

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick
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Last week I was asked to speak at the Saint Francis Cemetery on Memorial Day. This was by request of the local veteran's group. It was the second time I have been given the honor.

For my column this week I'm going to cheat a little, rather than coming up with something original, by putting some of my speech in this space.

There are three things that I feel passionate about and that go together: America, service personnel and baseball. The best way to see this is during the period that followed the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

The commissioner of baseball, Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, and the owners weren't sure if the games should be stopped all together. But President Roosevelt sent a letter to Landis stating, "I honestly feel that it would be best for the country to keep baseball going."

He knew the people working at home on the war effort would need a break, which baseball would pro-

vide. But he also knew most of the able-bodied ballplayers would need to go to war.

And that they did.

Many of us know of the big names who fought valiantly. Ted Williams, Yogi Berra, Warren Spahn and Bob Feller are just a few. These men returned to still have successful careers in their sport.

But some other players weren't so lucky. Cecil Travis, a star shortstop, had his feet frozen during the siege of Bastogne and never played again.

Elmer Gedeon was killed in France in 1944. Harry O'Neil died on Iwo Jima in March, 1945. Also lost there was an outstanding pitching prospect named Jimmy Trimble.

Talking to veterans of this era there is one common theme: "We had a job to do ... and we did it."

Baseball was a game, but fighting Imperial Japan and Nazi Germany was a job.

So, today, we can remember the brave souls of all wars who allow us to love America. And baseball if you like.

Letters from Linda

By Linda Schneider
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This week I am taking it easy, that's right. I am not going to comment on what President Obama is doing, saying, or who he's appointing. I am just not going to comment on anything.

One of the ways I enjoy relaxing is working a puzzle. Working puzzles uses a part of my brain that gets little attention, that part that only needs to figure out how two pieces come together and fit. I like it when the pieces fit together.

I have recently purchased a great shark puzzle that has over 800 pieces and I introduced puzzle working to my grandsons, Ivan and Joseph. They have lost interest in it already and visitors have commented that it will never be completed. However, I know from experience that if I continue to put two pieces together it will be done in time. Unless a piece is missing.

One never really knows a piece is missing until the end and it can cause hours and hours of useless searching if one comes up missing. And that is what happened to

my shark puzzle, or so I thought.

I typically start on the border of a puzzle and then move to the inner pieces. Well, I reached a place where I needed one piece to connect two sections. Looked for it on the table, looked for it on the floor, looked for it in the chair cushions, and looked for it in the bathroom (just kidding). I came to the conclusion it was missing.

After several days of looking and again concluding it was missing, I move on to another section of the puzzle.

So, here I am wanting to complete this "project" and trying to get Ivan and Joseph to pitch in, which they do when there is nothing else to do and thinking all the time a piece is missing. Then it happened.

"Hey nanie, I found a puzzle piece," said Joseph, 6 years old.

You guessed it, MY missing puzzle piece. The only piece he put together with another in the whole puzzle.

There has to be a life learning point here, but you know what? I am not commenting.

South of McDonald News By Sandy Binning

Friday guests of Porsha, Bianca and Jazzmin Binning were Jadon, and Lindi Montgomery.

Trinity and Devon Crayton returned home to Denver, Colo., with their parents, Shaun and Merinda Crayton on Sunday.

Mark and Catina Montgomery and family and Brad Montgomery were weekend guests of Lindon and Diane Montgomery.

Tom and Kelly Dewey attended the Atwood Alumni Banquet Saturday.

Kristina Springer and Braxton were weekend guests of Tom and Kelly Dewey and family.

George Banister took Jamie to Denver Tuesday to catch her flight

home.

George and Kathy Banister attended a farewell potluck for Sherri Edmundson at Brewster Thursday evening.

George and Kathy Banister attended the funeral of Roy Crist Friday in Atwood. George was one of the pallbearers.

George and Kathy Banister attended the Halligan family reunion Saturday in McDonald.

Kathy and Debbie Banister attended Confirmation at St. Francis and the catered dinner afterward Saturday afternoon.

George, Kathy, and Debbie Banister attended the McDonald Alumni potluck dinner Sunday.

Baseball C-team

The Cougar baseball C-team will play against Atwood at 7 p.m. on Friday. On Monday, the Cougars will play a game at McDonald (home) against Benkelman at 7 p.m. All games are played at central time.

You can still be a loser

Because of the weather, entries for participating in the Bird City Biggest Loser contest has been extended for one week. Showing up for the weigh-in and entry form at 5:30 p.m. on Monday at the Van Doren Park Shelter House.

Landfill hours

The Cheyenne County Landfill hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesdays through Friday.

Survivors' reception

A survivors' reception will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. tonight (Thursday) at the St. Francis Equity meeting room. Survivors will pick up their T-shirts while enjoying fellowship and refreshments.

Wheat Plot Tour

The Wheat Plot Tour will take place at 5:30 p.m. at Sunny Crest Farm with supper following at Goodland Greenline in Wheeler.

Cheyenne County

Chatting with Cathy

By Cathy Domsch

It is amazing how many communities do not have a strategic plan, or if they do have one they do not take the time to review it periodically to see if they are on task or not. It sits on the shelf next to their desk.

So I ask myself...what is the use of going through all of the work to create one if you are not going to use it?

When I attended the Heartland Economic Development Course last month we discussed how economic development involves having a mission, setting strategic goals and objectives, and creating action plans that identify timelines and resources. I can proudly say we have a strategic plan with all of the necessary pieces, and it is reviewed quite often by the Foundation and the City. If you have not read it yet, you can find it at www.bird-city.com under Community and Business Development, or stop by and I can give you a copy.

