

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick

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You know it's winter on the plains when the winds blows stout from the north and sends snow and ice sideways. The best place is the comfort of the indoors.

I like it the most when there is something simmering on the stove, like a big pot of chili or stew. Or it can be a piece of meat turning tender in a crockpot. The smell invites you inside and lets you know that the cold won't keep you from enjoying a hot meal.

Last Saturday was just one of those evenings. Lezlie set the scene with a simmering batch of what they call out here, "chili soup."

As the tomatoes, beef and beans worked their magic, we had some time to kill. Earlier we had picked up a puzzle from the back of the newspaper office.

This one had a picture of a large, fat man with a long white beard

wearing a bright red suit and white fur on the cuffs. He was being served a plate of cookies by an equally large woman in a long red dress. They were in a neat little cottage with a fireplace blazing below a mantle covered in holly, poinsettias and stockings. Toys covered the floor as the fat man looked over a long, long list with boys' and girls' names on it.

The picture was nice but I knew it had to be make believe. That's because there were these little guys, about the size of a prairie dog, running around wearing toggs and they had funny pointed ears, just like Mr. Spock from Star Trek.

Lezlie and I worked on the puzzle and with a little help from Joey and his overnight buddy, Josh Teeters, we had it finished that evening. We also had big bowls of chili soup with crackers and cheese.

Yep, it was a great way to spend a cold, winter's night!

Lines With Linda

You have heard about them and they are rare, but chances are you have been a recipient to at least one in your lifetime. Some folks even believe angels do them. What could it be? I am talking about a random act of kindness. I can almost hear the groan with that!

I know some of you may not like the subject and find it "icky," but they do happen and when they happen to YOU, you get a warm, fuzzy feeling that everything is as it should be in the world.

These random acts can take on any appearance. It can be an unexpected smile in a time of sadness or an encouragement in time of grieves. On the other hand, it can be something that can change the way the day starts out. Like what happened to me in a recent snowfall.

While I like the snow and this being my second season here in Kansas, I do not know how to act in it. You can start laughing now, because I know you may have seen me as I balance myself trying to walk in

it. Having lived in the desert all my life, I do not know how to dress for it either. One of the "issues" I have with snow is shoveling. I want my house, driveway, yard and sidewalk free of snow. I am OK with snow on the road.

On Sunday as I looked out my dining room window I saw about 3 inches of snow in MY driveway, behind MY car. I understand this to be the way winters are here, but I wondered how we were going to get out for church. I was just wondering and looking at all that snow. You can start laughing again.

As I wondered away from the window and started concentrating on breakfast, I heard what I thought to be thunder. I looked out of the window again and what I saw gave me that warm, fuzzy feeling. The snow in our driveway had been cleared away and we could go to church as scheduled! I walked away nodding my head believing it was an angel who did it and the world is as it should be.

Chatting With Cathy

By Cathy Domsch

Snow - ice - wind - it's winter! Oh to be in South Padre right now where it was a reported 88 degrees yesterday. But we love Kansas and its four seasons, or we wouldn't be here, right? What else do we love about northwest Kansas? The open range, the wildlife, good friends and closeness to family.

Think about it, why do you live northwest Kansas? Were you born and raised here? Did you marry a farm boy? Think about your friends and family that do not live here but enjoy coming back to visit. What would it take to bring them back? Jobs - could they run their business or work for their current company from Bird City with current tech-

nology?

Do you know someone that would like to go back to school, and live & work in Bird City? Tell them to come visit with me about our new Business Development Scholarship. This scholarship is available to anyone (traditional or non-traditional student) wanting to attend a vocational college, community college, or university. For more information check out www.birdcity.com. And over the holidays, talk to your family and friends about the great opportunities they would have living, raising their families, and working in Bird City!

Happy Holidays!

Holiday hours

The office of The Saint Francis Herald will be closed on Monday, Dec. 24 and Tuesday, Dec. 25 for the Christmas holiday and Monday, Dec. 31 and Tuesday, Jan. 1 for the New Year's holiday.

Ads, copy and pictures deadline for the Dec. 27 issue of the Herald and Times is noon on Friday, Dec. 21, and the deadline for the Jan. 3 issue is noon on Friday, Dec. 28.

