



Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick
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Is there enough time in the day this time of year? Seems like the "To Do" list is getting longer while the schedule gets tighter. Whew! How are we going to get everything done in time? I guess just like we have every year before.

This crazy dance we do around the holidays can about drive you nuts. That's why it's important to sit out a number and catch your breath.

Whether the break is an afternoon nap, cup of coffee with a friend or a few minutes of quiet reflection on what really matters, take a little time off.

Also a few minutes of entertainment can help. This season always has a variety of programs and diversions. On the weekend nights the local movie theater offers a couple hours of escapism. Even the TV has old

and new Christmas favorites playing at night.

Two events need to be marked on your calendar. Next Monday. At 5:30 p.m. we will have our drawing for this year's Christmas on Us contest at the elementary school gym in St. Francis. The Chamber of Commerce will also pull for winners and ABC Preschool will serve cups of hot chili. If you've never been it's a lot of fun for everyone.

It is especially fun for me since I get to announce the winners.

The other is Santa Day in Bird City. Held on Sat., Dec. 19, it is held at the American Legion Hall and begins with a dinner at 11 a.m. Again, if you have never attended this one, you have missed out. Families love it and every kid is a winner.

So take a break from the things you have to do and enjoy the festivities next Monday and Sat. the 19th.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

At the last council meeting there were some things decided that concerned me. One being the decision to allow Century II and their SBDC project to use the Cheyenne County Sheriff's office at Bird City City Hall. Century II Development Foundation offered a \$4000.00 grant to the city, which was accepted, for the cost of materials to build a sheriff's office at the city shop.

Cathy Domsch, executive director Century II Development Foundation said in an e-mail "After brainstorming about different locations for the Small Business Development Center that would meet the criteria of handicap accessibility, access to a training room, access to a separate lockable office space with storage, and access after normal office hours, I kept coming back to the office space at city hall. Other brainstorming sessions led to the idea of building out a separate office space in the city shop for the sheriff's department."

Personally, and as a council person, I have concerns. What right does Century II have to look at property that is not theirs and decide what they want to do with it? They already did that with the park. The park is very nice now as it should be when you throw that much money at it. It would be like me needing garage space and looking at your garage and deciding that I like your garage and I think I'll park my car here and you can have the shed out back to park your car and here is \$40.00 to paint it. That approach is not respectful or proper.

I also think the sheriff's office needs to be at City Hall. Traditionally, sheriff and police offices are located at city halls, not city shops. An office at city shop may be functional but is not professional.

City hall needs to be used and reserved for governing body's

and such. Not as office space. \$4000.00 for materials to build a room is generous but I think it is not sufficient to erect a decent, professional office. \$4000.00 might be enough for material to build a room but any new construction the city does will have to meet and comply with ADA standards which will cost extra dollars.

So the argument that City Hall is the best place because it is ADA accessible is not a valid argument because the city is going to have to make the "new" office at the city shop ADA accessible too. \$4000.00 will not be enough to install heat and A/C which will be needed in the winter/summer. The room will also have to be "air tight" to keep "shop dust" out of the office area. There will also be added cost of utilities like extra gas, electricity, phone, internet and such which taxpayers will have to pay for.

In today's economy, we need to watch how we spend our money and what we spend our money on. It seems that when the City of Bird City needs more funds, we raise taxes instead of looking for ways to streamline our operations.

The money Bird City receives in taxes comes from you. It's your money and you should be concerned where and how it is spent. At the last council meeting and many before, there were not any citizens there. I think there should be. I think that the room should be full. The lack of citizens there shows me that the people of Bird City don't care how their money is spent or how the governing body runs the city. I think you should.

Thank You
Frank Serrano
President of Bird City City Council

Hal Sager
Bird City Councilman

Bulletin Board

Bird City Santa Day
Bird City Santa Day will be Saturday, Dec. 19, with dinner and program at the American Legion hall. Dinner begins at 11 a.m. Check ad for details.

Lighting contest
The Christmas lighting contest in Bird City will be judged Dec. 15. See story elsewhere in this issue.

Cheylin Christmas Dinner
The Cheylin Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner has been postponed to Wednesday, Dec. 16 due to the weather.

Senior Center birthdays
December birthdays will be celebrated at 3 p.m. on Monday at the Bird City Senior Center.

Home Circle Club
Joy Anderegg will be hostess for the Home Circle Club Christmas pot luck/gift exchange. It will be held at noon on Dec. 17 at the Lebow Manor.

Cheylin basketball
Starting on Friday and Saturday, high school boys and girls basketball will be traveling to Brewster for tournament. Girls' varsity team will begin at 6 p.m., boys' varsity at 7:30 p.m. on Friday. Saturday's game will be announced.

On Tuesday, junior high basketball teams will have the home court advantage at McDonald against Hitchcock County. Games begin at 2 p.m.

Scholar's Bowl
Cheylin Scholar's Bowl team will travel to Winona for their meet on Monday. Meet begins at 3:30 p.m.

Yuletide Festival
St. Francis Music Club presents Yuletide Festival and Candy Store at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 13, at the high school auditorium.

A Christmas Celebration
"A Christmas Celebration" will be held at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 20, at Peace Lutheran Church in St. Francis. Several musical groups will be featured (check ad in this issue). Donations to the local food pantry are requested.

County Commissioners
The Cheyenne County Commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. Tuesday in the commissioner's room at the courthouse.

