



MCDONALD GYM will be the setting for the Christmas program put on by the Cheylin high school choir, band and fifth and sixth grade band members. Shown above are the sixth grade students under the direction of Rose Hengen *Times staff photo by Peggy Horinek*

Santa Day plans made

By Peggy Horinek

Thanksgiving has come and gone and Christmas is fast approaching. Everyone is hurriedly making their plans for the holidays, finishing their shopping list, wrapping packages, planning menus and trying to schedule all the activities that are being planned.

The Santa Day helpers met last week to finish the planning for the Bird City annual Santa Day which will be held on Saturday, Dec. 21. Santa Claus, even though he is very busy at this time of year, has agreed to visit Bird City again this year and talk with the young and old and all those in-between.

A free-will luncheon will be served by the Community Club and PRIDE starting at 11 a.m. and the first drawing will begin at 12:30 p.m. with cash drawings, door prizes and the Blizzard Machine. Sacked treats will be handed out and Santa Claus will appear. He said it didn't matter what the weather was like — that he'd be there. There will also be a timed shopping spree for some lucky person at the Bird City Market, so while making plans, be sure

to schedule in Dec. 21, for Santa Day.

Santa Day is a long tradition in Bird City. During the 1930s, Santa made appearances at the main intersection and the tradition of giving out a sack of candy to children began. This tradition has continued, although the committee changes from year to year. Some years the money was short but they always had sacks of candy. Some years Santa arrived with a team and wagon, sometimes with an airplane, sometimes in a new auto and sometimes, he just magically appeared on the stage of the Legion hall.

The Community Club is also sponsoring a Christmas lighting contest with cash prizes and the winners will be announced during Santa Day.

Residents are asked to give generously to one of the elves so Santa Day can continue. This year's committee members are Brad Waters, Don Orton, Rod Young, Eric Churchwell, Kerby Krien, Ken Krien, Peggy Horinek, Larry Henry, Ned Smith, Stan Dorsch, Ad Childers, Wanda Dowdy and Jeff Klippert.

Christmas program scheduled for Monday

By Peggy Horinek

The high school Christmas Program is to be held at the gym in McDonald. It is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 9. The pro-

gram will be put on by the high school choir and the high school band. Also included will be the fifth and sixth grade band.

The high school band will play-

ing, *Christmas Classics*, *White Christmas* and *On Winter's Eve*. The high school choir will be singing, *One Child*, *Bethlehem Child* and *Sing Out the Season*. The fifth and sixth grade

will be performing *Jolly Old St. Nick* and *Angels We Have Heard on High*.

The students have been practicing for weeks and the performance is sure to be a crowd pleaser.

Commissioners signs bioterrorism agreement

By Karen Krien

Being prepared in the case of a bioterrorism attack was dealt with when the Cheyenne County Commissioners met on Nov. 29.

Susan Roelfs, county health nurse, brought the Northwest Kansas Bioterrorism Regional Agreement to be signed by the commission chairman. The agreement will bring \$10,000 to be used by the county for making plans for a bioterrorism attack. Cheyenne County is working with six other counties in northwest Kansas with the Norton County Health Department handling the funding for all the involved counties. Norton County will receive 3 percent of each county's funds in payment for handling the funding.

There was concern that if each

county did not do its own handling of funds, they might not receive its share but Mrs. Roelfs did not think this would be a problem as there will be reports tracking the expenditures. Any of the grant money from the agreement which is not spent will be sent back to the state.

Tim Raile, commissioner, asked if there will be additional costs when the plan is completed. Mrs. Roelfs said that the planning grant was only for one year and all counties were required to participate.

Following Mrs. Roelfs report to the commissioners, Gary Rogers, emergency preparedness manager for the county, said that in this part of the country, bioterrorism could effect livestock more than people; however, both could have a drastic effect on the area

and reinforced the necessity of having a plan in place.

