

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick

Did I miss something? What happened to 2005?

I know I was along for the ride, but it sure seemed to go in the blink of an eye.

As I sit at my desk in the newspaper office I'll take a moment to look back and be accurate.

About half way through it my life became whole when I married the amazing Lezlie! I didn't realize how much my son and I were missing.

We had our oldest son, Travis, move to Kansas City to begin his career. Letting go makes for a painful lesson.

Having our next oldest, Trey, in Colby was much easier. Contact wasn't a problem.

The three kids at home, Trevor, Lexi and Joey, were the typical daily regiment of roller coasters and high drama. We had our share of trying to find something as we hustled out the

door to the next dance recital or ball game.

Work is normally a blur anyway. With the newspapers, as soon as one is put together the staff goes on to the next issue. There is always stuff to do and never any closure.

I know we spent some time with other family members, friends, neighbors, community groups, coaching, church, and some television and sleeping. Oh, and my waistline tells me I also ate.

That is a simplistic way to describe a year. But as I remember it, 2005 was a good year with more joy and laughs than sorrow and tears.

And as we look forward to next year there is no small amount of wonder in our house. Freckles, the Dalmatian, and Ferguson, the Scotty, are ready to become parents! It should make for an interesting 2006. I'll bet it will go fast!

Happy New Year to you and yours!

Bulletin Board

Children's Story Hour

Megan Rippe is planning to start a children's story hour at the Bird City Library. Interested persons should contact the library to sign up. 734-2203

Cheylin Booster Club

The Cheylin Booster Club will meet Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the high school library.

Bird City City Council

The Bird City City Council meeting, normally held on the first Monday of the month, will be changed due to holidays. It will be Jan. 5 at 7 p.m. at the Bird City Hall.

Death notice

Funeral services for Ann Ewing, St. Francis, will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday at the First Christian Church, St. Francis.

Kansans for Life

The Kansans for Life will meet at Peace Lutheran Church (202 E College) in St. Francis, Jan. 2 beginning at 7:30 p.m.. All are invited to join in prayer, fellowship, learning, and working together to provide "Life for all."

Senior citizens' New Year's party

A happy New Year's party will be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday at the St. Francis Senior Center. Everyone is to bring fingerfood or Christmas sweets. Coffee and

iced tea will be provided. There will be a game of Bunco going on and there will be music. Everyone is urged to come, enjoy and bring in the new year.

Holiday hours

The offices of The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times will be closed on Monday, Jan. 2, in observance of New Year's Day.

Neitzel Insurance Service

Neitzel Insurance Service is holding an open house on Friday, Dec. 30. Check ad in Christmas supplement for details.

Courthouse hours

Cheyenne County Courthouse will be closed Friday afternoon, Dec. 30 and Monday, Jan. 2.

Cheyenne County Commissioners

The Cheyenne County Commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 30, in the commissioners' room at the courthouse.

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.

County Health Talk

By Susan Roelfs

Kids Making A Connection Coalition in Cheyenne County was awarded a \$750 grant for the second year to support the "Talk About Touching" curriculum in the Cheylin School system for 2005-2006.

The grant award was presented by the Regional Prevention Center of Northwest Kansas on Dec. 12.

The object of the curriculum is to foster understand of various safety issue students may encounter in kin-

dergarten through second grade. A "parent's night" is planned for Jan. 25 at the school to introduce and explain the curriculum before the program is started in the school system to promote understanding and support in the home setting.

A representative from the Regional Prevention Center will be the speaker. A support based panel of legal, medical, and social services within the community will also present the pizza social.



GINGERBREAD HOUSES — Deb Gohl along with help from Alex Long and Lori Gohl, built a house in remembrance of Barbara Finley, Village resident.

Times staff photo by Karen Krien

House built in memory of resident

By Karen Krien

The Good Samaritan Village hosted a Gingerbread House Building Contest before the Village Christmas party on Dec. 4. The winner of the contest was Deb Gohl, Alex Long and Lori Gohl but the house was built in memory of Barbara Finley who died on Nov. 29.

Mrs. Gohl said she and Ms. Finley had made the plans for the house before she died. It was originally supposed to have sides made of gingerbread but Mrs. Gohl said the gingerbread was crumbling, and Ms. Finley really wanted it to be a log house.

"We had decided to make the sides out of big pretzel sticks," she said.

