

Eligible taxpayers fail to claim returns

People who work but don't earn a lot of money may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), as well as free help preparing their tax return. Friday, Jan. 30, marks Earned Income Tax Credit Awareness Day, a nationwide effort to increase public awareness about the credit and free tax preparation sites.

Internal Revenue Service estimates that 20 to 25 percent of eligible taxpayers fail to claim the credit which could put as much as \$4,824 into the pockets of a family with two children, or send as much as \$2,917 to a family with one child, or up to \$438 for a worker with no children. The Earned Income Tax Credit is the federal government's largest program benefiting lower earning workers.

"The extra dollars eligible taxpayers can get through Earned Income Tax Credit can make their lives a little easier," said

Johnene Cheney, E.A. "But they must file tax returns, even if they aren't required to file, and claim the credit to receive it."

Ms. Cheney said some individuals and families might qualify for the credit for the first time because of unemployment or other changes in their financial, marital or parental status during the past year.

Taxpayers with the earnings of or below \$38,646 (\$41,646 if married filing jointly) for families with two or more children; \$33,995 (\$36,995 married filing jointly) for families with one child or \$12,880 (\$15,880 married filing jointly) if there are no children should check to see if they qualify.

The Earned Income Tax Credit is a valuable but complex tax break. Free help is available to determine eligibility and file to claim the credit online at www.irs.gov or at a local Internal Revenue Service Taxpayer Assistance Center.

Retirement party planned on Friday

By Karen Krien
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Betty Schorzman is retiring from the Farm Service Agency after over 23 years.

"I'm going to miss the farmers and the staff," she said, although she noted that it will be nice to sleep past 7 a.m. and take a walk in the middle of the afternoon.

Mrs. Schorzman was the office person working with payroll, travel expenses and price supports (loans and loan deficiency programs). When she started, she took care of the production adjustment program payments and was in charge of making sure that when ground was sold, it was put in the other person's name and the land was in the right farm.

She said there have been many, many changes since she began. She said the day she interviewed for the job, she had to ask how to turn on the typewriter. Then computers were introduced and, today, most programs are on the web. No payments are made directly out of the office but come from the National Payment Center. All maps are in the computer and the Geographic Information System is used. We don't use hard copies today, she said.

Change, she said, is good as long as the changes are up and working!

There were always new programs and new stresses but, she said, we were always busy and 4:30 came pretty quick.

"It has been good to help farmers and the great office staff is good at what they do," she said.

Mrs. Schorzman's husband, Keith, has been retired from Bartlett and Company Grain, working only when they need someone. They have two sons, Keith and wife, Becky and Kevin and wife, Angie, and a total of eight grandchildren. She is looking forward to being able to spend more time baby sitting and just being with the kids.

She is a Sunday school teacher and teaches the "Cubbies" (little kids) at AWANAS at the First Baptist Church. She said some of her retirement time will be spent organizing and being able to do a better job with these two projects.

She enjoys walking, water color painting and doing crafts. She also thinks she and Keith might do some traveling but, at this time, nothing is set in stone.

Retirement open house
A retirement open house for

Final week for baby shower donations

This is the final week of the Knights of Columbus pro-life baby shower drive. The Knights are collecting items needed to help raise a newborn baby. All items collected will be donated to the Mary Elizabeth Home for unwed mothers in Hays. The Home helps young unwed mothers by teaching them how to take care of a new-born baby until they are able to take care of them on their own. All the work done is through volunteer work and with the help of donations.

"If anyone has any new or used items they would like to donate

to the cause, please contact any member of the knights," said Mike Antholz, Grand Knight of Council 6665. "They will see to it that your items are taken care of or you may drop them off at the Catholic Church in either Bird City or St. Francis."

Items should be put in the baby beds located there. Cash donations will also be taken.

The items will be collected on Feb. 1 and will be taken to Hays on Feb. 26.

Those having questions should contact Mr. Antholz at 785-332-3482.



Positions Open

CNAs

- Benefits Available
- Local Training Available
- Good Pay
- Advancement Opportunities

Call Michele R. or Janet at 785-332-2531

Good Samaritan Society

820 South Denison, St. Francis, Ks. 67756 • 785-332-2531
St. Francis Good Samaritan Village is an EEO/AAEP — M/F/V/D employer



FIVE TEAM MEMEBERS, Sydney Busse (L) Wil Orten, Caleb Keltz, Mitchel Jensen and Craig Busse, represented Cheylin at the Western Kansas Liberty League Scholars Bowl Contest in Weskan on Wednesday. The team scored a total of 330 points, won six rounds out of nine and came away with the third place

medals. Lead scorer was Sydney Busse with 230 points. "It is because of the good education that these students are getting at Cheylin that they are doing so well," said Jan Busse, Scholar's Bowl high school coach.

Photo courtesy of Jan Busse



BETTY SCHORZMAN has enjoyed 23 years working with farmers and a great staff.

