

# Clinic opens for business

**By Karen Krien**

The newly remodeled clinic is open and the staff is back to seeing patients in the facility.

Administrator Les Lacy made the announcement at the Thursday morning Cheyenne County Hospital Board meeting. He said the staff had moved back into the remodeled clinic with very few “glitches.”

The administrator had information on what has been paid out for the clinic remodeling. By the time all payments have been made, the total cost of the project will be \$392,844. The amount for the remodeling had originally been set at around \$400,000.

Tile for the clinic basement floor was discussed and it was decided that they would go ahead and order the tile needed for the specified area in the basement as well as the bathrooms upstairs. The cost of the tile from Schultz’s is \$520 for the basement and \$210 for the bathrooms. The board does not plan to have the bathrooms tiled for the time being but when the time comes, the tile will match the other tile upstairs in the clinic. After discussion the purchase was tabled.

Recently, there was very small amount of water leaking in the clinic. The administrator and board discussed the situation and it was decided that until the final grade is completed, there is a chance of water leaking into the facility and they were encouraged that there was no water in the elevator pit.

- The board discussed the cost of the sprinkler system for the hospital lawn. The cost is \$6,097 which includes \$2,500 labor but the matter was tabled until after the bids come in.
- Administrator Lacy will be attending the American Telemedicine Association Annual Convention in Orlando, Fla., as chairman of High Plains Rural Health Network, noting that the Network is covering the cost.

**Administrator’s report**

The administrator had a number of items to discuss with the board including that, while the number of patients using the hospital had been “lagging” in mid April, the number of outpatients had leveled out in the last two weeks. However, the hospital had needed \$55,000 in board funds to make payroll.

For over a year, the hospital administrator and board have been seeking individuals and businesses who would like to participate in the Community Service tax credits program. The tax credits will fund the \$300,000 hospital project while giving tax breaks to those who chose to participate.

The administrator said that there is only \$30,000 in tax credits left to be used and if county residents and business people wish to participate, they need to call the hospital now and commit to the number of tax credits they want. Administrator Lacy said that he was confident that the tax credits would be filled.

Also concerning the hospital project was the fact that the city of St. Francis is covering the cost of a fireplug, transformer, primary and secondary conductors which are necessary in the hospital remodeling. The city crew will also be making primary and secondary connections.

“We have had excellent cooperation from the city,” the administrator said.

**In other business**

In other business:

- The board is mailing out letters to each individual in the county asking that they support the hospital, doctors, nurses and staff.
- The administrator and board agreed help Crystal Murray through the Nursing Scholarship Program. Crystal, who is a student in nursing at Colby Community College, will come back to the county to work.
- The board treasurer, Mrs.

**See Clinic on Page 6**



**ZOO DAY at ABC Preschool last week was one of the bigger highlights of the year as kids brought their favorite pets to share with their friends. Pictured left to right is Kelsey Miller, Devon Janicke, Derek Vandike, Elizabeth Keltz and Elsa Craig Burr.**

*Times staff photo by Karen Krien*



**DURING THE Confederate Air Force visit to McCook last summer, Lou Webb, World War II vet was able to view a bomber similar to the one he flew.**

*Photo courtesy of Lou Webb*

# Airman spends over a year at famous Nazi camp, Stalag 17

**by Casey McCormick**

(This is the final installment of a three part story as told by Lou Webb of McDonald. The last two segments described Mr. Webb’s experiences leading up to World War II and being a member of an Army Air Corps bombing crew. At the end of the last writing, Mr. Webb’s plane and crew had gone down, leaving him the only survivor and in the hands of his enemy.)

Soon after his capture the Germans holding Mr. Webb “called in the Gestapo (the German military’s secret police)” who interrogated the new prisoner. He did not say much at the initial interrogation but the next day, “I went for a drive with a couple of Germans in a (motorcycle) side car,” as they took him to a railroad station. A train carried

him south to Hanover where he boarded another train headed to Frankfurt.

Mr. Webb’s first prisoner-of-war camp was at a German “duelle lauwfte” (air field) and was made up of mostly English prisoners. It was here that he met a Canadian who had been held since the evacuation of Dunkirk, France, at the beginning of the war. But Mr. Webb was not there long as soon he was grouped with more captured American bombers, mostly B-17 guys, and they were loaded onto cattle cars and carried, by rail, towards Munich.

The second camp was designated as 7-A. It was located near Busseberg and was filled with mostly American bomber crews. This particular camp had a reputation for easy escapes.

“We even had guys walking out the front door,” said Mr. Webb, to try to find their way across the German countryside and freedom.

This is probably why he and the other prisoners were moved to one of the most infamous camps in Nazi history: Stalag 17.

