic Plan was shared with the hospital and

clinic staff. The four pillars for the plan include finance, quality, community and team. An explanation and discussion of the plan was held at monthly Hospital Happening meetings so that all staff has a clear understanding of where the hospital is headed in 2014.

A new vacation policy was instituted the first of the year. Highlights of the new policy are: vacations are strongly encouraged to be taken by the staff; if the hours can't be used and that if approved by management, only 16 hours may be carried over into the next year.

The requirement of mandatory attendance of meetings was implemented Jan. 1. The staff felt that 80% was a fair commitment for attending mandatory meetings.

Personnel hiring has been put on hold, except a housekeeping position. Look for an ad for the position elsewhere in this issue of The Herald.

Next board meeting

The next board meeting will be held Feb. 27 at 3 p.m.

Merger discussions suspended

Frontier Ag Inc. of Bird City, Goodland and Oakley and the Mid Kansas Cooperative Association of Moundridge recently suspended merger discussions after several months of trying to reach agreement.

Representatives from both member-owned cooperatives confirmed in a press release that their directors have not been able to agree on all of the terms required before the companies could develop a merger document.

Brad Cowan, president of

Frontier Ag, said the companies' primary disagreements were over board representation and equity payout.

His company, he said, was looking for 50-50 representation on the board but discussions moved away from an even split as time went on. The two companies also have different points of view on equity payouts to members and retirement of equity.

The cooperatives announced plans to pursue merger possibilities last September, but Cowan said, his company

decided it was in the best interests of its members to end the discussions.

The companies have left open the possibility of resuming discussions but no further talks are planned at this time.

"Our balance sheet's in good shape," Cowan said, adding that these merger discussions were unique since neither company is in financial trouble.

Frontier lists 29 locations in northwest Kansas, while Mid Kansas operates in 11 counties in the central part of the state.

Donors needed for blood drive

Blood donors will be able to give blood on Thursday, Feb. 13, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Peace Lutheran Church in St. Francis.

If unable to make the St. Francis blood drive, donors can also travel to Atwood on Wednesday, Feb. 12, from noon to 4:45 at

the Knights of Columbus, Lake Road.

The Red Cross reminds eligible donors of the importance of a diverse blood supply. Patients are less likely to have complications from blood donated by someone with the same ethnicity. Prior to transfusion, blood type and Rh

factor are matched. Oftentimes additional red cell markers in donated blood must be matched as well. Such markers are determined by ethnicity and best found in a diverse donor base.

Donors of all types are encouraged to roll up a sleeve and help save lives. Appointments to give blood can be made by calling 1-800-RED CROSS or visiting redcrossblood.org.

How to donate blood

Simply call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit www.redcrossblood.org or visit www.redcrossblood.org to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Low income energy assistance program helps heat homes

Heating your home during the winter months can create a financial burden. In an effort to help keep Kansans warm this winter, the Kansas Department for Children and Families will soon begin accepting applications for its Low Income Energy Assistance Program.

"Although we're experiencing a comfortable January week, winter has just begun," said Phyllis Gilmore, secretary for Department of Children. "The winter months can bring frigid temperatures and we want families to be able to escape the cold in the warmth of their homes."

The energy assistant program provides an annual benefit to help qualifying households pay winter heating bills. Persons with disabilities, older adults and families with children are the primary groups assisted. In 2013, nearly 48,000 households received an average benefit of \$489.

To qualify, applicants must be responsible for direct payment of their heating bills. Income eligibility requirements are set at 130 percent of the federal poverty level. The level of benefit varies according to household income, number of people living in the home, type of residence, type of heating fuel, and utility rates.

Applicants must demonstrate that they have made payments on their heating bill two out of the last three months. Those payments must be equal to or exceed \$80 or the total balance due on their energy bills, whichever is less.

Applications for the program have been mailed to households that received energy assistance last year. Energy assistance ap-

plications are also available at local department of children offices and through partnering agencies. They can be requested by calling 1-800-432-0043.

Applications will be accepted from Jan. 21 to March 31.

Income eligibility determination includes: one person living in the home with a maximum allowable monthly income of \$1,210; two people in the home with monthly income of \$1,639; three people in the home with monthly income of \$2,068; four people with income of \$2,497; five people, income of \$2,926; six people with income of

\$3,355. Add \$429 for each additional person.

Funding for the Low Income Energy Assistance program is provided by the Department of Health and Human Services, office of Community Service through the Federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.



Counties hold regulation class

The Sunflower Extension District is holding a course on farm and commercial truck regulations. County Treasurer and Sheriff Departments of Sherman, Cheyenne and Wallace counties are working together to bring you the course on Thursday, Feb. 6, at 2 p.m. The course will be held at the 4-H building on Sherman County Fairgrounds in Goodland.

Topics

- Who needs a CDL?
- Who needs a DOT number?
- Bridge laws and weight limits on different combinations.
- Oversized loads
- Hauling hay with governor's drought assistance plan

Brake/tires/lights/antique tags

Changes in Commercial vehicle requirements

Safety topics

CSA - How motor carriers are prioritized

Compliance reviews inspection

Recent rule making including: hours of service, registration, medical certificates

MAP-21 Reauthorization Authority (Inter and Intrastate)

Revenue

Vehicle registration

Fuel tax

Oversize permits

For more information pleas call your local treasurer's office at 785-332-8810.

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Quitting Business

Uptown Market will close it's doors as of 3:00 Saturday, Feb. 1.

All store items will go on sale Wednesday, Jan. 22.

Please use ALL Uptown Gift Certificates prior to Feb. 1st.

Thank you to all that supported us & our small store.

Come One - Come All!

"An Old Fashioned Hymn-Sing"


Peace Lutheran Church
St. Francis

Sunday, Jan. 26 • 6 p.m.

Singing Old Favorites & Special Music by Soloists & Small Groups

Pie Social To Follow

Happy Birthday



Judi and Gwen Miller would like to invite you to participate in a card shower for

Betty Miller's
90th birthday February 3.
Cards can be sent to 304 N. 15th, Fredonia, Kansas 66736

Business Directory

To list your business, call 785-332-3162.

<p>The Saint Francis Herald Bird City Times Advertising Manager Tim Burr tburr@nwkans.com</p> <p>Phone 719-761-6238 785-332-3162 PO Box 1050 785-332-3001 (fax) St. Francis, KS 67756 sf.herald@nwkans.com</p>	<p>Jensen's</p> <p>Kay Jensen - Owner 785-332-2317</p> <p>Pete Jensen - Salesperson 785-332-8215</p> <p>Box 281 - St. Francis, KS</p> <p>Call us for monuments to honor your loved one</p>
<p>YOST FARM SUPPLY</p> <p>Lannie Robbins Service Manager</p> <p>Bus. - 785-332-3351 Bus. - (800) 421-3914 Mobile - 785-332-7078</p> <p>NEW HOLLAND</p> <p>1545 East Highway 36 • P.O. Box 1080 St. Francis, KS 67756</p>	<p>Homesteader Motel & RV Park 410 W. Business US Highway 36 P.O. Box 238 St. Francis, KS 67756</p> <p>Cable T.V. & Wireless Internet Clean Rooms Individual Climate Control</p> <p>Kathy & Johnnie Woodcox Office - (785) 332-2168 Cell - (785) 332-8607</p>

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