

## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick

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Shouldn't this be the season of giving rather than getting?

All of us are carrying our identity. This is how we are viewed from the outside in. In other words, we are judged to a degree by our actions.

Whether we chose to do good or bad, be nice or nasty, or give and take, our actions dictate how we fit in with each other. This is called a society.

I'm putting this in pretty basic terms, because it seems we have, as a society, gotten away from the basics.

When I was a kid I got an award

in elementary school for citizenship. To me it meant being nice toward others, using the manners my parents taught me and not being the first in line.

Today, we have gotten away from this sort of behavior and being a good citizen has become square. Priority has shifted to a "me first" attitude. Everyone deserves stuff from others as they are entitled to it.

I don't know how we are going to get back to caring for the collective, other than individuals making the choice to give rather than get.

Is it possible this would make us all have a better identity?

## South of McDonald

County Lines

By Sandy Binning

Mark and Leslie Officer and family arrived Tuesday evening at the home of Lynn and Rita Officer. Randy and Melissa Regier, Herman and Alexi Breytenbach, and Mark and Marilee Gundlach, Seth and Gracie all came Wednesday morning. Ratha Lea Loker joined the family Wednesday for Thanksgiving dinner. Melissa and Randy, and Herman and Alexi left for home Wednesday evening. Everyone else left Saturday.

Thanksgiving Day guests of Jerry and Sandy Binning were Fred and Lavina Waters, Louise Akers, Rae and Becky Nelson, Garrett and Donna Binning, Porsha, Bianca, and Jazzmin, Robert Binning, and John Binning.

Chris and Mary Copeland, and Kassi Collins were Thanksgiving weekend guests of Jerry

and Sandy Binning.

Thanksgiving guests of Jim and Shelly Brungardt of Hays were Craig and Barb Morton, Tom and Kelly Dewey and children, Mike and Starla Starns, and Cristina Springer and boys.

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Joe and Charlene Kramer, Dennis and Elda Kramer and girls, and Ryan and Diane Shay and family traveled to Ozawkie for Thanksgiving with Leon and Nancy Brunton and other family members.

Sunday morning, Joe and Charlene Kramer attended services at the Courts of Praise Church in Atwood where Dennis Kramer presented a slide show of Mexico and his mission work there.

### Bloodmobile

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be in St. Francis on Thursday, Dec. 12, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church. The goal for the St. Francis blood drive is 43 units. For more information or make an appointment, call 1-800-RED CROSS or go on line, [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org). The blood drive is open to the public and walk-ins are welcome.

### Country Christmas

A Country Christmas, sponsored by the Center Church Association, will be held on Friday, Dec. 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bird City Senior Center. Bring finger foods, and a poem, story or reading to share. 49.

### Christmas in the Country

Salem Lutheran Church is hosting the ninth "Christmas in the Country" at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14. Prelude music begins at 4:30 p.m. The public is invited to come hear carols sung and the Christmas Gospel read in German and English in honor of the Black Sea Germans from Russia who founded the historic church.

### Board of education

The regular meeting of the Cheylin Board of Education will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 9.

### American Legion Auxiliary

For the Christmas party, the Auxiliary will be treating the members to lunch at the Skyline Grill in Benkelman. We will meet in front

of the Legion Hall on Friday, Dec. 13th at 11:30 a.m. We will car pool from there to Benkelman There will be no gift exchange.

### Little Kids Wrestling

Little Kids Wrestling practice will be Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6 p.m. in the St. Francis wrestling room. First practice will be Tuesday, Dec. 10. For more information contact Shawna Blanka 785-332-5363.

### Catholic Advent CD presentations

The Stewards of Hope committee for St. Joseph and St. Francis of Assisi Catholic parishes invite you to join us this Advent for a series of CD presentations to enrich the season. All will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Sundays of Advent at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bird City. Dec. 8 "Our Lady of Guadalupe" one hour session; Dec. 15 "Why be Catholic?" one hour session; stay tuned for Dec. 22 presentation.

### Community Chorus rehearsals

Singers in the Cheyenne County Community Chorus are reminded of two important rehearsals, Dec. 4 and Dec. 11 at 8 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church in St. Francis. There's still time to pick up music if you are interested in singing with this outstanding chorus in their Christmas performances. Call Neala Carmichael at 785-332-8996 for more information.

### Meet the artist

"Meet the Artist" reception at

Quincy Gallery in St. Francis on Thursday, Dec. 5, from 7 to 9 p.m. Come, enjoy refreshments, and visit with local artist Mike Boyson, about his sculpture exhibit, which will include replicas of antique steam engines and tractors.

