

Kansas Day festivities held in Bird City

Saturday, Bird City hosted the Kansas Sesquicentennial and the observance of the 82nd Kansas-Day celebration at the American Legion hall. Festivities began with the potluck luncheon set out by the Wesleyan Women. Among the large selection of desserts was a carrot cake specially decorated for the occasion by Shirley Zwegardt.

Noon music was provided by The Swingin' Seniors from St. Francis.

Tables were decorated by the Lutheran Women with large sunflowers. St. Francis second and third grade classes decorated the walls and a table with their art work consisting of: individually designed and colored license plates, tablets listing historical events leading to the formation of Kansas, and paintings of sunflowers depicting Van Gogh style of art.

The event began with a welcome by Lynn Glasco and the invocation by Gary Davison. Jacob Brubaker, and Casey Vandike from Bird City Boy Scout Troop 119 presented the American and Kansas flags.

Entertainment was provided by the St. Francis Singers, directed and arranged by Neala Carmichael, starting with "Home On the Range," "They Called the Wind Maria" and "Shall We Gather At the River." Connie Paulsen and Talley Morrow sang three German Russian heritage songs "Dee Dee Liegst Mir Im Herzen," "God Bless America" and "This Land Is Our Land." All three of these songs were sung in German Russian.

The group then sang and invited the audience to join in on "God Bless America" and "She's My Sunflower." The final song was put together by Neala Carmichael depicting Kansas events. Gilbert Ochsner interpreted some German. Mrs. Morrow and Mrs. Paulsen sang "Happy Birthday" to Kansas in German as Mia Morrow presented a cake with the numbers 150 on it.

The Wild Rose Poet, Helene Landenberger, St. Francis, read the poem, "Old Kansas" taken from a 1931 history book and Homes of Kansas, and her original composition of facts around the events that took place during the Kansas statehood.

More than a third of Kansas residents are of German ancestry. William Keel, professor of German and chair of the Department of Germanic Languages and



GERMAN HERITAGE songs were sung by Talley Morrow and Connie Paulsen at the Kansas Day celebration.

Literatures at the University of Kansas, spoke on Kansas' German Ancestry. Mr. Keel teaches courses ranging from elementary German to seminars in German language history, and German dialects. His research interests in German settlement dialects in Kansas are complemented by his involvement with the Society for German-American studies. He is editor of the Yearbook of German-American Studies.

There was a lively discussion with the audience and Mr. Keel throughout his presentation. Often he would ask a question in German and it would be answered by one of the German-speaking people present. He had a list of words and how they were said in high, medium and low German.

The 2012 Kansas Day officers were elected. Helene Landenberger will be president, Marilyn Magley, vice president, Rosemary Powell, secretary, and Marsha Magley, treasurer. In 2012 the

Methodist and Catholic women groups will share kitchen organization and table decorations.

Special certificates of recognition were given to: Paul Roesener, born Feb. 17, 1917, as the eldest Kansas-born man, the Cheyenne County eldest born man in Bird City, Cheyenne County, and eldest man present; Myra Miller, born June 16, 1910, was the eldest Kansas born woman, born in Hunter, and was the eldest woman present; Margaret Shay, born April 29, 1915, St. Francis, was the eldest Cheyenne County born woman. There were two foreign born children present: Jorge Olivares, born Jan. 3, 2000, in Chihuahua, Mexico, and Nick Paulsen, born May 31, 2000, in Tajikistan. The youngest boy present was Roy Aiden Meyer born Aug. 10, 2009, in Colby, and the youngest girl was Audrey Meyer born Dec. 11, 2001, in Goodland.

A memorial tribute and benediction was given by Norman Mor-



JACOB BRUBAKER presents the American flag at the beginning of the ceremony.

Times staff photos by Karen Krien

row from St. Francis.

An estimated 200 people attended the celebration coming from, St. Francis, Atwood, Goodland, Bird City, McDonald, Burn, Gem, Herndon and Wichita; from Colorado, Greeley, Seibert, Arvada, Colorado Springs, and Hale; and as far away as Madison Ill.

