



Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick

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I'm convinced that as a nation we have very short memories. Perhaps it is because our society is too busy rushing forward to notice what has already happened behind us.

That is what makes the Navy's new ship so unusual. It was built so we would remember.

On Monday, a LPD-17 San Antonio class amphibious transport dock vessel entered the waters around Manhattan Island in New York City. Passing by the Statue of Liberty, the ship stopped near the shore where the World Trade Center used to stand as it was greeted with a 21-gun salute. What makes this new war ship

unique?

It is 684-feet long with a beam of 105 feet. It is capable of transporting up to 800 Marines and equipment to any ocean in the world. Its landing deck can handle about any helicopter as well as the MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft. But that is not what makes this ship one of a kind.

It was constructed using 7.5 tons of steel from the crippled Twin Towers. A part of those buildings and all who died that day will forever be a part of the vessel.

On Nov. 7, it will be commissioned as the U.S.S. New York, lest we forget that September day and the military needed to keep it from happening again.

Acute care patient numbers on rise

By Karen Krien

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Acute care patient discharges were better than any year, the administrator told the Cheyenne County Hospital Board when they met on Oct. 26.

Les Lacy, administrator, said the total acute care discharges for the year is 251. There is still three months left of the year.

In 2008, total discharges was 267 but, at this time, was only 200.

Lab work has increased steadily with the average number of patients being 1,922 per month. Specialty clinics are going well. Dr. Jeffery Curtis and Dr. Joseph Rainwater, both cardiologists, are coming monthly to the hospital to see patients.

Mr. Lacy, in his administrator's report, said the hospital had been able to meet the cash needs since the last board meeting. Mr. Lacy commented that recent price cuts in various departments would reduce the interim payments and Medicare deductibles while improving final reimbursement on the cost report and indicated that this would cause a decline in the hospital's cash position in coming months until the next cost report.

Vaccines

With the H1N1 virus spreading across the country, the hospital has received the vaccine in very small allotments, generally at one-week intervals. The first allotment was 10 doses. Mila Bandel, health nurse, who was at the meeting, reported that last allotment was 27 doses.

Mr. Lacy reported that the refrigerator in the clinic had malfunctioned and some of the other vaccines (not H1N1) had frozen. The incident had been turned into the insurance company and a new commercial-grade refrigerator will be installed.

A \$1,000 grant from Walmart had been received and the money will be used to purchase a pediatric/infant scale and set up a pediatric/infant intubation tray. Mr. Lacy said Candi Douthit, registered nurse, had written the grant.

Mr. Lacy reported giving orders to proceed with the new floor and counters for the kitchen. Operating

room floor plans have also been reviewed and discussed.

Employee's Christmas

The employee's Christmas party has been set for Dec. 12 at Riverside Recreation. This year, there will be a dance instead of a supper.

Bonuses for employees were discussed. There are 71 full-time employees and the bonuses are scrip money to be spent in the county. For the last two years, employees were given \$50 each. This year, the board agreed to raise the amount to \$75 each.

We do what we can when we can, said Joy Anderegg, concerning the bonuses. However, this could change next year.

It was noted that the employees appreciate the Christmas bonus in whatever the amount.

Director's report

Jackie John, area director for Great Plains Health Alliance, the company which leases the hospital, gave her report which included the results from a Sunflower Health Network study. It included what patients want from their physicians:

- Patients want physicians who listen actively and communicate clearly.

- A physician to explain what is happening — why tests or treatments are being performed and what happens next.

- Use of technology to provide latest information is valued.

- Physicians who refer to specialists; look systemically at situations, not just first symptoms; do appropriate follow-ups; have a routine so the family knows when the doctor will make rounds; and are considerate of nurses and co-workers.

- Physicians who do not appear to be rushed; who are caring and concerned.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the hospital board has been set for 3 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 16, in the clinic basement meeting room in St. Francis.



The Bird City Times

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Peace Lutheran Church

Bible study

Peace Lutheran Church Sunday evening Bible study group will be hosting "The Truth Project", comprised of 12 one-hour lessons taught by Dr. Del Tackett in conjunction with Focus on the Family. This home study is the starting point for looking at life from a biblical perspective. All are welcome to attend and enjoy the 1-hour DVD presentation with a short discussion following. Call Peace Lutheran Church at 332-2928 for more information.

4-H Achievement Banquet

The 4-H Achievement Banquet will be held Sunday starting at 12:30 p.m. in the St. Francis high school cafeteria. The 4-H'ers will be recognized for their accomplishments throughout the past year.

Alzheimer's/Dementia

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

Terry Brenner Memorial golf tournaments

The Terry Brenner Memorial Backwards Golf Tournament will be held at Riverside on Sunday. Check ad for additional details about tournament and also Monday Night Football.

Annual Craft fair

The 14 annual Craft Fair is planned for Saturday in the St. Francis Grade School. Times are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Complete details in an ad in this issue.

Fair Board

The Cheyenne County Fair Board will meet tonight (Thursday) at the courthouse.

County commissioners

The Cheyenne County Commissioners will meet at 8

a.m. Monday, Nov. 16, in the commissioner's room at the courthouse.

Cheyenne County Hospital Board

The Cheyenne County Hospital Board will meet at 3 p.m. Monday, Nov. 16, in the basement meeting room of the St. Francis Clinic.

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.

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

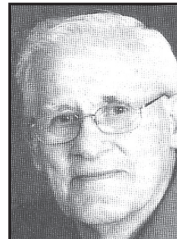
Sainty Serenity Seekers open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous is held at 7:30 p.m. each Thursday evening at the United Methodist Education Building at 104 W. Webster, St. Francis. Call (785) 332-6542 for more information

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.