### Pancake breakfast

The St. Francis Lions Club Annual Pancake Breakfast will be held on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 6:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.. The venue has been changed to the St. Francis Senior Center. 48.

### Painting with Peggy

Painting with Peggy: Acrylic Techniques, Dec. 6, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Location TBA; Canvas and Chianti (or crisp white), Dec. 13, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Register at Cuppa Joe Espresso or call 785-332-3569. 48

### Cheylin school security

All visitors must enter the west entrances for the elementary and high school buildings after 8:30 a.m. All other doors are locked for security purposes. Please report to the office upon entering building. There is visitor parking available in front of the high school west entrance and on the north side of the elementary building.

### Grief Support Group

The Grief Support Group will continue to meet every second and fourth Mondays at 2 p.m. Meeting place is the Immanuel United Methodist Church, 116 E. Fourth, Bird City. For more information,

call 785-734-2739.

The group gives confidential support in a safe place of mutual help and comfort to all who have experienced the loss of a loved one.

### Emergency number

The phone number for Cheyenne County Communications Center (Dispatch) for non-emergency calls: 785-332-8822, Dial 9-1-1 for an emergency.

### Narcotics Anonymous

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

### Northwest Kansas Family Shelter

Northwest Kansas Family Shelter provides 24-hour-7 day-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.

### Photo Policy

The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times wants to emphasize photos of people doing things in the community. If you know of an event or new happening that we should attend, please call 332-3162.

Please be sure to allow a couple of days' notice so we can be there.

Space in the paper is limited and so is the time of our staff, so we may not be able to get to every event. Because space is so limited, we cannot run team or group photos, any pictures of people lined up or of people passing checks, certificates and the like. (We will always try to make room for a story about any of these events, however.)

We do run wedding and engagement pictures and "mug" shots with stories and obituaries, when they are provided to us. Please remember that we need a clear, sharp picture. Dark or fuzzy prints will not work.

We cannot return photos unless you submit a self-addressed, stamped envelope with clear instructions for return. Other photos submitted may be picked up at our office within two weeks. After that, they will be disposed of.

Laser prints of photos which have run in *The Herald* or *Times* are available, first come, first served. Special-order laser prints of photos will be available at \$3 each.

## School Menu

Dec. 9 - Dec. 12

### Monday

Breakfast: Oatmeal, boiled egg, fruit cup, toast, and milk.

Lunch: Pigs n' blanket, potato triangles, steamed broccoli with cheese, gelatin with fruit, romaine and tomato salad, pears, tropical fruit, and milk.

### Tuesday

Breakfast: Kansas granola bar, sausage links, fruit cup, cereal, and milk.

Lunch: Lasagna, green beans, garlic toast, garden spinach salad, applesauce, mandarin oranges, and milk.

### Wednesday

Lunch: Chicken nuggets, macaroni and cheese, winter blend vegetables, blueberry oatmeal square, broccoli salad, romaine and tomato salad, grapes, peaches, and milk.

### Thursday

Breakfast: Pancake on stick with syrup, fruit cup, fruit juice, toast, and milk.

Lunch: Sausage pizza, corn, chocolate chip cookie, mixed lettuce salad, red applesauce, fruit cocktail, and milk

\*Menu Subject to Changes\*

# Cheyenne County Hospital may be in danger of lower funding

By Amanda Miller

[amiller@nwkans.com](mailto:amiller@nwkans.com)

At the Nov. 25 Cheyenne County Hospital board meeting, Shawna Blanka, the hospital's quality and safety coordinator, handed out some information regarding the fragile state of the critical access hospitals. Cheyenne County Hospital is considered a critical access hospital.

Under a new proposal, advanced as part of a report from the Department of Health and Human Services office of the Inspector General, Medicare would curb enhanced payments to as many as two-thirds of these facilities according to Kaiser health news.

There are 1,330 critical access hospitals across 45 states. This would mean that more than 800 hospitals would lose enhanced Medicare funding for providing healthcare access in remote settings under the proposal.

According to the informa-

tion provided by Mrs. Blanka, critical access hospitals receive a special Medicare payment structure. They survive in large part due to a federal reimbursement structure that provides them funding 1 percent above the cost of providing care. Even with this reimbursement, revenues from other payers often don't cover costs. More than 60 percent of these hospital's revenue comes from government payers, so any payment reductions will have an immense impact on critical access hospital's ability to provide access to rural communities.

