

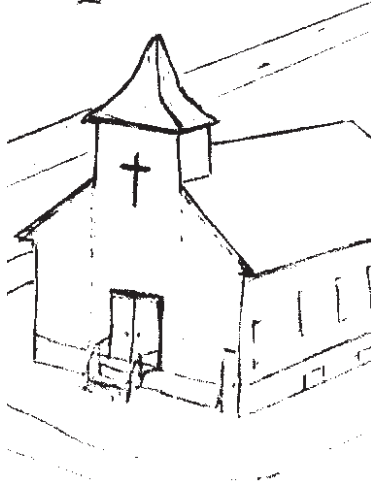


Kansas Day held Sunday

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 Zimbelman, 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

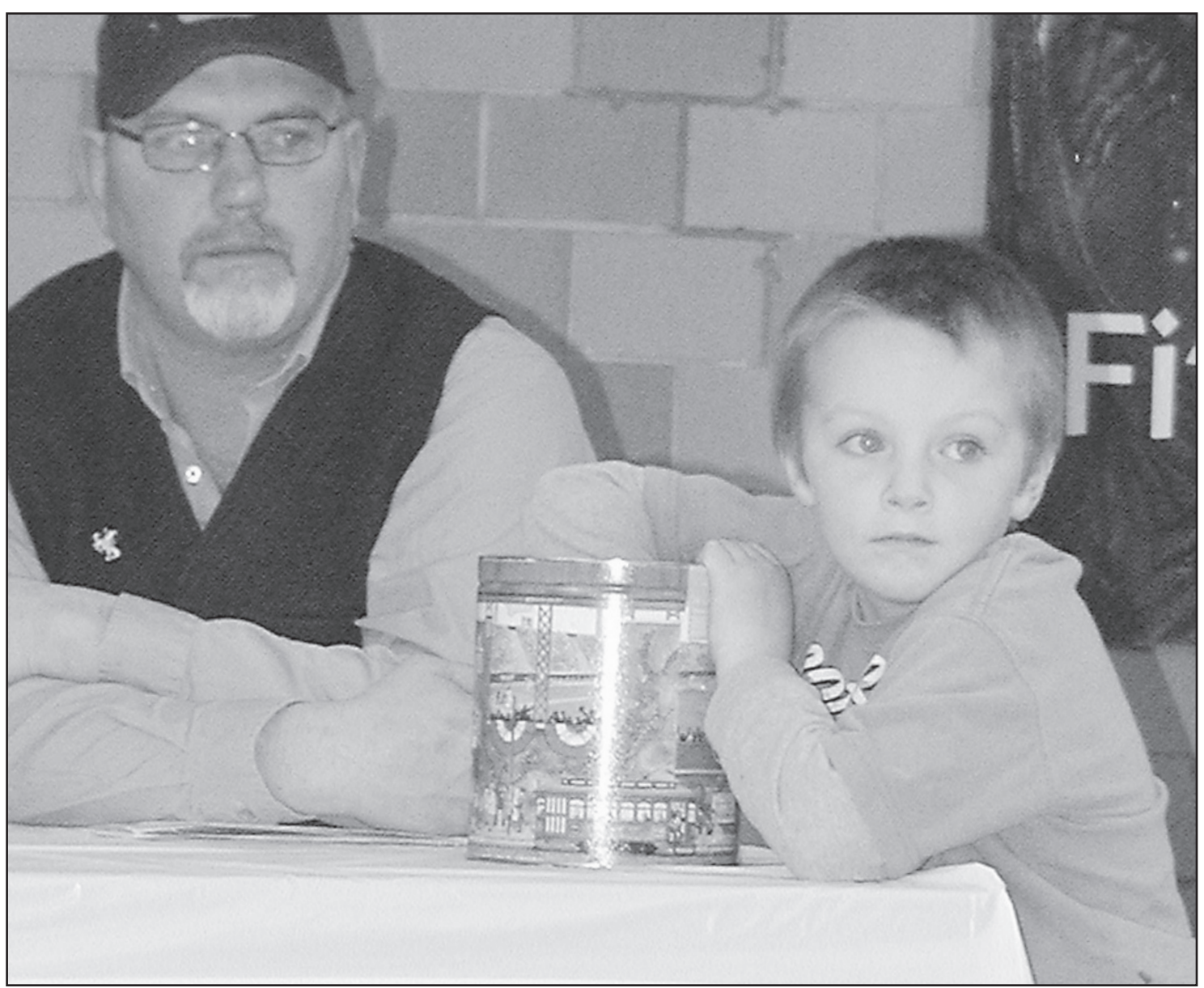


Country church drawing by Helene Landenberger appears on the program cover.

