

Charity gift boxes filled by Teens

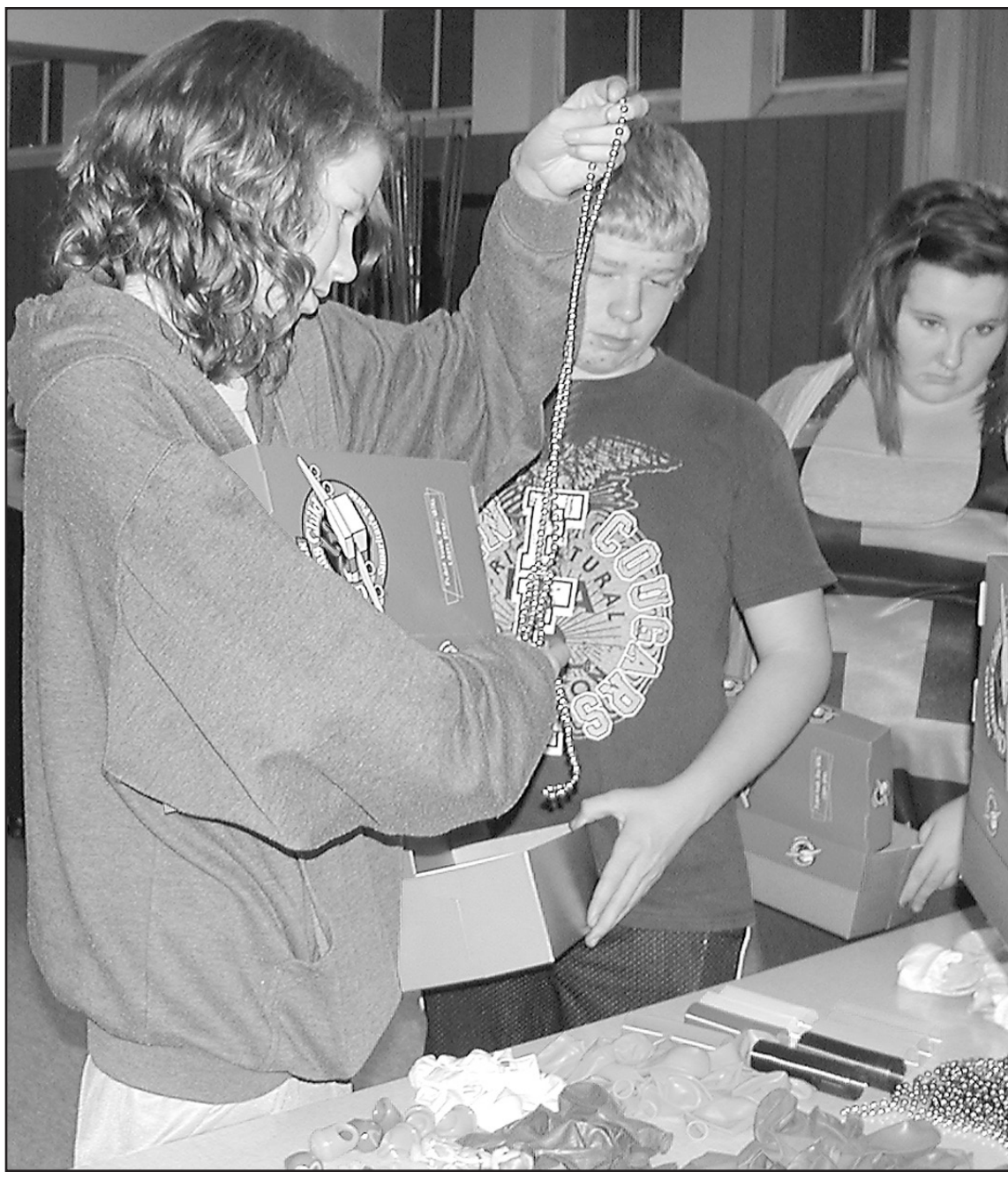
The Teens For Christ members covered the streets of Bird City, picking up bags of groceries on Wednesday evening. Items collected will help stock the shelves at the Food Center and fill Thanksgiving baskets.

After dropping the bags off at the Methodist Church, they returned to the Lutheran Church and assembled 339 shoeboxes with toys, school supplies, hygiene items, T-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips and other small items for Operation Shoebox.

Each of the Teens wrote a short note to boys and girls, ages 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14. Those receiving the boxes on Christmas Day will have a special note of encouragement and cheer.

Besides the gifts inside the boxes, there were also money donations which was used to send the boxes. Each box costs \$7 to send.

Those planning to participate in the project but haven't filled your box yet need to remember that the deadline is Nov. 24. The McDonald Federated Church is the distribution center for dropping off filled shoeboxes, items for money, or call Pastor Mark Adams at 538-2352.



ALEX HAZUKA, above, is putting jewelry in a box for a girl while Ivan Kemp and Cheyenne Hewitt are decided what to put in their boxes. Haleigh Rucker and Danae Magnani, below, are filling boxes and Alex Hazuka and Jacob Serrano are comparing items in their boxes for Operation Shoe Box.

Bird City Times staff photo by Norma Martinez



Frontier Ag merger with MKC talks moving forward

The boards of directors for Frontier Ag and MKC have unanimously approved to move forward with the processes required to merge the two cooperatives. The cooperatives announced in September their plans to explore the potential of an alliance.

