



Bulletin Board

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick
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Someone asked me the other day if I would be going to Denver for the Democratic National Convention to be held Aug. 25-28. I doubt if I'll make that one.

Even though I am not a Democrat and my political views lean more to the right, I think the event would be interesting from a historical point-of-view. It has been 100 years since the Mile-High City has hosted the convention.

But I'm afraid the police and local officials are going to have their hands full.

Two groups have promised to make themselves heard. One is Recreate '68 and the other is a band of self-professed Anarchist.

The 1968 Democratic National Convention was held in Chicago and was marred by violence. Protesters of the Vietnam War clashed with Chicago police and National Guardsmen, as Mayor Richard Daley tried to use the powers at hand to combat mob violence.

The Recreate '68 group plans to have 50,000 anti-war protesters in

Denver during the convention.

I don't know what to think about the other group. It's a little hard to take any organization seriously that calls themselves "anarchist." After all, how long would a society last if everyone was doing their own thing? And how would you recognize who is in the group and who isn't?

When I was in college, at Metropolitan State in Denver, I saw on campus where someone had spray painted on a building, "Anarchy is Freedom!" I kind of doubt if it would be the same kind of "freedom" we have in a Democratic government.

Winston Churchill stated, "It has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all the others that have been tried." And freedom of speech is a good thing, even if it comes from idiots.

So no, I won't be going to Denver in August. But I will be hoping that Mayor John Hickenlooper and the Denver police don't have another 1968.

Letters From Linda

By Linda Schneider
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Am I hearing it right? Barrels of oil have dropped a whole \$16 since the President asked for permission to open up oil exploration off the coast.

Now, what really happened here? Truly, nothing has been done other than asking for permission. How can that be? Who suggested a drop in oil prices over speculation?

No new oil sources have been discovered yet, but the prices are already dropping. I don't get it. Maybe I am the only one who thinks that the rising gas prices were suspicious in the first place and oil exploration is one of those "slight of the hand" tricks.

You know the trick I am talking about, a guy asks for a quarter from you, waxes his hands about and shows you he has nothing in his hands, then reaching up with his right hand pulls the quarter out of your ear. Then when you are amazed at the producing of the

coin, he slips his left hand over the quarter and "Wah-lah" the quarter magically disappears. You walk away, he walks away and slides the quarter in his pocket.

Now I will explain the trick. I gave the oil company my quarter through purchasing gas at the pump, the "waving" is the oil companies explaining there have been no price gouging going on; so, where did my quarter go?

Now watch closely because this is the tricky part. To magically produce the quarter from my "left ear" I have to believe my quarter in not in the oil company's hand, but really it is and it is called record breaking profits.

So, are you still with me? For a brief moment, I get to see my lost quarter and think I am getting it back, but then the oil companies quickly pass a left hand over it and "Aaaah" it's gone again. I turn and walk away, oil company turns, walks away and slips my quarter into their pocket again.

Public hearing held to answer questions

Before the Bird City Council convened for their monthly meeting, a public hearing was held to answer questions about the Community Development Block Grant that was being submitted for consideration under the housing category.

Attending the hearing was Wanda Dowdy, Melvin and Dorothy Mast, and Delbert and Rosemary Powell. The questions cen-

tered over concerns about state inspections of lead-base paint and the needs of each house. Councilman Wade Carmichael was able to answer most of the questions.

The deadline for the application is Aug. 29 and the grant award will be announced on or about Jan. 5.

"Your efforts in this matter are appreciated," said Mrs. Mast.



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Senior Center
The August birthdays will be celebrated at the Bird City Senior Center at 3 p.m. on Monday.

Senator in St. Francis
St. Francis Chamber will be hosting a "town hall meeting" with Senator Sam Brownback on Tuesday, Aug. 12, at 10:30 a.m. at Main St. Coffee.

Card shower
The family of Elsie Hofman is requesting a card shower in honor of her 90th birthday on Aug. 11. Cards will reach her at P.O. Box 339, Imperial, NE 69033

Hunter Safety class
A hunter's safety course will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 12, Thursday, Aug. 14, Friday, Aug. 15 and at 9 a.m. on Aug. 16. The Saturday class will last much of the day. There is no

charge for the class.
The classes are held at the Cheyenne County Wildlife club house.

This year the class is being limited to 25 and those interested will need to pre-register by calling Chet Gardner at (785) 332-2776.

Cheyenne County Museum
The Cheyenne County Museum will be closed on Friday, Aug. 8, due to the Cheyenne County Fair.

Historical Society
The board of the Cheyenne County Historical Society will meet on Tuesday, Aug. 12 at 2:30 p.m. at the Museum. At 5 p.m. on Aug. 12, the Historical Society will meet at the band shell for an Insider's Tour.

Veterans Affairs
Jody Tubbs, of the Kansas Com-

mission on Veterans' Affairs, will be in St. Francis at 9:30 a.m. today (Thursday), at the county clerk's office. People may also contact the Veteran's Affairs office in Colby any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday at 785-462-3572.

Treasure Hunt map
Those planning to participate in the Sept. 19, 20 and 21 U.S. 36 Border to Border Treasure Hunt and want to listed on the St. Francis Treasure Hunt map need to contact Betty Orth, area coordinator, at 785-332-2540 or 785-332-4024.

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 in need of assistance, please call the toll-free number 1-800-794-4624.

Options given for courthouse steps

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkansas.com
The commissioners were given three options in repairing the courthouse steps when they met Thursday, July 31. They chose option three.

Eric Johnson, architect with Campbell and Johnson, said the commissioners were at a turning point. They had, as he saw it, three options: 1) drop the project; 2) pursue the way it was started; or 3) modify the plans to fit the original construction.