Santa Day

Bird City's annual Santa Day will be held on Saturday, Dec. 15 at the Bird City Legion Hall. Check ad for activities and times.

McDonald Christmas activities

Saturday, Dec. 22, is the day to celebrate Christmas in McDonald. Many activities are on the agenda including a pancake feed, bingo and Santa. Check ad for all the activities to take place.

ABC Preschool

The ABC Preschool will be serving chile and holding a bake sale on

Monday. Check ad for time, menu and prices.

Cheyenne County Hospital Board

The Cheyenne County Hospital Board will meet at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 27, in the basement of the clinic in St. Francis.

Cheyenne County Commissioners

The commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. on Friday in the courthouse.

City Council

The St. Francis City Council will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday at the new city hall building.

Hospital board candidates

The Cheyenne County Commissioners are looking for people to serve on the Hospital Board. Check article and ad for addition information and phone number to call.

Tag deadline

All residents with last names beginning with U, X, Y and Z should purchase their car, pickup, motorcycle and motorized bike tags and pay their vehicle personal property

tax by the end of the month to avoid paying a penalty.

Open house

The Equity will be having an open house on Saturday, Dec. 15, from 8 a.m. to noon. Santa will be there and parents are encouraged to bring their child in for a free photo with Santa.

Kids Wrestling practice

The St. Francis Wrestling Club will have little kids wrestling practices on Mondays from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. for grades kindergarten through third and from 7:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. for grades fourth through sixth. The practices take place at the high school upstairs in the new wrestling room. A practice will be held on Dec. 17. January practices begin on Jan. 7.

Alzheimer's Support Group

The Alzheimer's Support Group will not meet in December.

On Stage news

On Stage Inc. will be presenting the melodrama "Murder Can Be Habit Forming" on March 15 and 16. All adults and ethnicities are encouraged to audition on Jan. 6. Those wanting to audition can pick up audition material at the St. Francis Public Library. For more information, contact Elaine Kite, Neala Carmichael or Colleen Gardner.

Kansas Day observance

Organizations and clubs are invited to set up displays for the Jan. 29 observance of Kansas Day at the Bird City Legion Hall. The theme is "Rowdy Kansas Day Territory." Please call 785-332-3569 to register your group's display.

Salvation Army Fund campaign

If you would like to make a donation to the Salvation Army Fund you can mail it to PO Box 462, St. Francis, KS 67756 or drop off at the county treasurer's office in the Courthouse. If you would like to ring the bell for any of the locations, contact Dolores at 332-3471 or Rod at 734-2492 or 734-2483.

Prairie Land Food

The pick-up day for Prairie Land Good Paks is Saturday, Dec. 15.

Library Art Gallery

Nativity Scenes will be on display during the month of December at the St. Francis Public Library Art Gallery.

Veterans Affairs

Jody Tubbs, of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs, will be in St. Francis at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 20, at the county clerk's office. You may also contact the Veteran's Affairs office in Colby any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday at 785-462-3572.

Cheyenne County Museum

The Cheyenne County Museum will be open the weekend of 15-16. Saturday's hours will be 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. and Sunday's will be from 1-4 p.m.

Recovery Today/Narcotics Anonymous

Recovery Today group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at 8 p.m. on Sunday nights at the United Methodist Educational Building. Call (785) 332-6542 or 8607 for more information.

Sainty Serenity Seekers/Alcoholics Anonymous

Sainty Serenity Seekers open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous is held at 7:30 p.m. each Thursday evening at the United Methodist Education Building at 104 W. Webster, St. Francis. Call (785) 332-6542 for more information

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.

South of McDonald

By Sandy Binning

Bob and Judith Whaley of Kalamazoo, Mich., are in Atwood Sunday through Wednesday visiting Roy Christ.

The George Banister family attended the Sagebrush Shootout Tuesday and Friday in Brewster.

David Banister was home for the weekend.

Sunday evening guests of Lynn and Rita Officer were Dave, Sylvia and Shayla Hubbard, George, Dixie and Hudson Louderbaugh, Craig, Jerri, Mindy and Heath Antholz,

Stacy, Leif and Saharra Brown and Greg and Suzan Moyer.