After Ms. Finley died, Mrs. Gohl decided to carry on the building of the house. With the help of Alex, they spent around 12 hours building it. Lori also helped with some of the details.

They used cherry nips for the chimney and sidewalk; wafer cookies for the door, pointed sugar ice cream cones, carefully cut to different heights and frosted for the trees, round pretzels with peppermint-stick posts for the fence and the roof was shingled with frosted mini wheat cereal. It was all glued together with meringue frosting which, Mrs. Gohl said was almost like cement when it dried.

"As we built, we kept thinking of more things to add to the house and scene," she said.

Tootsie Roll candy was kneaded and shaped into a mail box, a log pile and boots which were placed by the door.

With the \$50 prize money earned from the contest, Mrs. Gohl said they purchased an ornament on the Love Tree at the Village in honor of Ms. Finley. Ms. Finley had been a resident of the Village for several years and Mrs. Gohl said she was looking forward to building the house. They had even gone to the internet for ideas.

Company offers energy assistance

Priority Oil and Gas and Energy Outreach Colorado are reaching out to help Cheyenne County residents subsidize their winter utility bills from Nov. 1 through April 30.

Robbie Gries, Priority Oil and Gas president and owner, realizes the rising energy costs have created difficulties for some families to meet their winter heating costs. Assistance with part of their energy bill is now available for qualified applicants.

To qualify, a person's combined income (before deductions) of all people living at the address may not exceed the guidelines on the chart below. An adult living at the address must be personally responsible for purchasing heating costs incurred at the residence (payable either to the landlord or to the fuel vendor).

The resident must also be a permanent and legal resident of the United States and Cheyenne County.

Household income limits:
1 person; income per month \$1,440
2 people; income per month \$1,930

"She would have liked the idea that the gingerbread house she helped plan had won and that there was an ornament on the Love Tree in her name," Mrs. Gohl said.

Mrs. Gohl is the head of the dietary department at the Village.

There were six houses built for the contest. Winning second place was Cathy Loop, and third place went to

the trio of Janetta Evans, Bonnie Cram and Pat Brunow. Others entering the contest were Sherri Hill, Julie Mills and Anna Teal.

The Village staff is making plans for next year's Gingerbread House Contest.

"We think the contest might become an annual event," Mrs. Gohl said.

3 people, income per month \$2,420
4 people, income per month \$2,910
5 people, income per month \$3,400
6 people, income per month \$3,890
7 people, income per month \$4,380
8 people, income per month \$4,870

Each addition person, \$500 income per month.

*This is an estimate of qualifications for energy assistance.

The Cheyenne County Energy Assistance Program does not guarantee energy assistance will be provided.

The Cheyenne County Energy Assistance Program applications became available starting Tuesday at the following locations:

St. Francis - Cheyenne County Treasurer's Office, City Office and St. Francis Equity Co-Op.
Bird City - City Office, Frontier

Equity and First National Bank Social Rehabilitation Service agents in Goodland and Colby

People may also request an application by contacting Priority Oil and Gas LLC at (303-296-3435) or e-mail "priorityog@aol.com" or send to P.O. Box 27798, Denver, CO 80227-0798.

The program is sponsored by Priority Oil and Gas LLC and Energy Outreach Colorado.



SHOWTIME: 7:30 p.m.

2 hours 12 min.

Dec. 30, 31
Jan. 1

The Chronicles of Narnia:
The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe

Starring: Tilda Swinton, James McAvoy, James Cosmo, Jim Broadbent, Elizabeth Hawthorne

Action/Adventure, Science Fiction/Fantasy & Adaptation
Rated: PG for battle sequences and frightening moments.

Cheyenne Theater St. Francis, KS
785-332-2747

Children 11 & under: \$2 12-18 yr.: \$3 Senior Citizens: \$3 Adults: \$4

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Foundation

2006

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Celebrating Hometown Life

See American Profile magazine in this week's issue of

The Bird City Times

(available in local area only)

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Francis Herald

Area - \$30 KS - \$34
Out-of-State - \$37

Bird City Times
KS - \$27
Out-of-State - \$30

CHEYENNE COUNTY HOSPITAL

210 W. 1st • St. Francis, KS
785-332-2104

Come Join Us for

FLORIS RAILE'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

Thursday, December 29

1:00-3:00 p.m.

at the

Cheyenne County Hospital
Front Lobby

We appreciate all Floris' hard work & dedication for over 15 years!