



Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick

sc McCormick@nwkans.com
About six months ago I was lying in a hospital bed with family members at my side. I had an acute case of pancreatitis and it was uncertain if my time on earth would continue or come to a close.

A half-a-year later it seems clear that the dear Lord was not ready for me. With a second chance at life being given, I'm trying to take time each day to appreciate this opportunity and see the beauty around me.

Last weekend Lezlie, two of our boys, Trey and Joey, and I took a drive into the Rocky Mountains with my younger brother, his girlfriend and their dog.

We drove up I-70 to Idaho Springs and got on Highway 103.

The road was paved, two lanes that snaked up toward Mount Evans, passed by Echo Lake, crested at Squaw Pass and zig-zagged down to Bergen Park.

It was not a long drive, but the scenery was magnificent. Rugged outcroppings of gray stone shot up to the crystal blue sky, which was dotted with puffy white clouds. Majestic pine trees softened the edges of the rocks as brilliant bursts of aspen leaves came into view. As the breeze caught them, the gold and yellow shapes shimmered like ripples on water.

In my mind, the changing of the aspen in the mountains is much like a fireworks display held in place. The golden hues hang like explosions of color, if only for a few short days.

Dustin Krien

The Knights of Columbus is holding a benefit pancake feed for Dustin Krien to help with medical expenses from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 6, at the St. Francis Grade School. Check ad for menu.

Open House for Don Love

The family of Don Love is hosting a retirement party for him from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday at the St. Francis Senior Center. Friends and relatives are welcome to stop by for cookies and tea.

Fair Board

The Cheyenne County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 4, at the commissioner's room.

Hospital Guild

The Hospital Guild will meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, at the Senior Citizen's Center in St. Francis. The program will be given by Susan

Roelfs, county health nurse. Hostesses are Arlene Peter and Betty Loudon.

American Legion Post 137

American Legion Post 137 will host a meeting for all veterans and their families who wish to learn more about their earned Veteran Administration benefits at 11:20 a.m. on Tuesday, at the St. Francis Senior Center.

Bloodmobile in St. Francis

The American Red Cross will be in St. Francis from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Thursday at the grade school to collect blood.

Walk ins are welcome.

Historical Society Board meeting

The October Historical Society Board meeting has been changed to Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. There will be a general business meeting for Historical Society members on Tuesday, Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. A tour of northeast county cemeteries is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Sunday,

Oct. 21.

Prairie Land Food

Registration deadline for Prairie Land Food for October is Monday, Oct. 8. Pickup is from 12:30 to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 20, at the First Baptist Church. Call Lee Nichols, (785) 332-3581 for further information.

Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development

The 13th annual meeting of the Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development Area has been scheduled for 6:30 p.m. central time on Thursday, Oct. 11, at the Sugar Hills Golf Club house in Goodland.

Anyone interested in attending, please contact Western Prairie at (785) 42-2602.

Cheyenne County Commissioners

The commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 28, 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, Oct. 4, 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.

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. For information or if you are in need of assistance, please call the toll-free number 1-800-794-4624

Bulletin Board

Obituary

Ann Marie Wright

Jan. 3, 1950 - Sept. 5, 2007

Ann Marie Wright died of a massive heart attack on Sept. 5, 2007, at Goodland Regional Medical Center in Goodland, Kan., at the age of 57.

Ann, the fifth of six children, was born on Jan. 3, 1950, to Elsie Pauline Miller (Cook) and Robert Curtis Miller at the Cheyenne County Hospital in St. Francis. She grew up on the family farm 8 miles north of St. Francis.

In April of 1966, she was married to David Lynn Wright and they were blessed with two children, Tina Ann and Robert Lynn.

In her younger years, some of the things she enjoyed were spending time with her family, racing motorcycles, bowling, playing cards, cooking and working at Harland's Grill. One of her favorite things to make was banana cream pie, which was a delicious memory of everyone who ate a piece. She also loved knitting which she continued to do throughout her years and was quite an accomplishment being blind.

In March of 1977, she had a tragic vehicle accident that left her blind, mentally and physically handicapped. She spent four years

at the Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis and in 1981, she was moved to Goodland to Golden West Skills Center where she was cared for the rest of her living years.

Ann lived in the Golden West facility until 1998 at which point she moved into her own home in the Goodland community with three other patients and 24-hour supervision from home workers employed by Golden West. Her home family consisted of Jean Gaschler, Carrie Babcock and Tonya Heinrich.

One of her closest companions in the last seven years was house manager, Merla Staehne, employed by Golden West, who spent a lot of extra time with her, bringing her to St. Francis to have lunch with her family, going to concerts, shopping and doing special things with Ann that they both enjoyed.

