



Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick
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It's funny how a Christmas memory can carry a common theme.

The other day my boss, Karen Krien, and I were talking about Christmases past. I was telling her about one of my childhood traditions.

My father owned a furniture store and each year he would pull out of storage a life-sized Santa Claus. It was electric, moving from side to side and waving as folks passed by. Dad displayed the plug-in St. Nick at his store until Christmas Eve, when he would sneak him home and set him up by the tree while my brothers and sister and I slept.

On Christmas morning we would awaken to him as he stood in what seemed a small mountain of presents.

As I described our Santa, Karen told of a similar one. She used to work at Jack Rieb's Skogmos clothing store in St. Francis many Christmases ago. Jack had an electric powered Father Christmas who stood hidden for most of the year, except when it was his time to look out the front window onto the passers-by along Washington Street. Do you remember?

Thinking of the animated Chris Kringale at my dad's Homestead House store takes me back to a very joyful and magical youth. Merry Christmas!

Letters from Linda

By Linda Schneider
dublins@hotmail.com

Today I received a wonderful email from my friend Holly Garcia. It was entitled, "Your mother is always with you," and the email came at a time when I needed some encouragement. I am sure she did not write it, but it was still a thoughtful gesture.

The little note from my friend reminded me that my mother was my first friend. She was my first home; she housed me in her womb, and other reminders that were so true of my mom.

My mother, Marie, passed away last summer after a long season of much illness. I really miss her and, even though we live over 1,500 miles away from each other, I called her often and she called me. And this is my first Christmas without her homemade peanut brittle, zucchini bread and other

goodies our family looked forward to. And there will be no Christmas Eve phone call from her.

So this little email note gave me the opportunity to recall my mom and reminisce the years we had together, both good and bad. After a bit I thought of some friends who have lost a loved one this past year also. You may know someone, it's their first Christmas too.

Then I got an idea! If in your daily travels, your path crosses with someone you know who has experienced the loss of a loved one, get out of your comfort zone and share a memory with them. I will get your started, say something like this, "Remember when..." or "... were great times we all shared." And if that takes too much of your personal space, send an email.

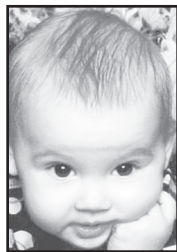
...today I received a wonderful email from my friend Holly Garcia.

Obituary

Brooke Anne Isenbart

Dec. 20, 2007 - Dec. 10, 2008

Anne Isenbart, infant daughter of Tyler and Samantha Isenbart of Julesburg, Colo., died Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2008, at the Sedgwick County Hospital in Julesburg.



Isenbart

Brooke was born on Dec. 20, 2007, in Sidney, Neb., to Tyler Leigh and Samantha Anne (Shannon) Isenbart. They made their home in Chappell, Neb., before moving to Julesburg.

Brooke will be remembered for always having a smile on her face and she loved everyone. She will be missed greatly by all of her family and friends.

Brooke is survived by her parents, Tyler and Samantha Isenbart and sister, Brenna Marlene Isenbart, all of Julesburg; paternal grandparents, Thomas and Judi Isenbart of Chappell, Neb.; maternal grandparents, Earl Shannon of Bird City, Kan., and Belinda and Vernon Doonan of

Colby; maternal great-grandparents, Alberta and David Mick of Scott City, and Marcella and Joe Stenger of Densmore; aunts and uncles, Troy and Brandy Isenbart and family of Chappell, Teshawna and Troy Sawyer and family of Grand Island, Neb., Nicole and Jason Holub and family of Goodland, Michael Shannon of Chicago, Ill., and Brian and Nichole Doonan and family of Cox Creek, Ky; and a host of other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her paternal great-grandparents, Bernard and Evelyn Isenbart and Vaughn and Marlene Wilson; maternal great-grandfathers, Harrell Shannon and Lloyd Stickel.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Julesburg Christian Church in Julesburg with Pastor Alan Harris officiating. Interment was in the Hillside Cemetery in Julesburg.

Memorials may be made in Brooke's name.

Family and friends may sign the guest book and leave condolences online at www.holechek-funeralhomes.com.

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Bulletin Board

No Senior potluck
 There will be no senior potluck in December.

