

Family foundation provides funds for Bird City Library

By Karen Krien

When the name Herb Bacon and the Bacon Family Foundation is mentioned in the Bird City area, almost everyone knows who he is and what he has done for the city.

First of all, the Bacon Family Foundation provided \$50,000 so Bird City could have a new fully-stocked and equipped library at 111 E. Fourth St. The foundation has also given \$50,000 to the Thresher Association; \$5,000 to Legion Auxiliary for kitchen remodeling; \$25,000 for the Bird City Park renovation; and \$25,000 to Century II in the early days when the organization was getting started. These are just a few of the donations the city has received in the last 10 years.

Mr. Bacon was born in 1930 in Bird City and graduated from the Bird City High School in 1947. Stan Dorsch was in his graduating class and says Mr. Bacon was very active and popular in school.

"He was the quarterback on the football team and liked dramatics," Mr. Dorsch said. "He was a sharp kid!"

Through the years, he corresponded with Mary Gritten who had taught English and speech in the Bird City schools. Ms. Gritten's sideline was drama.

Mr. Dorsch had helped Ms. Gritten in her later years and she had shared Mr. Bacon's letters with him. When he came back to the 50-year high school reunion, he gave one of the addresses and told people that the foundation was there to help

with projects in the city.

"He never forgot his hometown," Mr. Dorsch said.

Mr. Bacon's parents owned the bank which was sold to Mae Hanley, then to Edgar Robertson. A cousin of Mr. Bacon, Mr. Robertson was a Bird City banker for years and left the Bird City money which continues to help the city prosper.

Following graduating from Bird City, he went on to get a degree from the University of Colorado in the 1950s. He then went into banking and, in 1992, he retired after a career that spanned nearly four decades.

On Nov. 16, Mr. Bacon was featured in The Daily Sentinel's business section which reported that Mr. Bacon was headed for the Colorado Business Hall of Fame.

In the article written by Wyatt Haupt, he tells that, as head of the United States Bank of Grand Junction, Mr. Bacon helped guide the financial institution through good times and bad.

Among the most notable was the oil shale bust in the early 1980s that crippled the local economy and took years from which to rebound.

Mr. Bacon said it was May 2, 1982 — a Sunday — when Exxon announced that they were pulling out. He said that he was in front of the house cutting the hedge and his wife Laura came out and told him.

The article quoted Mr. Bacon as saying that what followed was a disaster: Thousands of people had lost their jobs overnight and thousands

more soon left town.

The four savings and loans firms in Grand Junction soon folded and two other banks also closed their doors. But, somehow, the United States Bank of Grand Junction managed to stay afloat.

Mr. Bacon said it was pretty rough and he and the banking staff met every day to review loans. When they thought it was the worst day ever, then the next day would come. It took 10 years to recover.

Mr. Bacon will be inducted in the Colorado Business Hall of Fame on Feb. 7 with four other individuals. Each year, the hall of fame recognizes people for their contributions to the business world and their communities.

