



## Casey's Comments

**By Casey McCormick**  
scmcormick@nwkans.com

So we survived the holidays and snuck into 2011.

Before moving on though, I need to take a minute to remember what just happened.

I vaguely remember a huge bowl of candy disappearing to goblins, princesses and football players in late October. Shortly after that we said grace around a large table as smells of turkey and ham loaf wafted in from Grandma Margaret's kitchen.

The next thing I knew we were busy sending out Christmas cards and wrapping presents to place under our brightly-lit tree. Then our home was filled with more guests than normal and it got even busier as we raced from event to event.

This excitement level continued as we drove to Colorado for more

of the same. I also recall climbing into bed at about 9:30 on New Year's Eve, reading for a few minutes and waking up with a new date to remember when writing stuff.

Whew, did the last part of 2010 flash before my eyes. But I am holding some very special "snap shots" of this time in my memory. Such as a carol being sung in German in a small, candle-illuminated, country church on Christmas Eve. Also the smiling faces of loved ones soaking in each other's company in a warm room. And the joy of finding a card in the mailbox from a far away friend.

It is these tiny blessings that cause me to reflect on how good I have it. This next year sure holds a lot of promise for continued special times.

## Introducing

### Taya Jae Dale

Darren and Tana Dale announce the birth of their daughter, Taya Jae, on Dec. 17, 2010, at 9:16 p.m. at the Dundy County Hospital in Benkelman, Neb. The little miss weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces and was 20-inches long. She has a big brother, Taos, age 5, to welcome her home.

Grandparents are Royce and Jan Rambat of Bird City, and Agnes Dale of Durango, Colo.



Taya Jae Dale

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

This is in regards to the Bird City 125th Celebration DVD. I wanted to clarify some questions I have been receiving.

This is a DVD containing over 600 pictures which are set to music. To watch the DVD you can either put it in your DVD player and watch it on your TV like a movie or watch

it on your computer. The pictures will automatically start playing on your TV or computer and lasts approximately 55 minutes.

This special 125th Celebration DVD is full of memories documenting this historical weekend.

Candy Glasco  
Bird City

## McDonald News By Vera Kacirek

Josh and Sammie Johnson were Sunday evening supper guests of Kenny and Phyllis Wilkinson.

Owen and Phyllis Wingfield were Monday visitors of Arlie Archer in the Rawlins County Hospital.

Visitors of Owen and Phyllis Wingfield over the Christmas holidays were Debbie Wingfield of Lenexa, Greg, Dina and Molly Wingfield of Grand Island, Neb., and Orion Wingfield and friend, Carlie of Chicago.

James Atchison returned to his home in Arlington, Texas, after spending the Christmas holidays with Karlyne Atchison and Amelia Banister.

Betty Lewis spent from Dec. 19, to the 26th in the home of her son and family, Thad Lewis in Santa Maria, Calif.

Wednesday visitors of Karlyne Atchison and Amelia Banister were Kevin and Amy Torrey,

Taryn Carmichael and Debbie Banister, who was returning to college.

Many New Year's Eve and Day plans had to be changed due to the cold weather and snow. The pizza party on New Year's Eve at the Federated Church was cancelled.

## Honor Roll

New and renewed Times subscriptions: Gladys Sramek, Atwood; Elaine Rooney, Stratton, Neb.; Agnes Reeh, Atwood; Dr. Lonnie Willis, Bird City; Josh Sowers, Bird City; Larry Willis, Frontenac; K. Scott Dorsch, Fort Collins, Colo.; Charles Coleman, Bird City; Ted Partch, Bird City; Treg and Cam Vyzourek, North Platte, Neb.; Robert Hinz, Lakewood, Colo.; Theryn Culwell, Bird City; Kathleen Hickert, Auburn; Carol Mears, McDonald.

**Senior birthday party**  
The Bird City Senior Center birthday party will be at 3 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 10.

**Community Club**  
Bird City Community Club will meet Jan. 6, at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center for a fun night. Please bring your favorite finger food.

**American Legion Auxiliary**  
The American Legion Auxiliary will meet at 2 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 7, at the Legion Hall lounge. They hope to start the year with a good attendance as there is much they need to do for the service personnel.

**Basketball notes**  
The Cheylin Cougars and Lady Cougars open the January schedule with a home game with Dighton on Friday.

The week of Jan. 10, the teams will be playing in the League Tournament at Sharon Springs early in the week with the finals taking place in Goodland on Friday and Saturday.

**Kansas Day**  
Kansas Day will be observed on Saturday, Jan. 29. This is the 150th birthday celebration for the state right here in Cheyenne County at the Legion Hall in Bird City. Registration begins at 10, with a potluck lunch at noon.

Guest speaker, William D. Keel will present a program titled "The

German Heritage of Kansas".

**Historical Society**  
Jan. 16, is the date for the annual meeting of the Cheyenne County Historical Society. The event will begin at 2 p.m. in the Old Country Church on West Highway 36. The business meeting will be followed by "Kansas History Stumpers," prizes, special presentations and a birthday cake.

Everyone is welcome to celebrate Kansas 150th birthday with the Historical Society.

**Riverside Recreation**  
The annual board meeting for Riverside Recreation is being held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 12 at the club house. See ad.

**Head Start**  
Cheyenne County Head Start is accepting applications for the 2011-2012 school year. This is a free preschool program for 3- and 4-year olds of qualifying families residing in Cheyenne County. The classroom is located at 222 E. Webster, St. Francis. To apply or receive additional information, please call the classroom at 332-3110 or Lori Rieger at 332-2418.

