



# Bulletin Board

## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick

sc McCormick@nwkansas.com

What makes someone who has been successful, an expert in everything under the sun?

Here is my point. The other day I was surfing the television channels, to the pleasure of my lovely wife, when I came across a guy I hadn't seen on television for awhile. Ted Danson, the sober-bartender from *Cheers*, was being interviewed. I assumed it was about what it takes to entertain people or how the be a good actor. Nope, he was talking about the danger of religious folks on the far right.

Why? Mr. Danson did do well on the big and little screens. But why is he being asked about his opinion on a political or social issue because he is a celebrity?

In all honesty, I couldn't give a rat's behind what he, Jane Fonda, Barbara Streisand, or any other actor, singer or professional athlete thinks about the "big picture." Sure, they all must know some-

thing about their trade or craft. Each has the money and fame to show for that. But because they are gifted with a talent does not make them a Political Science expert.

As thoughtful adults in a democratic society, we all have a responsibility to know the issues that affect our lives. Sorry, but that comes with that "freedom" deal. Our thoughts of what is best for the whole are important. I just don't think wisdom comes from a person just because they are rich.

As far as political extremist on the right or left, I don't care much for either. In my mind, the individual who guns down an abortion doctor is no different from the nut job who burns down a ski lodge because it insults Mother Nature. The secret is for all of us to meet somewhere in the middle to work things out and live together.

In case you're wondering, I didn't have to hear this from Andy Griffith or Alan Alda to know it's so.

## Letters from Linda

By Linda Schneider

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I have been thinking about the differences between capitalism and socialism, and I am betting most Americans have been thinking the same thing — both have good points and bad points.

Capitalism is what our nation is best loved for and hated for. At its best, this system allows anyone with motivation to pursue a dream, to strive to become financially secure, entrepreneurship, and even give to humanitarian organizations. It is freedom and why America is great, we can do this and it is not compulsory. It's capitalism at its best. But, there is an ugly side to it also.

Capitalism does not have checks and balances, so businesses can become corporate monsters that can become so large that small neighborhood businesses can, and are, squeeze right out of their own American dream. And now people hate capitalism, envy and bitterness sets in, and the rich keep getting richer.

Even if the business did have a beginning in the basement, isn't there

enough for everyone? Why does one store have to have it all under one roof?

Now socialism looks good, and it is. In its purest, unadulterated form, it is sharing the wealth, the apex of philanthropy. There is no hunger, no homeless, health care for everyone, education, etc. However, it has its ugly side too.

Socialism can create entitlement someone owes me. It can create a sense of despair simply because, why try? A person, who makes healthy life choices, is treated just the same as someone who doesn't. Who cares? A woman will have 14 children and become a strain on the social system. Why bother? Why go to college when a person can lie on the couch and get paid for it.

While capitalism is partnership between corporate and private entities, socialism is partnership between corporate and government entities. In my opinion, both systems have the capability to be good, it is the people who abuse these systems that are the problem.

## School Menu

**Monday, Nov. 16**

Breakfast: waffles.  
Lunch: chicken fajita, rice.

**Tuesday, Nov. 17**

Breakfast: bagel.  
Lunch: fish, macaroni and cheese, roll.

**Wednesday, Nov. 18**

Breakfast: pancake on a stick.  
Lunch: chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, roll.

**Thursday, Nov. 19**

Breakfast: waffles.

Lunch: barbecue grill bites, au gratin potatoes, roll.

**Friday, Nov. 20**

Breakfast: polish sausage supreme.  
Lunch: hamburger on bun, dessert.

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

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



## The Bird City Times

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### Early deadline

The St. Francis Herald and the Bird City Times will be published a day early Thanksgiving week (Nov. 26 issue). The deadline for ads, articles and pictures for that paper will be Friday, Nov. 20 at 5 p.m. The paper will be in the St. Francis Post Office on Tuesday, Nov. 24, and on the routes on Wednesday, Nov. 25, so everyone will have the information concerning the activities and the specials for the Christmas opening.

### American Legion Auxiliary

American Legion Auxiliary will have a meeting on Friday.

### Storytime

Bird City Library Storytime will not be meeting until after New Year. Contact Linda Schneider at 785-734-2500 for information.

### Home Circle Club

The Home Circle Club will hold its meeting at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 19, at the home of hostess, Lucille Wright in Bird City.

### Cheylin basketball

Today (Thursday), Cougar junior high basketball teams are traveling to Brewster and play will begin at 4 p.m.

### Scholar's Bowl

On Monday, Cougar high school Scholar's Bowl team will go to Goodland. Starting time is 5 p.m.

On Tuesday, junior high will be in Atwood for the Scholar's Bowl beginning at 4 p.m.

### Christmas for veterans

American Legion Auxiliary will be collecting Christmas gifts for hospitalized veterans at Colmery O'Neill Hospital in Topeka to be delivered before Thanksgiving. Drop gifts off at the Legion Hall or Bird City Senior Center. Last day to drop off is Thursday, Nov. 19.

### Senior Citizen's Christmas dinner

It is that time again! Cheylin School will be hosting the Senior Citizen's Christmas Dinner on Dec. 9. Reservations must be made by Dec. 3. Call Deanna Nelsen at 785-734-2351

### County Commissioners

The Cheyenne County Commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. Monday in the commissioner's room at the courthouse.

### Cheyenne County Hospital Board

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

### Common Threads Quilt Guild

Common Threads Quilt Guild will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15, at Sainty Stitches. Guests and all quilters are welcome.

