

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick

I'm not a vexillologist, but I know a good flag when I see one. In case you didn't know, a vexillologist is a person who studies flags. I'm not one. In fact, I'm lucky enough to be able to write this column each week, and that's done with a lot of help from my computer's spell check. But I don't have to be a specialist to appreciate the American flag, and neither do you! On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress approved the design of a national flag. As the story goes, George Washington commissioned a Philadelphia seamstress, Betsy Ross, to create a new flag for a new nation. Since then the 'Stars and Bars' has been through 27 versions. The last was made on July 4, 1960, when a 50th star was added for the new

state of Hawaii. In this day and age of disposable beliefs, 47 years without a change looks pretty good to me. There is a beauty in the red, white and blue of our flag. There is not a store front, public building or home that doesn't look better with one flying outside. Even in the corner of a classroom, it adds color and meaning. Wherever it waves, the American flag stands as a reminder of the great freedoms we have. That makes this country very unique. Since the flag came into being, it has been carried proudly by troops in every conflict America has been in. Be a patriot, pacifist, objector or other - the flag represents your freedom to be what you choose. You don't need to be a vexillologist to see the flag's beauty.

Closing of conservation offices announced

The closing of several Natural Resources Conservation Service county field office and consolidate operations with neighboring county offices has been announced. Harold L. Klaege, State Conservationist for the Service said the move was to more efficiently and effectively manage operations while meeting a declining budget. The Conservation Service is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. **Proposed Consolidations** The following are the field office consolidations. Chase County (Cottonwood Falls) will be consolidated with Lyon County (Emporia). Comanche County (Coldwater) will be consolidated with Barber County (Medicine Lodge). Geary County (Junction City) will be consolidated with Riley County (Manhattan). Gove County (Gove) will be consolidated with Logan County (Oakley). Johnson County (Olathe) will be consolidated with Miami County (Paola). Leavenworth County (Leavenworth) will be consolidated with Jefferson County (Oskaloosa). Morton County (Elkhart) will be consolidated with Stevens County (Hugoton). Wabaunsee County (Alma) will

be consolidated with Pottawatomie County (Westmoreland) and will be relocated to Wamego along with the Farm Service Agency office. Woodson County (Yates Center) will be consolidated with Wilson County (Fredonia). **Timeline for Consolidation** Before consolidation can take place, the National Food and Agriculture Council must approve the proposal. Following its approval, no county field office could be closed for 120 days, so it would be hard to start consolidation much before October 1, according to Mr. Klaege. In July 2006, Klaege announced to the Service's employees and county conservation district boards affected by the consolidation, and then the public, that a proposal for county field office consolidations had been developed because of forthcoming budget constraints. Even though offices will consolidate, the county conservation districts in counties where is closing a county field offices have indicated they are committed to maintaining a conservation office, according to Klaege. Through a partnership effort, Natural Resource Conservation employees will make regular visits to these district offices to provide technical assistance to producers as well as to the local conservation district. **Dollars Working Smarter** "Conservation workload is not a

Notice of meeting A special meeting of the governing body of the city of Bird City will be held at 7 a.m. Monday, June 18, at the city hall. The object of the meeting is to review and give permission for Mayor Troy Burr to sign the environmental assessment for the waste water plant. **Death Notice** Evelyn Troutt-Berry, Goodland died May 29 in Denver, Colo. Services will be in Goodland at the Goodland Bible Church June 21 at 10 a.m. Mountain Time. She is a sister of Bill Reade and Bonnie Burr. **Bigger Faster Stronger Total Program** Weight Training Clinic Friday, June 15 10 a.m. - 12 noon and 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Be An 11 Seminar from 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. For students grade 7 and up and for any adult over age 18. Hosted at the

Cheylin High School Gymnasium, Bird City. For more information call Laurie Leonard 785-734-2505 or Max Keltz 785-734-2634. **Wheat Field Day** Cheyenne County Wheat Field Day will be held on June 20. Field activities will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the field 5 miles south of Wheeler. The meal and program will take place at 6:30 p.m. at Wheeler Greenline. **Cheyenne County Commissioners** The commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. on Friday, June 15, in the commissioner's room at the courthouse. **Veterans Affairs** Jody Tubbs, of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs, will be in St. Francis at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, June 21, at the county clerk's office. You may also contact the

Veteran's Affairs office in Colby any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday at 785-462-3572. **Hospital holds reception** A going-away reception is being held for Craig and Nadja Button from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, June 13 at the band shell. **Movie in the Park** The St. Francis Recreation Commission is featuring "Movies in the Park" with show time beginning after dark, probably at 10 p.m., in the band shell at Sawhill Park. There is no admission. The next presentation "The Bird" will take place on Friday, June 16. **Flag burning ceremony** A flag burning ceremony is planned at the Cheyenne County Museum on June 14, Flag Day. **Board of Education** The Cheylin Board of Education will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 18. **Cheyenne County Hospital Board** The Cheyenne County Hospital Board will meet at 3 p.m., Thursday, June 28, in the basement of the clinic in St. Francis. **Carnival volunteers** The Cheyenne County home-

owned carnival is run by volunteers. Those wanting to help with rides, games and booths should contact DeEtta Knorr at 785-332-2551. **Recovery Today/Narcotics Anonymous** Recovery Today group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at 8 p.m. on Sunday nights at the United Methodist Educational Building. Call (785) 332-6542 or 8607 for more information. **Sainty Serenity Seekers/Alcoholics Anonymous** Sainty Serenity Seekers open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous is held at 7:30 p.m. each Thursday evening at the United Methodist Education Building at 104 W. Webster, St. Francis. Call (785) 332-6542 for more information. **Northwest Kansas Family Shelter** Northwest Kansas Family Shelter provides 24-hour-7 day-a-week services 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 if you are in need of assistance, please call the toll-free number 1-800-794-46