Kaiser states that the critical access hospital program was intended to financially stabilize small, rural institutions by providing them with higher Medicare reimbursement rates. The hospitals in the program are supposed to have 25 or fewer beds and be at least 35 miles away from another facility (15

miles across mountainous terrain) in communities that would otherwise have limited access to health care services. The effort was a response to 360 rural hospital closures in the 1980s and 1990s.

The proposal has been made, however there are many opponents. They say the proposal could put hundreds of hospitals out of business and roll back years of progress on access to healthcare.

Alan Morgan, chief executive officer of the National Rural Health Association, said deep cuts to Medicare funding "would effectively kill rural healthcare."

# First annual Cheylin tipoff fundraiser

Dust off your old sneakers, get some longer shorts and bring the ibuprofen and icy hot!

If you have any connections to Bird City or McDonald community, then come out and support the fundraiser for the Bird City

Schools Technology improvements.

Community members and the development team of Century II are hosting a basketball game for all alumni, spouses, and friends who are a graduate of any high school.

Agenda:  
4:30 p.m. - 3 point shooting prelims  
5:00 p.m. - Soup supper & concessions  
6:00 p.m. - Women's game

½ time - Money Grab  
7:15 p.m. - Ailysa Blair's Tumbling team  
7:30 p.m. - Men's game

½ time - 3 point finals

When: Dec. 28, 2013

Where: McDonald Gymnasium

Register: If you are interested in playing, don't worry about a team. Registration starts today until Dec. 16th. The cost is \$20, which includes a t-shirt, meal, and 3 point shooting for persons playing. For those not playing, bring the family for good laughs and a great time!

This is one fundraiser you will not want to miss!

Please contact any of the following to register: Kelly Leach via email: [kellyleach@hotmail.com](mailto:kellyleach@hotmail.com), the Facebook event Cheylin Tipoff, or phone: 785-821-4967.



## Honor Roll

New and renewed Times subscriptions: Pat Traffas, Overland Park; Doyle Bock, Bird City; Joy Anderegg, Bird City.

SHOWTIME: 7:30 p.m.

1 hrs. 54 min.

### Ender's Game

PG-13

Dec. 6-8

Young Ender Wiggin is recruited by the International Military to lead the fight against the Formics, a genocidal alien race which nearly annihilated the human race in a previous invasion.

Starring: Harrison Ford, Asa Butterfield and Hailee Steinfeld.

## CHEYENNE THEATER

St. Francis, KS  
785-332-2747

Children 12 & Under: \$4  
3D Movies: Children 12 & Under \$6

All Others: \$6  
All Others: \$8

## Thank You!

The Board of Education would like to thank all the people who came to the Chili Bowl. We appreciate the continuing community support for Cheylin Schools. The proceeds from this event will benefit the Wellness Center.



## American Profile

Celebrating Hometown Life

See American Profile magazine in this week's issue of

## Bird City Times

(available in local area only)

Brought to you by  
The Times

"Your sponsorship  
could be right here."

For more information contact: **Tim Burr**  
at 785-332-3162

## CHEYENNE COUNTY HOSPITAL

210 W. 1st • St. Francis, KS  
785-332-2104

# Mental Health First Aid

Course will review the common mental health issues, how to approach persons in crisis, and ways to manage them effectively and safely. Appropriate for healthcare, civil, service, ministerial, and legal professionals, and anyone impacted by someone with a mental health issue.

Cheyenne County Clinic Conference Room  
210 W. 1st St., St. Francis, KS  
Thursday, Dec. 12, 2013  
8-5 p.m. with working lunch (included)  
Class fee: \$60 (includes book)

RSVP Candi Douthit, 785-332-2104 or  
[cdouthit@cheyennecountyhospital.com](mailto:cdouthit@cheyennecountyhospital.com)

## The Bird City Times

(USPS 056-720)

Serving the communities of Bird City and McDonald

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Norma Martinez, Co-Editor  
Karen Krien - Publisher  
Tim Burr - Advertising Manager  
Periodicals postage paid at Bird City, Kansas 67731-0220  
Phone (785) 734-7031  
Fax (785) 332-3001  
Or Phone (785) 332-3162  
E-Mail [bc.times@nwkans.com](mailto:bc.times@nwkans.com)  
Published every Thursday  
\$33 per year in Cheyenne and surrounding counties; other in-state \$36 and all out-of-state subscriptions, \$40 (strictly in advance).

Postmaster: Send address correction to P.O. Box 220 Bird City, Kansas 67731-0220

Official City Newspaper  
Published Weekly By  
Nor'West Newspapers, Incorporated  
Bird City, KS 67731