### Wreaths Across America Ceremony

Wreaths Across America is coming to WaKeeney on Dec. 12. The

Civil Air Patrol will sponsor the 4th annual Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Kansas Veterans Cemetery at WaKeeney at 11 a.m. on Dec. 12, when seven ceremonial wreaths will be placed to remember those who gave their lives in service for this country. Specially made wreaths for Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard,

Merchant Marines and Prisoners of War/Missing in Action will be placed as memorials during this ceremony.

### Tag deadline

All residents with last names beginning with T, V and W 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.

### Veterans Affairs

Jody Tubbs, of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs, will be in St. Francis at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, 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.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

It is difficult for me to understand what is happening in America.

Just before the election, President Obama said, "We are five days away from fundamentally changing America." But what did that mean?

He appointed 36 Czars that are taking over every aspect of our government. They are not checked out and are not accountable to Congress, just to the president and his cronies.

In my opinion, these people are Marxists and communists that don't love America and come from radical backgrounds. My mom always told me, "You can judge a person by the people they hang out with." These are the people writing the bills such as the stimulus, cap and trade, and the health care take over.

Companies that were blessed with billions of dollars from the stimulus plan are now paying the price. The pay czar, Kenneth R. Feinberg, went in and reduced their salaries 90 percent—more government control. If the government starts controlling what Americans make, saddling the middle class with higher taxes, more regulations, and continue printing money; this country will go bankrupt as our dollar becomes worthless.

Is it their plan to wreck this great country for a socialist take over? I once read that our country would be taken over without firing a shot. Could this be coming true?

Now the president wants to pass a bill, "Network Neutrality" to stop any media reporting that opposes what is happening to Americans through government actions. And when American people form tea parties and protests, they are called angry mobs, terrorists, racial, red necks, etc. Those are the people who elected him and now he won't listen to those same people.

I don't care if you are democrat, republican, or independent, it's time to stand up and let your voice be heard. Write, email, or call your state representatives that are suppose to be working for YOU.

Wake up America! Non-voters, don't you realize how important your vote is? You do make a difference. If you don't like what's going on in Washington, vote them out! Maybe then Congress will get the message that Americans have fought to make this nation great

and will not sit down now.

The late John F. Kennedy stated it so eloquently, "Ask not what your country can do for you, But what YOU can do for your country."

Marilyn Frisbie  
Concerned Citizen  
Bird City, Kan.

## Obituary

**Merle Dwayne Hitchcock**

May 9, 1929 - Oct. 16, 2009

Merle Dwayne Hitchcock died on Oct. 16, 2009, at the Cheyenne County Hospital in St. Francis, Kan., at the age of 80 years old. He was born on May 9, 1929, in Sherman County. He married Ellen Ione (Gipe) on April 6, 1946.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ellen; his parents, Birton and Mildred Anna (Spaeth) Hitchcock, and brother, Dallas.

He is survived by his sons, Rodney Lynn Hitchcock and wife, Becky, Lyle Eugene Hitchcock and wife, Jackie; daughter, Janice Kay (Hitchcock) Harris; grandchildren, Paul L. Hitchcock, Brian Hitchcock and wife, Coty, Tami George and husband, Josh, Mindy Ellison and husband, John, Lori Aierta and husband, Joseph, Robin Miller and husband, Jaime and Ben Bentley; great-grandchildren, Zackary and Matt Ellison, Braden, Chase and Danica George, Autumn and Ivy Miller and Dakota Bentley.

Merle lived his childhood in the Bird City area and attended Bird City High School. He worked as

a truck driver and in construction in Kansas.

He moved to California in 1955, to work construction, and started Hitchcock Construction Company in the Los Angeles area. He moved to Rainbow, Calif., in 1968, to start Rainbow Valley Farms and Truck Farming.

Later he moved to Van Buren, Ark., in 1980, to start a cattle ranch and hay farming.

He then moved back to California in 1987 to retire...no luck.

Later he moved back to Bird City to start a hardware store and then into farming.

Funeral services were held on Oct. 22 at the Wesleyan Community Church in Bird City with Pastor Dan Carson officiating.

Pall bearers were Ted Burr, Tim Burr, Ned Smith, Dave Hickert, Randy Reynolds and Tony Vandike.

Interment was in the Bird City Cemetery, Bird City.

Arrangements were by Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis.

SHOWTIME: 7:30 p.m.

1 hr. 47 min.

### Couples Retreat

**Nov. 13, 14 & 15**

Comedy

Vince Vaughn, Jason Bateman, Jon Favreau, Faizon Love, Kristin Davis

PG-13 for sexual content and language.

**CHEYENNE THEATER**

St. Francis, KS  
785-332-2747

Children 12 & Under: \$3

All Others: \$5

## Bird City Food Pantry Drive

**Wednesday, Nov. 18**

from 7 - 7:30 p.m.



Leave your porch light on.

Items will be picked up by the Teens For Christ members

## Real Estate Auction

**2 Quarters of Prime Cheyenne County, Ks Dryland**

**November 24, 2009**

**NE 1/4 of 9-4-38**

**NW 1/4 of 10-4-38**

Call for more details or visit our website for flyer!

For all of your Real Estate needs - Contact us today!

Licensed in Kansas, Colorado, and Nebraska for your Real Estate needs!



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Gary L. Wickwar, KS Sales Agent  
W. Hwy. 36 ~ P.O. Box 928  
St. Francis, Kansas 67756 ~ 785.332.8990  
Betty L. Petersen, Broker

## 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