Road and bridge report

Road and bridge supervisor Dave Flemming informed the commissioners about upcoming regulations concerning fuel tanks. The county has tanks at the department's buildings and some of the new regulations concern 24-hour security including fencing along with having a secondary containment to make sure there is a place to keep fuel from spilling onto the ground. Commissioner Ron Krien said that there would probably be a day when cement slabs will be required for the tanks.

Rather than meet requirements and the costs for fuel storage, the commissioners and supervisor talked about purchasing fuel from local bulk deal-

Commissioners' Roundup

- An emergency medical training class will be offered in the near future. See Page 1.
- Two seats on the hospital board will be up for appointment on Dec. 16. See Page 1.

ers. The matter will be discussed at a later meeting.

Supervisor Flemming also discussed regulations and permits required by both

See Bioterrorism on Page 3A

Historical society plans Christmas program

The Cheyenne County Historical Society program at the museum is planned, weather permitting, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Phil Crawford will bring his musical talent to entertain those attending. Bring a friend and visitors are welcome.

Each member is asked to bring a plate of cookies and a pioneer recipe to share. Coffee and hot cider will be furnished. Each member is asked to bring a small Christmas stocking filled with items suitable and safe for small children to help make a joyful addition to the community food bas-

kets in St. Francis and Bird City.

Historical Society members are asked to pick up their quarterly December newsletter at the senior citizen center in St. Francis and at the Bluebird Cafe in Bird City. Others will receive theirs by mail.

The "Burial Book" by Marilyn Holzwarth has gone to the printers and hopefully it will be available at the museum for your Christmas list.

The Historical Society volunteers are encouraged by the renewal of memberships for 2003 and they welcome the new members.

City lighting contest to be judged Dec. 15

The Bird City Community Club is once again sponsoring a Christmas lighting contest. The judging will be done on Sunday, Dec. 15, from 7 to 9 p.m. If you want to be in the contest, have your lights turned on at this time. Everyone in town, with lights turned on at this time, will be judged.

If you live in the country and wish to be judged, or if you have any questions, you need to contact Jane Brubaker at 734-2722. The prizes will be: first place - \$75, second place - \$50 and third place - \$25.

Winners will be announced Dec. 21, at Santa Day.



Commissioners seeking hospital board member

At the Nov. 29 meeting of the Cheyenne County Commissioners, they once again discussed the matter of filling two positions on the Hospital Board.

Leon Brethower, Bird City, and Kelly Gienger, St. Francis, will be coming to the end of their terms on the Cheyenne County Hospital Board at the end of December. Since the county commissioners make the appointments, those wishing to serve should make applications to the county clerk.

Mr. Gienger has already said that he is not interested in serving another term, however, Mr. Brethower would like to serve another four years. Others indicating interest in serving on the board are Lavern Boll, Tracy Neitzel and Joy Anderegg. The commissioners will continue to accept names of interested people until Dec. 16 when they will make personal interviews.

The board members will take the position Jan. 1.



CHRISTMAS IS COMING! The city crew has the Christmas lights up ready for the holiday season.

Times staff photo by Peggy Horinek

Emergency medical classes offered soon

Larry Gabel, emergency medical service director, reported at the Nov. 29 meeting that Ron Young, Bird City emergency medical technician, said there were five people from the Bird City area who were interested in taking an emergency medical technician class. Bird City has only three active emergency medical technicians. The commissioners wondered if there were other people who might be interested in taking the class?

Director Gabel said that he did not have time to help with the class until after February. The class takes five to six months of training before the students can take their exams. Anyone interested in the class should call him.

The commissioners were concerned about coming up with the money for the class since it had not been included in the budget. It was noted that there would be money in the Ambulance Fund at the end of the year and maybe that money could be

encumbered. This matter will be investigated further.

Ambulance fund

Director Gabel and Janelle Bowers, emergency medical service bookkeeper, informed the commissioners that the department was behind what had been collected last year at this time but there were 50-plus Medicare forms which had been returned and \$65,000 which had not yet been collected. Kevin Berens, county attorney, had studied Medicare reimbursement and had discovered that Medicare now pays a flat rate, not a percent of the ambulance runs.

