



## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick

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It's funny what you can find when you're not looking for it. For example, a couple weeks ago I was at the United Methodist Thrift Store with my wife and boss. As the ladies went their ways, I was looking at the books and puzzles.

Suddenly something caught my eye. It was a cassette tape of Bing Crosby music. But not just any of the "old crooner's" stuff. It was Christmas music!

Now everyone must know who Bing Crosby was and what he did for Christmas tunes. But to my surprise I had to explain him to one of my step-sons, Trevor.

As we were driving along he asked me what kind of "poop" I was listening to. "Don't you

know who this is?" I asked. "Haven't you ever heard of White Christmas from the movie *Holiday Inn*? Sure it was made in 1942. And Bing sang it again in 1954 in the film *White Christmas*. Okay, maybe you haven't seen the movies, but you have to know the song?" "Nope," he said.

Oh well, I guess it's a generational thing. So I won't let it bother me as I cruise down the Kansas roads and listen to one of my favorites.

Another little bit of holiday trivia; it's said that Irving Berlin wrote the song as he sat pool-side at the Biltmore Hotel in Phoenix, AZ, in 1940.

So in closing, as Bing would put it, "May your days be merry and bright!"

## Letters from Linda

By Linda Schneider

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Well, now I have heard everything!

The atheists now have their own greetings and holiday, "Reason's Greetings" and "Heathen's Holiday."

Now that we have heard from everyone who is anyone about how Christmas should be expressed, I have something to say.

Let me begin with why I don't think "Reason's Greetings" can fly anymore than reindeers can.

My understanding about what an atheist believes (yes, they do have beliefs) is that there is no God because science has not "found" Him.

An example of science and its capabilities may be this, there are some people who believe that unicorns have lived on the earth. However, science could only say this about their existence- up to this moment a unicorn has not been discovered. Remember, the first dinosaur fossil was not found and identified until the 1800's. So, my conclusion for

you to consider is that just because God cannot be proven scientifically doesn't mean Jesus wasn't born.

Even if a person who isn't a Christian with no understanding of the True Gift given by God celebrated on Christmas Day knows that a person, Jesus, was born and it is his birth that is celebrated. One could even say it is not unlike celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

As for the "Heathen's Holiday," all I know that it is not a legal holiday. So, for those who want to argue this just remember that America is a secular nation and legal holidays have to pass in Congress to be a day off with pay.

After all, why should atheists get a day off with pay when they don't believe in Christmas?

We have many religions, faiths, and cultural differences in our country that celebrate at different times, so if atheists want to have a holiday let them have it, but pick a day of their own and leave Christmas Day alone.

## Bird City News

On Sunday evening the Wesleyan Church performed a Christmas program presented by the youth Sunday school. The kids performed a play and sang many Christmas songs. Following the program refreshments were served.

The Senior Center in McDonald on Saturday was a buzz of activity with the Antholz Christmas Celebration. Everyone enjoyed wild turkey, goose, duck and deer followed by the singing of Christmas carols, a tribute to Gene Mears this joyous occasion was hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Kim Richardson, Grant, Neb., and Mr. and Mrs. Greg Black, Windrow, Colo., and enjoyed by many guests.

Gilbert and Jan Antholz, Allen Antholz, Barbara Garner, Frieda Black, Albert and Ana Antholz, J.B. and Brenda Laker, Carl and Sandy Antholz, Carol Mears of

McDonald.

Don and Florence Antholz, Atwood; Higg and Bev Higgins, Stan and Dee Dorsch, Bird City; Derek and Mallie Richardson, Littleton, Colo.; Jeremiah and Karlyn Richardson, Aurora, Colo.; Kyle and Amy Richardson, Oshkosh, Neb.; Kevin Richardson, Hayes; Dallas Richardson, Omaha, Neb.; Justin Richardson, Branden Jones, Grant, Neb.; Josh Richardson, York, Neb.; Monia Johnson, Imperial, Neb.; Julianna Richardson, Hillsboro.

Hollis Dapron went to Denver due to an infection caused by her recent fall and break of left hip. She was operated on and returned to St. Francis to the Cheyenne County Hospital on Tuesday and will be recuperating in a swing bed. She will be on antibiotics for a time.

### Herald closing dates

The Saint Francis Herald office will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 24, Friday, Dec. 25, Thursday, Dec. 31 and Friday, Jan. 1.

### St. John Lutheran Christmas services

St. John Lutheran Church, Bird City Christmas Eve services will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday and 10 a.m. on Christmas Day. Conducting the services will be David Rossbach.

### Monday Night Basketball Party

All men are urged to come watch the Kansas State-Texas basketball game on Monday night, Jan. 18, beginning at 8 p.m., at the Cheyenne County Wildlife Gun Club. This event is hosted by the First Christian

Church men's ministry. Call Brad Matthies at 785-772-7313 for more information.

### Theater closed Friday

The Cheyenne Theater will be closed on Friday so employees can enjoy their families Christmas Day. It will be open on Saturday and Sunday, as usual.

