

Legislative News *Ward Cassidy 120th State Representative*

Information from the House
This week, I am going to write about some bills and share some information that should be useful to most everyone.
Last Friday, the House gave final approval to a bill that will allow cell phone numbers to be added to the "Do Not Call" registry. In addition, the registry will be updated every month, as opposed to the current quarterly updates. The do-not-call registry is maintained by the Kansas Attorney General, in cooperation with the Federal Trade Commission. If you want to be placed on the no-call list, go to <https://www.donotcall.gov/>.
The House also gave final approval to a bill that will require

health insurance companies to offer coverage for autism spectrum disorder. The bill requires insurance companies to provide applied behavioral therapy analysis for children, with the bulk of the treatment coming when the child is young, when studies have shown therapy is most effective. The goal is to help children achieve their full potential with early diagnosis and treatment.
I have spent a lot of time trying to run down problems with the Managed Care Organizations operating in Kansas. The House passed a bill that I hope becomes law that requires our three Managed Care Organizations to pay most claims within 30 days.

There will be a few complicated claims that 90 days will be the timeframe. This is a good policy that helps maintain a healthy state business climate by keeping state government and its contractors accountable for money owed.
The House also approved a bill that increases the penalty for committing financial securities fraud against anyone over age sixty-five. The bill increases the severity of the punishment by one punishment level, which translates to increased prison sentence for offenders. Financial fraud is among the fastest growing form of elder abuse in the nation. Anyone who knows of financial abuse committed against a senior citizen can report it to the state

adult protection hotline at 1-800-922-5330.
Another tidbit that I heard last week that again shows what a diverse state we have become: There are 81 different languages, which children have as their native tongue, in the Johnson County Schools.
There has been a lot of discussion about how we should meet the requirement of the Gannon decision. The proposals I have seen so far are not going to help NW Kansas schools. Next week is "Drop Dead" week and I would doubt if anything will be decided till we come back in late April.



DEMOLITION has begun on the old Movie Theater that was condemned years ago. Work is being done by Roy Shrader.
Times staff photo by Norma Martinez.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor, St. Francis residents, I would like to explain why the Cheyenne County July 4th Celebration was moved to Bird City for 2014.
Four years ago when we first thought of a July 4th celebration we wanted it to be a county-wide event. The first articles that appeared in the St. Francis Herald about the celebration mentioned it would rotate between St. Francis and Bird City. Much like the Cheyenne County Wildlife Banquet rotates between the two towns. A rotation also helps to provide new ideas, higher enthusiasm and keeps one group from burning out because of the work load.
Over the past three years we worked to involve both towns in the celebration. We have been pleased with the results. For example, last year the Cheylin cheerleaders were thrilled that we asked them to lead the kid's parade around the park. Several Bird City residents expressed their appreciation that we displayed two Cheylin flags along with the others on the US Highway 36 median. Four Bird City residents designed and then volunteered to hang the window posters in Bird City, McDonald, Atwood, Goodland, Benkelman, Idalia and Wray. The owners of Hometown Market in Bird City provided the large red and white tent used for the hot dog eating contest. She also helped provide paper products and food items for her hot dog meal as our own grocery store was nearly empty. Finally, we received cash donations from people in and around Bird City. Combine all these kind

works with what St. Francis residents did and we had a very successful event.
As a result, we thought it was time to let Bird City shine and have the celebration in their town.
Throughout the month of March we met formally with the Bird City City Council, Thresher Association, Century II and informally with Bird City Community Club, American Legion members and pastors. Every group we contacted showed much excitement and enthusiasm to be able to host the event this year.
Most of the schedule for the celebration is already set. It will include firetruck and wagon rides for all ages, the popular kid's parade and hot dog eating contest, noon meal, free swimming, sing-a-long at the American Legion, ice cream and cake social and large city-wide American flag display. This is followed by an evening of entertainment with a spectacular fireworks display set to patriotic music.
We appreciate the donations of time and money by both St. Francis and Bird City residents, farmers, businesses, churches, clubs and thrift stores.
Our hope is to continue the Cheyenne County July 4th Celebration as one large county event.
We look forward to seeing many people in Bird City on July 4th so we may all celebrate America's birthday.
Thank you for your time and support.
Rodney Neitzel
St. Francis