Director Gabel said there was one student who had taken the last emergency medical technician class who did not take the test and if a student takes the class but does not continue with the testing or making ambulance runs, they need to pay for the class. Otherwise, the county pays for the student to take the class.

Couple gives new program

Cal and Cindy Turner of C.C. Turner Music Ministries returns to St. Francis with a new concert and new image! They've been working behind the scenes with Mother's House Publishing to produce the very best concert just for you. You've never seen anything like this! It's non-stop fun for everyone!

Two concerts to be held at the First Christian Church, 118 E. Webster in St.



Cal



Cindy

Francis at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday Dec. 14. A new lighting system will enhance the evening performance.

Admission is free. Be sure to register at the door for a chance to win one of the free gifts given away during the concert.

Winner claims \$50 in scrip money

There is another winner in the \$50 scrip giveaway sponsored by 21 St. Francis businesses in the Christmas On Us promotion.



Delano

Brenda Delano, St. Francis, claimed her prize on Monday and reported she was going to purchase Christmas gifts with the \$50 scrip. She said that the ticket came from Bier's Hometown Store where she had purchased a dishwasher. Last week, Becky McAtee, St. Francis, received \$50 in scrip.

This week, there will be six numbers listed in different ads sponsored by businesses participating in the Christmas On Us Promotion. These ads are found on 1, 2, and 3B of both *The St. Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*. Through Dec. 13, there will be a total of eight Christmas giveaway chances for \$50 scrip prizes. Those giveaway numbers unclaimed by the Dec. 13 will be given away at the Dec. 15 drawing held at 4:30 p.m. at the band shell in Sawhill Park.

Those holding winning numbers from this week's issues of *The St. Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times* will have until Monday to claim their prize. Those numbers published in the Dec. 12 issue of the newspapers will have until Dec. 13 to claim their prize.

Anyone over 18 years old may participate in the giveaway by shopping at any participating St. Francis and Bird City business. Customers will receive one red ticket for each \$10 they spend.

People can also get one free ticket each week from *The Herald* or *Times* offices. No purchase is necessary.

The numbers on tickets should be matched with the second half of the tickets kept by customers. If a number is claimed before the grand drawing, it will once again be thrown back in with the other tickets to be drawn for on Dec. 15. Be sure to bring in your half of the ticket when claiming the prize and after Monday, the number will not be any good and a new number will be drawn and published in the next week's issue of the newspaper.

At 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 15 in the band shell, the grand drawing will be held. Some lucky person will take home \$1,000 in scrip. Two other Christmas On Us drawings will be held with the second place winner receiving \$500 and the third place winner \$100.

This year, the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce has teamed up with the *Herald* and *Times* and will be giving away \$600 in scrip in three separate drawings. Winners must be present to claim the prizes.

There will be caroling and chili in the afternoon. It should be a fun afternoon.

The last day tickets will be given away is Dec. 13.

Sponsors for the Christmas On Us giveaway are: Bankwest of Kansas, Bier's Hometown Store, Burr Retail Liquor Store, Cheyenne Bowl and Dairy King, Cheyenne Pharmacy Plus, Decision Weather, Downtown Repair and Auto Sales, Tim E. Poling, D.D.S., Goodell Greenhouse and Floral, Lampe Hardware, Owens True-Value, P and L Ideal Meat Market, Pizza Hut, Park Hill Restaurant, and Lounge, St. Francis Equity, The Saint Francis Herald, Saintry Super Foods, Schultz's, Stevens' Kansas territorial Store, Tri-State Lumber and Tubing, Video Kingdom.



THE DECORATIONS ARE UP and are just the waiting for Santa. Many of the residences around Bird City are looking festive this holiday season. The home pictured belongs to Troy and Cindy Burr on Bressler Street.

