

## Happy 142nd Birthday Kansas

By Karen Krien

The 142nd Kansas Day celebration in Bird City will be held on Jan. 29 at the American Legion Hall. The hall will open at 9 a.m. and a carry-in dinner will be served at noon.

The schedule of the day after the 9 a.m. shows that opening and registration will take place at 10 a.m. and table grace, meal and special dinner music by the

Swingin' Seniors will start at 11:30 a.m.

Following dinner, the national anthem will be sung by Chad Miller. "Kansas - My State" written by the late Leland Neal Hill, will be read by Connie Miller. The business meeting will be held and officers will be elected.

The program will be presented by the Cheylin fourth graders, elementary vocal classes and students, Michael Sager, Matt

Wilson, Andy Smith and John Simmonds along with the St. Francis third graders and the high school speech class.

Tobe Zwegardt, Wayne Deeds, Norman Dorsch, Robert Brubaker along with master of ceremonies J.D. Eggers will share special memories.

Marsha Magley will have special recognitions and a memorial tribute will be held. Natalie Knodel, Twila Kramer and

Tema Trumbo, Heartland Harmony trio, will entertain with special music.

This year's theme is "Beauty Is Where You Look For It." Everyone including individuals, families and/or organizations are asked to bring displays showing the beauty of anything they would like to share. This can include various things such as old recipe books, old tools, old or new dolls, photographs, family albums,

scrapbooks, quilts, clothes, hats, trunks or anything else people may come up with.

"It is a great way to share beauty from the past as well as the present," president Connie Miller said.

Everyone is urged to attend this special celebration, enjoy the displays and the entertainment.

## Officer reports candidates in April 1 election

The last day to file was at noon on Tuesday and there is a position that does not have a candidate. The Bird City Council needed three positions filled and only Frank Serrano and Troy Burr filed with the county election officer.

There will be a race in the St. Francis City Council and also the St. Francis Board of Education election.

On April 1, St. Francis residents will be electing only two people out of the three people filing. Those candidates are incumbents Roger Jensen and Dale Weeks; new is Robert "Bud" Erskin.

Filing for a seat on the St. Francis

Board of Education for District 1, position 1, are incumbent Cliff Raile and Pete Kinen.

The full lineup of candidates include:

St. Francis City Council: Roger Jensen, Dale Weeks and Bud Erskin; mayor - Scott Schultz.

Bird City Council: Frank Serrano and Troy Burr.

St. Francis Board of Education: Bonnie Zwegardt, Sherry Weeks, Cliff Raile, John Knodel and Pete Kinen.

Cheylin Board of Education: David Frisbie, Wade Carmichael and Kerby Krien.

## New hospital board members installed; officers are elected

By Karen Krien

New board members were sworn in at the Wednesday meeting of the Cheyenne County Hospital Board.

Terry Miller, Cheyenne County Clerk, swore in Traci Neitzel and Joy Anderegg. They will take the seats of former board members, Leon Brethower and Kelly Gienger. Mr. Brethower was not present at the January meeting but Mr. Gienger commended Mr. Brethower on his years of service to the board, noting that he had been instrumental in implementing funding depreciation. Mr. Brethower had also worked in getting a strategic plan in place for the board.

Mr. Gienger, who has used his construction knowledge in the planning of the remodeling of both the hospital and clinic in St. Francis,

said that he would be willing to continue working with the board until these projects were completed. Mr. Gienger will be notified when meetings involving these projects are called.

At the end of the Wednesday meeting, officers were elected with Rueben Schultz taking the office of president; Mrs. Anderegg, vice chairman/secretary; and Mrs. Neitzel, treasurer.

The board agreed that the meeting times be set for 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. It was noted that there will be an occasional change in the meeting times and dates but there will be notification if there is change. There will also be special meetings until the clinic and hospital renovations are completed.

