

Kansas Day celebration planned

Kansas Day will be held on Sunday at the Legion Hall in Bird City with registration starting at 10 a.m. A potluck dinner will be held at 12:30 p.m. and the program will follow at 1:30 p.m.

Since this year's Kansas Day celebration falls on a Sunday, the theme for the 2012 Kansas

Day program is "Sunday on the Prairie." The program is focused on "Prairie Churches Remembered."

There will be 16 local speakers relating their memories of the Cheyenne County churches they grew up in, including: Helene Landenberger, Wano School-Church; Elton Keller,

First German Evangelical Lutheran; Gilbert Ochsner, Hope Valley Lutheran; Glenn Isernhagen, Salem Lutheran; Norman Dorsch, Evergreen United Bretheran; Sherry Schultz, Zion E.U.B.; Dan Busse, St. Paul Lutheran/Cheyenne Valley; Barbara Ewing, Lawn Ridge Methodist; Marvin Zimbel-

man, Salem Evangelical; Marie Holzwarth, Jaqua Methodist; Marsha Magley, First Christian; Ruth (Best) Moore, Riverside Friends; Joy (Blume) Fisher, South Fork Friends; Lonnie Willis, Pilgrim Holiness/Wesleyan; and Barbara Waters, Bird City Methodist.

The Kansas Day Committee

members serving this year are: Helene Landenberger, president; Marilyn Magley, vice president; Rosemary Powell, secretary; and Marsha Magley, treasurer.

Come to the Kansas Day program and hear more on the history of these and other churches in Cheyenne County.



STAN DORSCH is pointing to a block with Arrilla Zimbelman's name on it. The quilt was made by the South Fork Extension club members.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

Council agrees to adopt policy on meter testing

At the Jan. 9 meeting, DeAnza Ambrosier, city clerk, submitted a meter testing policy for the Bird City City Council to review. At the end of the discussion, the council agreed to adopt the policy.

Ms. Ambrosier explained that she has had several customers complain to her that their bill is too high and that they couldn't have used that much water and they think the water meter must be wrong.

She said she tried to explain to customers that as water meters age and malfunction, they don't read as much usage which actually benefits the customer. A water meter, she said, is designed to not over-register. Similar to a car's odometer which takes the movement of the wheels to cause the numbers to turn, a water meter must have a flow of water to register a new number on the dial.

When a customer has complained about a high usage, Ms. Ambrosier said she still sends Brad Schneider, city superintendent, or Russell Jackson, city employee, to the address to double-check the reading and make sure the meter has not frozen and to verify whether the customer may have a leak.

Currently, she explained, employees just switch-out a meter as a bad meter which costs the city money and delays the identification of an actual leak.

A lot of other cities have adopted a meter testing policy, she said, that will require a customer

to request the meter be professionally tested. The customer will be required to pay the city a \$50 deposit and if the results of the test prove the meter to be functioning properly (within the American Water Works Association standards) the city will pay for the test with the customer's deposit. However, if the test proves the meter to be over-registering, the deposit will be returned to the customer and their account will be adjusted and credited to reflect any over charges.

She said by adopting the policy, customers may first search for other possible reasons for a high usage such as a leaking toilet or faucet, or an actual leak that hasn't yet surfaced, before blaming it on a faulty meter.

Ms. Ambrosier said Doug Guenther of Kansas Rural Water Association offered to test water meters for the city. The meters can either be sent to him or he can come to Bird City to test meters.

Hal Sager, councilman, asked if meters are currently being tested before being installed. Mr. Schneider said they are not.

After further discussion, the council instructed Mr. Schneider to begin field testing each water meter before installing them.

Councilman Sager moved to adopt the meter testing policy and it was carried unanimously.

Editor's note: The above article was taken from the unapproved minutes of the Jan. 9 Bird City City Council meeting.

Officials find bomb at McDonald home

Ryan Murray, emergency management for Rawlins, Cheyenne and Sherman counties, was notified by the Rawlins County Sheriff's Department about 11 p.m. on Monday that a suspicious device had been found at a residence in McDonald. The sheriff department officer secured the area and they waited for additional resources through the Kansas Highway Patrol. Also involved were the Rawlins County/ Mc-

Donald emergency medical service and the McDonald fire department.

Upon the arrival of the highway patrol's specialized team, the area was searched and one bomb was found and rendered safe at 4:45 a.m. Tuesday morning.

Murray reported that the incident remains under investigation and no further information is available at this time.

Friendship quilt on display at library

In conjunction with the upcoming Kansas Day celebration on Jan. 29, the Bird City Library has a quilt on display that "If Walls Could Talk" contains many stories. It represents 79 families of historical value to Bird City and St. Francis.