It was the fall of 1943. Mr. Webb would be held in the camp that was remembered by Hollywood in a movie by the same name, “Stalag 17.” This camp was known for cruel treatment of prisoners and a pride for allowing few escapes. Under unimaginable conditions he stayed from “October ‘43 to April ‘45.”

This is where Mr. Webb witnessed an event that “still leaves chills on my spine.” One of the pris-

**See Nazi Camp on Page 6**

# Athlete places first in high jump at Triplains invitational

The Cheylin girls track team finished fifth at the Triplains Invitational Track Meet held in Oakley on April 15.

“They really did well coming in fifth because this was a very large meet with 15 teams participating,” Coach Mary Moore, said

One of the highlights of the day was Amanda Poore winning the high jump event with a jump of 5-6. Cristi Antholz qualified in the prelims of the 100-meter dash and was able to run in the finals with a fourth place finish.

“I’m really proud of all the girls for their hard work,” Coach Moore said. “Amanda Poore, Cristi Antholz, Sara Moore and Jill Zumbahlen all came home with medals for placing in their events. Kelly Garner, Amanda Poore, Jill Zumbahlen, Stephanie Snyder,

Cristi Antholz and Hayley Young improved previous jumps/times to receive new personal bests.”

“It was great to have the seniors back,” said Coach Moore, including Jill Zumbahlen who returned after a long absence due to surgery. Jill ran the 800 and high jump.

“Everyone tried very hard to do their best, in spite of high winds which made some events more difficult to perform in,” Coach Moore said. “I’m really hoping to see even more improvements in their times and distances as the season progresses. The girls have talent and potential to do great things.”

The next meet will be in Scott City with 20 teams from 1A to 4A programs.

**Individual results:**

Cristi Antholz: long jump, 3-9.5;

100 meter-dash, fourth place, 13.9; 200-meter dash, 29.5.

Tiffany Antholz: shot put, 22-3, discus, 62-3; javelin, 56-10.5.

Kelly Garner: long jump, 14-3, triple jump, 28-4

Sara Moore: shot put, fifth place, 33-1.5; discus, fifth place, 94-0, javelin, 87-0.

Amanda Poore: long jump, third, 16-1; high jump, first, 5-6.

Stephanie Snyder: triple jump, sixth, 31-7; 400-meter dash, 1:10.95; javelin 63-8

Hayley Young: 1600 relay, fifth place.

Jill Zumbahlen: high jump, third place, 5-0, 800-meter, fifth, 2:51.52.

**Relay results:**

1600 relay: Cristi Antholz, Hayley Young, Stephanie Snyder, Amanda Poore, fifth, 4:38.82.

# Burn day set for Saturday

To spruce up our village by cleaning out and burning all the thistles, PRIDE has cleared it with the mayor to have a free burning day for thistles. Saturday is the day, if it is not too windy or damp. If the elements do not allow the burn and an alternate date has been set for May 3.

Watch the “Birdie Board” at the intersection for more information.

“Please help a neighbor or get a group together to do a vacant lot and help clear out the unwanted tumble weeds.” Donna Johnson, of PRIDE, said.



# Whole grains facts presented

A program on whole grain foods will be presented at the Cheyenne County Extension Office from 1 to 2 p.m. on May 1.

Kansas has the honor of being called “The Wheat State,” and northwest Kansas produces a bounty of healthy grains for all to enjoy. A block exchange program presented by Lori Sporer, Logan County Family and Community Service, has great information about “Healthful Whole Grains” from Kansas State Research and Extension.

Do you know which foods are “whole grain” foods? Are 100 percent whole wheat foods also whole grain?

If eating a food product would help reduce the risk of heart disease, cancer, stroke, obesity, type 2 diabetes as well as aid in bowel disorders...would you eat more of that food? Good news! Whole Grain foods help with all of those conditions as well as being a nutritious way of satisfying our hunger...longer!

Learn what “Whole Grain Foods” are, and how to identify and check food labels, along with ways to add delicious whole grain foods to your diet everyday!

Please call the Cheyenne County Extension Office (785-332-3171) by April 30 if planning to attend. There must be at least six people attending to hold the program.





EVEN THOUGH THE WEATHER was nasty Saturday, the Easter bunny showed up Saturday for excited children to great.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

## Magical Easter bunny makes appearance at Bird City Park

By Casey McCormick

The Easter bunny shares many of the same qualities as the post man: "whether it be rain, sleet, snow ... he will keep his appointed rounds!" And so it was for the magical bunny on Saturday at the Bird City Park. It did not matter that the fierce wind blew and the cold rain fell as countless brightly colored eggs covered the ground, hid behind rocks or perched in trees.