Christmas party
 Cheylin students will be having their Christmas party on Friday, which will be the beginning of Christmas Break. At 12:30 p.m. in the school gymnasium, there will be a short concert and the community is welcome to attend.

Story Time
 Due to school Christmas party on Friday, there will be no Story Time at the library. Also, due to Christmas Break, next Story Time will be Jan. 16.

Christmas Eve service
 A 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve barn service led by Pastor Rossbach will be held at Steve Busse's farm located one-half mile south of road I and road 27 on Dec. 24. Bring warm clothing and flashlights. Straw bales will be provided for seating or bring chairs. Fellowship will follow the service with hot chocolate and hot cider. Bring finger foods or dessert.

Cheylin sports
 Today (Thursday) the Cheylin junior high basketball boys and girls teams will be playing against Greeley County at the Cheylin gymnasium in McDonald at 3 p.m. At 4 p.m. on Friday, high school basketball team will be up against Triplains at Winona. And the last game of the year will be the junior and senior high school basketball game at the Heartland Christian Tournament on Saturday.

Soldier's Christmas card
 People who wish to send a Christmas card to a serviceman may address it to A Recovering American Soldier, c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center, 6900 Georgia Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20307-5001.

Be a good elf
 There is a "chipboard" bin at the recycle center to put used gift-wrap paper and cardboard tubes.

Home Circle Club
 Carol Peters will be hosting the annual luncheon/gift exchange of the Home Circle Club. It will be

held at the Lebow Manor at noon on Thursday, Dec. 18.

Herald/Times holiday schedule
 Christmas holiday: The Herald and Times offices will close at noon on Wednesday, Dec. 24, and all day on Thursday, Dec. 25, and Friday, Dec. 26. The newspaper will be coming out one day early that week with the deadline for news, pictures and ads being at 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19. The papers will go to the post offices on Tuesday, Dec. 23, and on the routes Wednesday, Dec. 24.

New Year's holiday: The Herald and Times offices will close at noon on Wednesday, Dec. 31, and all day on Thursday, Jan. 1, and Friday, Jan. 2. Deadline for news, pictures and ads is the normal 5 p.m. on Monday, (Dec. 28). The papers will go to the post offices on the normal schedule of Wednesday afternoon.

Employee retires
 A retirement party will be held for Sam Goodale at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19, at the Kansas Department of Transportation office in Atwood. Mr. Goodale has worked for the state of Kansas for 21 years.

Local doctor on public television
 Dr. Rebecca Allard of Cheyenne County will be featured on KTWU Sunflower Journeys' Selfless Servants on Dec. 18. People can turn to channel 3, the PBS channel on cable television. The program was originally planned for Dec. 4.

90th birthday
 Mabel Carstens will be celebrating her 90th birthday on Dec. 31. Her children and grandchildren welcome you to join them in celebration with a card shower. Birthday greetings may reach her at P.O. Box 545, Bird city, KS 67731.

Christmas Open House
 There is a Christmas Open House at Milliken Law office between 3 and 5 on Tuesday, Dec. 23.

Hospital board

The Cheyenne County Hospital Board meeting will be held on Monday, Dec. 22, starting at 3 p.m. in the St. Francis Clinic basement.

Veterans Affairs
 Jody Tubbs, of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs, will be in St. Francis at 9:30 a.m. today (Thursday) at the county clerk's office. People may also contact the Veteran's Affairs office in Colby any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday at 785-462-3572.

Sisters In Serenity Women's AA
 A Sisters In Serenity women's Alcoholics Anonymous group meets at 5 p.m. on Sundays at 585 N. Franklin, City Hall, northwest basement door in Colby. There is a play room for younger children and a quiet space for older children on-site. For more information call (785) 672-3406 or (785) 538-2526.

These meetings are limited to female alcoholics to provide an opportunity for members to share with one another on problems related to drinking patterns and attempts to achieve stable sobriety. They also permit detailed discussion of various elements in the recovery program.

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.

Narcotics/Alcohol Anonymous
 For anyone looking for support in recovery, Bird City is now having weekly meetings. Meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. through 8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays with Narcotics Anonymous and Fridays with Alcohol Anonymous, starting Nov. 18 and 21 at the Senior Center.

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. Weekly support groups are available for women and children within the northwest Kansas area. For information or in need of assistance, please call the toll-free number 1-800-794-4624.