**Veterans Affairs**  
Jody Tubbs of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs, will be in St. Francis at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 6, 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.

**Salvation Army online**  
Salvation Army is currently running their Kettle campaign. Donations can be made to the Cheyenne County Salvation Army unit by going to onlinekettle.com (Select unit: First name: Cheyenne Co Last: Kansas) or they can be mailed to: TSA, PO Box 462, St Francis, KS 67756, or dropped off at the Cheyenne County Treasurer's office.

**Peace of Mind AA**  
Peace of Mind AA will meet at the St. Francis Public Library at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays. Contact Kris D. at (785) 332-4410 or (785) 772-5090.

**Narcotics Anonymous**  
Narcotics Anonymous meetings are held at 104 W Webster/Methodist Education Building on Sunday nights at 8 p.m. and Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m. Contact (785) 342-0028.

**Northwest Kansas Family Shelter**  
Northwest Kansas Family Shelter provides 24-hour-7day-a-week service 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.

## Club Clip

### Auxiliary of the VFW Post 1528

The Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1528 met on Dec. 20 at 1:30 p.m. at the city hall. There were seven members present: Connie Rooney, Marlys Poulignot, Ruth Moore, Annette Erskin, Carol Connert, Hattie Terry and Wanda Dowdy. President Rooney called the meeting to order and they had the opening ceremonies.

President Rooney gave a report on the program for the Veterans' Day at the St. Francis

Community High School.

The flags that the Auxiliary had wrapped had been handed out. There were only eight left. The Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) table and its meaning were shown and this was then left to be on display at the Thrift Store for a while.

President Rooney reported that the Chaplain, Elsie Cook has been moved to Wheat Ridge Acres Retirement Community, 770 Wheat Ridge Circle, Apt. 146, Goodland, KS 67735. The Auxiliary will need a new Chaplain because of this.

Cade Bracelin's Essay on "Does Patriotism Still Matter" won on the Local, District and Department level for the Veterans of Foreign War and Veterans of Foreign War Auxiliary Patriot's Pen. His Essay will be going to National and the members want to congratulate him on his winning so far. Cade and his mother and father will be going to the Department Mid-Winter Convention in Manhattan on Jan. 16 - 18 in McPherson.

If anyone is eligible to join the VFW Auxiliary, the members would love to have them come and meet with them. They have their meetings on the third Monday of each month at 1:30 in the afternoon at the city hall. They would really like to have new members with new ideas as they move forward to serve soldiers, veterans and the community. They ask that you please come and join them.

## Across the County

By Marty Fear  
County Agent

### Managing Genetic Diseases in Beef Cattle

While it's likely that genetic defects have always been present in beef cattle, a number of developments in this area have occurred in the past few years. Several new lethal defects have been identified, and diagnostic DNA tests for the mutations that have caused defects have been developed. Most of the known lethal and sub-lethal defects in major beef breeds are now testable, changing the way we approach these issues in beef cattle breeding and management.

All of the defects that are now testable are inherited as autosomal recessive traits. This means both parents carry the gene for the defect. Therefore, animals of normal appearance can be carriers of these defects and can produce affected progeny when mated with another carrier animal. Prior to the advent of DNA testing, the only practical methods to eliminate defects were to either test mate suspected carriers, or cull them based on pedigree

alone. Complete genetic lines of cattle were destroyed without fully knowing if they were carriers. Now that the mutations that cause the defects have been isolated, beef producers can quickly determine which progeny of carrier ancestors are free of the defect and continue to utilize those genetic lines without fear of producing defective calves.

The approaches for managing potential carriers differ between commercial cow-calf producers and seed stock suppliers. In many cases, commercial producers need only ensure that from now on, only non-carrier bulls are purchased. If affected calves have been observed in the herd, it may be practical to test current sires to determine which may be carriers. Commercial producers can consult their seed stock suppliers, breed association staff and association websites for further information.

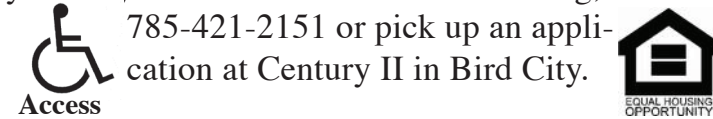
For seed stock producers, in most cases the only practical approach is to eliminate carrier animals. They will likely test

all animals that trace to carrier ancestors. Carrier females may be used as recipients for embryo transfer, or moved to commercial herds as long as they are only bred to non-carrier bulls. While all of the current known defects are now testable, spontaneous mutations will continue to occur on rare occasions. Both cattle producers and their veterinarians need to be vigilant, and report suspect defective calves to researchers and breed associations as quickly as possible.

Contact the Cheyenne County Extension office at 332-3171 or cfear@ksu.edu with questions or comments.

Till next week - Marty

Fifth Street Apartments in Bird City, Kansas, have 2-bedroom duplex apartments for rent. We are offering free cable television for one year to new tenants. Applicants must income qualify for this property. For more information and an application you may contact N.W. Kansas Housing, Inc. at 785-421-2151 or pick up an application at Century II in Bird City.



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### January Calendar

Dr. Rubinowitz	Jan. 4
Dr. Frankum	Jan. 5, 19
Dr. Saba	Jan. 21
Dr. Reeves	Jan. 5
Dr. Curtis	Jan. 13, 27
Mammogram	Jan. 4, 25
Dexascan	Jan. 12
Nuc Med	Jan. 11
MRI	Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28

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

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