



HALLEE ANTHOLZ is keeping Parker Bursch under control while Alayna Brewer, Alex Hazuka, Casey Vandike, Briana Vandike, Connor Hazuka and Olivia Douthit listen to Natalyn Bursch recite her part in the Christmas play.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

## Children's program enjoyed by many

By Norma Martinez  
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Last Sunday evening, the children's production of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" directed by Linda Schneider and Phyllis Carson, played to a full house at the Wesleyan Church. All the children, from the toddlers to the high school Sunday school classes, played their parts well. The pre school and kindergarten children especially shouted out their parts in the microphones loud and clear, and the toddlers fluttered their wings on stage.

Casey Vandike and Connor Hazuka were the readers, Ivan Kemp portrayed a mouse, Derek Vandike was the Innkeeper. C.J. Antholz entered the stage as Joseph, and Nicole Glass appeared coddling

baby Jesus. Joseph Augusta, Harley McPherson and Connor McPherson entered and bedded down on the floor as Shepherds. Alex Hazuka portrayed Gabriel The Angel, accompanied by the Jr. angels; Olivia Douthit, Briana Vandike, Emily Serrano and Alayna Brewer. She also tended to and prompted the littlest angels, Olivia Douthit, Natalyn Bursch and Hallee Antholz, who shouted out their songs and parts so everyone could hear as Parker Bursch, the youngest angel, fluttered around the stage to bring on the smiles from the audience.

Everyone attended the reception in the Reception Hall, and enjoyed the light meal, desserts and fellowship afterwards.



HALLEE ANTHOLZ knew her part and said it loud and clear.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez



IVAN KEMP as the mouse, Nicole Glass as Mary, Derek Vandike the innkeeper, CJ Antholz as Joseph, Harley and Connor McPherson and Joseph Augusta as shepherds sing Oh Bethlehem.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

## Santa Day is scheduled for this weekend

By Amanda Miller  
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Mark your calendars for Santa Day, to be held on Saturday, Dec. 21 at the Bird City Legion Hall. Doors will open at 11 a.m. sharp. The program starts at 12:30 p.m., and will be an all new format this year!

A free-will donation meal, sponsored by the Community Club, starts at 11 a.m. There will be a variety of soups, cookies, and hot dogs for lunch.

Wendy White, a coordinator of Santa Day, said that there will be lots of big prizes handed out this year. Attendees can choose to put their ticket in for the drawing of one of these prizes. Adults will also be able to play a game called "Deal or No Deal", where there are three doors to chose from. In each door will be something different, either a gag gift, a gift certificate, or a nice prize that they will win.

The popular blizzard machine will be back again. Last year it was stocked with over \$1,000 for children to grab. There was even a \$100 bill, but no one was lucky enough to grab it. This year, children will be allowed to write their name and enter it to win a chance to grab some cash!

Santa Clause will be arriving, and no child will go home without a gift.

Last year, there were almost 400 adults and children there to greet Santa. Besides the food, gifts, and entertainment, it's a good opportunity to meet and visit with all the Bird City residents.



## Bail reduction is denied for local woman charged

By Amanda Miller  
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The District Court of Cheyenne County heard motions from the defense of Leanna Windell in court Dec. 11. Motions are being heard prior to the trial date. Ms. Windell's attorney requested that the judge dismiss the charge of premeditation, as well as reduce her bond.

Windell pled not guilty to the charge of premeditated murder in the first degree in the death of Brad Figgins. Figgins, 45, was found in the basement of his home the evening of April 3, 2013, with injuries to his head. He was taken by ambulance to the hospital, and later pronounced dead. The penalty for that charge is 25 years to life in jail.

District Court Judge Scott Showalter presided over the court date. Present were the defendant Leanna Windell with her defense attorney Charles Peckham. Also present for the prosecution was Assistant Attorney General Nicole Romine.

The first motion raised by Peckham was the request for a Bill of Particulars. He requested specifically an itemized list from the state as to why it charged Ms. Windell with premeditation. The request was denied on the condition that discovery is done in a timely fashion and provided to the defense.

Mr. Peckham also filed a motion requesting that Judge Showalter dismiss the charge of premeditation. He argued that the state did not meet it's burden to prove premeditation at the preliminary trial. Judge Showalter stated he felt this was an issue that would be brought up again. The judge in the preliminary trial ruled that the state met it's burden. Inference of the evidence can be taken both ways, from the perspective of the defense and the state. He dismissed the motion, and left the decision in the capable hands

of the jury in the coming trial.

Mr. Peckham filed a motion requesting that Ms. Windell's bond be reduced. Her bond is currently set at \$1 million. Judge Showalter heard arguments on both sides regarding reducing the bond, and Ms. Windell possibly being out on bond. His final ruling was that at this time, he will not reduce the bond.

Judge Showalter stated that Mr. Peckham must put together some type of plan as to where Ms. Windell would live and how she would function. He also must address the safety of community. Right now Judge Showalter does not feel comfortable letting her out, but if Mr. Peckham can return with a detailed plan, he will listen.

Finally, Mr. Peckham filed a motion requesting that his client receive proper treatment. The state asked specifically what the defense is requesting, because they felt the request was unclear. Mr. Peckham praised Sheriff Cody Beeson for working diligently to address any concerns his client had, and having to work with other counties because Cheyenne County does not have a jail. However, he felt moving Ms. Windell several times to different facilities was not conducive to communication with his client and her well-being.

Judge Showalter stated that he has no intention of "riding shotgun" to Sheriff Beeson's jurisdiction. It is at the discretion of the sheriff which facility would be best for Ms. Windell. The judge also praised Sheriff Beeson for his time and efforts in the manner. He did not enter any order regarding the motion except to state that if Mr. Peckham needed to talk to his client, to do so whenever he felt necessary.

Sheriff Beeson is preparing a security plan for the upcoming trial. Motions by both the defense and the prosecution will be addressed again in January.

## Firemen raising money to reach goal

The Bird City Firemen and Emergency Medical Technician departments are about \$400 short of reaching the amount of money needed to meet their fund raising goal. Century II will match your donation and it will be used to

purchase needed equipment. If you, or someone you know, is wanting to make a donation to a great cause before the end of the year, please contact the Fire Chief: Loren White 785-734-2323.

