



Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick

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I love the beginning of a new baseball season. Something about the fresh start of another year of the "American pastime" reassures you that, no matter what else is wrong with our nation, we still have baseball!
I have a funny baseball story that is made better by living in an ag area.
Year's ago, during the off season, Yankee great Mickey Mantle and his teammate, Billy Martin, were going hunting. They showed up at a farm where Mantle had hunted before. The farmer said it would be okay but asked the baseball player to do

a favor. Could he shoot an old horse for him?
Mantle agreed but thought he would have a little fun at the volatile Martin's expense. As he walked back to the truck he cussed and grabbed his shotgun.
"That *!#!* farmer said we can't hunt his land," Mantle said, "I'll show him!"
So he walks up to the old horse and shoots.
However, to his surprise, Martin jumps out of the vehicle and begins running all over the farmyard shooting all the animals in sight.
There is something you got to love about ballplayers and their humor.

Letters from Linda

By Linda Schneider

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Are you pondering what I am pondering? If you are not, someone you know is pondering what I am pondering. "Are these the end times?" It could be, but what I want to know is what evolution scientists think about these times.
Really, what do they think when humans lose all sense of personal responsibility for acting on every impulse? What do they hypothesize is going on in the evolution of man? Are we transgressing to the survival of the fittest? Do lifestyle choices really matter in deciding the world's future population? Do we really have a choice at all or are we just products of the laws of nature?
Truly, all this science talk does is reduce humans to mere physical beings not much different than primates and it does not address how we are different from them. You know, some ancient

Greeks theorized the only difference between a human being and a plucked chicken were flat fingernails. But there is a difference, we can have virtues and have the capacity to choose right from wrong, oh yes we can.
So when I hear about a gunman walking into a public place and start shooting because someone made fun of his English, or was fired, or was not allowed on a field trip or some other incomprehensible reason, I ponder what scientists think about and where does it all fit on the evolution ladder.
Something has gone wrong and the answer is not as simple as a freckle evolving into an eye, it's how humans behave when moral responsibilities and consequences become fuzzy.
As for thinking it is the "end times" I think we are probably in the "mankind does as he pleases" times, which eventually leads to the end times, in my opinion.

Bird City News

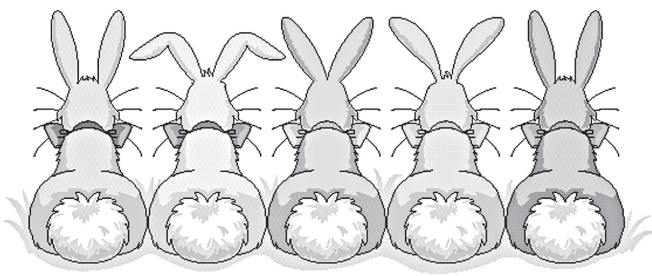
During Phyllis Wright's recovery from her March 16 surgery on her left ankle, she stayed at the home of her mother, Meta Dankenbring, and many friends and family stopped by for a visit.
Among the visitors were her

husband Gerald, Donna Wright, Maria Kamla, Don Bruder, Maynard and Lucille Wright, and Canda Orten all of Bird City. Also, Bethel Goltl of McDonald, Keith and Cinda Dankenbring, and Vic Dankenbring of St. Francis.

School Menu

No School Monday
Tuesday, April 14
Breakfast: oatmeal, boiled egg
Lunch: ham and cheese Stromboli
Wednesday, April 15
Breakfast: tornado
Lunch: baked potato bar, roll
Thursday, April 16
Breakfast: sausage patty

Lunch: grilled cheese, tomato soup
Friday, April 17
Breakfast: french toast
Lunch: barbecue rib sandwich, fries
Breakfast is served with toast, cereal, juice and milk
Lunch is served with salad bar, fruit and milk



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Cheylin sports

Today (Thursday), Cheylin junior high track team travels to Benkelman, Neb. The meet starts at 10 a.m.
High school and junior varsity track teams go to Goodland on Monday. Starting time is 4:45 p.m. High school track team goes to Colby on Tuesday with a 10:30 a.m. start.

Story time

Story time will be at 10 a.m. on Friday, weather permitting.

State Music Festival

On Thursday, April 16 in Colby will be the State Music Festival for large groups. It is an all-day event and admission is free.

Bird City celebrates 125 years

Preparations for the 2010 celebration of 125 years for Bird City are already in the making. Anyone interested in becoming involved by volunteering or presenting ideas contact City Hall at 785-734-2616 and let the city clerk know. Look for updates in the months ahead!

Center celebrates April birthday

The Senior Center will be celebrating April birthdays at 3 p.m. Monday.

Home Circle Club

Home Circle Club will meet at 2 p.m. on Thursday, April 16, at the Manor. Hollis DaPrin will be the

hostess.

Spring Planting Kick-Off

Bird City Community Club is hosting a "Spring Planting Kick-Off" party at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 19, at the Legion Hall.

There will be cards, games and visiting for all ages with a pancake and sausage supper from 5:30 to 6:30. Join in cards, a silent auction and an afternoon of fun.

AARP Drivers Safety Program

Volunteer instructor, Don Keihl, will present the AARP Driver Safety Program from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22, at the St. Francis Senior Center. The class size is limited to 30 participants. Call 785-332-3584 or Don at 785-890-6638 to register. The instructor will use a combination of group discussion and video clips for the 8-hour class. The program has helped million of drivers remain safe on today's roads.

Alzheimer's/Dementia Support Group

The Alzheimer's/Dementia Support Group will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Monday at the St. Francis Public Library.

AARP

AARP will be having their April meeting at 2 p.m. on Thursday at the Senior Center. The program will be at 2:30 with Rick Reeser speaking on wind turbines.

