

Chatting with Casey *By Casey Johnson* *County extension agent*

With county fairs coming to an end, agricultural programming is beginning to pick up speed across the area.

There are field days and meetings where producers can pick the minds of our specialists concerning a wide range of topics. Our goal concerning program planning is to offer as much information to producers as possible to help them make their production decisions.

If anyone has suggestions for program topics or any questions, please feel free to contact the extension office.

Upcoming activities include:

- Sunflower Celebration: 7 p.m. mountain time, Friday, Aug. 16, Goodland Industrial Park
- 2002 Kansas Livestock Association-Kansas State University Ranch Management Field Day, 2:30 p.m. mountain time, Monday, Aug. 19,

Pleasant Valley Ranch, Wallace

• Rangeland Management School, Aug. 27 to Aug. 29, Ramada Inn, Colby; registration is due Aug. 16.

• Management, Analysis and Strategic Thinking: First On-Campus Session held Nov. 5 and Nov. 6; registration is due Oct. 1.

For more information on these or any other programs, contact the extension office.

Hospice care in the rural setting

Some of our most intense living comes when a person knows he/she is terminally ill. The things that are really important come clearly into focus and acted upon. Such as love expressed, reconciliation's occur, and life's joy remembered. It is hope for this kind of intense living that Hospice Services provides for terminally ill patients and their families through palliative treatment.

The word "palliate" comes from the Latin word "palliare" which means to wrap in a warm cloak. The hospice team becomes that cloak to alleviate more than physical pain. Palliative care encompasses expert medical care, pain-and-symptom management, and emotional and spiritual support. All tailored to the patient's needs and wishes. After the patient's death, hospice stays involved with the family through their bereavement services.

Hospice care is on a managed care system. Meaning Hospice Services receives a per diem (per day) amount regardless of services provided. The services covered by the insurance reimbursement include: hospice team, equipment, medical supplies, medications, laboratory, x-ray, staff, and other ser-

vices. Services provided to each patient vary due to the situation. Medication for one patient may cost \$10 per day while for another \$200 per day.

"We do not discriminate our care based on cost," said Hospice Services nurse, Shelly Willems. "If a patient needs a medication or equipment they receive it."

The intent with managed care is for the reimbursement to cover all cost when averaged across all patients. The problem with this type of system of Hospice Services is that they serve too small of a patient volume compared to most hospices in the nation.

But Hospice Services found a way to survive with the managed care system. Hospice Services is one of a few hospices in the nation that serves a rural area from a rural base. Hospice Services began serving the Cheyenne County Community in 1997 with the first patient admitted in June 1998. Cheyenne County is one of 14 counties in Hospice Services service area. Each of the 14 counties in Hospice Services service area realizes that without the support of each other hospice may not be available.

"Our staff shares their skills in more

than one county. It would be very hard for each of our counties to support office staff, nurses and social workers on their own and on top of all the other expensive," said Sandy Kuhlman, executive director of Hospice Services.

If you wonder if hospice care is appropriate for your loved one call the Hospice Services main office in Phillipsburg on the toll free 800 number, 1-800-315-5122. You may also call to learn more about volunteering or other opportunities in hospice care. Currently there are 14 Hospice Services volunteers in Cheyenne County.



TIA SAGER shows her 4-H woodworking project.

Photo courtesy of the extension office

Genealogy Korner

By Marilyn Holzwarth

You never know when something new about families will simply pop up. One such item was a letter from Jim Almquist who was seeking information about his John Elliott family in Bird City. Last year I copied what I had on file, and oops, I had a note that Nettie Elliott had been adopted. Since I had done some of this many years ago, I did not have a notation letting me know where I had learned this.

Please let this be a lesson to people working with families, put down your sources at all times! His searching finally paid off when he located a newspaper from Wilcox, Neb., that had a letter written by Charles Witham telling about the death of his wife Nettie in 1899. Nettie

was the adopted daughter of John Elliott, and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Hicks. Now Jim has another family to research. The puzzles go on and on when you do family history.

Would you like to volunteer some hours at the museum? It has been closed very often when no volunteer is there to keep it open, but so often if it is not open we have lost the chance to share our history with others.

The Cheyenne County Historical Society will welcome new members, join then and give them some great new ideas! Please attend the next Society meeting, the second Tuesday. This month the meeting is at 5 p.m. Aug. 13. The members welcome you!

Participate in an Upcoming Promotion in the

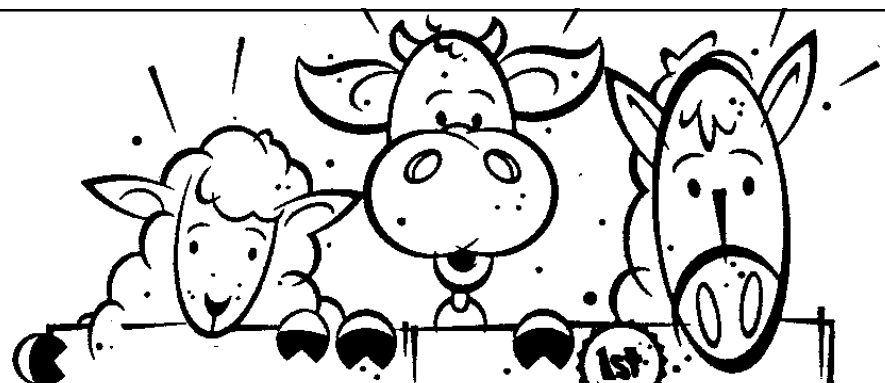
Bird City Times

The Saint Francis Herald



For more details, contact

Jennifer Boyles
at 785-332-3162



FAIR RESULTS -

Coming in August!

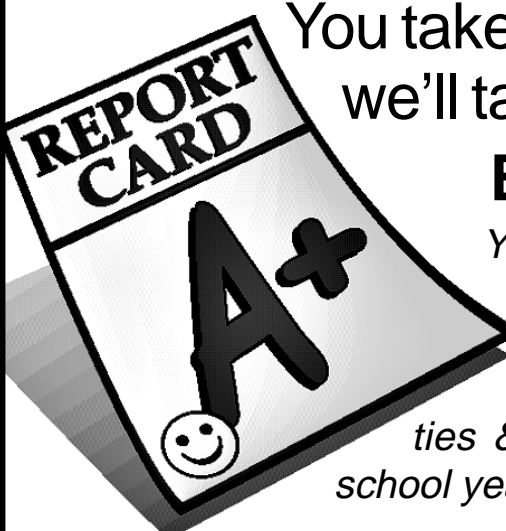
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THRESHER SHOW equipment was enjoyed by many during the annual Thresher Show several weeks ago. This is just one of the pieces in action but the name of the driver was unknown.

Times staff photo by Peggy Horinek

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