This Friendship Quilt was made by Ida Pansy Magnani-Talman in 1976 and was quilted by the South Fork Extension Club (1922-1979) or the Big Timber Community. Bev and Darwin Higgins purchased it at the Talmon auction in 1987, and in 2001 gave the quilt to Kurt and Tammi Richardson, Cimmaron, who graciously lent it to the library for

display. Pansy Magnani was born Jan. 3, 1921, and married Herb Talmon, born May 8, 1912, on Oct. 3, 1940, in Atwood. They both died in January 1986 in St. Francis. Pansy was related to the Kepharts.

The blocks contain signatures of: Venita Penn, Lola Graves, Mary Loop-Teara Loop, Kathy Harvey, Irene Burkhalter, Billie Hilt, Helen Artemarie Smith - March 1901, Veva Haggart, Ruth Moore, Velma Goodell, Mary Lou Munn, Norma Emig 1961-1969, Ruby Holliman, Modesta Harvey, Mildred Barnhart, Clara

Iola Clark, May 11, 1876 to 1976, Magnani March 11, 1967, Beth Bolio, Ida Pansy Talmon January 1931, Esther Edwards, Mabel Merklin 1976, Pansy and Herbert, Alice Steele Oct. 3, 1940, Vada Burkhalter, Maria Mercedes and Kent and Annie Antholz, Alberto Antholz, Hazel Bash, Margaret Kaufman, Alice Blume, Violet Merklin, Irvaleta Edwards, Shelly Magnani, Bev Richardson, Wanda Ramsey, Delcie Eckenburg, Aletha Murphy, Aletha Willis, Arrilla Zimbelman, Nell King, Hazel Weidenhaft, Deb, Diana Brunswig, Betsy Kaufman, Edna Hatch, Barbara Barnhart, Donna

Stevens, Roberta A. Graves, Mae Goodell, Sallie Mays, Laura Pugh, Lila Goodell, Arlene Merklin, Doris Edwards, Mabel Merklin, Emma Forbes, South Fork Extension 1922-1979, Eula Hamm, Marie Talman, Big Timber Community, Wilma Donohue, South Fork Circle 1921-1979, Pauline Brunt 12-16-1890/ to 8-6-78, Evelynn Harvey, Paul Victor Magnani 1864-1935, Kepharts/Bertha, Ralph, Clarence, Louie; Earl, Billie, Jack, Paul and Pansy, Magnani's; Anetia, Pauline, Ray, Arley, Eugenia, Thomas, Helen, Winifred, Sewell and Herbert Talman May 8, 1912.

Board hears of delinquent utility agreement

DeAnza Ambrosier, clerk, at the Jan. 9 meeting of the Bird City City Council asked that the council consider the use of a delinquent utility agreement. At the end of the discussion, the council agreed to not adopt the agreement.

Ms. Ambrosier requested approval to use the form she had created to assist her when dealing with customers who are unable to pay their water bill by the due date. She said the form would allow her to create a payment plan for the customer so that they could avoid disconnection of their services.

customer may make payments on the delinquent amount as long as subsequent bills are still paid on time. The agreement, she said, would allow her more flexibility.

Conditions would be placed on the use of the agreement such as it can only be used by the same customer once in a 12-month period.

Council members asked how she currently handles late payments.

She said she uses her best judgment. There are a few customers, she said, who are routinely late with their payments while every now and then, another customer

may be experiencing a hardship that causes them to be unable to meet the deadline.

She said for those cases, she works with the customer as long as they communicate with her so she knows what is going on. Hal Sager, councilman, said he thought the clerk was handling things properly and that she should just continue to use her discretion.

Delinquent Account

Ms. Ambrosier asked about a specific account that is delinquent. She described the steps she's taken to work with the cus-

tomers, but still hadn't been able to collect the funds.

She said she told the customer she would ask the council if she could allow another extension. Following brief discussion, it was the consensus of the council to give the customer until Jan. 16 to pay the bill in full. If full payment is not received by that date, Mrs. Ambrosier will disconnect the service. No further discussion.

Editor's note: The above article was taken from the unapproved minutes of the Jan. 9 Bird City City Council meeting.

Conservation awards meeting held Monday

By Karen Krien
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The annual conservation awards meeting will be held Monday starting at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Francis Community High School cafeteria, St. Francis.

The Cheyenne County Conservation District will present four awards. This year's winners of the Banker's Awards are Tim and Robyn Raile, Soil Conservation; Glenn and Louanne Isernhagen, Wildlife; and Clint and Kayla Bursch, Water Conservation. Tom and Donna Stevens are the winners of the Cheyenne County Grassland Award.

The terms of two board members, Randy Rueb and Roger Orth, are expiring. An election

will be held.

The winners of the conservation posters will also be announced.

Be sure and check the conservation special section inserted in this issue of *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*. It includes stories about the winners and is brought to readers by the advertisers.