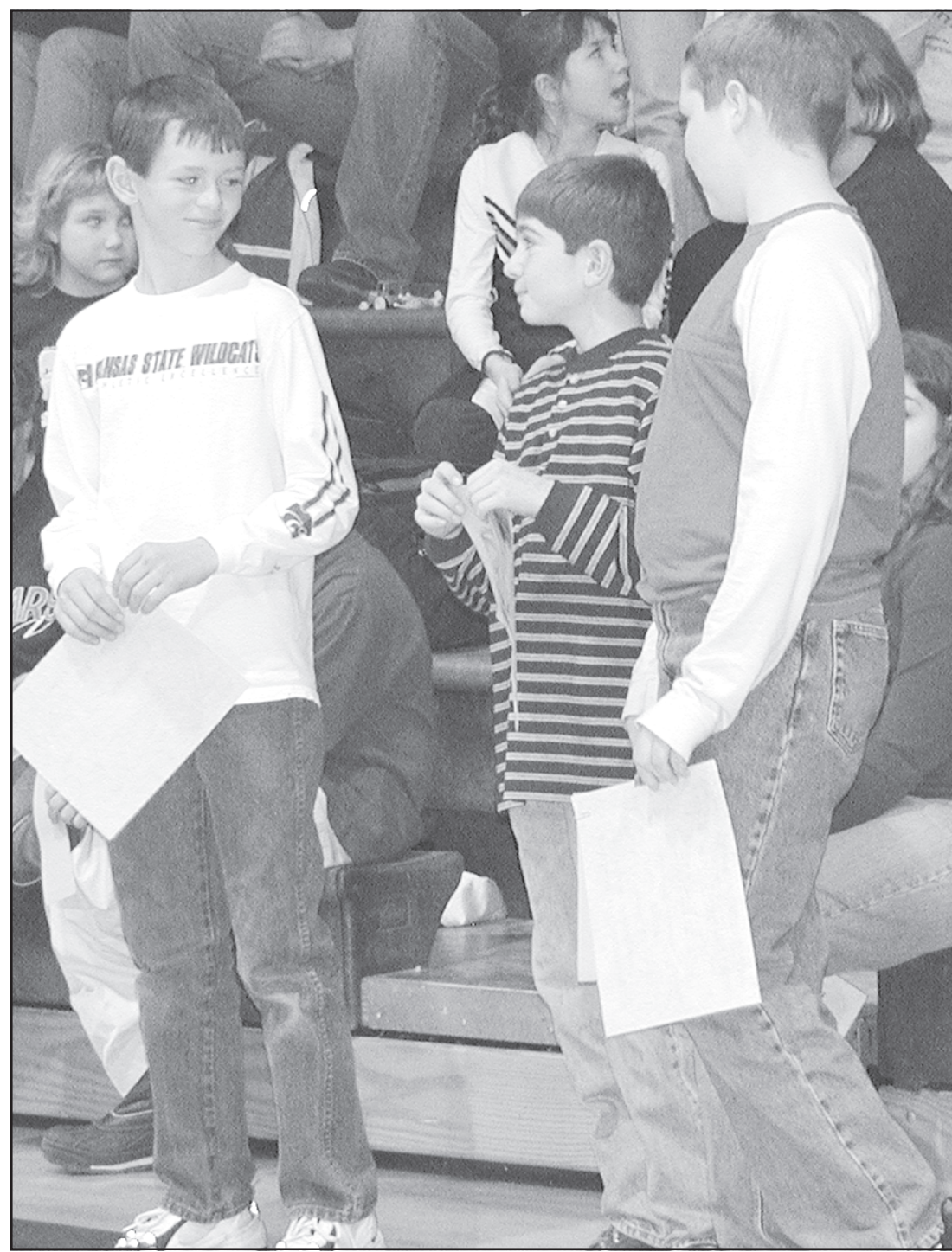
Mr. Haupt writes that Mr. Bacon says that the achievement was not earned alone and credits his wife, family and the community of Grand Junction for his success.

Mr. and Mrs. Bacon have two sons and two daughters. His son Stephen heads the Bacon Family Foundation, which, among other things helps support educational, religious and scientific endeavors.

One of his daughters, Linda, also works for the foundation. His other son, Andy, lives in the Denver area and his other daughter, Amy, is a Scottsdale, Ariz., resident.

Mr. Haupt writes that, between now and the induction ceremony, Mr. Bacon figures he will stay busy with a number of community activities including a fundraising effort to help build a new addition at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction known as the Century Project.

The project calls for the construction of a 440,000-square-foot patient tower and remodeling about 120,000 square feet of existing space, according to St. Mary's. The cost is estimated at about \$260 million.



CERTIFICATES FOR Students scoring exemplary on state assessment test were awarded during the half-time games between Cheylin and Weskan. Shown above receiving certificates were Kenan Reeh, Eddie Frisbie and Walker Janicke. Times staff photo by Melinda Bassett

McDonald News

By Vera Kacirek

The first annual McDonald Bridal Show will be held Saturday, Feb. 10 from 9 am to 3 pm and Sunday, Feb. 11 from 11 am to 3 pm.