## First baby of the year arrives

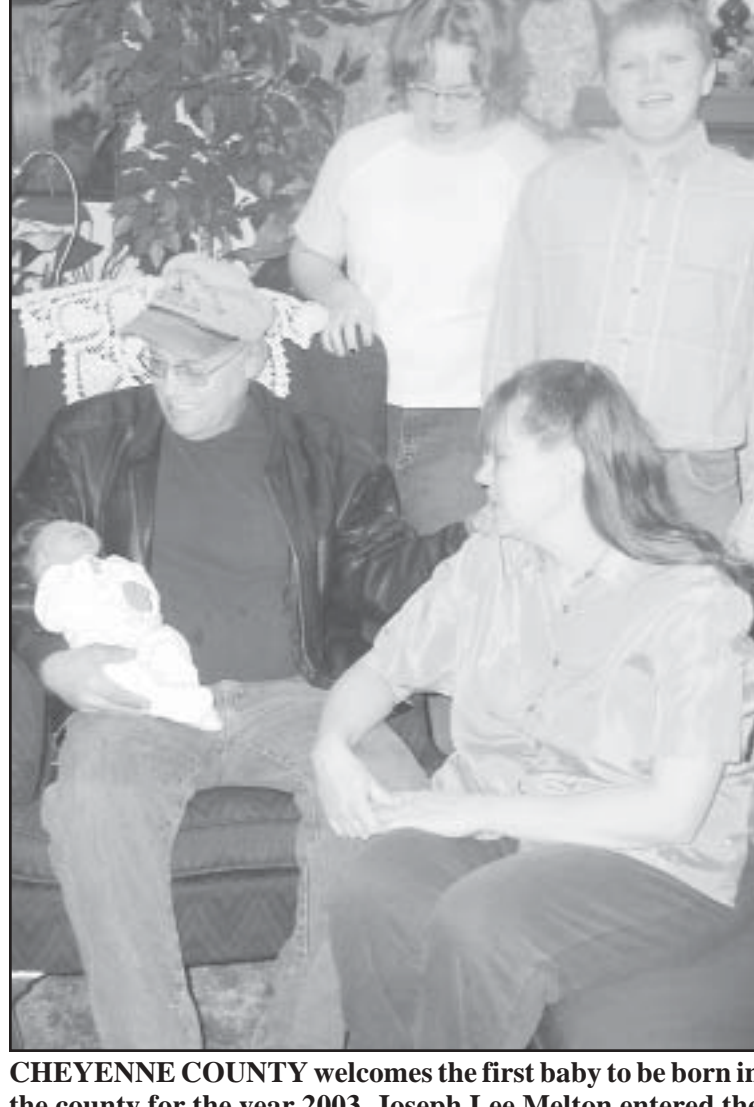
By Karen Krien

The first baby born to parents living in Cheyenne County arrived on Jan. 13 to Jim and Tanya Melton who live in Wheeler. Joseph Lee Melton weighed in at 7 pounds, 2 ounces and was 18 3/4 inches long. He was born at Hays Regional Medical Center in Hays at 12:43 a.m. He was welcomed home by sister Danielle and brother Dalton.

Joseph and his parents will receive a number of gifts from St. Francis businesses including: A full car wash from the St. Francis Equity, \$50 savings bond from Bankwest, \$50 savings bond from First National Bank, a toy from Van Allen Inc., \$15 gift certificate for baby food or formula and new born diapers from Sainty Super Foods, \$15 gift certificate from KM Clothier, and a year's subscription to *The St. Francis Herald* or *Bird City Times*.

"We really appreciate all of the gifts but most of all, we appreciate the fact that Joseph arrived safe and healthy," Mrs. Melton said.

Last year's first baby of the year was Korbon Clay Russell who was born on Jan. 8 to Lacie Russell.



CHEYENNE COUNTY welcomes the first baby to be born in the county for the year 2003. Joseph Lee Melton entered the world on Jan. 13 and was greeted by family members: Jim, Tonya, Danielle and Dalton.



BIRD CITY RESIDENTS woke up Tuesday morning to a winter wonderland. This scenic picture, taken around 2 p.m., hadn't shown signs of thawing. Although no moisture came with this front, the cold temperatures brought treacherous roads and sidewalks throughout the day.

Times staff photo by Peggy Horinek

## Cost-share fund programs now available

The Cheyenne County Conservation District's sign up for the Water Resources Cost-Share Program and the Non-Point Source Pollution Cost-Share Program applications will be taken at the Conservation office Jan. 21 through 31. The following practices are eli-

gible for cost-share assistance: diversions, cross-fencing, field and feedlot windbreaks, irrigation water conveyance pipeline, livestock pipelines, wells and tanks, spring developments, terraces, range seeding, sprinkler irrigation systems upgrades, livestock waste control

facilities, abandoned well plugging and septic system upgrades.

Cost-share assistance rate is 50-70 percent. All applications will be reviewed and ranked by the district board of supervisors and funded according to priorities recommended by the Kansas Water Plan.

Work may not be started until notified by the conservation district board. Deadline to complete work is May 31.

Those interested can contact the office on West U.S. 36 in St. Francis or call 785-332-2341.