Guests this past week of Tom, Kelly, Tayten and Tru Stephen Dewey were Linda Dewey, Clinton Hopkins, Donna Binning, Ote and Ellen Dewey and Craig and Barb Morton.

Amy and Kevin Torrey will be staying this week with Jim Banister and visiting many friends and family members.

Bethel Gold attended the Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner at Cheylin Wednesday.

Club Clips

McDonald Area Development

McDonald Area Development met on Tuesday, Dec. 4, at the McDonald Legion Hall with 12 members present.

Reports were given and Lois Morelock announced the club had two new members, McDonald Grocery and Brenda Loker.

One topic of discussion was the speaker for the public announce (PA) system. It is not adequate to carry voices to the back of the hall. They will try lifting it up higher on a table hoping that people in the back can hear the bingo being called. A new speaker is needed.

Lois Morelock reported on the bingo prizes. Many are stored in

the upstairs of the senior citizen building and will be brought to the Legion hall. McDonald Area Development members will bag the candy for Santa's treats on Dec. 20.

It was decided to again sponsor a Lighting and Decorating Contest for McDonald homes. Ballots are at the post office for everyone to vote for their favorite home. Five prizes of \$20 each will be awarded to the winners.

It was decided to give gifts to Bruce Nickel and Dennis Howard for all the help they give during the year.

The next meeting will be Jan. 2.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Times subscriptions: Jan and Jim Scharnikow, Bird City; Ronnie LeValley, Brewster; Kent Chapman, Emporia; Robert Brubaker, Bird City; Marilyn Miller, Fort Worth, Texas;

Helen Howk, Bird City; Gene Mears, McDonald; Samuel Grimes;

Robert Jones, Wayne M. Johnson, James Goza, Shenandoah, Iowa; Betty Bock, Bird City; Doyle Bock, Bird City; Jim Davis, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Robert Dorsch, Mesa, Ariz.; Dr. Lonnie Willis, Bird City; Josh Sowers, Bird City

Santa Day

Saturday, December 15

11 a.m. Lunch provided by Bird City Community Club
12:30 p.m. Drawing for prizes begins!

American Legion Hall, Bird City

Housing Meeting with City Council & BCCII

If you are interested in future housing options for our senior citizens, or if you are interested in moderate income rental housing, please plan to attend!

RESCHEDULED TO Tuesday, December 18th
10:00 a.m.

at the American Legion Hall.
Rolls & coffee will be served.

BIRD CITY CENTURY II Development Foundation

785-734-2556

"A COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE BIRD CITY COMMUNITY."

Holiday Greetings

The Bird City Times

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Casey at 785-332-3162

SHOWTIME: 7:30 p.m. **1 hr. 34 min.**

Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium
Dec. 14, 15 & 16
Comedy, Drama, Kids/ Family and Science Fiction/Fantasy
Starring: Dustin Hoffman, Natalie Portman, Jason Bateman, Zachary Mills, Ted Ludzik
Rating: G
Movie Tickets Make Great Stocking Stuffers

CHEYENNE THEATER St. Francis, KS
785-332-2747
Children 12 & Under: \$3 All Others: \$5

Wedding Registry

Dennon Zimbelman and Drew Flemming
Wedding • December 22
They have selected
Noritake: Spectrum
Flatware: Julliard

Schultz's Ltd.
114 W. Washington
St. Francis
785-332-2833

Wedding Registry

Dennon Zimbelman and Drew Flemming
Wedding • December 22
They have selected
Noritake: Spectrum
Flatware: Julliard

Stuart's Jewelry
Free Wrap & Delivery
Gift Certificates Available
785-332-2333
111 E. Washington • St. Francis

CHEYENNE COUNTY HOSPITAL

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

It's Christmas.....

And time for the 2nd annual Christmas Ball sponsored by the Cheyenne County Hospital. They public is invited to join us for the dance at Riverside.

Saturday
Dec. 15
8:30 p.m.
Hope to see you there and thank you for your support of the Cheyenne County Hospital and Clinic