Death notice: Word was received last week that Gordon Latta died in Tucson, Arizona where his son lives. Gordon was a former McDonald resident and graduated from McDonald High School with the class of 1939.

Betty Lewis is celebrating her birthday Feb. 6. She has enjoyed visits from her three children this past week including Claudia Foster, Grand Junction, Colo., Thad Lewis Santa Maria, Calif., left on Monday. Jay Lewis of Pasco, Wash. will leave

on Wednesday.

Kasey and Jennifer Sabatka entertained on Sunday evening with a Super Bowl Party. Guests who enjoyed the good food and football were Kenny and Paulene Micek, Matt and Melissa Micek, Kenneth and Abbie, R. J. and Susie Sabatka, Agnes Sabatka, Laddie and Vera Kacirek, Greg and Cheryl Wilkinson, Shawn Wilkinson, Vaughn and Autumn Sabatka.

On Sunday the ladies of the Federated Church held a baby shower for Stacey Brown and baby daughter, Zahara. Guests were family members and friends of Stacey and her mother, Sylvia Hubbard.

Club Clips

American Legion Auxiliary

The American Legion Auxiliary met on Friday, Feb. 2, with eight members present.

The meeting was called to order by President Hulda Dorsch and Mary Dorsch led the group in the opening prayer. A moment of silence was observed to remember those who have died. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Preamble to the American Legion Auxiliary.

For the program, Mary Dorsch gave a book report on "Because Each Life Is Precious: Why an Iraqi Man Came To Risk Everything For Private First Class Jessica Lynch" by Mohammed Odeh Al-Rehaief. This is the story of what it was like for a 33 year old to make a decision whether to risk his life and everything he held dear to save Private Lynch, and American soldier he did not know

was a more than the everyday reckoning with death that permeates wartime. It was the culmination of a life spent at odds with the repressive regime that held his country. After the rescue of Jessica Lynch, he was granted asylum in the U.S. and is now living outside Washington, D.C. with his wife, Iman, and their 6-year-old daughter, Abir. This was a very interesting report and gave us all some things to think about and to remember those who fight to give us the freedoms that we do have living in this country.

After the meeting, everyone enjoyed refreshments by Meta Dankenbren and Vada Leach and had a time of fellowship.

The next meeting will be on March 2, and Joy Anderegg and Carol Marsh will be the hostesses and will have the program.

President connects to medical center through link

Less than 48 hours after emphasizing healthcare technology and its impact on quality in the State of the Union address, president George Bush viewed a demonstration of the telemedicine connection between the intensive care unit at Hays Medical Center and Saint Luke's Health System, Kansas City.

At approximately 12:05 p.m., President Bush was connected to Hays Medical Center through a live eICU link established between the two hospitals last April.

This technology enables critical care patients at Hays Medical Center to be remotely monitored by intensivists at Saint Luke's. In this way, local physicians are aided in their care of the most critical patients with specialized support. Recently, President Bush viewed Bed 2 in the hospital's ICU, just as Kansas City intensivists do on a routine basis. For security reasons, the White House requested no public announcement prior to the connection.

"We have been expanding our use of telemedicine for years," he added, "but believe eICU is the best application, to date. It may well be the tip of the iceberg in the delivery of specialized care to rural areas."

A number of national groups dedicated to healthcare quality have identified intensivists as a key component of improved care. Through eICU technology, this critical care resource is now available to rural and suburban medical centers.

Cheyenne County Hospital has had a telemedicine capability since 1995.

"Our capability came to us originally through a grant to High Plains Rural Health Network from the Office for Advancement of Telehealth," said Les Lacy, Cheyenne County Hospital administrator. "We currently have two grant-supplied telemedicine machines that can be connected throughout our facility on the computer network."

There are some things that really need face-to-face contact with the specialist, the administrator said, however there are times when telemedicine could be used to safely and effectively meet the patient's need more rapidly and at a lower cost, particularly considering that gas isn't as inexpensive as it used to be.

"Telemedicine is one of the things we believe will be important to the future of healthcare in small, relatively remote communities like ours," Administrator Lacy said.

