

# Bulletin Board

**Cheylin Recreation Board**  
Cheylin Recreation Board meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 16, at Cheylin High School Library.

**County Commissioners**  
The Cheyenne County Commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. Monday, Nov. 15, in the commissioner's room at the courthouse.

**Hospital Board**  
The Cheyenne County Hospital Board will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 23.

**Wheeler Thanksgiving**  
The annual Wheeler Thanksgiving gathering of friends and neighbors will be held at Captain Hook's Fine Dining on the evening of Nov. 19. Please RSVP the number in your party to Pam (332-3275) or to Marsha (332-3360).

**Sweet Adelines**  
The Windsong Chorus of Sweet Adelines International will present Camp Calamine at 4 p.m. on Nov. 21 at the high school auditorium in St. Francis. Advanced tickets can be purchased from any Rebekah Lodge member or at the Chamber office, First National Bank, Ross Manufacturing.

**Early deadline**  
Due to the Thanksgiving holiday and Christmas opening, *The St. Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times* will have an early deadline for the Nov. 25 issue. All ads, news and pictures for this issue are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 19.

**Harvest of Holidays**  
Harvest of Holidays will be held at 7 p.m. on Nov. 18 at the St. Francis Methodist Church. Deadline for reservations is Nov. 16. Call the Extension office, 785-332-3171. (See related article for more information.)

**Thanksgiving potluck**  
Members of Tri-State Antique Auto Club look forward to welcoming members of the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Association to the annual Auto Club/Thresher Thanksgiving potluck, which will be held at Bird City Senior Center at 5 p.m. on Nov. 20. Bring a vegetable dish, salad or dessert. Check classified ad for additional menu.

**Veterans Day celebration**  
At 6 p.m. on Thursday, a special Veterans Day celebration dinner and program with the presentation of 60 year pins will be held at the

Bird City American Legion hall. This dinner and program will be held in place of the annual smoker and the public is urged to attend.

**Special Hospital Board meeting**  
A special Cheyenne County Hospital Board meeting will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 10, in the hospital dining room (basement of the hospital). The first pay application for the county health department remodeling will be reviewed and a recommendation for paying it will be given to the county commissioners at their Friday meeting.

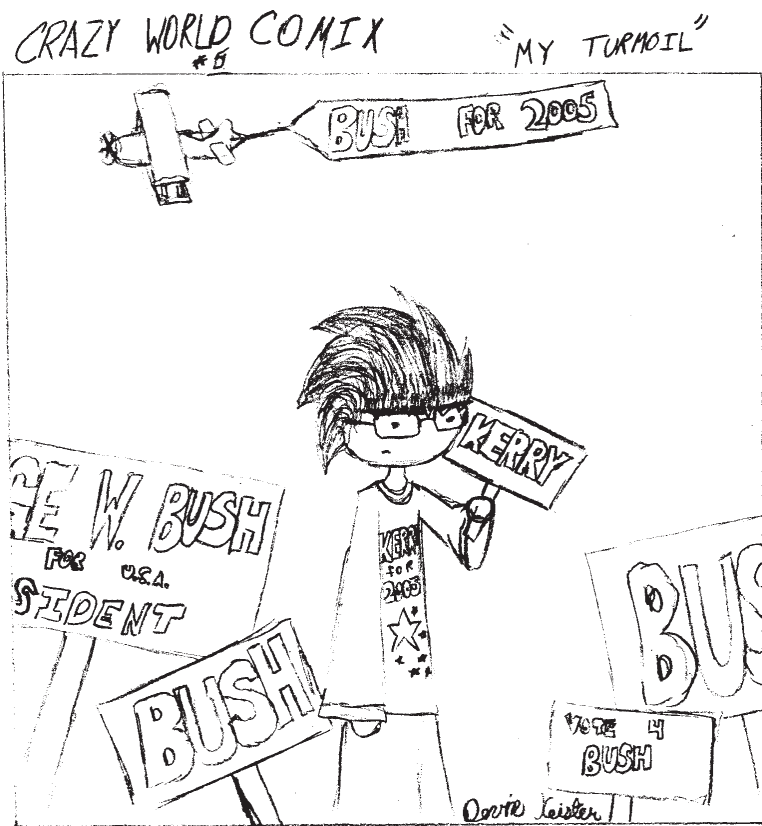
**AARP**  
AARP will be meeting at the museum at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 11. Roll call will be "your favorite antique." Tobe Zweygardt will lead the members on a tour of the museum. Afterward, ErvaGene DeAragon will serve refreshments.