Ann was always happy, loved to laugh and make others laugh. She was always easy going and when asking what she wanted to do, her reply was always "whatever." She had a lot of little sayings that she repeated to her family all the time. One of her favorites was "super-califragilisticexpialidocious" and she could spell it both forward and

backward, counting in German, and throwing in some spontaneous German words. She loved music, to say she loved it is an understatement. It was her companion, her solace at night, and a constant pleasure.

Ann is survived by her mother, Elsie Cook of St. Francis; her brother, Sam Miller of St. Francis, and four sisters, Esther Finkbinder of Clifton, Doris Fleckenstein of Jennings, Janice Apger of Sussex, N.J. and Toni Landenberger of St. Francis; her daughter, Tina Elliott of St. Francis, and her son, Rob Wright of Atwood; her granddaughter, Talisa Voorhies and grandson, Tyler Voorhies; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The memorial service was held on Sept. 7 at the First Christian Church in St. Francis, with Pastor Jeff Landers officiating. Songs sang by nephew, Chad Miller included "I Can See Clearly Now" and "You Are My Sunshine."

Casket bearers were grandson, Tyler Voorhies; nephew, J.D. Hawkins, uncle, Pat Redden, and friends of the family, Kenny Bracelin, Ryan Murray and Roger Orth.

Interment was at the St. Francis Cemetery.

Arrangements were by Knodel Funeral Home.



PLAYING THEIR GUITARS — Kenan Reeh and Eddie Frisbie at the Missouri Valley Music Festival. Photo courtesy of Dawn Petty

Club Clip

McDonald/Bird City

On Sept. 18, at the McDonald Senior Center, the McDonald/Bird City Red Hatters prepared a banquet fit for the St. Francis Red Hatters to feast upon.

Conversations were lively and laughter genuine as the McDonald/Bird City Queen, Phyllis Wingfield, greeted the honored guests and read some humorous facts befitting the red hat era.

Door prizes were awarded throughout the day. The lucky recipients were Donna Zimbelman, Madeleine Roberson and Rose Mary Bierig.

The after-lunch program was centered around "show and tell time," featuring items brought by all attending of a special or antique significance. This was opened by the ultimate show and tell when Owen Wingfield entered the center in his purple shirt and red hat with his 75-year old saw in hand and told the story of his love for the antique saw. He concluded his visit by mentioning the special 57 years he and Phyllis had been together.

The take-home favors were decorated red hats and a box of red hat, red hot candy.

St. Francis red hatters attending were Rose Mary Bierig, Neva DeGood, Paulette Grubb, Helene Landenberger, Nancy McCumber, Mary Lou Munn, Eilene Nolan, Ilene O'Leary, Ruth Reynolds, Madeleine Roberson, Charlsie Rogers, Valjean Schultz, Arlene Walz, Dolores Wiley, Raedell Winston, Donna Zimbelman and Bernice Zweygardt.

The Bird City/McDonald red hatters attending were Ana Anholz, Frieda Black, Bonnie Burr, Vernetta

Haack, Beverly Higgins, Diane Krebs, Betty Lewis, Iris McIntosh, Lois Morelock, Edna Roesener, Joan Tongish, Margaret Voorhies and Queen Phyllis Wingfield.

At the business meeting, plans were made to have lunch on Oct. 10, with the afternoon activity being the construction of a red hat scarecrow to be entered in the contest on Oct. 12-14 at the Peoples State Bank north lot. May your votes allow the red hatters to win.

WANTED - HOUSING

Housing availability is very important to future business development opportunities. Bird City Century II Development Foundation keeps an up-to-date file on homes to rent or sell. If you have a home to rent or sell, whether listed with a realtor or not, please let us know.

centuryii@bcks.net

BIRD CITY CENTURY II
Development Foundation
785-734-2556

"A COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE BIRD CITY COMMUNITY."

SHOWTIME: 7:30 p.m.

2 hrs. 20 min.

Sept 28, 29 & 30

Action/Adventure,
Thriller and Sequel

Starring: Bruce Willis, Timothy
Olyphant, Maggie Q, Jeffrey Wright,
Mary Elizabeth Winstead

Live Free or
Die Hard

Rating: PG-13 for intense
sequences of violence and
action, language and a brief
sexual situation.

Cheyenne Theater

St. Francis, KS
785-332-2747

Children 12 & under: \$3

All Others: \$5

Effective Oct. 5

Come & Go Baby Shower for

JENNIFER & MAHRA PADGETT

Sunday, September 30

2-4 p.m.

St. Francis Public Library

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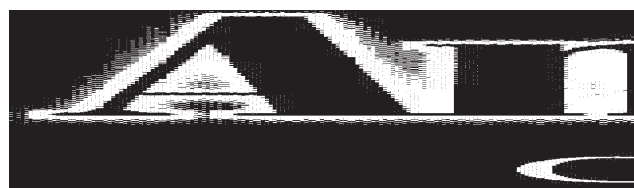
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