Honor Roll

New and renewed Times subscriptions: Lori Janicke, Bird City; Roger Sawyer, Bailey, Colo.; Nadine Flemming, Bird City; Oscar Johnson, Bird City; Stephen Mehyers, Medford, Ore.; Laurie Leonard, Bird City; Dwight Vallin, Long Island; Tina

Sager, Bird City; Sandy Binning, McDonald; Vera Kacirek, McDonald; Neitzel Insurance, St. Francis; Jessica Johnson, East Hanover, N.J.; Gerald Lillich, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Roy Shrader, Bird City; Wally Underwood, Bird City.

limiting factor in Kansas," said Mr. Klaege. "Kansas producers are conservation minded and want to put conservation on the ground. "The limiting factor," he said, "is a sufficient staff to handle the workload and by managing the county field office's a little differently, we can make the dollars work smarter for our customers by putting staff in locations with the heaviest workloads." **Mobile Office Technology** "It is hard to move bricks and mortar," said Mr. Klaege, "but we started a pilot project this year that uses mobile offices so our field staff can go where the workload is. Mobility allows our staff to meet with a farmer or rancher on the land and develop a conservation plan on-site." Currently, 15 employees are assigned pickups equipped with portable tablet computers, scanners,

printers, cell phones, and global positioning satellite receivers. With the latest technology, the Service employees are able to provide immediate access to natural resource data, such as soils, range sites, aerial photography, and Field Office Technical Guide information. The Service staff, with the producer, can develop a plan, discuss it, make changes, print it, and get it signed on the spot. "This technology," said Mr. Klaege, "is providing flexibility for our employees and enabling them to provide more technical assistance on the land." Visit your local Service's field office to learn more about natural resources conservation or more information is also available on the Kansas Web site at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov.

Bird City News

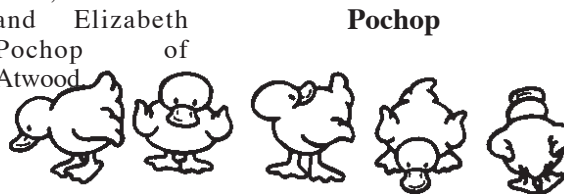
Visitors over the weekend of Dennis and Lila Howard were Chris, Dana and Mitchell Howard, Bird City, Gayle Loker, Adam, Janelle, Abigail and Colton Schneider, Lawson, Mo., Ryan, JC and Ava Magnani, Kearney, Neb., Ryan and Natasha Culwell, St. Francis and Pete Holubh, Thornton, Colo. All were here to attend the services of Ben Brogan. On May 26 Audrey (Shrader) Evins brought her two granddaughters Avery and Emma Evins of Great Bend to visit their great-grandma Edna Roesener and Paul. Audrey put a quilt in for her mom to quilt and took one she had finished home. Edna Roesener helped with the lunch after the Dick Boswell memo-

rial service on May 27 at St. John Lutheran Church. June 1 Karen Shrader and Edna Roesener helped celebrate Jaylene Shrader's birthday at Hanks Cafe in Goodland. Other guests were Jaylene's friends Lynn Swayne, Dee Spiker, Janet Seaman, and Alice Cress all of Goodland. Edna Roesener attended her grandson Grant Shrader's swim team events in Bird City on Saturday, June 2. Saturday evening Edna, Grant, and Emma Hopp attended the Cheylin Dance Team Cajun Dinner at the Bird City High School. Afterward Grant Shrader and friend Jeremiah White spent the night at Edna (grandma) Roesener's home.

Introducing

Gabrielle Madeline Pochop

Gabrielle Madeline Pochop was born to Levi and Bridget Pochop of McDonald on June 7, 2007, at Wray Community Hospital. She weighed 8 pounds, 10 ounces and was 21 1/2 inches long. Grandparents are Dave and Deb Flemming of Bird City and Gerard and Anita Pochop of Atwood. Great-grandparents are Wes Donohue of Benkelman, Neb., Nadine Flemming, Bird City, Ray Stehno, Stratton, Neb., and Frank and Elizabeth Pochop of Atwood.



SHOWTIME: 8:00 p.m. 2 hrs. 48 min.

Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End
Action/Adventure, Adaptation & Sequel
Rating: PG-13 for intense sequences of action/adventure violence and some frightening images.

Cheyenne Theater St. Francis, KS 785-332-2747
Children 11 & under: \$2 12-18 yr.: \$3 Senior Citizens: \$3 Adults: \$4

•• NOTICE ••
A Special Meeting of the Governing Body is hereby called to be held at the City Hall on **June 18, 2007 at 7:00 .m.** the object of said meeting being to review and give permission for Mayor Troy Burr to sign the **environmental assessment for the waste water plant.**

Come & Go Bridal Shower for SHANDI WESSELS AND COLTON ROESENER
Tuesday, June 19 7-9 p.m.
Bird City Senior Citizen Center

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JUNE IS DAIRY MONTH

Groundbreaking Ceremony
Wed., June 20
Bird City Dairy

BIRD CITY CENTURY II
Development Foundation
785-734-2556
"A COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE BIRD CITY COMMUNITY."

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

You're Invited

to a Going Away Reception for **Craig & Nadja Button**
Wednesday, June 13 7:30-9:00 p.m.
At the Band shell

Corrections
The Saint Francis Herald will correct or clarify any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at 332-3162 to report errors. We believe that news stories should be fair and factual, and appreciate your calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

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