

## Commissioners hold meeting at end of year

The Cheyenne County Commissioners met for the last meeting of the year on Monday, Jan. 31, with little business on the agenda.

Wage agreements for Doyle Easter, temporary help for the register of deeds, Tony Rodriguez, sheriff's deputy, Dawn Zimbal, Annie Dulany and Kattie Jenik, employees/help in the treasurer's office, were reviewed. Before the agreements were signed for Dulany, Zimbal and Jenik, the commissioners present, Dale Patton and Andy Beikman, questioned their hirings as they had not been notified before they were hired. After discussion, they agreed to sign the agreements for the five employees.

### Recycling

Roger Jensen, Northwest Regional Recycling Organization, talked about regional recycling. He said the regional center was in need of a new truck and had decided to charge member counties \$3 per capita versus the usual \$2 per capita. This would cost the county around \$8,000. The commissioners agreed with this idea.

Mr. Jensen thanked the commissioners for their leadership when it came to recycling and that Cheyenne County was ahead of most counties in the region when it came to recycling.

Mr. Jensen, who is also a member of the city county, invited the commissioners to come to Saint Francis City Council meetings. They agreed to attend the Monday, Jan. 28, meeting.

### Public works report

Dave Flemming, county's public works director, discussed his work schedule and monthly budget. Dave talked about a highway crossing permit.

IdeaTek System Incorporated, he said, wants to lay fiber optic cable from Rawlins County to the cable tower near the landfill. After discussion, the commissioners decided to wait until Dave could gather more information before making a decision.

### In other business

In other business:

- Ambulance insurance write offs in the amount of \$6,146 were reviewed and signed.

- Cody Beeson, newly elected sheriff, was appointed assistant emergency management director.

### Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners will start at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 15, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

*Editor's note: The above article was taken from the unapproved Jan. 31 commissioners' minutes.*



GAMES WERE PLAYED at the Wesleyan Church on New Year's Eve. Pictured playing a game of cards were (l to r) Connor McPherson, Josiah Beck and Heather McPherson. Times staff photos by Norma Martinez

## City residents celebrate New Year's

By Norma Martinez  
bc.times@nwks.com

For the first time since 2007 Bird City had a white Christmas and temperatures have remained below freezing, allowing the snow to remain in the fields but the streets are mostly clear. This didn't deter several residents from Bird City and the neighboring cities from getting out and celebrating the New Year of 2013.

On New Year's Eve a group of about 40 adults and children gathered at the Wesleyan Community Church to finish out the year snacking and playing games. Phyllis Carson

entertained the younger children with a Mouse Trap Game, two Wii's were set up for the older children, others were playing Head Banz, chess, UNO, Blink and other card games. Some adults were just fellowshiping and enjoying watching the excitement of the younger ones. But all had a good time and left tired and ready to face the New Year at 11:30 p.m.

### Legion hall dance

By 9:30 p.m. Main Street was lined up with cars and folks were gathering in the American Legion hall for the New Year's Eve dance sponsored by Bird City Century II Development Foundation as a thank you to the

community for their patience while the Legion hall was being renovated.

Andrew Melia, disk jockey with MC Entertainment, had everyone wound up for country, soft-rock, hip-hop and Latin dancing. High school students filled a table and were line-dancing, the elementary children were having fun dancing, and adults mostly were talking and watching those on the dance floor. There were plenty of snacks for everyone to enjoy.

With the newness of the building and all the laser lights by the stage, everyone was in a party mood including the Century II administrators and board members.

## Screenings held last of January

By Norma Martinez  
bc.times@nwks.com

During the holidays, everyone has a tendency to eat too much rich and sugary foods that build plaque in the arteries. With the holidays over it is a good time to take advantage of the Life Line Screenings to be held at the American Legion Hall on January 30, 2013. These screenings are painless and have been proven to be safe and accurate in detecting your risks for a stroke aneurysm, and vascular disease.

One in five women and one in six men are affected by these diseases. In spite of these statistics Medicare and other health insurances rarely cover these screenings unless the patient has been experiencing symptoms. Most of those who have suffered from a stroke or vascular disease had no prior warnings.

Last year over 10,000 customers reported their doctor had recommended Life Line Screening. They have screened over 7 million men and women and saved thousands of lives and are recognized by leading hospitals nationwide.

