



**PRE-KINDERGARTNER TELEXA WEETER takes her turn on the slide during a warm day at the Cheylin Elementary playground.** *Times staff photo by Linda Schneider*

## South of McDonald News *By Sandy Binning*

Jadon, Lindi, and Jenna Montgomery were weekend guests of their grandma, Diane Montgomery. Mark Montgomery came to pick them up Saturday.

Michael and Erin Officer and children arrived Saturday evening from Broken Arrow. They will be visiting Lynn and Rita until Wednesday morning.

Sunday dinner guests of Lynn and Rita Officer were Randy and Melissa Regier, Ariel and Alexi, and Ratha Lee Loker. They spent the afternoon visiting with

Michael and Erin Officer and children.

George Banister attended the Cheylin - Rawlins County basketball games Tuesday night in Atwood.

Friday night George and Kathy Banister attended the Booster Club soup supper and the Cheylin - Grinnell- Wheatland basketball games in McDonald.

Kathy Banister helped with the Respect for Life spaghetti dinner at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Bird City.

Sandy, Donna, and Jazzmin Binning were Tuesday lunch guests of Bethel Goltl and Don Bruder at the Bird City Diner. They helped Sandy celebrate her birthday.

Tuesday evening supper guests of Bethel Goltl and Don Bruder at Big Ed's were Elaine and Kenny Johnson. They helped Elaine celebrate her birthday.

Bethel Goltl attended the Kansas Day celebration in Bird City. She helped the Lutheran ladies with kitchen duties.

## Workshop scheduled for March 4

The Smoky Hills Resource Conservation and Development (RC and D) Area, Inc. is hosting the Smoky Hills Agritourism Workshop March 4. The Agritourism Workshop begins with registration at 8:30 a.m. at the Township Hall in Rush Center, located one block west of the 4-way stop on Highway K-96. The workshop is being sponsored in part by Flame Engineering; Golden Belt Telephone Association, Inc.; Rush County Commissioners; Walnut Creek Extension; Dechant and Taylor, Chartered; LaCrosse Livestock Market; Nekoma State Bank; Golden Valley, Inc.; Farmers Bank and Trust, Rick's Food Store; Midwest Energy; Community Bank of the Midwest; Southfork Meats; Midland Marketing Coop Inc.; and your local County Conservation District.

Agritourism is a method by which farmers can diversify their farm products and supplement their agricultural incomes. It can be thought of as one

alternative for improving the incomes and potential economic viability of small farms and rural communities. Common agritourism activities in Kansas include: family outings to pick apples or pumpkins; assisting with an authentic cattle drive; relaxing at a winery; or going on a fall hunting trip. If you are interested in supplementing your income with an agritourism business, please attend the Agritourism workshop on March 4.

Ben Allen of Kansas State University and Becki Rhoades of Kansas Department of Commerce are experts in the field of agritourism. They will be speaking about agritourism in Kansas, including regulations, promotion, and advertising. Shawna Oliver with Farm Bureau Financial Services will discuss high risk and liability insurance. A noon meal is included with your registration, and it will be served by the KEPK-Relay for Life Team. In the afternoon they will have virtual tours of

Fairview Farms Alpacas, Wild Horse Canyon Bed and Breakfast and Cottage Lane Pumpkin Patch. The final session of the day will be a panel discussion with all the speakers. Vendors will also be available the day of the workshop.

Prior to March 1, a registration fee can be sent to the Smoky Hills RC and D at 320 South Sixth Street, Stockton, KS 67669. Registration is also possible on the day of the event.

Vendors can call the RC&D at 785-425-6647 or email Teresa Webb at [teresa.webb@ks.nacdn.net](mailto:teresa.webb@ks.nacdn.net) to register for display space. Current vendors include: Main Street Floral, ArchCraft, Donnetta Robin, Fairview Farms Alpacas, CountryPlace Bed and Breakfast, Farm Bureau Financial Services - Rush County, Flame Engineering, Golden Belt Telephone Association, Inc., Rush County Economic Development, LoveSmallTownAmerica.com, Southfork Meats and Stone-Post Designs.

# Commissioners approve medical technician class

*By Karen Krien  
karen.k@nwks.com*

The commissioners, at the Friday meeting, agreed to have an emergency medical technician bridge class in St. Francis.

Janelle Bowers, emergency medical service director, and Wade Krien, emergency medical technician, asked about having an emergency medical technician bridge class in the county. At the last meeting, Mrs. Bowers said there was one first responder interested in attending a class in Colby but there would be the costs incurred and, in the end, only one person would be trained.

There were four, possibly five, county first responders interested in the class if it would be held in the county. Gary Winter, Sherman County, has agreed to teach the class for \$7,700. She thought a grant could be written to cover part of the costs and having these people get the needed training would be very helpful. The class will start Feb. 22 and end the last part of April.

Mrs. Bowers asked for five minutes of executive session to discuss personnel. No decision was made after coming out of the session.