Bulletin Board

Obituary



McDaniel

Gale Eugene McDaniel

Dec. 19, 1932 - Aug. 29, 2009

Gale Eugene McDaniel was born Dec. 19, 1932, in Bird City, Kan., to Cyrus T. McDaniel and Nellie S. Austin McDaniel. He joined a growing, blended family consisting of Denny, Virginia, Victor, Marvel, Aileen, Lindsey, Vivian and Shannon. Shirley joined the family while they were still in Kansas.

In the late 30s or early 40s, his family moved from Kansas to Idaho and then on to Oregon, settling in the Grande Ronde Valley, where brothers, Pat and baby Ty, who died in infancy were born.

His dad worked in the farming community and was severely injured in a farming accident that ultimately took his life, leaving Nellie to raise the children alone.

Following his graduation from high school in Imbler, Ore., he joined the Navy, where he was a boatswain mate aboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Essex. He received an honorable discharge in 1956.

On a sunny afternoon shortly after returning home from military duty, he and his younger brother, Pat were out cruising in Elgin, Ore., where they spied a young lass sitting on her front porch. They stopped and chatted and Gale made a date with the girl, Loretta Lyon, who later was to become his wife. They had three children, Larry, Peggy Sue and Kevin.

Gale worked extremely hard over the years, providing for his family. He worked at a variety of jobs such as fireman, state highway construction, county rock crusher attendant, snow plow operator, and county weed control supervisor. He was also involved in his community, serving as mayor of Cove, Ore., in the 70s, a job he took

seriously and was committed to.

Shortly thereafter, he moved to the Tri-Cities where Gale and his two brothers, Pat and Shannon, formed a company that provides services laying underground pipe for sewer and water systems in the Tri-Cities area and beyond.

Gale had a brilliant mind and was able to build just about anything he could conceive. If anyone in the family needed something fixed, he was the go-to guy. He holds the US Patent on a Convertible Vehicle Step.

Following his retirement, Gale, Loretta and their little dog, Shadow, spent several winters in Arizona. They both thoroughly enjoyed their time parked along the Colorado River, meeting new people, making friends and taking long walks in the beautiful mountains collecting rocks and taking pictures. Their trips to Arizona ended abruptly following the winter of 2002-03, when he was diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis.

Gale died Aug. 29, 2009, at home surrounded by his loved ones.

The family mourns the loss of a valiant and honorable man. Although he may not have been large in stature, Gale was a giant in so many ways to those whom he loved and who loved him. He led a life of honesty, integrity, compassion, faithfulness, hard work and devotion to family and friends. He will be greatly missed.

Gale is survived by his wife of 53 years, Loretta; his son, Larry McDaniel and grandchildren, Kjell and Kirsti McDaniel, daughter, Peggy Sue Ridings,

husband, Ron Ridings and granddaughter, Nicole Ridings, and son, Kevin McDaniel, wife, Mary, and grandchildren Colin, Carly, Alec (Cassie) and Conor, and great-granddaughter Makenzie, who was greatly adored by her "Bapa." He is also survived by his brothers Shannon and Pat, and his sisters, Marvel, Aileen, Vivian and Shirley, his mother-in-law, Margaret Lyon, as well as many other family

members.

The most important thing in life to Gale was his family and everyone will miss him always, but as he admonished everyone, "You gotta buck up!"

To make donations to the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation in memory of Gale, send to Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation, 1332 N. Halsted St. Ste. 101, Chicago, Ill. 60642-2642.

School Menu

Monday, Nov. 9

Breakfast: pancakes.
Lunch: hot dogs on a bun, baked beans, vegetables.

Tuesday, Nov. 10

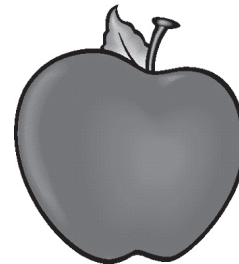
Breakfast: hash browns, sausage link.
Lunch: tomato soup, grilled cheese sandwich.

Wednesday, Nov. 11

Breakfast: oatmeal, boiled egg.
Lunch: spoonburger, corn on the cob.

Thursday, Nov. 12

Breakfast: ham biscuit.



Lunch: barbecue rib sandwich, french fries.

Breakfast is served daily with toast, cereal, juice and milk.

Lunch is served daily with salad bar, fruit and milk.

SHOWTIME: 7:30 p.m.

1 hr. 21 min.

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs

Nov. 6, 7 & 8

Kids/Family, Animation and Adaptation

Bill Hader, Anna Faris, James Caan, Andy Samberg, Mr. T

PG for brief mild language.

CHEYENNE THEATER

St. Francis, KS
785-332-2747

Children 12 & Under: \$3

All Others: \$5

Upcoming Auction

Roger & Kathy Pinnell Estate
Jackson St. Merchantel Liquidation
Saturday, Nov. 14
10 a.m.

Cheyenne County Fairgrounds, St. Francis, Ks.

Conducted by Ewing Auction
Call 785-332-3535 for more information

CHEYENNE COUNTY HOSPITAL

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



Childbirth Classes

at Cheyenne County Hospital

Nov. 9, 2009

Feb. 25, Mar. 1 and 8, 2010

June 7, 14, 21, 2010

Oct. 25, Nov. 1 and 8, 2010

"Making your childbirth dreams a reality."

Please contact Candi Douthit,
785-332-2104, for more information.

American Profile

Celebrating Hometown Life

See American Profile magazine in this week's issue of

The Bird City Times

(available in local area only)

Brought to you by
The Times

"Your sponsorship could be right here.
For more information contact:
Casey at 785-332-3162

Check your renewal dates

— Current Rates —

The Saint Francis Herald
Area - \$38 KS - \$42
Out-of-State - \$48

Bird City Times
Area - \$33 KS - \$36
Out-of-State - \$40