## Instructor explains teaching costs

By Karen Krien

In recent weeks, there have been articles taken from the county commissioners' meetings concerning the cost to teach emergency medical technician classes which said that the instructor originally wanted \$18,000 to teach the technician class but had agreed to teach it for just what Colby Community College would pay.

Beth Gabel, St. Francis, instructor for the classes held in the county for the last 12 years, said that teaching the technician classes had never been about money — "it's about helping people," she said. "I just want to get the record straight."

Last year, the service took in \$96,281.54. Of that money, \$57,248.25 was spent for equipment, supplies, salaries and other miscellaneous expenses and \$30,000 was put in the Equipment Reserve Fund which is being saved for a new ambulance when it is needed. (At this time, the Fund has \$90,000 — just about enough to purchase a new ambulance for the county.) After all expenses have been taken out, the \$9,039.29 surplus is put into the General Fund to help fund other departments and county expenses.

Mrs. Gabel sees the money brought in not as taxpayer's money

but money earned by the emergency medical technicians. Each year, technicians need to update their hours and some of this money is spent for providing classes for recertification. The county is now in need of technicians, especially in the Bird City area and there have been eight to 10 people wanting to take the class.

"If I would have taught the class for \$18,000, Colby Community College would have paid for \$3,500 to \$4,000 depending on the number of students enrolled and the number of semesters the instructor had taught for Colby Community Col-

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## Board discusses X-ray equipment

The date for installing the new X-ray equipment placement is still in the future awaiting for the remodeling of the old part of the hospital in St. Francis but board members discussed the purchase of the equipment when they met Wednesday in the hospital basement.

Administrator Les Lacy and Deb Jensen, lab technician, had traveled to two different locations to look at X-ray equipment. The hospital had received bids on X-ray equipment from three companies but they were considering just two of the companies. The Philips equipment priced

at \$90,840 and the company was reported to give good service. The Del is priced at \$81,335.

The hospital will not be ready to have the new X-ray equipment installed until the new addition on the west end of the hospital has been completed and remodeling of the old facility begins but the prices at this time are exceptionally good — below the budgeted amount of \$100,000.

Dr. Miller was asked how she felt about X-ray equipment compared to CAT scans or MRI equipment. Dr. Miller said that X-rays will al-

ways be needed and, in many cases, the other equipment is used for more information following X-rays.

The administrator and staff will continue to look into the equipment, getting the best price for the best equipment which will fit the needs of the hospital. They discussed the digital X-ray equipment compared to the original equipment and the board was informed that either of the X-ray equipment being considered can easily be converted to digital in-

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# Costs

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lege," she said. "The actual cost would have been around \$14,000 and it would have come out of the Ambulance's Budget.

"If another county would send students to the class and additional \$800 would have been deducted from the \$14,000."

Mrs. Gabel and her husband moved to St. Francis 29 years ago and have been emergency medical technicians for 20 years. Through those years, they have seen and helped the service grow in good emergency medical technicians with good equipment and adequate supplies. All the time the technicians were working, they were bringing in ambulance run revenue paid for by private insurances, Blue Cross, Blue Shield, Medicare and private pay. For years, the county was under the going rate for ambulance runs and still are under that amount in many other counties but Mr. Gabel, emergency medical service director, and the commissioners have tried to keep it a place where insurances would pay but private pay people would not find it impossible to pay the bill.

"There are write-offs each month but we cannot judge what Medicare and Blue Cross Blue Shield will pay or will not pay," Mr. Gabel said.

Before teaching, Mrs. Gabel went to school in Great Bend and the county paid the \$200 for the training. She came back ready to teach. Not knowing what to charge, she contacted Jerry Cunningham, an instructor in Phillipsburg and a region I coordinator at that time, to see what the going charge for teaching a class would be. He reported that he would not come to St. Francis for less than \$7,000 and

mileage from Phillipsburg would be tacked onto that amount.

Mrs. Gabel reasoned that there would be no mileage since she lived here and she wanted to give something back to the people who had been so good to her. Besides, there was a great need for technicians, so she agreed to teach the class for half the price of Mr. Cunningham's charge — \$3,500.

Each year that she taught the class (and that was not every year), she was given a cost-of-living raise of \$100. Colby Community College also reimbursed her for part of the amount, depending on the number of years she taught. The first year, she received about \$1,200 from the college bringing her cost for instructing to around \$2,300.

Today, many of the counties in northwest Kansas are paying around \$18,000 to have a class taught.