**Emergency building expenses**  
The county's share of the St. Francis Emergency Building expense was once again on the agenda. At the last meeting, the commissioners had written a letter back to the city stating that they felt the \$7,264 left over in the account at the end of the year was more than needed and suggested that the county's amount be \$375 and the city of St. Francis would pay \$125 a month. This is half of what the two entities paid last year.

However, Scott Schultz, St. Francis Mayor, replied to the commissioners with a letter stating that the year-end total was high because insurance amounting to \$1,885 and the building sign, costing \$1,376, had not been paid. There were also boiler concerns.

The commissioners agreed that they pay for the insurance on all of the vehicles kept in the building and, Andy Beikman, commissioners, said the commissioners had no input on the building sign. As far as the boiler, first of all, it should still be under warranty, and secondly, the boiler was not a responsibility of the county since the building was city owned.

The commissioners asked that Mr. Miller get the latest list of expenses on the building and the balance from the city clerk, Mary Lampe, so they can review it at the next meeting.

**Road and bridge report**  
Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, gave his report, noting that the crew had been graveling in the northern part of the county. Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, said there were two areas in his district that needed some work.

Mr. Flemming talked about purchasing a mower. The commissioners told him to get a couple of bids.

He also talked about a landowner who is going to take his land out of Conservation Reserve Program and will need one-half mile of county road opened. Mr. Flemming will look into the matter.

**Emergency preparedness report**  
Gary Rogers, emergency preparedness director, asked the commissioners for their signature on the 2010 Emergency Management Performance Grant Application. The county will receive \$17,185 with the grant and up to \$1,500 for travel reimbursement.

He said a proposed swat car being placed in Russell which can be used by other counties if needed has caused some controversy.

Mr. Miller said Mr. Rogers was recognized for his work at a foreign animal disease meeting.

**In other business**  
In other business:

Dan Schlittenhardt, noxious weed supervisor, said he plans to retire this year and would help train the new person. An agreement was signed with the state to have the supervisor treat noxious weeds along the highways in Cheyenne County.

He said the annual noxious weed supervisors' meeting would be

held in March. The commissioners agreed for him to attend.

There were only two bids for the 1984 Ford fire department van: one for \$5 and the other for \$177. The commissioners denied the bids and agreed to run the ad again in *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times* for two times only this time, requiring that the bid be no less than \$200.

Joni Guyer with Prairie Rose Floral, St. Francis, had applied to the county's incentive plan for help and the commissioners signed the application. The Cheyenne County Development Corporation will be asked about progress on incentive plans.

Bruce Webb, county appraiser, was given permission to purchase a now plotter for \$5,635. If the purchase is made by the end of February, the county will receive a \$1,000 rebate.

Craig Van Allen, sheriff, was given permission to purchase a new portable radio for \$430 and a mobile radio for \$850. Both radios will replace failing radios and will be paid for out of the 911 Fund. He was also given permission to purchase four new winter coats for the full-time deputies.

The county agreement to provide law enforcement in Bird City was reviewed and signed. The agreement is \$33,500, up \$2,000 from last year.

Jennifer Padgett, communications director, asked for 10 minutes executive session to discuss personnel. No decision was made coming out of the session.

**Next meeting**  
The commissioners' meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb. 16, instead of Feb. 15 because the courthouse will be closed for President's Day. The meeting will start at 8 a.m.

## Movie Review

### Did You Hear About the Morgans?

"Did You Hear About the Morgans?" is a romantic-comedy where regulars, Hugh Grant and Sarah Jessica Parker, finally unite in this fish-out-of-water laughter movie.

The actors play Paul and Meryl Morgan, a Manhattan couple whose marriage is in danger. But it turns out all they may need is

a change of scenery. When the Morgans witness a murder and are sent by the government to a small-town in Wyoming to hide from the killers, their marriage shows signs of recovery.

The movie also stars Sam Elliott, Mary Steenburgen and Elisabeth Moss.

# Informational Forum

## Topic:

## State Funding Cuts

## How will they affect Cheyenne County?

Present will be representatives of:

Cheyenne County schools  
Good Samaritan Village  
Cheyenne County Hospital  
Cheyenne County Commissioners

Monday, Feb. 8  
7:30 p.m.

St. Francis High School Auditorium

100 S. College Street, St. Francis

### Cheyenne County Energy Assistance Program (CCEAP)

This year may be especially difficult for some families to meet their winter heating costs. Assistance with *part* of your energy bill is now available for income-qualified applicants. CCEAP Applications will be available starting Monday, January 11, 2010 at the following locations:

- St. Francis - Cheyenne County Treasurer's Office  
City Office  
St. Francis Equity Co-Op  
BANKWEST, First National Bank and Western State Bank
- Bird City - City Office  
Frontier Ag  
First National Bank
- SRS Agents - Goodland and Colby



You may also request an application by contacting Priority Oil & Gas LLC at (303-296-3435), [PriorityOG@aol.com](mailto:PriorityOG@aol.com), [LaRanaLLC@aol.com](mailto:LaRanaLLC@aol.com), or P. O. Box 27798, Denver, CO 80227-0798.

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