Times staff photo by Peggy Horinek

McDonald News By Vera Kacirek

Amelia Banister returned to her home on Wednesday from the Cheyenne County Hospital. Art and Debbie Atchison, Emily and Erion of Hurst, Texas, arrived on Wednesday evening to spend the holiday weekend with Karlyne Atchison and Amelia Banister. Thursday evening visitors were Kent and Joan Banister, Johnny Howland and Brice and Kevin. Shannon, Rachel and Taylor Wilson and Chanda Sabatka, all of Manhattan, were Thanksgiving weekend guests of R.J. and Susie Sabatka. Additional guests for Thanksgiving dinner and supper were Dave and Becky Kacirek and family and Laddie and Vera Kacirek.

Dave and Becky Kacirek and family of Weston, Mo., were Thanksgiving weekend guests of Laddie and Vera Kacirek.

Norman and Tessa Davis spent Thanksgiving in Denver with Barney Kacirek. Tessa and Barney were visitors of Claribel Bell and her family at Presbyterian-St. Luke Hospital.

Gail and Kay Miller and Frances Erickson were Thanksgiving guests of Lori and Dennis Driskill

in Wichita. Other guests were Blaine and Val Hubbard and family of Siloam Springs, Ark.

Raymond and Marlene Johnson spent Thanksgiving Day in McCook with Ted and Dixie Bethell and family.

Thanksgiving day guests of Dale and Ratha Lea Loker were Eunice Officer and Melba Loker of Benkelman.

Guests of Eleanor Swihart for Thanksgiving day and the week were Kevin Foster and a friend from Arkansas, Nancy Lieb from Florida, Steve and Julia Foster and family of Craig, Colo., Steve Swihart and family of Westminster, Colo., and Bruce and Shirley Swihart and family of St. Francis.

Weekend guests of Dennis and Lila Howard were Debra Lee Howard of Dallas, Texas, and Cynthia Howard of Colby. Tim and Susan Baker of Broomfield, Colo., were guests from Friday to Sunday. Saturday visitors were Chris Howard, Dana Sabatka and Tunney and Leila Loker. Sunday afternoon visitors were Chris Howard, Dana Sabatka, Dana Magnani, Mark and Cathy Loop,

Mike Knapp, and Tunney and Leila Loker.

Thanksgiving Day guests of Brad, Tammy and Zack Loker of Parks, Neb., were Gary and Penny Loker, Dennis and Lila Howard, Cynthia Howard, Debra Lee Howard, J.B. and Brenda Loker, Les and Tish Loker, Tunney and Leila Loker, Brian and Traci Loker, Logan and Emily of McCook.

Greg and Cheryl Wilkinson were Thanksgiving Day guests of Troy and Debbie Cook, Crystal and Thomas in Hays.

Thanksgiving Day guests of Jerry and Betty Knapp were Brenda Knapp of Bailey, Colo., Travis Knapp of Hutchinson, Stan and Becky Purvis and family of Goodland, and Zelda Knapp.

Doris and Lowell Martin and grandson, Conner Martin of Strasburg, Colo., were guests of Zeldia Knapp from Friday to Sunday. They were Saturday dinner guests of Jerry and Betty Knapp.

Bob and Jolene Reeh and children were Thanksgiving Day guests of Albert and Agnes Reeh.

Kenny and Phyllis Wilkinson were Thanksgiving Day guests of

Larry and Mary Fahrenbruch and family in Atwood. They were Friday afternoon visitors in the Laddie Kacirek home to visit with Dave and Becky Kacirek and children.

Rita Antholz spent from Tuesday to Sunday in Kansas City with Joan and Phil Graves and family and to get acquainted with their new baby daughter, Carlisle Paige, who was born on Nov. 17. Mary and Leon Volk and family of Goodland were also in Kansas City.

Thanksgiving dinner guests of Joan Tongish were Doug and Mary Tongish of Goodland, Jamie, Mikayl, and Katelyn Cody of Colby, and Mike and Diana Tongish and Clinton and Linda Hopkins of Atwood.