**Alumni games**  
The St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring the high school alumni womens' volleyball and mens' basketball games on Saturday, Nov. 27. Check ad in this issue for entry forms and additional information.

**Check your name label**  
Have you checked the name label on your paper? This label also shows the expiration date of your subscription. Note that if your subscription runs out completely it will take two weeks after you resubscribe before it will once again be delivered to your mail box. In order to not have a break in your service, renew by the expiration date.

**Alcoholic Anonymous/Al-Anon**  
Alcoholic Anonymous and Al-Anon open meeting, held at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday at the Methodist Educational Building, upstairs. Contact 332-2078.

**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 if you are in need of assistance, please call the toll-free number 1-800-794-4624.



## Library is the place for holiday gifts

Through "Books Are Fun," the Bird City Public Library will again be offering people an opportunity to buy selected books, CDs and other gift items at 30- to 60-percent off the publisher's price and help the library earn books and videos at the same time.

The items will be on display from Nov. 15 through Dec. 4. People can look at the selections, indicate on the order form items they wish to purchase and leave the money with the librarian. Then, those who ordered and paid for the items may pick them up at the library on Dec. 6.

Selections will vary but will include items for every age group from babies to adults. Cookbooks, reference, devotional and storybooks, do-it-yourself and craft books are just a

few of the types of books available. There will also be CDs, bookends, picture frames and stationery.

Along with providing people an opportunity to purchase new, high quality items at a reduced price, the library will receive a free book or video for every 10 items ordered.

"So come see the wide variety of books and gifts — do Christmas, anniversary or birthday shopping, save money and help the library all at the same time," said Judy Sager, board member.

The library is open from 2 to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Volunteers man the library on Monday and Friday afternoon so people may want to call and make sure the library is open before stopping by.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,  
The topic of our Emergency Medical Service in Cheyenne County has been one of the focus points in our local paper far too many times. I'm not really sure why or for what reasons the service has been that much of an interest to people. However, if our local Emergency Medical Service is going to be talked about in the coffee shops and around town, please allow me to help clear up some misinformation.

One of the fallacies that needs to be addressed is that when the monthly write offs are posted in the paper for the Emergency Medical Service, people feel that Cheyenne County is losing that money and if we are indeed losing that money then some one is not doing their job.

Please allow me to address several issues here in relation to the above misconception: 1) Medicare, Blue Cross and Blue Shield along with other insurance carriers tell us what they will pay, what the patient will owe and how much that we must write off. Medicare is the big one that we deal with mostly.

Generally, Medicare will pay anywhere from 40 to 80 percent of the charges. Many times our billing clerk has to ask for a review and in some cases push for a hearing in order to generate any revenue from Medicare. The burden of proof is on us to prove that the transport in question was indeed "medically necessary."

It a patient is taken to Hays, for example, with a hip fracture and McCook is closer with an Orthopedic surgeon on staff, then they will only pay mileage as far as McCook and not Hays. We are expected to write off the difference.

Please keep in mind that the money we are expected to write off is money that we never had and never will have; 2) the important fact to look at is the revenue that Cheyenne County Emergency Medical Service is generating.

Our revenue has gone up steadily over the last 15 years. In the early 1990's our revenue was around

\$13,000 and in 2003 we took in \$120,759. Several reasons account for this increase which include higher charges along with more efficient billing and collecting procedures.

I am well aware that there are those people in the community who feel we should be able to get every penny from Medicare but unfortunately that is not how Medicare works and that is not reality; 3) when the commissioners approve the write offs, in reality they are signing that they have looked at the write off and are aware of them. The facts are pretty plain in that these write offs are already mandated by Medicare and the bigger insurance carriers and that we have very little if any control over the matter.

We are very fortunate to have the quality of volunteers that we have for Emergency Medical Service in Cheyenne County. These EMTs drop whatever they are doing to respond for emergency calls when and where ever needed. This service does not cost the Cheyenne County taxpayers one red cent! We are able to operate within our budget and in most recent years generate a carry over at the end of the year which helps to lower your tax base. Our revenue is generated from Medicare, Insurance carriers and private pay.