Cheyenne County Hospital Board
The Cheyenne County Hospital Board will meet at 3

p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16, in the basement meeting room of the St. Francis Clinic.

Common Threads Quilt Guild
Common Threads Quilt Guild will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17, at Sainty Stitches. Guests and all quilters are welcome.

Tag deadline
All residents with last names beginning with U, X, Y, 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.

Christmas in the Country "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht"
Christmas in the Country, "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht," will be held at the historic Salem Lutheran Church, 8 miles northwest of St. Francis, at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 19. In case of bad weather, call (785) 332-3002 or (785) 332-3634.

Veterans Affairs
Jody Tubbs, of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs, will be in St. Francis at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, Dec. 17, at the county clerk's office. People may also contact the Veteran's

Affairs office in Colby any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday at 785-462-3572.

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

Two locals play with Denver Brass Band

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkansas.com

Two St. Francis guys will be traveling to Denver so they can participate in The Denver Brass — Holiday Brass Fest on Saturday.

Jim Milliken and Logan Whitmore, both trumpet players, will be joining other trumpets, horns, trombones, euphoniums and tubas, along with the professional musicians of The Denver Brass.

There will be 150 to 200 players ranging from those in the fourth grade to those 89 years old. Mr. Milliken is 66 while Logan is 14.

An hour-long rehearsal will be held in the upper level of the Buell Theatre that morning. During rehearsal, Denver Brass musicians will coach and perform alongside the amateurs.

Then, at 1 p.m. mountain time, a free performance will be held

concert and found that amateurs could play in the Holiday Brass Fest. He did some research and found that, yes, he could play.

He is a member of the Once Again Sound Band which is made up of residents from St. Francis who had dug out their instruments to form the band. Once the band had been formed, members were invited to play with the junior-senior high school pep band which entertains during home games.

At the first game, Mr. Milliken sat down beside Logan and asked him if it was alright if he played, too.

"Only if you play good!" Logan replied.

Logan said he likes playing with Mr. Milliken and some of the older players. They have played a lot longer and have a lot of experience, he added.

He must have passed the test because the two have become friends. Mr. Milliken immediately thought of Logan when he found out about the Holiday Brass Fest and made arrangements for him to

go to Denver.

I'm excited about being able to play with a big-name band, Logan said.

They received a book of holiday music written out for the traditional brass quintet which is used every year.

Mr. Milliken said the songs were the usual Christmas music until he reached the final song which he thought was a little more difficult. Logan liked the music and, since it was Christmas music, he said it wasn't quite so difficult and it was fun. He thought the final song had some "difficult spots" in it.

Logan recently participated in the Western Plains Music Festival High School Honor Band held in Dodge City. This was the second year he has played in the honor band.

The Denver concert is free so if residents are planning to be in Denver over the weekend, they might want to stop by for the concerts and support the two St. Francis players.

under the glass of the Denver Performing Arts Complex Galleria outside Beottcher Concert Hall. Hundreds of people gather on the Galleria floor and on the balconies of the parking structure and Buell Concert Hall where the acoustics and atmosphere put everyone in a holiday mood.

People are urged to bring a chair and thermos of hot cider and enjoy the old-fashioned holiday music fest.

Mr. Milliken had attended a prior

Music program and candy store featured

It has become a Christmas tradition. The Yuletide Festival and Candy Store is set for 2 p.m. on Sunday at the St. Francis Community High School auditorium.

The line-up of talent for this year includes all classes from the Dance Ranch dance studio as well as the Once Again Sound community band, the St. Francis Singers community chorus and many others.

The Yuletide Festival is planned and sponsored by the St. Francis Music Club and Theresa Porter of the Dance Ranch. It is a cornucopia of holiday music and fun.

Music Club members will be whipping up candy and holiday treats for the Candy Store booth which will be open during the Yuletide Festival.

The event is free to the public but a "free-will" offering will be taken during intermission.

St. Francis Music Club has sponsored the Yuletide Festival and Candy Store as its major fundraiser since its inception. The funds are used to promote the arts in St. Francis as well as providing scholarships for those involved in the arts.

The program and Candy Store should be a highlight of the Christmas season.

School Menu

Monday, Dec. 14 Breakfast: donuts. Lunch: burritos with chili and fries.	Thursday, Dec. 17 Lunch: scrambled egg. Lunch: grilled cheese sandwich, tomato soup.
Tuesday, Dec. 15 Breakfast: waffle. Lunch: sausage gravy and biscuit.	Friday, Dec. 18 Breakfast: french toast. Lunch: chicken patty sandwich, baked beans.
Wednesday, Dec. 16 Breakfast: tomados.	

SHOWTIME: 7:30 p.m. 2 hr. 10 min.

New Moon

Dec. 11, 12 & 13 Action/Adventure, Thriller, Romance, Sequel, Adaptation
Rated PG-13 for some violence and action.

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

CHEYENNE COUNTY HOSPITAL

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

Let's Celebrate!
Saturday, Dec. 12
9 p.m. to 1 a.m.



Free dance at Riverside Recreation sponsored by the Cheyenne County Hospital, Cheyenne County Clinic and Cheyenne County Health Department.

We hope you can come help us celebrate the holiday season!

The Bird City Times

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Santa Day

Saturday, Dec. 19
American Legion Hall, Bird City



Dinner
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Free-will offering
Program
12:30 p.m.
Prizes and Blizzard Machine

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