



# Bulletin Board

## Casey's Comments

**By Casey McCormick**  
*scmccormick@nwkansas.com*

When I was a young man, growing up at the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains, I'd sometimes think of escaping up to the wilderness to be alone. At times, back then, the craziness of the people around made a hermit life in the hills seem very workable.

Luckily with time comes at least a little wisdom. The key word in that last sentence is "little." I'm no wise-man, just a simple guy with an Irish-American name who needs to fill

a few inches of space each week in this newspaper.

But life has shown me that we are created to be with others. We need to have contact with other humans and with that comes a desire to help others.

A life spent focused on self is a life lost.

I say this because this time of year it is especially important to think of others. How you help is entirely up to you. Just remember that they need you and you need them.

That's simply the way it's supposed to be.

## Letters from Linda

**By Linda Schneider**  
*dublins@hotmail.com*

Here we go again. Should it be "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holidays?" Should business advertising take Baby Jesus out of the picture? Should saying Merry Christmas in public be declared politically incorrect or even offensive?

My comment is, "I double-dog dare you!"

In addition, I want to make a case for Jesus being the only reason for Christmas. To begin with, He came first. Jesus was before Santa Claus, Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, Charlie Brown, etc. In fact, Jesus had been the only reason for the Christmas season in America before the Dutch introduced Sintaklaas in the 17th century to the United States.

And as legend goes, Santa Claus was born a full-grown man 400 years old with a beard and a jolly belly laugh in 1860. Of course, there have been a few St. Nicholas's throughout history that have been noted for their kindness and generosity; however, I challenge you to name one and their country.

The celebration of Jesus' birth, historians say, was appointed some time in the 4th century AD. But, it didn't become an American national holiday until a bill to do so by Representative Burton Chauncey Cook (Illinois) became a law on June 24, 1870, to make it a day off with pay. The bill's wording was to include other holidays such as July 4th; however, the wording went just like this ...the twenty-fifth day of December, commonly known as Christmas day... (I love the internet!) So, even if you are not celebrating Jesus' birthday, it is politically correct to say Merry Christmas.

And as side notes, the Santa Claus Corporation North Pole Toy Factories are being closed down by OSHA and United States Postal Service is closing their North Pole, Alaska station that receives 150,000 Dear Santa letters a year due to the concern of children's information being available to known sex offenders. (I love the world-wide-web!) And take Baby Jesus out of Christmas — I double-dog dare you!

## Introducing

**Ajna Reese Lipsey**  
 Eric and Teresa (Dankenbring) Lipsey of Boomfield, Colo., announce the birth of their daughter, Ajna Reese Lipsey, at Good Samaritan Medical Center, in Lafayette, Colo. She was born at 8:37 p.m. on Oct. 16, 2009, weighing 5 pounds, 14 ounces, and being 19-1/2-inches long.

Grandparents are Kaye Bauman, Scott King, Vic Dankenbring, and Bertha Lipsey of Eutlaw, Ala. Meta Dankenbring of Bird City is a great-grandmother.



Lipsey

## Interesting Facts

- Winston Churchill was born in a ladies' room during a dance.
- There are only four words in the English language which end in "-dous": tremendous, Horrendous, stupendous and hazardous.
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.
- In most advertisements, including newspapers, the time displayed on a watch is 10:10.
- The only real person to be a Pez head was Betsy Ross.
- When the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers play football at home, the stadium becomes the states third largest city.

**Death notice**  
**Funeral services for Gene Mears** were held Dec. 16 at the Federated Church in McDonald. Gene, who was born April 6, 1926, died on Dec. 10, 2009, at Glendale, Colo.

**Santa Day**  
 Santa Claus is coming to Bird City on Saturday. The Community Club hosts a lunch beginning at 11 a.m. and runs through 12:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall. Following lunch, everyone is invited to stay for the fun, prizes and getting to meet Santa Claus.

**Cheylin basketball**  
 Today (Thursday), Cheylin junior high basketball teams will travel to Tribune and play against Greeley County. Starting time is 4 p.m. with junior high girl's team.

On Friday, it's a Cheylin Pep Rally and the community is welcome to come. It begins at 3:50 p.m. in the Cheylin gymnasium.

On Friday, it is a home game in McDonald for the high school basketball teams against Triplains. The girl's A-team begins at 6:30 p.m.

**Christmas play**  
 The Wesleyan Church in Bird City is presenting "The Innkeeper" Sunday evening at 6 p.m. Community invited and

refreshments will follow.

**Winter concert**  
 Cheylin School kindergarten through 12 grades are presenting the play "The Littlest Christmas Tree" on Monday. The program starts at 7:30 p.m.

**Peoples State Bank**  
 The Peoples State Bank will have an open house for customer appreciation from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday.

**McDonald Lions Pancake Dinner and Santa Day**  
 McDonald Lions Pancake Dinner and Santa Day will be held from 10:30 to 1 p.m. on Saturday. Check ad for all the details.

**Cheyenne County Hospital Board Notice change**  
 The Cheyenne County Hospital Board will meet at 5 p.m. Monday in the basement meeting room of the St. Francis Clinic.

**E-Waste pick up**  
 E-Waste pick up will be held Tuesday, Dec. 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Recycling Center south of U.S. 36 behind the museum. Bring old electronic equipment, microwaves, television, computers and other such items that cannot be taken to the landfill.

**Grand opening**  
 Viaero Wireless is holding an open house at Poling Chiropractic,

709 S. Benton Street in St. Francis from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today (Thursday). Note ad in this issue.