A second area of concern that needs to be addressed is that of the safety of the Bird City ambulance. The major concern that has been expressed to me is that the Bird City ambulance has experienced two tire blow outs within the last six months. All of our trucks at one time had Cooper 10-ply tires on them. Incidentally, Rocky Mountain Vehicle recommends this tire as one of the best tires out there for an ambulance. Cooper no longer makes an all steel tire and ours have been replaced with a Good Year all steel tires.

My understanding from Mark Cooper and Larry Kness, Rocky Mountain Vehicles, is that these two are the best available for ambu-

lances. The fact that blow outs have occurred may be attributed to the following factors: 1) picking up a nail or trash on the highway thus causing the tread to separate after the tire is heated up, 2) tires being under inflated and thus causing the tire to gain more friction and thus have the tread separate, 3) the fact that 11A sits a substantial amount of time between runs, it leaves a flat spot on the tire which can result again in separation of the tread after the tire heats up.

I am not a mechanic or a tire expert, but I feel perfectly confident in the safety and stability of our units. Any time there has been a concern expressed about any of our ambulances, Yost Ford or St. Francis Tire is contracted immediately depending on the nature of the problem. In my opinion, they have been very professional, timely and have always done a good job of finding out what the problem is and correcting it.

We are in the process of getting dual tires put on the Bird City ambulance. This procedure will take some time for the company to secure an appropriate axle to make the conversion. In the mean time, we are investigating the feasibility of getting a new ambulance within four to six months. I hope that this letter will help to clear up some of the concerns that several people have expressed. If any one has any other questions or concerns about Cheyenne County Emergency Medical Service, please feel free to contact me.

Larry B. Gabel  
Cheyenne Co. EMS Director

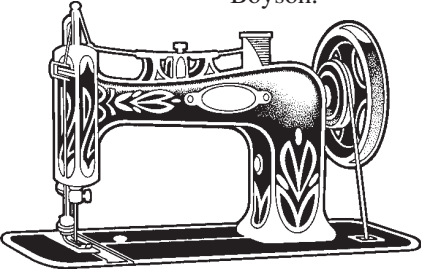


Finley

## Baptism performed

Peyton Janae Finley was born Sept. 14, 2004, and was baptized on Oct. 17, in the United Methodist Church in Bird City. Pastor Doug Mason officiated. Peyton's parents are Marci and Jason Finley. Godparents are Alicia and Tim Rippe, Laurie and Mark Carmichael.

Others attending Peyton's special day were grandparents Mike and Belinda Boyson, Bill and Jackie Finley. Great-grandparents are Darlene Burr, Nyla Finley and Brenda Moss. Uncles, aunts and cousins include Jonathan Finley, Michael Boyson, Gary, Trisha, McKayla, McKenzie and Keigan Taylor, Nick, Heather and Jayden Boyson.



## The Bird City Times

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**Thanks for Your Support**  
Your Votes and Support in the November 2 Election were Appreciated  
**Bob Strevey**  
Paid for by Bob Strevey for Representative, Kaye Strevey, Treasurer

**Check your renewal dates**  
— Current Rates —  
**The Saint Francis Herald**  
Area - \$30 KS - \$34  
Out-of-State - \$37  
College:  
KS - \$27 • Out-of-State - \$30  
**Bird City Times**  
KS - \$27 • Out-of-State - \$30  
College:  
KS - \$24 • Out-of-State - \$27

**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 and  
**FIRST NATIONAL BANK**  
"Neighbors helping neighbors"  
• Bird City • Colby  
• Goodland  
• Kirk, CO  
• Oberlin • Quinter  
• St. Francis  
• Sharon Springs

**SHOWTIME: 7:30 p.m.** 1 hour 36 min.  
**NO SHOW on Home Game Nights**  
**November 12, 13, 14**  
Starring: Sarah Michelle Gellar, Jason Behr, Clea DuVall, Bill Pullman, Kadee Strickland  
**The Grudge**  
Suspense/Horror  
Rated: PG-13 for mature thematic material, disturbing  
**Cheyenne Theater** St. Francis, KS 785-332-2747  
Children 11 & under: \$2 12-18 yr.: \$3 Senior Citizens: \$3 Adults: \$4

**CHEYENNE COUNTY HOSPITAL** 210 W. 1st • St. Francis, KS 785-332-2104  
**The Cheyenne County Hospital would like to recognize their Medical Records Department in appreciation of Medical Records Week.**  
**Thank you**  
• DEE EPPERSON  
• BARBARA BARNHART  
• JANELLE GLIDEWELL  
• KRISS BLAIR  
for all your hard work!