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.



JAKE RATH was getting ready to draw out another ticket at the St. Francis Equity meeting held Wednesday evening.

Alex Peterson, board member, was helping spot the winners. Ten prizes, each a \$10 gift certificate, were drawn.

Bankers hand out awards 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.

Bomb found at McDonald house

A bomb was found in McDonald on Monday.

Ryan Murray, emergency management for Rawlins, Cheyenne and Sherman counties, was notified by the Rawlins County Sheriff Department about 11 p.m. 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 McDonald 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.

Bomb scare sends Goodland kids to place of shelter

By Kevin Bottrell

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Students at Goodland High School had an unexpected field trip to the Northwest Tech campus as a bomb threat forced an evacuation of the high school building Friday morning.

The first call came into the dispatch office at 7:22 a.m. Police Chief Cliff Couch said a faculty member found writing in a stall

in an upstairs bathroom that indicated there was a pipe bomb in the building.

Students and staff were evacuated to the Max Jones Fieldhouse and organized. At 8 a.m. they were taken to Northwest Tech.

Goodland Police, the Sherman County Sheriff's office, the Kansas Highway Patrol and the county attorney's office blocked off traf-

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HELEN DOBBS, left, is the new Cheyenne County Development coordinator. She talks with Carol Redding, board president, on her first day of work on Jan. 17.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Development corporation hires new coordinator

By Karen Krien

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The Cheyenne County Development Corporation has a new coordinator.

Helen Norman Dobbs assumed duties as the coordinator on Jan. 17. Mrs. Dobbs comes to the corporation with experience in economic development in Colorado and Kansas and has a background in real estate. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for WKREDA (Western Kansas Rural Economic Development Alliance, Inc.), and is past vice president of PCDI (Pioneer Country Develop-

ment, Inc.).

Mrs. Dobbs said she planned to meet with the committee and see what they would like to see happen in Cheyenne County. She also plans to update the website to better attract people to the county for business, visits, or a great place to live.

In the near future, she will begin visiting each of the businesses in the county and will be offering programs to help businesses thrive.

I want to meet all the business owners and managers and see how I can help them, she said.

"It is important that the people and businesses work together for the betterment of the community," she said. "This will help the communities prosper."

The development office on St. Francis' Main Street, she said, will be the information center. Through the office, she or who ever is working in the office, will be able to direct people moving into the county, help new and existing businesses and help the businesses within the county to know what each of the businesses are carrying.

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Chamber secretary retires after serving about 15 years

By Karen Krien

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Gloria Bracelin, after working as the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce for around 15 years, retired as of the first of the year.

Several years ago, she quit but, then came back to get the Chamber bank accounts straightened out. Once that was done, she agreed to be the Chamber secretary as long as she could set her hours around family activities but still get Chamber things done.

She had been with the Chamber long enough to know what needed done and when to do it. The Chamber's mission statement stated that the organization's purpose was to promote St. Francis and hold events that would bring people to town and, she said, I tried to do that.

Besides answering the phone and giving out information about the area, she sent brochures and information sheets when requested. Racks for brochures were located around town and she was responsible for keeping them full. She also sent brochures to the Kansas Travel Information Centers. Lastly, she helped plan and carry out Chamber-sponsored events.

When I first went into the office, she said, I hand-wrote letters and mailed everything or hand delivered them.

"The computer was a very scary thing to me," she said. "After I figured out a few things, it saved a lot of time and made communication with members much easier."

In the early years, there were volunteers to help with projects and events. But, as time went on, the volunteers got older and could not help.

"Finding younger volunteers



GLORIA BRACELIN cleans out the Chamber office. She will still help distribute the Chamber scrip money.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

was harder," she said. "They either had kids in all kinds of activities and didn't have time to help or just were not interested."

There was also a problem of scheduling events as everything was planned around the school calendar which was generally full.

Highlights

Through the years, Mrs. Bracelin saw many Chamber projects to completion.

"I was proud to have been involved in getting restrooms in the park, the sidewalk built to the restrooms and seeing playground equipment installed in the park

(twice)," she said.

There used to be wooden benches used at the fair and other events. These would need refinishing and the names of businesses painted on. She was responsible for getting the benches refinishing twice before pushing the project of getting new aluminum benches. She helped organize the project to get the two large signs promoting St. Francis on either side of town.

Going back a number of years, St. Francis and the Chamber hosted the "Sun Races," where solar-powered cars stopped in St.

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