Chatting with Cathy

By Cathy Domsch

Agritourism is the intersection of agriculture and tourism. I have written about agritourism in my Chatting column before, but it has been awhile. A couple of weeks ago I attended the Kansas Agritourism Conference in Great Bend, and I plan to share a few ideas that I gathered from the different break-out sessions I participated in over the two-day conference.

Our keynote speaker was Darren Schmall, The Pizza Farmer. Check out www.thepizzafarm.com to confirm what I am about to tell you. The Pizza Farmer grows everything needed to make a pizza in a 150' diameter circle, from wheat for the crust, tomatoes for sauce, onions, green peppers, pigs for sausage/pepperoni, cows for cheese, and whatever else you would like to fill eight pizza sections!

What a great educational tool for an agritourism business to increase traffic. You don't have to wait until the crops are mature, but let the kids on school tours plant the crops, weed, water - extend your agritourism season by letting different groups pay you to help you raise your crop, then they pay you to pick and take home the produce! (He is a great marketing guru-very motivational!)

The two sessions I chose to attend the first day were Marketing 101: The Basics of Marketing Your Farm or Ranch, and Hiring and Keeping Great Employees. These sessions were great, giving ideas on how to get more people to spend more time and more money, giving people an experience in return.

You may wonder 'why' I attended this conference. There are different reasons, but here are a couple of them: 1) I believe that we could pull together and create an agritourism cluster in our area, a group of agritourism adventures that could be a great way to promote our area and increase income on our family farms and for our community, and 2) I truly feel that by implementing some of these ideas into one awesome tourist attraction that we already have, we can increase attendance and participation in our Thresher Show.

If you are interested in learning more about agritourism, please give me a call (785-734-2556) or stop by the Foundation office to chat. I will be back next week with more information from the conference - in the meantime, check out the article in this issue of the Bird City Times for information on the website development workshop we are hosting!

The City of Bird City is accepting applications for

Pool Manager & Lifeguards

Applications available at the Bird City City Office
Must be 15 years old by employment time.



C E N T E R
Calving Ease Efficiency Numbers Type End Product Real Profit
(balanced EPD's) (phenotype) (carcass traits)

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Tribune, Ks.

Check your renewal dates
-- Current Rates --

The Saint Francis Herald

Area - \$33 KS - \$38
Out-of-State - \$42

Bird City Times
KS - \$30
Out-of-State - \$34

American Profile

Celebrating Hometown Life

See American Profile magazine in this week's issue of

The Bird City Times

(available in local area only)

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

Bulletin Board

The hostess will be Ilene Raile. All are welcome to join the members.

Museum's days/hours

The Museum of Cheyenne County is now open on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons from 2 to 5 p.m., and on most Sunday afternoons from 2 to 5 p.m. It will not be open on Easter.

Historical Society Board meeting

The Cheyenne County Historical Society Board meeting will be held at 3 p.m. on Tuesday at the Cheyenne County Museum.

Open house

Ready for an afternoon out? The Museum of Cheyenne County will be hosting an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 26. There will be fellowship, popcorn from the old theater popper and other surprises. Come for a great afternoon.

Diamond Jubilee

People are asked to keep in mind the Sawhill Park and Band Shell Diamond Jubilee is set for May 31 in the park. People are needed to help with entertainment and games. Call Dorothy at 332-2339 or Janet, 332-3569 for more information or to volunteer.

Congressman visits St. Francis

Congressman Jerry Moran will be in St. Francis from 7 to 7:30 p.m. on Monday at the Church of Christ meeting room, 502 W. Spencer.

Veterans Affairs

Jody Tubbs, of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs, will be in St. Francis at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, April 16, 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.

Sappa Valley Shootout

The Sappa Valley Shootout Youth 3-on-3 basketball tournament will be held in Oberlin on Saturday, April 25. Boys and girls in grades one through eight are eligible to participate. The tournament will be held in the Decatur Community Junior/Senior High School gym. Entry forms are available for download at sappavalleyshootout.com.

com and will also be available at area schools. Entry fee is due by April 17.

For more information, visit the website or call Angie Erickson at (785) 322-5338.

Free tax preparation

Free tax preparation for young and old, Wednesdays at the St. Francis Public Library from 2 to 5 p.m. and Thursdays at the St. Francis Senior Center again from 2 to 5 p.m. Bring last year's tax return, and your property tax statement which you received last November. Or for an appointment call Rowland Roelfs, (785) 332-3490

Tax help in Bird City/ St. Francis/McDonald

For those 60 and older needing tax help in filing forms in Cheyenne and Rawlins counties, help is available beginning Feb. 3: in Bird City on Tuesday mornings, St. Francis on Tuesday afternoons (1-4) and McDonald on Wednesday mornings. Call Johnene Cheney at (785) 538-2526 for appointment or more information.

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.



SHOWTIME: 7:30 p.m.

1 hr. 38 min.

Race to Witch Mountain

April 10, 11 & 12

Dwayne Johnson, Ciaran Hinds, Anna-Sophia Robb, Alexander Ludwig, Carla Gugino

Action/Adventure, Kids/Family, Thriller, Adaptation and Remake

PG for sequences of action and violence, frightening and dangerous situations, and some thematic elements.

CHEYENNE THEATER

St. Francis, KS
785-332-2747

Children 12 & Under: \$3

All Others: \$5



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820 S. Denton St.
St. Francis, KS 67756
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Fax: 785-332-2716

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Wanted:

ATV Youth Riders
April 18, 2009

Cheyenne County Fairgrounds
Start Time 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. CST

Lunch will be provided
Bring your ATV, helmet and safety gear if you have them. If not please join us and take part in this program.

Safety education program by Roger Zweggardt
Pre-register by April 15th to the Cheyenne County Extension Office 785-332-3171
Program is FREE!!