The Gardener

*Kay Melia
Master Gardener*

I suppose by now that all you gardeners out there have determined just exactly what you're going to plant out there in that nice garden plot. What's that? You say you haven't given it much thought? You say you haven't even bought a single pack of seed?
Listen to me! You've got to realize that April is here. Furthermore, it is important to realize that by planting those cool season garden crops early, you are assuring yourself that you will likely enjoy a longer, more productive harvest season.
Knowing just exactly which garden vegetables are early season producers, and which ones are late season, is vital. The early ones, those requiring cooler nights and mild days, will actually stand a night or two of frost, but the important thing is that you will have a much longer season of production. Cool season crops just won't produce well when temperatures begin to hit the mid eighties.
About now you might be muttering something like "alright smart guy...what should I be planting now?" And I would reply by urging you set out onion plants now so that they can get good early growth. Leafy crops, like lettuce, spinach, and chard should be planted now. Peas, carrots, and radishes love cool air. Cabbage and broccoli plants, given a little protection from the wind, can stand a little frost and will mature earlier than they would if you waited until May.
Potatoes? Lots of differences of opinion here, but I am going to

wait until about April 20th to plant those. Planted any earlier they will likely freeze back to the ground, and be forced to start the growth cycle again which weakens the plant.
Planting the early season crops early, in my opinion, simply means a longer production period than if you wait as much as 2 or 3 weeks later.
Therefore, it becomes seriously important that you know the difference between "early season" and "warm season" crops. Basically, the ones I haven't mentioned yet, must have much warmer soil temperatures to assure good germination. Sweet corn, tomato and pepper plants, beans, squash, beets, cucumbers, sweet potatoes, and all melons require soil temperatures in the 60 degree range before they will germinate successfully. Egg plant and okra also need warm soils. So, don't plant zucchini yet! On second thought.....
Soil temperatures are usually broadcast on your local radio station. If not, call them and ask them to do so. As a gardener, soil temperatures are as important as calendar dates, if not more so!
So, it's time to seek out the rake and the hoe. Check the garden hose for leaks. Give the drip system a trial run.
And finally, remember to try something new this year. Broaden your horizons a little. And always keep in mind that timing is so very important. Some plantlife thrives when started in cool soils. Others must have warmth. The secret is knowing the difference. End of sermon.

Cheylin SITE Council talks school programs

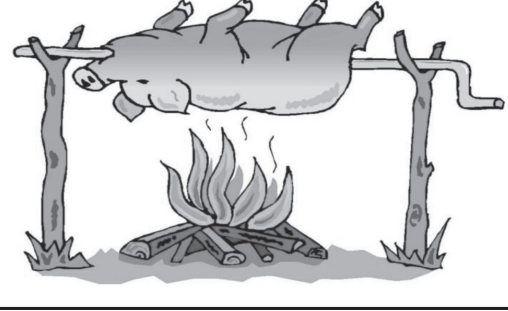
The Cheylin SITE Council met on Monday, March 24, in the high school library with ten members in attendance. Dan Carson, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.
A community school safety program will be presented in the fall by Tony Rodriguez. A date will be determined, and put on the school calendar.
Favorable comments were given about the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program that is being presented in the elementary classrooms. For the older children, the lessons are based on making good choices. Officer Rodriguez has provided the younger children with an opportunity to get acquainted with him, and to learn what his role is in the community.
A Common Core program was presented at parent-teacher conferences (in Feb.) by the President of the Kansas P.T.A. Her power point presentation focused on the myths vs. reality of the new Common Core standards; handouts were also available for parents to take home.
Cenex Harvest States (CHS) plans to present a farm safety program in the fall for Cheylin students from kindergarten through grade 12. In addition, several area schools may be invited to attend.
Teachers are still looking at new reading curriculums, comparing them to what they are currently using. A grant has been completed to help purchase a new

math curriculum.
The school calendar for the 2014-2015 school year has been completed and approved by the board. School will begin for teachers on Aug. 11; students will report for their first day on Aug. 13.
The Cheyenne County Big Brothers/Big Sisters program is in the process of disbanding. SITE Council would like to see some type of program continue on a local level. It was discussed that most activities would be done within the school day, and would center around building positive relationships and encouraging academics. A possible name for the new group would be Cougars and Cubs.
The school-wide "Pride in your School" day will be May 15. The event will involve all students, and will include painting, hauling trash, sorting items for auction, cleaning up certain areas of the school, etc. A noon barbecue will be held.
The Professional Development Plan was approved by the state and will be good until 2018. Work on a new technology plan will be started soon.
The next SITE Council meeting will be May 5.

FARMER'S NIGHT

Sponsored by Bird City Community Club
Saturday, April 12th
6:30 pm
American Legion Hall

The public is welcome to attend a delicious 'whole hog' style meal, followed by entertainment.
Cheylin Schools, City of Bird City and Bird City Century II Development Foundation will all give brief updates on current happenings and projects in the works.



Business Directory

The Saint Francis Herald
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