Church cantata enjoyed by many

On Dec. 7, the Immanuel United Methodist Church held a Christmas program and cantata entitled, "A Carol Fantasia."

The choir consisted of Hal Sager, Jaime Davison, Karen Flemming, Loreta Rucker, Merlie Leach, Sharon Hendricks, Carol Parth, Judy Sager, Jan Schamrikow, Barb Waters, Lori Janicke, Chad Hendricks, Donna Johnson and Barb Beougher.

The Sunday school classes provided a live Nativity scene with the following people playing the parts: of Mary, Cheyenne Hewitt; Joseph, Cory Rucker; shepherds, Jordan Janicke, Devon Janicke, Reece Leonard and Ken Beougher; angels, Dominique Johnston, Kaylynn Hendricks, Haleigh Rucker, Cassie

Rucker and Shirley Staley; wise men, Jacob Brubaker, Lance Leonard and Norman Dorsch; the star, Walker Janicke. Michele Lucy was the liturgist reading the Christmas story from the Bible. The costumes were done by Velda Wright, Joan Smith and Mary Dorsch.

Others providing entertainment for the day were Hal Sager, who sang a solo, "The Infant Jesus" and was accompanied by Barb Beougher on the piano, Jaime Davison played "Angels We Have Heard on High" on the flute, accompanied by Becky Davison on the piano, and Brady Gunther played "Amazing Grace" on his guitar.

After the program and worship service, a potluck was held in the fellowship hall. service.

Postal service has some tips for you

With 19 billion cards, letters and packages expected to be delivered this season, the U.S. Postal Service has some tips to help get gifts to their destination swiftly and safely.

Some helpful tips are make sure packages are able to withstand processing without the contents or packaging breaking. Cushion items with bubble wrap, newspaper, or "foam peanuts" so they do not shift during transit.

Wrap each item separately when packing more than one item in the same box. Remove batteries from electronic devices and wrap separately. Close and shake box to see if items are shifting, if they are, add more cushioning.

Mark packages "Fragile" in

large print on the outside of box if contents are likely to break. Mark "Perishable" if contents contain food or items that can spoil. Cover any outside labels and markings when re-using a box.

Always use tape designed for sealing shipping boxes. Do not use string, cellophane and masking tape to seal.

The post office can ship packages up to 70 pounds and measure up to 130 inches in combined length and width.

"The Postal Service is making it easier to ship packages to family and friends this season," said Sonja Weeden, Bird City Postmaster. "Proper addressing and proper packaging will help us give every gift the service it deserves."

SHOWTIME: 7:30 p.m.

2 hr. 2 min.

Twilight

Dec. 19, 20 & 21

Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Billy Burke, Peter Facinelli, Elizabeth Reaser, Cam Gigandet, and Nikki Reed

Drama, Romance, Thriller and Teen

Rated PG-13 for some violence and a scene of sensuality.

CHEYENNE THEATER

Children 12 & Under: \$3

St. Francis, KS 785-332-2747

All Others: \$5

Public Notice

The Bird City Housing Authority has developed its Agency Plan for Fiscal Year 2009 in compliance with the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998. It is available for review at the Authority's Office located at LeBow Manor, 209 N. Rich Ave., Bird City, KS. 67731. The Authority's hours of operation are Monday through Thursday between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. In addition a public hearing will be held on Feb. 3, 2009 at the Authority's Community Room at 5 p.m. The public is invited.

CHEYENNE COUNTY HOSPITAL

210 W. 1st • St. Francis, KS 785-332-2104

Attention

Cheyenne County Clinic Patients:
 With the busy winter season upon us, Cheyenne County Clinic is requesting your help to keep our appointments on schedule. If you are going to be late for an appointment, please call and let us know. Patients who show up more than 15 minutes late for an appointment and have not called to let us know will be rescheduled for another time. We apologize that we must do this, but this will help us stay on schedule for all of our appointments.

Check your renewal dates

Current Rates

The Saint Francis Herald
 Area - \$33 KS - \$38
 Out-of-State - \$42

Bird City Times
 KS - \$30
 Out-of-State - \$34

American Profile

Celebrating Hometown Life

See American Profile magazine in this week's issue of

The Bird City Times

(available in local area only)

Brought to you by The Times

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For more information contact: **Casey at 785-332-3162**