

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick  
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Isn't it funny how some material objects can lose their need with time? What brings this to mind are two unusual items that I had not too long after high school. One was a bull Buffalo mount and the other was a Coke machine.



I came into possession of the Bison head while I was going to college in Arizona. A buddy was an animal keeper at the Phoenix Zoo and he told me about the mount that was going up for sale at an auction. Why someone had donated it to the zoo always baffled me. But it was something I had to have.

I got it for a few bucks and it was soon hanging on my wall. I named it Ralphie (after the University of Colorado mascot) and it moved with me to Louisiana and back home to Colorado.

The Coke machine was pretty old and beat up when I first saw it. I had gone to work with my brother at the Benjamin Moore Paint factory, which used to be near where Coor's Field now sits in Denver. The company bought a new machine, so I was able to purchase the old one for \$50.

After lugging the heavy beast to my folk's house, it was cleaned and to my delight could hold a long-

neck beer bottle perfectly. All was good until my little brother and his buddies figured out they could empty the machine with a handful of quarters.

The Buffalo mount is now in one of the fraternity houses at CU and the pop machine ended up with Rick Rojas, a friend from work. I imagine it's still at his home in South Phoenix.

As I said, it's funny how the things that I thought I needed in my 20s aren't all that important now. But they do make for a good story.

**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.

**Junior Hoops**  
Junior Hoops basketball will begin at 9 a.m. through 11 a.m. on Saturday with Skills Camp. On Sunday, games will begin at 3 p.m. Both events will be at the McDonald gymnasium.

**Cheylin basketball**  
On Friday, Cougar junior high basketball teams will play on home court in McDonald against Dighton. Games begin at 4:30 p.m.

**Low impact aerobics**  
Cheylin Recreation Commission is offering low-impact aerobic classes Monday through Thursday,

5:10 to 6:00 p.m. until Dec. 21, in the Cheylin High School gymnasium, led by Tina Sager.

**Community Thanksgiving Service**  
On Monday, the Wesleyan Church of Bird City will be hosting this year's Community Thanksgiving Service. Service begins at 7 p.m. followed by a time of fellowship and food.

**Thanksgiving boxes**  
Looking for volunteers that will help in distributing the Thanksgiving boxes on Monday. Sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance, volunteers are asked to be at the United Methodist Church in Bird City on Monday at 1 p.m.

**Senior Center**  
The Bird City Senior Center will not be having their monthly potluck lunch for November.

**Cheylin 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

**Farm show**

McCook Farm and Ranch Expo is Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 18 and 19, in McCook at the Red Willow County Fairgrounds. Show opens at 9 a.m. both days, closes at 7 p.m. on Wednesday and 4 p.m. on Thursday. For more information, contact Darren Dale, 866-685-0989.

**Weight Watcher's meeting**  
Weight Watcher's will meet at 5 p.m. on Tuesday at the Methodist Church in St. Francis. The date has been changed because of the Thanksgiving holiday.

**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.

**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.



Letters from Linda

By Linda Schneider  
dublins@hotmail.com

Do you think you could spot a hero when you saw one? You know, not all heroes look like Bruce Willis or Mel Gibson. All of the heroes in my life have never had any outward appearance that would call attention to them, but still, they are my heroes.

When I was released from prison, through Christian volunteers, I was matched up with a woman named Taffy. Yeah, she is my first hero.

Taffy Christiansen is 70-something, never saw me before in her life, met me at the airport in Tucson, Ariz., and taught me the love of Christ. I think heroes are like that, they teach.

Before Christ I had no heroes; no one could teach or reach me. And I could not spot one if my life depended upon it. Now they are everywhere.

I take that back, before Christ my hero was Batman.

You know teachers are heroes, supermarket clerks and meat counters (someone who counts meat) are heroes, pastors are heroes, gas station attendants are heroes, postal workers are heroes, restaurant owners are heroes, spouses are heroes, co-workers are heroes, bosses are heroes, and now you add to the list.

One of the lessons Taffy began teaching me was how to be compassionate and think of others above myself. I said she "began," it is a continuing process and this is where the heroes in my life come in.

I know I should be always thankful, but in the upcoming holiday months, I am going to be more thoughtful and thankful of the heroes in my life now and the ones who don't know they are my heroes yet.



Mr. and Mrs. Linin

Couple announce vows in California wedding

Samantha Puentes and Zach Linin were married Sept. 20, 2009, in Crescent City, Calif., by Pastor Bob Sirrine.

Samantha is the daughter of Yvonne Puentes, Eureka, Calif. Zach is the son of Dody McLeod, Crescent City, and Rex Linin, Bird City.

Maid of honor was Becka Garrison, Honolulu, Hawaii. Bridesmaid was Amanda Crater, Sunset Beach, Calif.

Best man was Ronnie Caron, Crescent City. Groomsman was the brother of the bride, Mark Westfall, Eureka.

A reception was held at a private residence following the wedding.

The couple spent their honeymoon on a house boat located on Shasta Lake, Calif.

The bride is a 2000 graduate of McKinleyville High School, McKinleyville, Calif., and a 2005 graduate of University of California, Berkeley where she earned a degree in dance and performance studies and environmental policy and education.

The groom graduated from Cheylin High School, Bird City, in 2003. In 2004, he graduated from WyoTech, Laramie, Wyo., with a degree in collision and refinishing. He is now a self-employed tile contractor.

Camp beginning soon

The Cheylin Recreation Commission is gearing up for the 2009 Junior Hoops basketball season for kids ages 5 through fifth grade.

On Saturday, the basketball skill camp will begin with participants learning defense and rebounding skills beginning at 9 a.m. through 11 a.m. at the McDonald gymnasium. The next skill camp will take place on Dec. 5, at 3 p.m. through 5 p.m. in McDonald and focus on ball handling and shooting.

The camps are free to all junior hoops registered participants and a minimal fee to those who would like to participate but did not register with the fee payable at the

door. In addition, Junior Hoopers will get a reversible jersey, a drink, and a snack

The first Junior Hoop league game will be on Sunday and begin at 3 p.m. The next games are Dec. 6 and 13. At the Dec. 13 game, Junior Hoopers will get the chance to win a league game basketball.

During the Dec. 4 and Dec. 18, Cheylin High School varsity basketball game half-times in McDonald, the kids will get the opportunity to demonstrate their basketball skills. Check out the Cheylin School website at www.cheylin.com and click on calendar for updates on Junior Hoops and other Cheylin events.

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Early Deadline

The week of Thanksgiving, The Herald and Times will be coming out early so everyone will have their paper which will include the Treasure Hunt numbers.

Articles and Ads Deadline is Friday, Nov. 20, at 5 p.m. for the Nov. 26 paper.

The Saint Francis Herald  
Bird City Times



**Keep Christ In Christmas**

**Knights of Columbus Car Magnets \$5**

Contact Mike Antholz in St. Francis at 785-332-3482 or Dennis Wright in Bird City at 785-734-2490

**Non-surgical treatment of hemorrhoids.**

John D. Ferris, MD will be at: 291 15th Street Burlington, CO

**Wednesday, Nov. 25 & Saturday, Nov. 28**

For information or appointment, call 1-800-593-0009

**Hemcure**

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

Check your renewal dates

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Out-of-State - \$48

Bird City Times

Area - \$33 KS - \$36  
Out-of-State - \$40

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