

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick

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This is a time when hope seems to call out.

Last weekend our family sat in a crowded gymnasium as we watched a middle son graduate from high school. His future is a blank slate just waiting for many marks he will make as he moves along with new experiences. Sure there will be mistakes and difficulties, but he will learn and grow from them.

Looking at his older and younger siblings, there is hope that they are doing the right

things. Those in school are working hard and the oldest is working to move forward.

But what really gives me hope now is in the beautiful green fields that are waving in the breeze. The sight of wheat transforming from seed to long grass will never grow old to me. What better example of our dear Lord's creation could there be?

And there is hope that it will continue doing well until harvest, with mild weather and nourishing rains. Ah, life is good and hope is all around!

Letters from Linda

By Linda Schneider
dublinks@hotmail.com

Time marches on! I don't know if you have heard the latest President Obama proclamation, but he says we are not a Christian nation. Of course, he added Jewish and Muslim to the statement, but then we were not founded on those principals.

And because of those Christian principals, other religions are allowed to freely practice in their places of worship without persecution, it is the American way.

I want to bring this up for consideration — Let the past go and move on to building a future for our nation, and we can go one of

two ways, but not both. We can build up our country as a Christian nation, or not.

We can honor the sanctity of life at all stages of growth, or let the government sanction abortion, embryonic stem cell research and euthanasia. We can take personal responsibility for our finances, or let the government socialize our finances. We can help our neighbors, or let the government socialize charity. In addition, we can weigh our words and not speak bigotry, resentment or in hate, or let the government socialize our freedom of speech.

I have found there are a couple of things this presidential administration has accomplished. One, it broke down racial walls and the other is Americans are taking a stand on issues that are important to the integrity of our nation. I want to say Christians are taking a stand on important issue and they are, but very slowly. Sorry.

We want a sign from God. It's here, we are just confused on how "the sign" is supposed to appear. The sign is God is talking to His people and revealing His plan. Jesus said that the reason you do not hear from God is that you are not His child, and a child will always answer when his/her parent calls or get a whip'n.

The latest Gallop Poll said 51 per cent of Americans are now pro-life, 42 per cent pro-choice. Did you hear God's voice in that — or not?

Bird City News

Mr. and Mrs. Maynard Wright were honored on their 70 wedding anniversary May 14.

A festive dinner with hors d'oeuvres, salmon and turkey on the grill with all the trimmings, and a decorated cake was prepared by the family.

Present for the occasion were Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Don Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Wright, and their children, Grace, Abigail and Andrew of Bird City; and Mr. and Mrs. James Moon of Westchester, Ohio.

Scott Smith and Skeeter were weekend guests of Shona Gleason in Ellis.

Bulletin Board

Memorial service

Memorial services will be held for Elden Deroy Pettit, II at 2 p.m. on Saturday, at the Bird City Methodist Church.

Vacation Bible School

Bird City Community Vacation Bible School will start on Tuesday and go until Friday and begins at 4 p.m. through 6:30 p.m. It will be held in the Cheylin Elementary School. Volunteers are welcomed. For more information contact Jane Brubaker at 785-734-2739, Phyllis Wright at 785-734-2611, or Dan Carson at 785-734-2727. (see bake sale ad in the classifieds.)

Be a loser!

Join the Bird City "Biggest Loser Challenge!" Learn healthy eating tips and recipes while enjoying fun activities. For more information, contact DeAnza at 785-734-2404, or Shayla at 785-734-7143. (see classified ad).

This event is sponsored by individuals and not affiliated with the City of Bird City.

Senior potluck

Due to the Memorial Day holiday, there will not be a potluck at the Bird City Senior Center this month.

Cheyenne County Spring Livestock Show

The Cheyenne County Spring Livestock Show (beef, sheep, swine and goats) begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday at the Cheyenne County Fairgrounds. Concessions are available.

Veterans' Memorial Service at WaKeeney

Kansas Veterans Cemetery at WaKeeney will hold the 5th Annual Memorial Day Service at 10 a.m. on Monday at 403 South 13th in WaKeeney.

Guest speakers will be Retired General Philip Finley, former Adjutant General of Kansas. The program includes a number of activities including a KC-135 Refueling Tanker flyover.

Ornamental Grasses

The Conservation in the Landscape Yard and Lawn Series presented by Cheyenne County Resource Conservation and Development, Sunflower Extension District Master Gardeners and the Bird City Century II Foundation will feature Ornamental Grasses at 7 p.m. today (Thursday) at the American Legion Hall in Bird City. Christy Rasure, K-State Master Gardener will give the program.