The best part of having this strategic plan is knowing that all of you had an opportunity to help create it! (Remember those three town meetings we had in 2006?)

So how are we doing in regard to the Bird City Strategic Plan (2007-2012) and the timeline? Well, it is amazing what a few spark plugs in the community can get going! We have done very well in accomplishing the goals in our strategic plan, keep on reading to find out more.

At least 26 new jobs have been created since 2007; we

have hosted and sponsored different educational programs; the City has made contact with an engineer to begin discussion for downtown beautification; the entrance has been improved with a new sign, flagpoles and landscaping; the Emergency Medical Service Training Room is nearing completion and training/informational programs are being scheduled; focus on Entrepreneurship and creating our own businesses from within is increasing; and a Business Development Scholarship has been created to help educate and bring home anyone wanting to live and work in Bird City for at least 3 years.

City hall is nearing completion of its facelift, and the swimming pool is having some minor improvements completed as I sit here and type. Housing was another item in the strategic plan; the city applied for state funding to rehabilitate or demolish homes but was denied funding (we will try again!), and the city applied to the state to build two single family homes and two duplex units, a total of six homes, and was approved. Keep your fingers crossed, if everything goes well we might see some construction work begin in June 2009!

We continue to work on an incentive plan for business development, individuals are brainstorming additional events to add to the Thresher Show weekend, the park has been completely renovated and will continue to receive additional improvements throughout the years, Cheylin Recreation Commission is talking to community members to find out what additional camps and events they could include into their program, and we all continue to brainstorm more ideas for improving our community.

It is amazing to a lot of communities and leaders across the state of Kansas what everyone has done here in Bird City to keep this community going and growing. Give yourselves a pat-on-the-back, you are doing a great job!

Mark Twain was quoted to say, "People are in favor of progress. It's change they don't like." I don't believe that is the case here in Bird City, Kansas!

Spring Horse Show

The Cheyenne County Spring Horse Show will take place at 10 a.m. on Sunday, June 14. Lunch will be served. Call Julie Brunk or the Extension office 332-3171 with any questions.

Hospital Board meeting changed

The Cheyenne County Hospital Board will be meeting at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 3.

Cheyenne County Commissioners

The Cheyenne County Commissioners will be meeting on Friday.

Vehicle tags

All residents with last names beginning with E, F and G should purchase their car, pickup, motorcycle and motorized bike tags and pay their vehicle personal property tax by the end of the month to avoid paying a penalty.

Kansans for Life

Cheyenne County Kansans for Life will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Monday at the Federated Church in McDonald. Special speakers will be State Senator Ralph Ostmeyer and State Senator Tim Huelskamp. Everyone is welcome to join in prayer, learning and fellowship.

Logan Labor Day Celebration

The 33rd annual Logan Labor Day Celebration will be held on Sunday, Sept. 6., at the Logan Golf Course, Highway 9, 1 1/4 mile east of Logan. This event is sponsored by the Dane G. Hansen Memorial Museum. There is no admission charge. Activities include a church service, remote control fly-in, sand volleyball tournament, lunch, Dane G. Bales Junior Memorial Car Show, Prairie Dusters Mounted Drill Team,

The Koshare Indian Dancers, a three-piece adult contemporary rock band from Hays called "Tim Anthony and the Anamals." and fireworks. For more information contact Shirley Henrickson at the Dane G. Hansen Museum at (785) 689-4846 or www.hansenmuseum.org

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.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Times subscriptions: Stephen Meyers, Medford, Ore.; Elaine Johnson, Bird City; Genie Payne Cornellison, Greeley, Colo.

Chatting with Cathy

• Oak trees do not produce acorns until they are fifty years of age or older.

• The first product to have a bar code was Wrigley's gum.

• The king of hearts is the only king without a mustache.

• A Boeing 747's wingspan is longer than the Wright brothers' first flight.

• American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating 1 olive from each salad served in first-class.

SHOWTIME: 8 p.m.

1 hr. 47 min.

X-Men Origins: Wolverine

May 29, 30 & 31

Hugh Jackman, Liev Schreiber, Tim Pocock, Troye Sivan, Tahyna Tozzi

Action/Adventure, Science Fiction/Fantasy and Adaptation


PG-13 for intense sequences of action and violence, and some partial nudity.

CHEYENNE THEATER

St. Francis, KS
785-332-2747

Children 12 & Under: \$3

All Others: \$5



RELAY FOR LIFE
American Cancer Society

Cheyenne County Relay for Life

Friday, June 5
Sawhill Park, St. Francis

Survivor Registration 6:30 p.m.
Join us for a BBQ at 7 p.m.
(Free-will Donation)

Survivor Walk
Entertainment, a moving Luminary Service follows in the Band Shell

Drinks can be purchased at the Shriners' Candy Wagon



All Proceeds go to the American Cancer Society

CHEYENNE COUNTY HOSPITAL

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

June Calendar

Dr. Frankum	June 3 & 17
Dr. Warren	June 11 & 25
Dr. Johnson	June 15
Dr. Reeves	June 17
Dr. Rubinowitz	June 23
Dr. Saba	June 19
Dr. Uyemura — Clinic	June 22
Dr. Uyemura — Surgery	June 22
Mammogram	June 9 & 30

For more information or to schedule an appointment call 785-332-2104

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