Reimbursement critical to broader eICU adoption

Hays Medical Center may be the first hospital in the country to adopt eICU connectivity outside of a healthcare system. The reason is simple: the substantial costs of daily intensivist monitoring are not currently reimbursed by Medicare, or most other payers.

"This technology is proven as an effective way to care for patients but will not grow, will not fulfill its true potential, without reimbursement," Mr. Jeter said.

Currently, telemedicine reimbursement is generally limited to outpatient, face-to-face encounters. Expanding reimbursement to include inpatient encounters, and intensivist monitoring, is a critical step toward wider adoption of the technology.

This is not the first time Hays Medical Center has demonstrated telemedicine technology to a national leader. In 1997, vice president Al Gore viewed home health monitoring technology employed by Hays Medical Center under a federal grant program. The medical center later expanded the home monitoring application to a chronic disease management project, funded by the Department of Commerce, which demonstrated a

double-digit reduction in cost of re-hospitalization for moderately ill patients. Unfortunately, both programs were ultimately discontinued due to lack of adequate reimbursement.



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TREASURER'S QUARTERLY STATEMENT

ENDING JANUARY 31, 2007

Published in The St Francis Herald,
St Francis, Ks. and Bird City Times,
Bird City, Ks. Thurs., Feb. 8, 2007 (6)

GENERAL	655,545.36
ROAD & BRIDGE	343,329.91
BRIDGE BUILDING	12,091.02
NOXIOUS WEED	29,192.81
NOXIOUS WEEED SPECIAL FUND	8,131.70
CAFETERIA PLAN	4,065.07
HOSPITAL BOND & INTEREST	213,330.27
VIN-STATE	12.00
RURAL FIRE	32,421.98
HOSPITAL	18,964.63
DIVERSION FUND	4,860.39
CO ATTNY BAD CHECK FUND	646.04
REG OF DEEDS TECH FUND	31,334.07
RECREATIONAL VEHICLE TAX	19.00
16/20 M TRUCKS	1,506.21
SPECIAL PARKS & REC	2,010.51
911	88,692.30
UNCLAIMED FUNDS	1,962.14
AMBULANCE MEMORIAL FUND	5,041.99
INSUFFICIENT CHECK	213.00
ADVANCED TAX-NON BUDGETE	2,964.96
SPECIAL AMBULANCE	21,937.00
DRIVERS LICENSE	65.00
SPECIAL FIRE EQUIPMENT	5,036.00
MOTOR VEHICLE TAX	7,716.51
MOTOR VEHICLE FUND	4,816.61
STATE SALES TAX	10,521.69
CURRENT TAX	118,280.09
COUNTY REDEMPTION	2,768.97
DELINQUENT PP TAX	99.75
ATTORNEY FUND	1,814.69
FISH & GAME	340.90
MORTGAGE REGISTRATION	37.16
BENKELMAN TOWNSHIP	620.45
CALHOUN TOWNSHIP	7,122.97
CLEVELAND TOWNSHIP	763.48
JAUQA TOWNSHIP	7,307.57
HANDICAP EQUIPMET	890.00
EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND	210,855.70
COHICOUNTY HEALTH	5,601.50
PRAIRIE DOG	2,873.88
GIFT ANNUITY	16,438.34
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	41,467.30
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	1,924,312.92

I do solemnly swear that the above is complete, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, so help me God. Dolores Jenik, County Treasurer (SOF)

FISHING CONTEST

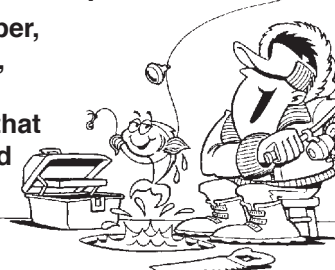
Entry Fee: \$10 - Two Person Teams

Prizes Awarded
Sunday, Feb. 11
Meet at the Club House @ 7 a.m.
Fish from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Coffee, Donuts & Orange Juice @ Club House

Register at: Bumper to Bumper,
Tim Stimbert (St. Francis),
Hal Sager (Bird City)

Reasons for registration so that
contestants can be notified
if ice gets too thin.

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