Life Line Screening will be conducting the following screenings on Jan. 30:

Stroke/carotid artery screening, an ultrasound evaluation of the carotid arteries that screens for

buildup of fatty plaque – a leading cause of strokes.

Heart rhythm screening (atrial fibrillation), a quick and easy test using EKG electrodes placed on the arms and legs to identify the presence or absence of an irregular heartbeat.

Chronic kidney disease screening, a simple finger-stick blood test checking the Kidney function.

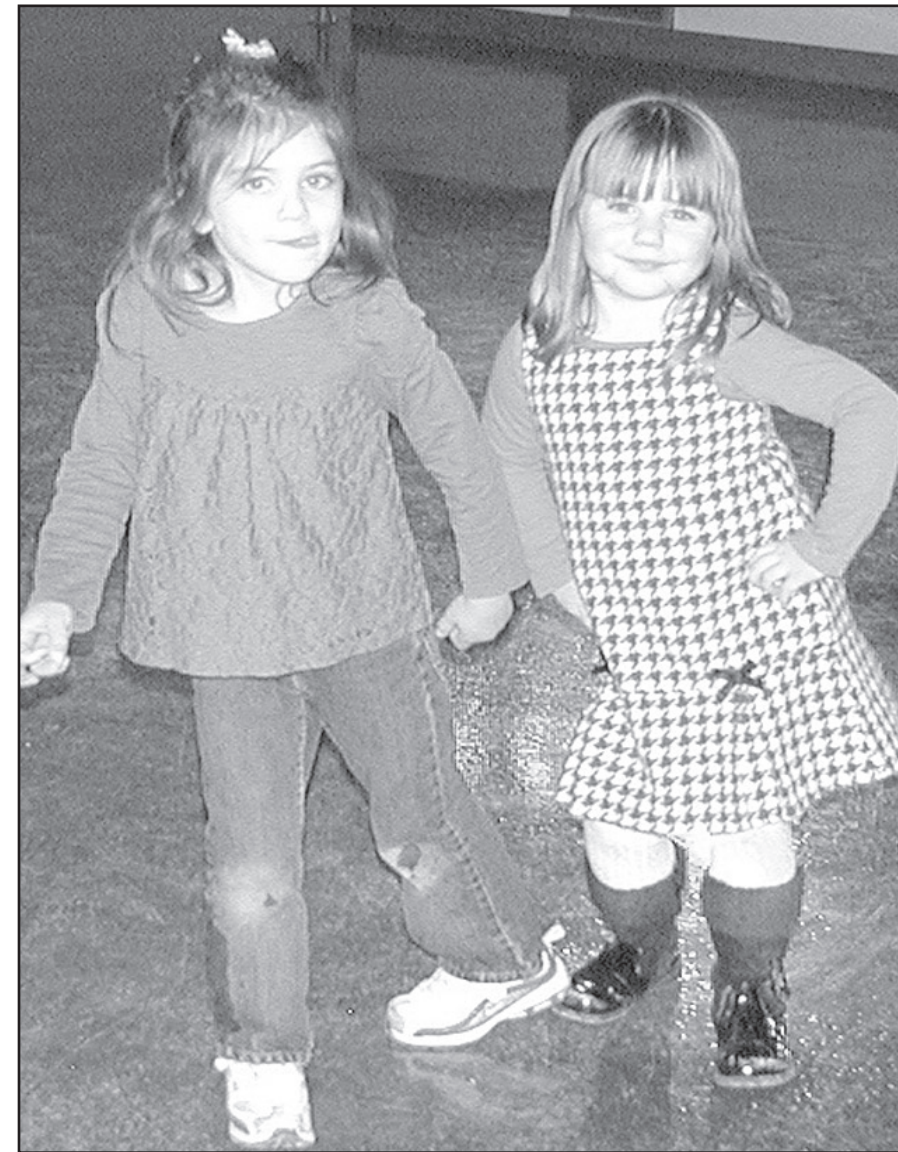
Abdominal aortic aneurysm screening, an ultrasound used to screen for the presence of an aneurysm (enlargement) in the abdominal aorta.

Peripheral arterial disease Screening evaluates for peripheral arterial disease (plaque buildup) in the lower extremities.