Jerry Chaput, emergency medical service director in Oakley, reported that he had paid \$18,000 to have an emergency medical technician training class. He reported that it is difficult to get qualified instructors to come teach a class two evenings a week and weekends for six

months. If the Logan County would have paid mileage to go to the classes in another location, it would have been extremely expensive.

He also said that he had gone through Colby Community College to have the class taught because the college would take liability responsibility if an accident were to happen. Otherwise, the appointed agency would take on this liability.

State rules and regulations changed through the years and it used to be that 10 college credit hours were required in the class but today, 12 hours are needed. The class takes 6 months of instruction and testing at the end.

Emergency medical technicians are always needed and accredited instructors are not always available and when they are, there may be a wait for the people wanting to take the classes and it could be a lot more expensive than expected.

"I love my work and teaching classes but more than that, I love being able to help people and that's what it's all about!" said Mrs. Gabel, who is now completing her schooling to be a registered nurse.

# X-ray

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The hospital remodeling is being funded with state tax credits through the Community Service Project. These credits can be gathered until December 2003. As of the end of the year, the administrator reported that \$115,060 had been collected or pledged. The next targeted amount collected is \$300,000 by this time next year.

"Purchasing X-ray equipment will be a huge step up for the hospital," Administrator Lacy said.



THURSDAY MORNING brought residents to a town full of tumbleweeds. People worked long into the weekend helping clean up the mess.

Times staff photo by Peggy Horinek

# Wind and tumbleweeds go together

On Wednesday night the wind blew and the tumbleweeds tumbled into town, particularly on the west side. People awoke on Thursday morning to find their yards and houses piled with tumbleweeds. It is hard to

believe that there are people on the internet who actually make money selling these things. I'm sure anyone on the west side of town would gladly volunteer to give them theirs, probably even be willing to pay them to come

and get them.

There are so many good people in Bird City and you could see them over the weekend out helping their fellow neighbors and townspeople cleaning up the mess.

## CHECK OUT THE GREAT GMAC 0.0% FINANCING ON A GREAT SELECTION OF 2003 CHEVY'S, BUICK'S AND PONTIAC'S!!!

<p><b>\$23,571</b> BRAND NEW</p>  <p><b>2002 HD2500 4X4</b> 8100 Big Block V-8</p>	<p><b>\$31,831</b> BRAND NEW</p>  <p><b>2002 BUICK PARK AVENUE</b> MSRP \$37,447, Loaded with it All!</p>	<p><b>\$16,500</b></p>  <p><b>'98 FORD F150 SUPERCAB 4X4</b> Loaded XLT, Great Shape &amp; Only 42k</p>	<p><b>\$13,500</b></p>  <p><b>2000 CHEVY IMPALA LS</b> 3800 V-6, Super Sharp</p>
<p><b>\$12,500</b></p> Northstar V-8, Excellent Shape	<p><b>\$11,700</b></p>  <p><b>2001 PONTIAC GRAND AM SE</b> 3400 V-6, Loaded</p>	<p><b>\$9,850</b></p>  <p><b>'94 CHEVY 1/2 TON 4X4</b> FI 350 V-8, Loaded, Very Nice</p>	<p><b>\$9,500</b></p> 3100 V-6, Loaded
<p><b>\$8,500</b></p>  <p><b>2000 FORD FOCUS SE SPORT</b> All the good stuff!</p>	<p><b>\$7,500</b></p>  <p><b>'93 CHEVY HD 3/4 TON 4X4</b> FI 350 V-8</p>	<p><b>\$6,750</b></p> XLT Trim, Only 52,000 Miles	<p><b>\$5,850</b></p> Good Straight 4x4
<p><b>\$5,500</b></p>  <p><b>2000 CHEVY CAVALIER 224</b> Loaded, Sunroof</p>	<p><b>\$5,250</b></p> FI 302 V-8, Loaded XLT	<p><b>\$4,800</b></p> All the Goodies, Sunroof	<p><b>\$4,500</b></p> V-6, Nice & Loaded
<p><b>\$3,995</b></p> Vortec V-6	<p><b>\$3,500</b></p> Auto, 80k	<p><b>\$2,950</b></p> Nice Car!	<p><b>\$2,700</b></p> V-6
<p><b>\$1,500</b></p>	<p><b>HARCHELROAD MOTORS INC.</b></p> <p><b>WAUNETTA, NEB. (308) 394-5555</b></p>		<p><b>\$1,350</b></p> V-6