



**JUNE BIRTHDAYS** were celebrated Monday at the Senior Citizens Center. Those celebrating birthdays were Lilly Ruth Edmundson, Doris Amsberry, Alvin Loop and Francis Hatch.  
*Times staff photo by Casey McCormick*

# Postmaster gives tips for prompt delivery

Sonja Weeden, Bird City Postmaster, has released the following information to help letters reach their destination as quickly as possible.

Does your mail have a complete address? Even though the Postal Service automation system has unmatched speed and accuracy in handling your mail, complete addressing is now more important than ever.

The optical scanners and sorter machines speed letters through faster than the eye can see. Incomplete address information on the letter slows down the processing of that letter, or it could even cause it to be misdelivered.

Common errors found on letters are:

- Missing the street suffixes, such as Avenue, Court, Street, Road or

- Way.
- Missing the directionals, such as North, East, South or West.
- Missing secondary street indicators, such as Apartment, Building, Floor, Suite, Room or Department
- Abbreviation of the city name. A good example is LA. One thinks of Los Angeles, but it could also mean Los Alamitos or Los Alamos.
- Missing the two-character state abbreviation. Did you know the city of Cleveland belongs to 19 different states?
- Incorrect or no ZIP code. This is a very important ending to any address to help it find the final destination.

To keep your mail moving and to help prevent it from getting lost or misdelivered, check to make sure you have a complete address.

# Two local girls chosen to attend Girls State

Amanda Banister and Cristi Antholz of McDonald have been chosen by Unit 352 of the Everett L. Nelson Post, Bird City, to attend the 61st annual session of Sunflower Girls State on the University of Kansas Lawrence campus. Sunflower Girls State is sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, June 8 through 13. Banister is the daughter of George and Kathy Banister and Antholz is the daughter of Hal and Becky Antholz.

Joining approximately 575 other young women who have just completed their Junior year of high school, they will "Learn by Doing" the political system in the government of Kansas.

Beginning at the city level, advancing to county and state, the girls will register to vote, file nomination papers, conduct political campaigns and make speeches.

Jaci Wilkening, Ulysses, is the 2002 Governor of Sunflower Girls State and will preside at the ses-

sions. Toby Brown, Louisburg, the 2002 Lt. Governor, will be assisting. The girls will be housed in McCollum Hall and the Inauguration will be held in the Lied Performing Arts Center.

During the week speakers on government, at various levels, will share their expertise with the girls. They will have an opportunity to ask questions about these individuals' responsibilities in government. Speakers will include: Kathleen Sebelius, Governor of Kansas, Ron Thornburgh, Secretary of State, Laura Christensen, department president of the American Legion Auxiliary and other state, county and city officials.

Becky Keller, Hunter, is the 2003 director of Sunflower Girls State and Heidi Blair, Wathena, will serve as assistant director. A staff of 60 American Legion Auxiliary members will volunteer in service to this program.

## McDonald News By Vera Kacirek

**Hospital address**  
Duane Wilkens, St. Catherine Hospital, Box 375, 410 E. Walnut, Garden City, KS 67806.

**Girls softball tournament**  
The Tri-County Girls Softball Tournament will be held in McDonald from June 20 through June 22. There will be four A-team games; eight B-team games and eight C-team games. This will require several helpers to sell tickets at the gate, to serve as umpires, and base umpires. Anyone who will volunteer their help can call 538-2358.

Morgan, Colo., were weekend guests of Gail and Kay Miller.

R.J. and Susie Sabatka spent the weekend in Manhattan with Chanda Sabatka and Rachel and Taylor Wilson.

Ron Henry of Colby was a Thursday morning visitor of Tunney and Leila Loker.

On Friday, Tunney and Leila Loker drove to Parks and took watermelon to Vance and Missy Redden and family and their guests from Fort Morgan, Colo.

Lila Howard was a Sunday visitor of Tunney and Leila Loker.

Joan Tongish attended the Saturday funeral of Louella Bofman

in St. Francis.

Amelia Banister and Karlyne Atchison attended the memorial service for Edra Banister on Saturday morning. Carol Mylnar was an afternoon visitor.

Kasey and Jennifer Sabatka entertained with a Sunday brunch in honor of the fifth wedding anniversaries of Brian and Jackie Hanson and Kasey and Jennifer Sabatka. Guests were Brian and Jackie Hanson and Eddie, Kenny and Pauline Micek, Matt and Melissa Micek and Mike and Kim Shirley and sons.

Kasey and Jennifer Sabatka, Gracie and Tyler were Sunday

supper guests of Laddie and Vera Kacirek.

Vance and Betty Lewis have made several trips to Atwood this past week to be with Lenora Spicka at the Rawlins County Hospital.

Carol Mylnar was a weekend guest of Dale and Ratha Lea Loker, Mr. and Mrs. Morrie Sutton were additional Saturday supper guests. At the memorial service for Edra Banister on Saturday, classmates Geraldine Sutton, Laverne Goltl and Ratha Lea Loker were with Carol Mylnar.

# Cutoff date extended for livestock program

Livestock producers who missed the application cutoff date for the first Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) sign up may have another opportunity to participate as the program was extended by the Agricultural Assistance Act of 2003.

Sign up for the program, called Livestock Compensation Program-II, started on April 1 with no ending date announced yet, according to Angie Berens, county executive director of the Cheyenne County

Farm Service Agency.

"Congress opened the program to more producers by expanding the eligibility dates and adding catfish as an eligible commodity," she said. "Most of our producers have already signed up for this benefit."

Producers who were eligible for Livestock Compensation Program but did not file an application by the Dec. 13, 2002, deadline have an opportunity to apply during this new sign up.