Excited children from near and far, including Salina and Ord, Neb., did not seem to mind the conditions as they and many family members gathered for the spring tradition.

Two groups of kids were designated. The younger ones searched the open grass area to the west and the older boys and girls raced around the old stone building and the first tree line.

After each child had collected the

right amount of eggs with the generous ones shared with the less fortunate, the participants gathered for a prize drawing. Cute candy displays were given to the lucky ones.



## McDonald News By Vera Kacirek

### Easter Egg Hunt

It was a cold morning but 35 kids and parents came out for the McDonald Easter Egg Hunt. 300 eggs had been hidden and all were claimed. At the end of the hunt each child received a large candy-filled egg as a prize for coming out on such a cold morning. After the hunt the kids enjoyed playing on the merry-go-round while their parents visited with friends.

### Palm Sunday News

Tunney and Leila Loker entertained with a dinner on Palm Sunday. Guests were Gary and Penny Loker, Dennis, Lila and Debra Lee Howard, J.B. and Brenda Loker, Brian, Traci, Logan and Emily

Loker, and Les and Tish Loker.

### Easter Sunday News

Dale and Ratha Lee Loker were guests of Dwight and Priscilla Brown in Vernon, Co.

Kenny and Phyllis Wilkinson were dinner guests of the Larry Fahrenbruch family in Atwood.

Ray and Becky Nelson of Denver were weekend guests of Fred and LaVina Waters.

Rick and Kathy Frisbie entertained with an Easter dinner for Ray and Becky Nelson, Fred and LaVina Waters, Rob and Betty Binning, and Beth Binning.

## Bird City News

Easter Sunday dinner guests of Paul and Edna Roesener were Walt Roesener, Roy, Karen Shrader and Colleen and Grant, and Jaylene Shrader.

Tom Sawyer, Walde Hempler, and Alvin and Lattie Hempler were

Easter dinner guests of Keith and Hulda Dorsch.

(note from the editor: If you submitted a Bird City News item and it is not seen here please contact me so I can get it in next week's paper. Casey McCormick, 734-2659.)

## Nazi Camp

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oners attempted an escape.

"He didn't even make it to the fence before the Germans got him."

The man was riddled by machine gun fire and "he kept screaming and screaming until they were done." That is the only escape attempt he remembers from Stalag 17.

Mr. Webb recalls the prison population to be about 3,600 men and, again, mostly B-17 guys. As for what would become a "normal" routine, as prisoner of war, he remembers delousing all the times, as the guards would shout, "Louses," and herded the men into shower buildings to be sprayed with insecticide.

But there were some bright moments when the prisoners received Red Cross parcels.

"We'd get chocolate bars and some bulk foods (mainly rice)," he said, and the troops would pool their food items to get the most of it. Sometimes they would get bread and potatoes when in season, but the primary diet was cabbage.

Mr. Webb's actual camp was designated as 17-A and was patrolled by "rough (German) infantry guys and dogs." The camp was not restricted to Americans, although they made up the largest number of inmates. He also saw Arabs, French and some Italians.

As for breaking out he said, "I thought about escape but waited for the right time."

The rules in Stalag 17 were strict and absolute but the prisoners never lost their fighting spirit and came up with creative ways to contact the outside world.

"Guys would steal radio parts," said Mr. Webb, who had plenty of talent and skills to assemble an operational unit that could get news from London and Berlin. Once a German guard almost discovered the forbidden junk radio when he raised his arm, in traditional fashion, to salute a passing officer. "He damn near hit the wire that served as an antenna."

The prisoners of this camp knew that the war to the east was closing in, both by radio and the changing of the guard.

"The Germans sent guys we knew to the Eastern Front," Mr. Webb said.

This was not a good transfer from prisoners of war watch to combat with the Russians. In the spring of 1945, the war was within 50 miles in all directions of Stalag 17.

The German army choose to move the prisoners. Mr. Webb and

his comrades, were forced to march towards Switzerland. As if he had not seen enough, the next leg of his journey would be on foot and for 100 miles.

As the prisoners walked the only thing that was certain was that the allies were getting closer. They made the long trek to Braunhour, Austria, and another camp.

"It was funny that our camp was very close to Hitler's birthplace," he said.

Now that the prisoners were at the location that they would see their part of the war end, they all wondered how their captors would react when the allies showed up. They were still surrounded by heavily armed Germans.

But luck was once again on Mr. Webb's side as the Germans simply surrendered their camp when the American Army met them.

"They sure didn't want to get caught by the Russians," Mr. Webb said. "Those guys didn't recognize the Geneva Convention."