If they were to drop the project, the steps would remain closed.

Also attending the meeting were Linus Schamber and Len Schamber of Shamber Historical Preservation; and Paul Underwood, Mid-Continental Restoration.

When the project had been put out for bids earlier, the bids had come in over the grant limit and there was a problem getting reasonable bids for other areas.

Linus said their company was interested in bidding on the project but not with the plan now in place. They wanted to start from a point of total restoration. This would meet the Kansas Historical Society's requirements but there was a problem with the budget.

"The full restoration will cost more money because there is more construction work," he said.

We are not, he said, interested in doing the original plan because there are too many complications — It is not a good road to go because, he said, in the end there will be additional problems.

We are different, he said. There aren't too many people who want to do historical and preservation work. It is tedious, labor intensive work, he said, noting that most people want to do the work quickly.

"It's all about experience and patience," he said. "It could take weeks to get all the concrete out

but the ultimate result is, you will have a restored building with something that is accurate and will last longer than the original steps."

The Schamber's proposal was to go back to square one. The cement steps, which were deemed unsafe by the insurance company, would be carefully removed so as not to damage the brick sides of the steps. All of the dirt which had been placed in the steps' cavity would be removed. The pillars which hold the floating stones would be rebuilt.

The commissioners learned several things about stones: 1) They "breathe" and need to be exposed to air. That is why they were installed as floating steps to begin with. 2) By removing the dirt, the moldy smell in the basement would go away. During cold weather, the door to the cavity under the steps could be opened and the warmth from the building would heat the underneath sides of the stone, thus, little or no ice would form on the steps.

They talked about putting up a barrier so cars and trucks could not get on the steps. They said the weight of the vehicles on the steps was what had broken one of the original stones into two pieces.

Mr. Underwood said the stone would need to be quarried to cer-

tain lengths and this would take up to 12 weeks. Since the building is 80 years old, it is impossible to get the exact same stone as that quarry is no longer in operation. However, there is a stone which will match well.

In the end, Andy Beikman, commissioner, said that at this point, there wasn't a lot of choice. And this time, he wanted to make sure the steps were put in right.

The steps will probably cost more money. Originally, they had been estimated to cost \$97,980 with a Heritage Foundation Grant through the Kansas Historical Society giving \$78,384 and the county coming up with the rest. Now, it is looking like the cost could be as much as \$150,000.

Recently, the Doris Kite Warren family donated \$500 to the steps in memory of Mrs. Warren. The commissioners are hoping there will be other donations coming in. There is also a possibility of getting another grant.

Mr. Johnson said the courthouse is a beautiful, well-kept building. Unique is the fact that the original plans and shop drawings are still available. Terry Miller, clerk, had also taken some photos of the pillars before the dirt was filled in.

Mr. Johnson went back to the drawing board and he will be contacting the commissioners when he has further information.

Sheriff reports at city council meeting

At the monthly Bird City Council meeting, Sheriff Craig Van Allen reported deputies performed over 200 hours of patrol and casework in the city of Bird City for the month of July.

Sheriff Van Allen said there has been an increase of departmental hours in July due partly to the increase of criminal activities and the training of deputy Ted McCoy.

Deputies responded to two motor vehicle accidents, five noise complaints; one battery, two prowler, two missing people, one child abuse, one indecent liberty with a child and two criminal damage to investigations.

Included with the report were three traffic warnings, one traffic citation, two civil stand bys, two requests for law enforcement, one report of natural gas smell, one motorist assist.

The deputies also checked and

found four open doors on businesses, two lights on in businesses (Thresher show grounds), and two reported skunk calls.

Mayor Troy Burr asked Sheriff Van Allen what he attributed the increase of criminal activities?

"It may be the heat of the summer and/or the increase of gasoline prices might also be a stress factor," he said.

He added that law enforcement agencies consider 60- to 65-percent resolution to be good and the Cheyenne County Sheriff Department is at 90-percent resolution. In addition, Sheriff Van Allen said he sees the criminal activity decreasing after the summer.

Sheriff Van Allen expressed desire to have a sheriff office in Bird City at some time in the future that would be opened a few days of the week to the citizens.



SHOWTIME: 8:00 p.m. 1 hr. 50 min.

Enjoy the 2008 Cheyenne County Fair!!

CHEYENNE THEATER St. Francis, KS 785-332-2747
Children 12 & Under: \$3 All Others: \$5

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

"Swing Fore Your Health"

FORE!

The Cheyenne County Hospital will be having their 6th Annual "Swing Fore Your Health" golf tournament on Sunday, Sept. 7 with registration beginning at noon and tee-off at 1 p.m. The tournament will be \$60 per person and in the format of a 3-person scramble with prizes awarded for the top winners of each flight. For more information or to sign up a team, please contact Shawna or Heidi at 332-2104.

Dundy County Hospital's Health Fair
Benkelman, Nebraska
Friday, August 15, 2008
2 - 6 p.m.

Lab screening tests at reduced rates. Blood draws to be held prior to health fair in your community.
\$30 — general screening & \$10 PSA

Health Information Booths Attending

AirCare; Area Agency on Aging; Benkelman Pharmacy; Stevens Hearing; Community Healthcare & Hospice; Heartland Counseling; DC Ambulance; DCH Foundation; Sarah Ann Hester Home; Frontier Home Medical; NE Game & Parks - Boating Safety; KC Stout Assisted Living; Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Services; Burrows Vision Clinic; DC Head Start; SW Public Health Dept.; Apria Healthcare; Peoples Family Health Services; NAF Multicultural Development; NE Commission for the Blind; and Wyoming Mobile Services. Several DCH departments will have informational booths available also.

website: bwtelcom.net/dch

dch
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For more information contact: **Casey at 785-332-3162**