Offices closed on May 25

Ad, picture and story deadline for the May 28 issue of *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times* will be at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26, as the office will be closed on Memorial Day (Monday, May 26). The newspapers will be published and delivered one day later that week.

Hope Valley Cemetery

Clean-up day at Hope Valley Cemetery is on Thursday, May 21, at 8 a.m. mountain time; 9 a.m. central time.

The Memorial Day program will be at 2:30 p.m. mountain time, 3:30 central time, on Sunday, May 24. Pastor Rossbach will be the guest speaker.

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the fellowship.

Diabetes Support Group meeting change

The new date for the Diabetes Support Group meeting is 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 27, in the Cheyenne County Clinic basement. The program topic is foot care.

Junior golf practice

Youth interested in participating in the junior golf program at Riverside Recreation should be at Riverside at 10 a.m. on Friday. The practice sessions last from 10 a.m. to noon with the tournament schedule to be printed when available.

A golfer must have turned 8-years-old by Jan. 1 or no more than 17-years-old on that same date to be eligible.

Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging

The Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging and the Kansas Department on Aging will sponsor a training for the Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas program on July 7, 8 and 14. Pre-registration is required. This is a free program. For more information, contact Glenna Clingsmith at the agency at 1-800-432-7422 or (785) 628-8204.

Veterans Affairs

Jody Tubbs, of the Kansas Commission 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.

Diamond Jubilee

People are asked to keep in mind the Sawhill Park and Band Shell Diamond Jubilee set for May 31 in

the park. Support the band shell restoration by buying a balloon, two or more, for the 75-balloon salute. See classified ad for more information or call Dorothy at 785-332-2339 or

Janet, 332-3569.

Correction

The front page picture of Throwing in last week's Bird City Times is of Ruben Razo.

Chatting with Cathy

By Cathy Domsch

Wow! I think these past few days have just been beautiful. I love spring — trimming back old debris from shrubs and planting new flowers, and having the windows open all night so you can wake up to the birds singing. Maybe we can use the spring terminology for Business Attraction: Positioning Our Community, another topic at the Heartland Economic Development Course last month. We can trim back old debris by cleaning up dilapidated properties downtown and throughout the community, and plant new flowers or plant that 'something extra', an incentive maybe, that can win the deal, or attract that business to our community. Then we can watch the birds, or community members, patronize our businesses and everything grows together. Ok, maybe I'm reaching to fulfill the metaphors, but I hope you get the idea.

Economic Development is not rocket science, but it does entail putting a plan together and fol-

lowing through with that plan. The 3 P's of recruiting a business includes: Product, Process and Passion. We need to be well versed on our Product - our community, buildings, incentive plans, business opportunities. We need to streamline the Process for prospective business owners — who do they talk to first, what does the city offer, what financing is available in our area? We need to have Passion — about our community, current businesses, our residents. Are you the cheerleader for our community or the "negative Nancy"? We all need to have a positive attitude to be successful in all parts of community and economic development program, and I think we are doing a great job at that!

I plan to pull out our Strategic Plan again about June 1st and see how well we are following through with our plan. If you would like to take a look at it with me, stop by and we'll have some coffee/cookies and chat about it! Have a great Memorial Weekend!

McDonald News

By Vera Kacirek

Gail and Kay Miller and Frances Erickson had weekend guests who came for Justin Miller's graduation. Val and Blaine Hubbard and Maggie of Siloam Springs, Ark., Lori Driskill and Clark Engbrsch of Wichita, Rick and Judy Erickson of Fort Morgan, Colo. Additional Saturday supper guests

were Sheila and Todd Konitzer and family of Olathe, and Randy and Sue Miller.

Three Cheylin seniors received scholarships from the McDonald Alumni Association. They were Debbie Banister, Jayden Cahoj and Justin Miller.

SHOWTIME: 8 p.m.

1 hr. 42 min.

Hannah Montana: The Movie

May 22, 23 & 24

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Diabetes Support Group Meeting

Notice of Date Change

New Date: Wednesday, May 27, 2009

1:30 p.m.

Cheyenne County Clinic Basement
Program Topic
Foot Care

For more information contact Mila Bandel,
County Health Nurse at 785-332-2381

DRIVE SAFELY-SCHOOL'S OUT

**Dance at
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The Bird City Times

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Cheylin Swim Team
will be meeting
at 7 p.m. today (Thursday)
at the Cheylin gymnasium

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Sydney Busse \$2,500 Jay Keithline \$1,000
Justin Miller \$1,500 Nikki Johnson \$1,000
Mandie Walden \$1,500 Jacob White \$800
Tia Sager \$1,200 Rex Weishapl \$800

Tyler Miller \$500

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For more information contact:
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