Times staff photo by Karen Krien

Mrs. Schorzman is scheduled Farm Service Agency office on from 1 to 4 p.m. on Friday at the west U.S. 36.

Bird City News

Arriving on Sunday, Bill Elliott of Amarillo, Tex., and Becky Babcock Castle Pines, Colo. has been guests of Maude Elliott to help celebrate her 95th birthday on Jan. 28. They enjoyed dinner at Big Ed's and will be visiting until Friday. Maude has received many birthday calls from family and friends.



Help Wanted

The City of Bird City is seeking a qualified candidate for the position of city clerk. Qualified applicants can pick up an application or find out more about this position at the City Hall, 111 E. 4th St., Bird City, KS, phone (785)734-2616. EOE

C.C.D.C

Cheyenne Development Corporation Was formed to promote economic development for ALL of Cheyenne County. For whatever reason, this newspaper elected NOT to publish the CCDC activity report in the Bird City edition. We, Diane and I, find this unacceptable. The people of Cheyenne County, all of us, must work together to succeed. If necessary, in the future, we will run our report as a Paid Advertisement to make sure this does not happen again.

Diane & Chuck Kribs, Co Directors, CCDC

Obituary

Gertrude Elizabeth Biggs
May 19, 1917 - Jan. 23, 2009

Gertrude Elizabeth Biggs, 91, died Friday, Jan. 23, 2009, at Table Rock Healthcare in Kimberling City, Mo. She was a former Goodland, Kan., resident.

She was born May 19, 1917, at Fairfax, S. D., the daughter of Valentine and Margaret "Maggie" (Schlepp) Peters. She attended Sherman Community High School.

On May 21, 1939, she and Virgil Wright Biggs were married at Colby and they made their home together in Goodland and St. Francis.

She was member of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Goodland.

Preceding her in death were her husband, Virgil W. Biggs; son, John; son-in-law, Jack Vaughn; grandson, Anthony Ross Biggs; her parents; and siblings, Howard, Fred, Leon-

ard, Rudy, Alice, Emma and Florence.

Surviving family includes two sons, Reverend Darrell Biggs and his wife, Rowe Ann of Girard, Claire Biggs and his wife, Norma of Kimberling City; daughter, Ardith Ann Vaughn of Thornton, Colo.; seven grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and one sister, Alma Connely of Wichita.

The memorial service was held Wednesday, Jan. 28, at Koons Chapel in Goodland, with Reverend Carol Jolly officiating. Inurnment followed in the Goodland Cemetery.

Memorials may be designated to Community Hospices of America or Goodland First Christian Church, and may be left at or mailed to Koons Funeral Home, 211 N. Main, Goodland, KS 67735-1555.

Player out for the season

During the Jan. 9 Cheylin Cougars Ladies Basketball game against Dighton, Tia Sager, senior, sustained a shoulder injury that may keep her from playing basketball for the rest of the season.



Sager

It was in the beginning of the fourth quarter when Tia reached for the basketball, and in the scuffle for the ball, was knocked down and landed on her left shoulder. As she was lying on the court floor, it became clear something serious had happened.

The referees stopped the game as Coach Deb Pochop and several team players moved onto the court to help Tia up. She stood up holding her left arm and knew her shoulder was

dislocated and popped it back into place. Having to sit out the rest of the game, Coach Pochop massaged and applied ice to the injured area.

After visiting with her physician, Tia was to immobilize her left shoulder for a week to keep the joints in place and to help reduce the swelling. A Magnetic Resonance Image (MRI) followed to assess the damage. A closer look revealed an overstretched ligament; the good news was surgery would not be needed. However, Tia would have to have physical therapy for at least three weeks. Moreover, she is very optimistic about being able to play the last game of the season — her last basketball game for Cheylin.

"If it all looks good, I will be able to play the last game of the season against Grinnell," said Tia.

Her parents, Doug and Tina Sager, said they are more cautious about their daughter's return to the court.

"The doctor said basketball was out, but Tia might be able to participate in track," said Mrs. Sager.

Retirement Open House

Honoring Betty Schorzman

Friday, Jan. 30

1-4 p.m.

Cheyenne County Farm Service Agency

West Highway 36

Medical Technologist Wanted

Cheyenne County Hospital is currently accepting applications for a Medical Technologist. Duties will be to perform various chemical, serologic, microscopic and bacteriological tests to obtain data for the use in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases, in the department of Hematology, Chemistry, Blood Banking, Immunohematology, Clinical Microscopy and Microbiology. Observe, monitor, record, interpret and report results on tests performed with accuracy.

This position is full-time and will rotate weekends and share call. Cheyenne County Hospital has sincere commitment to staff development with competitive wages and benefits. For more information about our facility or to fill out an on-line application and resume check us out at www.cheyennecountyhospital.com You can send a resume to kmeyer@cheyennecountyhospital.com or call 785-332-2104 and ask for Kary or Darrell. We are looking for a team player to join the staff at Cheyenne County Hospital, the Shining Star of Rural Health Care.