Lou remembers his liberation when three guys showed up in a jeep with a worried look on all of them. Only one was armed with a 45 caliber handgun but the Germans still surrendered.

The next day the main group showed up, and they were mad about having to race up and deal with the mess of Germans and prisoners of war. Years later Mr. Webb talked to a fellow captive named Chuck McFilly of San Francisco, Calif., who remembered how "our guys got the camp leader, a long-legged German, who they walked

him out to the woods and 'bang.'"

It would take about two months for Mr. Webb to make it to Nancie, France. On June 5 he boarded the troop ship, the "General George S. Squire", that zig-zagged it's way, dodging enemy subs, for 11 days across the Atlantic. Eating all he could along the way, he enjoyed a freedom he had not known for two years.

From New York he was hurried to Fort Dix and then worked his way home on train by way of Chicago. He arrived in Los Angeles and hired a taxi to take him to San Diego.

Mr. Webb got home late and his father joked, "you could have got a bus." After the initial excitement his dad produced a paper dated March 1945 that had a headline that said Hitler had given an order; "all prisoners of war to be executed."

Mr. Webb's story does not end here. He received about \$5,000 in military back pay and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He left the service and has been very busy since, but that is another story.

Mr. Webb is not one looking for a pat on the back or personal recognition. He is, though, a man who knows what an incredible journey he has had in an important period of our history.

*Editor's note: While I interviewed Mr. Webb for this story I was impressed by the amazing events of his life. But what I appreciated most was his sense of humor. At one point of our time together he spoke of a letter he received from his father while Lou was being held in Stalag 17. It said, "haven't heard from you in a while, figured you were in jail somewhere." Humor can be hereditary.*

## Clinic

Continued from Page 1

Neitzel reported she had put hospital building funds into certificates of deposit. The certificates are with time limits which will allow withdrawals without penalties but will still be earning some interest.

### Area director's report

Jackie John, Great Plains Health Alliance area director, went over the financials with the board and reported on Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act regulations which are dealing primarily with "privacy" of patients. Mrs. John noted that people will notice a definite change in how patients' privacy is handled... basically, unless the patient designates certain people to receive information, the hospital will not release any.

Special hospital board meeting

The Cheyenne County Hospital Board will meet in special session at 2 p.m. on May 1 in the board meeting room in the clinic basement across the street from the hospital in St. Francis. The meeting has been called to open the bids for the hospital project. The meeting was originally scheduled for April 22 but the administrator said that the bid date had been extended in order to get more bids. At 1:30 that same day, former board members Leon Brethower and Kelly Gienger will be recognized.

### Next regular meeting

The next regular meeting of the board has been set for 7 p.m. on May 15 in the board room in the basement of the clinic.

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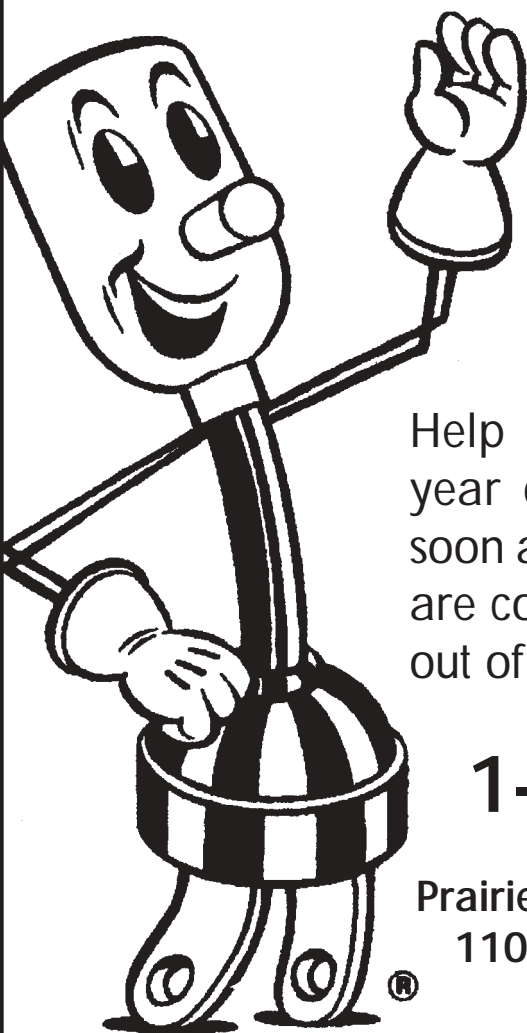
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## Customer Appreciation Barbecue!

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Thursday, April 24  
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Help us celebrate another great year of success. Please RSVP as soon as possible to let us know you are coming. We don't want to run out of food! Please call us at:

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