The 2002 program, announced

last October, was limited to livestock producers headquartered in a county designated by the secretary of agriculture as a primary disaster county between Jan. 1, 2001 and Sept. 19, 2002. Livestock Compensation Program II makes eligible any counties that were requested as primary disaster areas under a presidential or secretarial declaration by Feb. 20, and that were subsequently approved. Counties named as contiguous counties are not eligible for the program. All Kansas counties

have been declared primary disaster areas.

Owner and livestock eligibility requirements remain unchanged. To be eligible for assistance a producer's livestock operation headquarters must be physically located in a county with a qualifying disaster designation. Eligible livestock are cattle, sheep, goats, and buffalo, as well as catfish.

The livestock must have been owned or subject to a cash lease on June 1, 2002, and have been owned or leased for a minimum of 90 days. The June 1 date must fall sometime within the 90-day period. Animals located in a commercial feedlot are eligible provided they are farmer owned and the owner meets all eligibility requirements. Animals that were sold or died on or after June 1, 2002, and that meet all other eligibility requirements may be eligible for payment. Livestock Compensation Program-II payments will be based on a predetermined rate per head for the livestock categories.

Director Berens said payments have not yet been authorized, but would be made as soon as possible after an eligible produce has signed up and the application has been processed. Producers participating in Livestock Compensation Program-II are subject to a \$2.5 million gross revenue limitation. Payments are limited to \$40,000 per person. Livestock covered on a Livestock Compensation Program-I application are not eligible for Livestock Compensation Program-II.

If you missed the first Livestock Compensation Program-I sign up and have livestock that meet the requirements of the program, contact the Farm Service Agency to sign up.

# Newspaper asks for servicemen names

The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times will be publishing a "Freedom" special section and are looking for names and addresses of those who have served this country in any of the armed services. The staff will need this information by June 18.

"We are asking that people please call the offices at 785-332-3162 or 785-734-2659 with names," said Karen Krien, publisher. "If we do not have the names, they will be left out of the special section and we do

not want this to happen."

Businesses and individuals will have the opportunity to help sponsor this section. Those not receiving a call but would like to help should contact Claire at The Herald office.

"This is a special time when we have had a successful campaign in the Middle East and it is a time when all of our military personnel should be remembered and honored. We need your help," Mrs. Krien said.

## Plaine Sense

### Playing Video Games

Dear Plain Sense: I hear so many differing opinions about how children are affected by playing video games. My own children play, and I see no harm. But maybe I should be more concerned.

Yes, there is a lot of information available about the effects of children playing video games. Magazine articles and books, television news reports, internet resources, and scientific research attempt to cover this topic. And opinions differ, which is why it is important to be a well-informed parent.

A recent report from the Kaiser Family foundation (www.kff.org), which supports children's issues, examines both positive and negative effects on children who play video games.

On the positive side, some games have been found to improve skills such as spatial visualization and visual attention in children. More negatively, some studies indicate that playing violent video games significantly increases aggressive behaviors in preadolescents and

adolescents. Some people believe that video games have a negative effect on healthy child development, even feeling that violent video games teach kids to hurt and kill. Then there are others who feel that such video games provide an appropriate outlet for anger and emotions.

As with any type of children's activity, the adults in their lives need to be well-aware and involved, including monitoring the content of video games and time spent in playing. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends the following:

- Limit children's screen time, that is, television, videos, computer and video games
- Keep children's bedrooms "media free"
- Keep violent video games out of homes where they may be observed or played by young children

We do know that children's time on the computer, watching television and playing video games can interfere with completing homework, as well as reduce

the amount of time spent in social activities with peers. And children are certainly influenced by the content of the media, a great deal of which is unrealistically portrayed. Parents need to help children understand the differences between media games and real life. Being a positive role model and teaching children the basic values of caring and respect for human life will help offset the negative messages they receive through video games and other such media.

Contributed by Karen D. Beery, LCPC, Consultation and Education Department



# Queen and Princess contest held in Colby

The Thomas County Rodeo Queen and Princess Contest is now taking entries for the event on Friday, July 25. Queens ages 17-23 and princesses ages 10-16 by Jan. 1, 2003 are eligible. Contestants must also be a resident of northwest Kansas, said Marie Skolout, one of the coordinators.

Contestants will be judged in horsemanship, interview, speech and modeling. A trophy saddle will be awarded to the queen along with

belt buckles for the queen and princess. Prizes will also be awarded for horsemanship, ticket sales and people's choice award.

The 2004 Thomas County Rodeo Queen and Princess will be crowned on July 29 at the PRCA Rodeo during the Thomas County Fair.

The deadline for entries is Friday, July 18. For questions or to get an entry form, call Skolout, (785) 586-2228 or e-mail: june@st-tel.net

## Quotes

- A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if You can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am!"
- Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says: "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls 'IT' a poem, they give him

- \$50." The second boy says: "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him \$100." The third boy says: "I got you both beat. "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a "Sermon" . . . . And it takes eight people to collect all the Money!"

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Hemorrhoids aren't the easiest thing to talk about. But listen, if you've got hemorrhoids, why suffer? Do as I did and call to find out more.

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**NEXT VISIT**  
Wednesday, June 25  
&  
Saturday, June 28

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St. Francis Chamber of Commerce Presents:

**AMELIA EARHART**  
at the Bandshell  
Sat., 8:00 p.m.

If you would like to attend the 7:00 p.m. BBQ prior to the free program: You may purchase our BBQ tickets at the Chamber table at the Stearman Fly-In - \$6.00 each.