Lynn Glasco recognized Bruce Swihart, Tom and Lea Keller as representatives for "Hearts for Senior Living - Cheyenne County". Bird City Century II Development Foundation and St Francis Community Foundation joined forces for the common goal of raising funds to help research and deter-

mine the best solution for building a facility for the elderly in the county. Mr. Swihart, and the Keller are asking businesses and residents to place one of the red hearts in their windows.

Lynn and Candy Glasco also had their DVDs of the 125th celebration activities for sale.



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION was held on Thursday. Those inducted were Stephanie Busse, Adam Orten and Kenan Reeh by Superintendent Bruce Bolen.

Extreme cold temperatures hit area

By Karen Krien

Monday, it was cold, the snow fell and was whipped into small drifts by wind gusts of 30 to 40 miles an hour.

Tuesday was even worse. It was colder and extremely breezy. The wind blew all night and the temperature Tuesday morning was -11 degrees but the wind chill was a -42 degrees, despite the fact that the sun was shining. The highways were reported to be snow packed and icy.

The Cheyenne County Conservation Awards banquet was cancelled on Monday evening and will be held on Monday, Feb. 21, in Bird City at the Legion Hall. Schools across the state were closed and there was no school in St. Francis or Cheylin. People were urged to stay at home unless they just needed to be out.

Tuesday was set for the first day of senior home-delivered meals in Bird City. Rod Klepper reported that, despite the

cold weather, they delivered 11 meals.

His grandson, Ethan Young, was out of school because of the weather, and helped deliver. He found the experience to be fun, Rod said. At the home of Rodney Partch, Ethan took in the meal and found the table set and just waiting for lunch to arrive.

Wednesday, the groundhog will emerge from its burrow in Punxsutawney, Pa., and, if he sees his shadow, the folk lore

predicts there will be six more weeks of winter. However, if he doesn't see his shadow, winter is coming to an end.

The National Weather Service is predicting mostly sunny skies today (Thursday) with highs in the 30s but the wind chill readings will be -20 to -30 degrees. Friday through Saturday, the weather is supposed to warm up to the 40s, then drop to the 30s on Sunday with a chance of snow.

Clean up continues at nursing home

By Karen Krien

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It has been over three months since a fire shut down the Good Samaritan Village nursing home and residents were sent to nursing homes in neighboring communities. After the investigation was done, workers were called in to clean up. Today, work continues at the Village.

Jeff Paulsen, administrator, reported that work in the west wing hall is done and workers are painting the rooms. The carpet has been ordered and an installer has been hired.

To meet the carpet warranty, it was necessary that the contractor installing the carpet was certified, Mr. Paulsen said.

The rooms will be very nice - much nicer than before the fire, he said. New bumper rails to match the walls will be installed. New furniture has been ordered along with window cornices, curtains and new room signs.

The facility is to be open by March 1, and Mr. Paulsen thinks the work is right on schedule. At first, there will be accommodations for 22 residents.

Letters were sent out to resident's families asking if the resident(s) wanted to return. Of those sent out, there were 30 letters returned wanting their family members to return. Starting March 1, there will be two residents a day returning. About two-thirds of the

staff will be returning and will be working short hours.

Nate Vollmuth, Good Samaritan Society engineer, and representatives from Atman Charter Company, Olathe, are working with the Society in getting the middle section re-roofed. This is the area where most of the fire was located.

There are some structural issues which will need to be decided before the new roof is installed. When the roof is on and the corridor walls repaired, this wing will be opened and used as a hallway for residents to get to and from the dining room in the east wing.

When the hallway is completed, the rooms used for resident dining and therapy will be converted back to resident's rooms. Beginning in May, the Village will be able to house 32 residents.

Before the Oct. 19 fire, there were 48 residents living in the nursing home and there were around 60 employees.

Randy Fitzgerald, director of operations for Good Samaritan Society, will be in Goodland on Monday, Feb. 7, and members of the long-term task force will be visiting with him. On Monday, Feb. 28, when he will meet with the Cheyenne County Commissioners.

In the future, look for regular updates on the progress at the Village in both *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*.