Osteoporosis risk assessment is an ultrasound measurement of the heel bone to determine abnormal bone mass density in men and women.

The six tests only take about an hour of your time and will be conducted on one day only.

Pre-registration is required and when asked how many openings were still available, the receptionist said, there were still plenty of openings, but they expected to have them filled up soon after the first of January. Call 1-800-395-1801 to reserve your spot.



A LARGE CROWD gathered to bring in the new year at the Legion hall. Left, Darci Schields dances with Andrew Schields; above, Hayden Ketzner and Ashlyn Schields were also trying their skills at dancing.

## 1940 Bird City basketball team plays with the big leagues

By Norma Martinez  
bc.times@nwks.com

The basketball season is upon us and a few months ago Ted Patch came up with a copy of an official program of the Amateur Athletic Union Basketball Championship of America event that was held at the Denver Municipal Auditorium on March 17-23, 1940. The most interesting feature of this program was, Bird City's basketball team, called the "Bird City Town Team," of which Richard Brubaker is the only surviving player from the team. Other players were B.Z. Woods, who was the high school principal, Ralph Seymour, Irl Elliott, Cornelius Meek, Lynn Burr, Lyle Seymour, Willard Byers, and James Hickert. Kenneth Peck was the manager.

Teams were made up of players who left college before the formation of the American Basketball League and American Basketball Association in the 1960s. These players were among the top players of the era at this time.

Some of the players wished to maintain their amateur status and remain eligible for the Olympics; others were earning a pay check by playing for corporations. Mr. Brubaker said the Bird City Team was playing for the opportunity to continue playing after graduation from college.

There were 64 teams playing against big teams such as Denver Nuggets, Phillips 66, 20th Century Fox, Denver University, Colorado Mines, Oklahoma City 49ers, Montana University from Missoula, Mont., Penn Athletic Club from Pennsylvania University of Idaho, San Francisco, Acme Wildcats from Chicago, Allen Bradley from Milwaukee, and Amsterdam, N.Y..

During this time the event was the "Blue Ribbon" event of the winter sports season. The best teams in the country, representing every section of the United States were contesting for top honors. A full week of superb basketball was in store for the loyal fans ever as the stars

started shooting for championship honors in the World's Series of Basketball.

After a draw Bird City's Town Team was the 51st team to play in the championship. They lost to Hefflinger Shoes from Omaha, Neb., with a score of 57-40.

"We played one of the teams that was awfully hard to beat," Mr. Brubaker said. Hefflinger lost to the Olympic Club from San Francisco, Calif., who lost to Acme Steel from Chicago.

This year's event was in memory of Dr. James A. Naismith, "The Father of Basketball." He coached his first championship team in the Rockies at the Denver Y.M.C.A. in 1897. In 1936 he saw the game he invented played for the first time in the Olympic Games. Today the game is played all over the world and the sun never sets on the sport he invented in 1891. In 1940 the sun had set on his life.

### History of the creation of basketball

Dr. Naismith created basketball while he was a physical director at the Y.M.C.A. in Springfield, Mass., in late 1891, but the first game was not played until Jan. 20, 1892. He wrote this story while he was a professor at the University of Kansas in Lawrence in 1937:

Director's around the country decided the; Y.M.C.A.'s needed a sport that could be played indoors during the evening and during wintertime. Dr. Naismith made the statement that this would be possible, and that it could be a game that mature individuals could enjoy as recreation rather than physical development. Because of this, he was assigned the task of developing the sport.

At first Dr. Naismith tried to modify a few sports that existed at that time, but was unable to modify them to be played indoors. He then began thinking of the principles of all the present games, and determined in all the team games some sort of a ball was used. The next step

was to appreciate the fact that football was rough because you had to allow the defense to tackle because the offense ran with the ball.

He determined the roughness of the sport could be eliminated by not giving the offense an opportunity to run with the ball. Peach baskets were hung at both ends of the gym for goals.

Four fundamental rules were developed consisting of; the player with possession of the ball cannot make progress while it is in his possession, the goal must be above the heads of the players, it is a no-contact sport to eliminate roughness, and the ball belongs to any player that can get the ball without making personal contact.

At that time basketball was the only major sport played in the United States that was purely of American origin. All other games were either direct importations from foreign lands or hybrids.