Frontier Ag president and chief executive officer, Brad Cowan, said the boards and management teams of both organizations spent the past 60 days completing the due diligence necessary to get to this point.

"We felt the time was right to pursue a merger," Mr. Cowan said. "Combined, we have the potential to position ourselves strategically for the future, creating tremendous opportunities for our members."

MKC president and chief executive officer, Dave Christiansen, said the cooperatives share a similar culture and vision, are comparable in product and service offerings, and are financially sound.

"Both cooperatives focus on improving customer experience" he said. "Together we have the potential to increase our relevance in the industry which will leverage our vendor relationships."

"The benefits this will deliver to our stockholders, employees, customers and communities are significant."

Although the boards of both co-ops have endorsed the idea of a merger, each membership will be asked to approve it.

Frontier Ag, with annual sales of \$490 million, is a full-service cooperative, offering grain, feed, agronomy, energy, and transportation products and services to over 5,700 members in 11 counties throughout northwest Kansas. MKC, with annual sales of \$450 million, is a full-service cooperative offering grain, feed, agronomy and energy products and services to over 6,400 members in 11 counties throughout central Kansas.

Foundation match day set for Dec. 11

Dec. 11 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., is the first Bird City Match Day sponsored by the Bird City Century II Development Foundation.

On Bird City Match Day, individuals will have the opportunity to donate to local non-profit organizations and have their gift matched proportionately by Bird City Century II Development Foundation. A total of \$10,000 is available to match contributions, dollar for dollar, and grow the impact of a donor's gift. In addition to helping our local organizations, donors will enter into a drawing to win Giving Cards which they can redeem to their favorite charity anywhere in the United States.

Giving made easy
One check to the Bird City Century II Development Foundation, indicates which of our local organizations should receive the donation, and matching funds by the Foundation will increase your gift! More than one organization can benefit from your gift - you decide which organizations!

Local organizations that donations will be matched to include:

Non-profit organizations - Bird City Community Club; Bird City Historical Association;

Bird City Area on Aging (Senior Center); Tri-State Antique Engine and Threshers Association; Bird City Food Bank (Methodist Church).

Government organizations - Bird City Library; Bird City Emergency Medical Service; Bird City Fire Department; Cheylin Recreation Commission; Bird City Housing Authority

Youth organizations - Bird City Cub Scouts, Bird City Girl Scouts, Teens for Christ, Catholic Youth Organization, Awanas (McDonald Federated Church), United Methodist Youth Council, Bird City Go-Getters 4-H Club.

Agency Funds - Thresher Association Endowment Fund, Cheylin Wellness Center (Cheylin Schools Foundation Fund)

On Dec. 11, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m., donations will be received and matched at the Bird City Century II Development Foundation office. Contributions include gifts of cash, check or grain.

Please contact the Foundation office at 785-734-2556 to get answers to any questions you may have about ways to support your local organizations on Bird City Match Day.

Kansas governor spends time visiting county and the Breaks

By Amanda Miller
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Governor Sam Brownback made his way up to northwest Kansas last week to tour the area and do some hunting. The Governor and his staff flew into Cheyenne County Airport on Nov. 15.

Governor Brownback was joined by a member of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, the Kansas City Chief's Duane Clemens, the governor's aide Bob Murray and some of the governor's family, to look at the Arikaree Breaks. Representative Ward Cassidy, Kody Krien, and Paula and Perry Keller were at the airport to greet the Governor when he arrived and take him on the tour.

Gov. Brownback was very impressed with the breaks, which was a finalist for the eight Wonders of Kansas. The group stopped to admire the rugged landscape and canyons while discussing how this attraction can bring tourism to the area.

Currently, the breaks has walk-in hunting access. How-

ever, hiking or touring the area is limited to a self-guided driving tour. Representative Cassidy explained that liability to the land owners in the case of injury to a hiker prohibits owners from allowing hikers to explore the area. If the state would take over that liability, more people would come to tour the area.

Governor Brownback was very optimistic about getting hiking rights to the breaks, and said he thought it was very doable. He has already referred the issue to the Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism to find out if walking trails can be designated. If it is not possible, Representative Cassidy said that he would be writing a bill to make it so.

The Governor also asked what some of the local concerns are within the community. Answers ranged from getting a community pool to the water rights of Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado. Gov. Brownback listened with interest to the concerns.

Representative Cassidy said that he is, "Glad he knows we

are out here! Any chance to talk to the governor about local issues benefits our area."

After touring the area, the Governor flew to Norton to participate in the Kansas Governor's Ringneck Classic. The hunt promotes the outdoors and hunting in northwest Kansas.

The Governor and his staff flew into the Cheyenne County Airport in a King Air Super 350. This model has a cruising speed of about 300 knots (345 mph), said Robert Grace, operator of the airport.

It took a little over an hour for the Governor and his group to make the 335 statute mile trip from Topeka. The two Pratt and Whitney turboprop engines, each rated at over 1,000 horsepower, consumed approximately 150 gallons of Jet A fuel on that trip.

This particular airplane was built in 2001 by Raytheon, and is one of the top-of-the-line King Airls, which Beechcraft--and later Raytheon--have been building planes since 1964.



REPRESENTATIVE WARD CASSIDY shares the view of the Arikaree Breaks with Gov. Sam Brownback as they toured the county on Friday.

Herald staff photo by Amanda Miller