



FOURTH GRADE STUDENTS entertain senior citizens by singing 'Up On A House Top' after the traditional Christmas dinner held at the Cheylin school.

Times photo by Susan Jensen

## Christmas dinner served to senior citizens

Cheylin elementary and high school students hosted a traditional Christmas dinner for the Senior Citizens on Wednesday, Dec. 8. Dinner was prepared by Avis Hazuka and Diana Carson, assisted by Carol Markley, Randy Miller and Leah Rambat.

Guests were served by the fifth and sixth grade students. Table decorations were poinsettias that were given out as door prizes. All the grade school students helped in making paper Christmas ornaments as favors. The program and entertain-

ment followed. Under the direction of the music instructor, Rose Hengen, the junior high choir began by singing "Shenandoah Child of the Universe." This was followed by the first graders singing with, "A Peppermint Stick." Second

and third graders pouted while singing, "I'm getting Nothing For Christmas." "The Christmas Candle" was sung by the fourth grade class and the kindergartners practiced spelling with "Spelling Christmas."

"Old Santa Claus" was presented by the second and third graders. "Up On the House-top," "Frosty the Snowman," "Silent Night" and "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" was performed by the kindergarten through fourth grade students. Soloist was Merlin Ray.

The junior high and high school choir performed "Christmas Carol-Along." The final performance was "Jingle Bells Forever" and "Fireside Christmas" by the junior high-high school band.

## Village starts clean up

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwks.com

On Oct. 19, a fire in the middle section of the Good Samaritan Village, St. Francis, closed the facility down. Residents were sent to various Good Samaritan Society nursing homes in the area as well as other nursing homes. At that time, it was unsure what was going to happen – was the facility going to be shut down for a short time or a long period? First, the Society, fire marshals and insurance companies needed to find out what caused the fire, how much damage there was and how the repairs were going to be made and paid for.

On Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 6 and 7, the fire investigation team met and the facility was released back to the Good Samaritan Society on Wednesday. It was noted that it will be spring before the investigation report will be ready as to the cause and origin of the fire.

Jeff Paulsen, Village administrator, said Servicemaster will return for interior demolition and cleanup on Dec. 20. They will start by cleaning up the therapy room in the east wing and then they will start on the west wing where resident rooms were located. A local painting contractor has already been hired to paint the east wing interior.

Bids are being taken to paint the west wing interior. When



WORKERS BEGIN cleaning up the rooms that were damaged in the fire at the Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis.

Times staff photo by Karen Krien

this wing has been emptied of all contents, it will be cleaned up and painted.

In early January, Mr. Paulsen

said, the Good Samaritan Society will release the scope of renovation and timeline for reopening the facility.

## Foundations work together

The Bird City Century II Development Foundation and the St. Francis Community Foundation have joined forces to accept charitable contributions. These contributions will support those public and charitable entities that provide or support senior housing and/or long-term care in Cheyenne County for the aged and those in need. Both foundations have established identical funds named "Senior Living for Cheyenne County Fund," and the combined funds will be utilized for the same purpose.

The October fire at the Good Samaritan Village was the disaster that prompted the two boards to work together by creating a vehicle to accept charitable contributions for this cause. The county commissioners recently appointed a task force to study the current and future needs of long-term care in the county. This task force will work with the advisory boards for these two funds to ensure continuity and communication throughout the county for this project.

The combined funds will initially be used to cover the expenses incurred by the task force in researching the current and future needs for long-term care and assisted living. The role of the Senior Living for Cheyenne County Fund Advisory Board is to raise awareness, raise funds for the "Senior Living for Cheyenne County Funds," and suggest grants from these funds.

The Bird City Century II Development Foundation and the St. Francis Community Foundation held a joint meeting on Dec. 9 with local attorneys, accountants and financial planners to educate and agree to establish these Senior Living funds. Brenda Chumley, senior



BREANDA CHUMLEY speaks at the meeting held between the two county foundations. Also pictured are Sherry Carmichael and Rod Young.

Times staff photo by Karen Krien

vice president of administration at the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, gave a presentation on community foundations and charitable giving, emphasizing that "no gift is too small," as everyone connected to Cheyenne County has an interest in caring for our aging population.

The end of the year is an ideal time to make a charitable contribution to the "Senior Living for Cheyenne County" funds, said Tom Keller, St. Francis Community Foundation board president. During your end of year tax planning, please consider making a tax deductible contribution to either community foundation in the county.

For more information contact Cathy Domsch, executive director, Bird City Century II Development Foundation, PO Box 593, Bird City, KS 67731, centuryii@bcsks.net, 785-734-2556;

Board members include Sherry Carmichael, Rod Young, Roseanna Underwood, John Deeds, Gary Brubaker, David Hendricks, Ned Smith, Martin Burton and Dan Busse.

Or contact Tom Keller, PO Box 967, St. Francis, KS 67756, sfc967@gmail.com, 785-332-3142.

Board members are Mike Day, Robert Grace, Carla Lampe, Dara Carmichael, Carl Werner, Erika Zimbelman, Bruce Swihart and Jo Frewen.

## City fire department receives grant to purchase new gear

By Norma Martinez

normamartinez@wildblue.net

For approximately 10 years Bird City's firemen have been wearing donated fire clothing equipment that was several years old at that time. The Fire Fighters Assistance approved a grant for \$45,000 to purchase new gear.

Cheyenne County Commissioners have agreed to pay for \$1,200 of the additional cost. Cody Beeson was at the Dec. 6 Bird City Council meeting requesting the council's approval

to match these funds with \$1,200. The remainder of the cost will be covered with a Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) grant.

From these funds enough equipment will be purchased to outfit eighteen firefighters. Equipment consists of: head helmets, coats, pants, boots, and flashlights.

**Unfinished business**

Viaero Wireless Extension Rick Bailey at Viaero Wireless requested an extension on the closing for the land purchase,

and permission to extend the 50-foot tower originally installed behind the fire station. Originally they thought the tower would be efficient.

After installing, the tower they discovered that Bird City has some great trees and a number of them are pretty tall. Since tracking calls at the temporary tower, they feel by increasing the height of the tower to 80 feet it would improve Viaero's performance. This extension would need no guide wires only an extension in the height of the tower now installed.

**Drain Fly Issue**

Hal looked into the situation and what he feels it will take to get a solution. He said it is no guarantee, but he feels it looks like the BioPlug flushings will work. City council members agreed to purchase a case of BioPlug which would be enough to flush out 10 man holes to treat them for the Drain Fly issue. BioPlug is a timed release microbial product designed to release bacteria into municipal setting to attack and digest fats, oils, and grease and other

organic matter. Bacteria infused into the system rapidly increase the bio-remediation process, which converts the materials to carbon dioxide and water. It is safe for sewer lines, lift stations, plumbing lines, septic tanks and municipal wastewater treatment systems.

Council members are looking for a good used truck to replace the Mazda pickup used by the city maintenance crew. Councilman Loren White would like to find one with a warranty.

All city council members

agreed that the maintenance department should be commended for the good job of filling in the holes made in the streets from all the water repairs.

**In other business**

The council approved an application from Hometown Market requesting renewal of its Cerebral Malt Beverage license for 2011.

The council accepted the 2011 federal holiday schedule for city employees. Next meeting will be Jan. 3, 2011.