### 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.

### Courthouse/landfill closing dates

The Cheyenne County Court-

house and Landfill will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 24, Friday, Dec. 25, at noon on Thursday, Dec. 31 and all day Friday, Jan. 1.

### New Year's Eve Party

There will be a New Year's Eve Party, beginning at 6 p.m. on New Year's Eve at the St. Francis Senior Center. Bring finger food but drink and soup will be provided. Christmas Carols and other songs will be sung and taxi services will be available. Attend and enjoy the fun.

### 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.

## Cougar Tales By Bruce Bolen, superintendent

It is hard to believe that Christmas is only a few days away. This is a great time to be thankful for our many blessings and take time to be with family and friends. Of course the chance to be together and share the wonderful food is an extra bonus.

Since school budgets are the talk of most all of our meetings, I would like to explain a little bit about our school district main funding sources and how they can be used. The three funds that we rely on the most are general fund, supplemental general fund (LOB), and capital outlay.

The general fund amount is determined by our weighted enrollment multiplied by the base student aid per pupil. When you hear about the state reducing general fund money, the reduction happens when they reduce the base student aid per pupil.

The 2009-2010 published general fund was based on \$4,218 per pupil and it is now funded at \$4,012, a decrease of \$206 per pupil. Our weighted enrollment for this year is 366.3 for a decrease in general state aid of \$74,834. With additional funding sources, our actual state reduction is now \$21,467.

Our supplemental general fund is money that is raised from local property taxes and can be carried over from the prior year.

This fund is used to pay expenses that exceed our ability to pay from the general fund. Without the supplemental general fund, Cheylin Schools could not meet their financial obligations. The capital outlay fund is money that consists of a mill levy that could vary from zero to eight mills. The current mill levy for Cheylin is 3 mills. This money must be spent for capital outlay items such as technology hardware, transportation vehicles, and facility maintenance and improvement.

Revenue in this fund cannot be used for operating expenses. Many school districts will try to build up cash in this fund for special projects. It is confusing

and students at school have been wonderful. We have had meals provided the past two weeks by our staff and it has been a great help. The students made get well cards and signed a big 'Welcome Home' poster. This does not happen everywhere and I feel the Lord has blessed Emily and me by bringing us to this school and community. If I ever get hurt

again, I want to make sure I am working for this school!

May each of you have a very Merry Christmas and let us all remember the true reason for the season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all,  
Bruce Bolen  
Superintendent  
Cheylin Schools

## McDonald News By Vera Kacirek

Last week Lois Morelock was surprised with a Mystery Week to celebrate her birthday. Her daughters, Patty Leach of Minneola, and Peggy Sager of Saline provided all kinds of fun for Lois during the week, including a shopping trip to Hays.

Kenny and Phyllis Wilkinson and Lisa Johnson attended the Christmas party at the Good Samaritan Home in Goodland on Friday. They were guests of Ruby Tracy.

Chanda and Garrett Dowling, and Oakley of Springfield, Mo., arrived on Saturday evening and will be guests of R.J. and Susie Sabatka until after Christmas.

David and Julie McIntosh of Lakewood, Colo. were weekend guests of Iris McIntosh.

Art Atchison and his two daughters of Grapevine, Texas, were guests of Karlyne Atchison and Amelia Banister from Sunday to Wednesday.

Carrie Magnani was a Thursday visitor of Ray and Marlene Johnson. Rod and Lisa Johnson were Saturday evening visitors.

On Sunday evening members of the Federated Church enjoyed the Christmas program put on by the young people of the church.

The Federated Church will have Christmas Eve services at 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve.



SHOWTIME: 7:30 p.m.

1 hr. 31 min.

### Planet 51

Closed on Dec. 25  
Dec. 26 & 27

Action/Adventure, Art/Foreign,  
Comedy, Kids/Family, Science Fiction/  
Fantasy and Animation

PG for mild sci-fi action and some suggestive humor.

### CHEYENNE THEATER

Children 12 & Under: \$3

St. Francis, KS  
785-332-2747  
All Others: \$5

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year's

to all our customers who have supported us in the last year.

McDonald Grocery  
Allen and Barb



## CHEYENNE COUNTY HOSPITAL

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

## January Calendar

Dr. Frankum	Jan. 6, 20
Dr. Reeves	Jan. 13
Dr. Rubinowitz	Jan. 5
Dr. Rainwater	Jan. 13
Dr. Saba	Jan. 15
Dr. Curtis	Jan. 28
Dr. White	Jan. 5
Dexascan	Jan. 13
Mammogram	Jan. 5

Ultra sound and CTs offered daily



For more information or to schedule an appointment call 785-332-2104



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## The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times Will be CLOSED



Thursday, Dec. 24  
Friday, Dec. 25  
Thursday, Dec. 31  
& Friday, Jan. 1

The staff at the St. Francis Herald and Bird City Times wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## 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