**Courthouse/landfill closing dates**  
 The Cheyenne County Courthouse and Landfill will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 24, Friday, Dec. 25, at noon on Thursday, Dec. 31 and all day Friday, Jan. 1.

**Christmas open house**  
 Donna and Norvin Northrup welcome you to share the Christmas season with them at their annual Christmas Open House from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 20, at their home at 1465 Road 15.

**Common Threads Quilt Guild**  
 Common Threads Quilt Guild will meet at 7 p.m. tonight (Thursday) at Sainty Stitches. Guests and all quilters are welcome.

**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., today Thursday, 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.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to the letter to the editor written by Hal Sager and Frank Serrano in last week's *Bird City Times*.

First of all, we do appreciate the concerns anyone has regarding projects of the Bird City Century II Development Foundation, including the Fort Hays State University Kansas Small Business Development Center (KSBC) Outreach Office locating in city hall. One concern is that the space in city hall should be used for governing bodies and such. This may be true, but in a small community working together to beat the odds to survive, should we not all work together in all aspects to make things happen for our community?

The Fort Hays State University's Kansas Small Business Development Center is a regional resource that will oversee the Bird City Outreach Office and serve as a support center for the small business person. Any individual interested in starting a small business, or an existing small business owner, may receive one-on-one counseling assistance from the Kansas Small Business Development Center at no charge. By having an outreach office located in Bird City, our local businesses can benefit from the services offered instead of driving to Hays for assistance. In addition to Bird City businesses benefiting, those in Cheyenne, Decatur, Gove, Graham, Logan, Norton, Rawlins, Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas and Wallace counties will also have increased access to the services.

At the August 2009, city council meeting, city council was presented with the plan for Bird City to serve as host to the Small Business Development Center Outreach Office for northwest Kansas. Matching funds to the state's allocated funds had been secured from the Foundation and Pioneer Country Development, and we approached city council to consider offering space for the office in city hall at an in-kind, or reduced rental rate. There are five requirements regarding the office space; handicap accessible, private office space, storage space, access to a training room, and access to the building after hours. Prior to the August meeting, an attempt was made to contact each council member, either in person or by phone, to discuss the upcoming presentation. By the time of the meeting, three of the five council members and the mayor had been made aware of the upcoming presentation to city council.

In the minutes of the August 2009, city council meeting, discussion regarding the Kansas Small Business Development Center office concluded with "Mayor Burr said that the sheriff's department should continue using the office space for the time being unless satisfactory other arrangements can be made," and council members agreed to assist us in looking for adequate office space somewhere in the community.

Over the past few months we have looked for office space, and were offered space in the upstairs of Frontier Ag. This space would

be sufficient as a temporary location, but because of the stairs to get to the space, would not be sufficient for a permanent space. Other options were exhausted because of various reasons that would not fit the constraints of the project. In a conversation with the mayor, it was discussed if an office for the sheriff's department could be built in the city shop. It was our concern during the conversation that we did not want it to look like we were trying to force the sheriff's department out of city hall, but to utilize any space in the community the best we could. Mayor Burr then contacted sheriff Craig Van Allen for his input.

At the next regular meeting of the Bird City Century II Development Foundation, the Foundation board of directors approved to allow for partial funding of a new office in the city shop, to alleviate a financial burden on the city for this project, should city council vote to approve the change of location for the sheriff's department. During the city council December 2009, meeting, in two separate motions, City Council voted to relocate the sheriff's office and accept the \$4,000 grant.

We, too, agree that more citizens of Bird City need to attend city council meetings. We would appreciate more citizens stopping by the Foundation office to visit

with us as well — let us know your concerns, your ideas, and comment on what is taking place in Bird City.

Bird City Century II Development Foundation  
 Sherry Carmichael, chairwoman  
 Rodney Young, vice chairman  
 David Hendricks, treasurer  
 Roseanna Underwood, secretary  
 Martin Burton  
 Ned Smith  
 John Deeds  
 Gary Brubaker  
 Dan Busse  
 Catherine Domsch, executive director  
 Darci Schields, administrative assistant

## Menu

- Monday, Dec. 21**  
 Christmas Lunch  
 Breakfast: scrambled eggs  
 Lunch: ham, mashed potatoes, roll, dessert
- Tuesday, Dec. 22**  
 Breakfast: oatmeal, fruit  
 Lunch: corn dog, nacho with cheese sauce
- Wednesday, Dec. 23**  
 Christmas Break  
 Back in school Monday, Jan. 4, 2010!

**SHOWTIME: 7:30 p.m.** **1 hr. 28 min.**

**Old Dogs**  
**Dec. 18, 19 & 20** *Comedy and Kids/Family*  
 John Travolta, Robin Williams, Kelly Preston, Ella Blue Travolta, Lori Loughlin **PG for some mild rude humor.**

**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

**Cheyenne County Clinic & Health Department**  
**announce**  
**H1N1 vaccine availability**  
**to ALL residents**  
**6 months of age through 65 years of age.**

**(this age range request is from the Center for Disease Control)**

**For appointment or for more information contact: Priscilla Prentice at 785-332-2682 - Clinic**  
**or**  
**Mila Bandel, RN**  
**at 785-332-2381 — County Health**

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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**



**BIRD CITY CENTURY II**  
**Development Foundation**  
 785-734-2556  
 WWW.BIRDCITY.COM  
 "FOR GOOD. FOR EVER."

**Check your renewal dates**  
 -- Current Rates --

**The Saint Francis Herald**  
 Area - \$38 KS - \$42  
 Out-of-State - \$48

**Bird City Times**  
 Area - \$33 KS - \$36  
 Out-of-State - \$40

**American Profile**  
 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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**For more information contact: Casey at 785-332-3162**