Vance and Betty Lewis took Lenora Spicka to McCook to enjoy Thanksgiving dinner.

Hank and Mac Olson were Thanksgiving dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Greg Olson and children in Oberlin. Rick Olson of Hays was a weekend guest of his parents.

Shawn and Traci Coulson and children were Thanksgiving guests of Jim and Lois Morelock.

Bioterrorism

Continued from Page 1A
the county and landowners for obtaining gravel for county roads. The county attorney said that contracts with landowners needed to be signed before gravel is taken from the sites.

At the last meeting, illegal dumping was discussed and it was discussed again at the Wednesday meeting. Illegal dumping includes anyone dumping trash and/or other items on other people's land, even when the landowner gives permission. There is a grant which will help new landowners clean up dumping sites for part of the cost. The commissioners also agreed to let the county help bury some of the trash and the supervisor will contact two landowners with part of the cost concerning the matter.

Road plans for the county were reviewed.

The Household Hazardous Waste plan will be ready for the commissioners' signature at the next meeting. An exhaust fan had been installed in the

building where hazardous waste is stored.

Legal rates

Cynthia Haynes, owner, and Karen Krien, publisher of *The St. Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*, discussed rates for publishing legal notices. The county treasurer had asked that the owners and the county work out a contract but since the number of legal notices and the length of the legal notices were never certain, it would not be possible. Cheyenne County is unique in this area as there are two newspapers in the county and county legal notices are printed in both. This pushes up the legal costs to the county but Mrs. Haynes said she wanted to work with the county and would give a discount. It was pointed out that legal rates paid in the county were more expensive than those in other counties. Mrs. Haynes said that she was not aware of this. She said that the county could lower their costs by submitting legal notices as readable copy on disks or by e-mail and this would give them an additional

10-percent discount. This discount is also available to the cities in the county and lawyers.

In other business

In other business:
• The road and bridge office at the courthouse and Mr. Flemming were honored for the recent Christmas decor. The certificate was awarded in fun and the majority of the courthouse staff was on hand to see the certificate given.

• The Western Plains Resource Conservation and Development annual fee of \$250 was okayed. Eric Fiala, St. Francis, now serves as the representative on the board and the commissioners agreed that if Mr. Fiala would agree, he would be appointed to another term.

• Tim Carson with the county's

health insurance Corporate Plan had contacted Clerk Terry Miller to tell him that the county had been below in usage during the current year. He suggested that there be a small increase in premiums but the commissioners agreed to not make any increases.

• Christmas bonus in the form of scrip money will be given to employees again this year but the amount of the bonus will not be decided until the next meeting. The employment appreciation dinner will not be held until after the first of the year.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners has been set for 8 a.m. on Dec. 16 in the commissioners' room at the courthouse in St. Francis.

Did You Know?

Q. What occurs more often in December than any other month?
A. Conception

Q. What separates "60 Minutes," on CBS from every other television show?
A. No theme song

Q. Half of all Americans live within 50 miles of what?
A. Their birthplace

Q. Most boat owners name their boats. What is the most popular boat name requested?
A. Obsession

Q. If you were to spell out numbers, how far would you have to go until you would find the letter "A"?
A. One thousand

Q. What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers, and laser printers all have in common?
A. All invented by women

Q. What is the only food that doesn't spoil?
A. Honey

Q. There are more collect calls on this day than any other day of the year?
A. Father's Day

Q. What trivia fact about Mel Blanc (voice of Bugs Bunny) is the most ironic?
A. He was allergic to carrots

Q. What is an activity performed by 40% of all people at a party?
A. Snoop in your medicine cabinet

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•• NOTICE ••

First Half of 2002 taxes are due by December 20, 2002 without penalty.

Be sure and bring your bar code slip to pay your taxes.

NOTE: All personal property taxes come due in full if first half is not paid by December 20.

ALL OTHER TAXES DUE IN HALF OR FULL.

After that date all taxes become delinquent and bear interest.

Dolores Jenik
Cheyenne County Treasurer

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