



Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick
scmccormick@nwkansas.com
 I love being able to blow the horn of this part of the country when something interesting comes to my attention. There is so much that has happened in this area of the tri-state region that it has to be shared.

Of course there are the very famous individuals who have spent time around here. For instance you all know of Charles Lindbergh barnstorming near Bird City and George Armstrong Custer leading the Cavalry after hostile Indians.

Also St. Francis can lay claim to Ron Evans and Len Dressler. Evans was the command module pilot on the last NASA mission to put men on the moon: Apollo 17 in 1972. Elmer "Len" Dressler Jr. was born in 1925 and became the voice of the Jolly Green Giant who pitched vegetables on TV.

Another personality born in Benkelman, Neb., just to the north of us, was the movie actor Ward Bond.

I just came across another name from the past. Denver Pyle was

from the small town of Bethune, Colo., not far to the south-west of here.

Born in 1920 he was a nephew to the famous journalist, Ernie Pyle. Denver went into acting and had several memorable roles.

From 1960 until 1968 he played the head of a hillbilly clan as Briscoe Darling on the *Andy Griffith Show*. In 1967 he portrayed Texas Ranger Frank Homer, the antagonist to the outlaws Bonnie and Clyde, in the movie with Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway.

Other television roles were as the father, Buck Webb, on *The Doris Day Show* (1968-70) and Mad Jack on *The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams* in 1977-78.

He is probably best known as Uncle Jesse on *The Dukes of Hazzard* which aired from 1979 till 1985.

Denver is no longer with us. He died on Christmas Day in 1997. But his memory adds to the legend and lore of this part of the country.

Bulletin Board

Senior Center
 Bird City Senior Center will be celebrating January birthdays on Monday at 3 p.m.

Cheylin sports
 Today (Thursday), there will be a Cougar Pep Rally in the Cheylin gymnasium at 2:35 p.m. for kindergarten through eighth grade. You are encouraged to cheer the junior high Cougar teams.

Today (Thursday), Cheylin junior high basketball teams will play home court in McDonald against Wallace County. The girls' B-team will start at 4 p.m.

On Friday, the Cheylin high school basketball teams will travel to Dighton. Games begin at 4 p.m.

On Tuesday, the Western Kansas Liberty League basketball tournament begins in Sharon Springs. Cougar girls' team begins at 6 p.m.

Matthies at 785-772-7313 for more information.

Youth basketball tournament
 The MAC Attack youth basketball tournament will be held in McCook the weekend of Jan. 24 and 25. It is for boys and girls in grades fourth through eighth. The deadline for entering is Jan. 11. Entry forms can be picked up at the Sports Shoppe in McCook or online at www.mccookoptimistclub.org. Send forms with entry fee to McCook Optimist Club, 208 Norris Ave., McCook, NE 69001. For information contact Bob Elder at (308) 345-4296.

Western Plains Arts Association
 The Wichita Children's Theatre will present a melodrama, "Miss Clara's Classroom Calamity" in schools in Quinter, Winona, Sharon Springs and Hoxie on Thursday and Friday, Jan. 21 and 22.

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.

South of McDonald News By Sandy Binning

George Banister attended the funeral of Marvin Zweygardt in St. Francis Wednesday.

New Year's Day evening guests of George and Kathy Banister and family was Tyrel Robbin of Sharon Springs.

Alex Hengen was a Sunday dinner guest of George and Kathy Banister and family.

Kelly Dewey and children and Barb Morton spent the weekend in Manhattan with Marvin and Kristina Springer and Braxton.

Matthew Golt was a New Year's Eve and Day guest of Bethel Golt.

Roy and Jnel Hubbard returned home to Nebraska New Year's Day.

The Perubskys of Topeka were guests of Dan and Margie Hubbard over New Year's holiday. Roger Hubbard and family were also here for several days.

New Year's Day guests of Dan and Margie Hubbard were Dave and Sylvia Hubbard and Shayla, Bob and Phyllis Cass, Jan and Gilbert Antholz, and Craig and Jerri Antholz and family.

Ron Johnson was an additional dinner guest Thursday of Dan and Margie Hubbard.

George and Deb Ballinger were Saturday lunch guests of Dan and Margie Hubbard.

The Hubbard family and their

guests all attended the New Year's Eve party at the Federated Church in McDonald.

Joe and Charlene Kramer, Dennis and Elda Kramer and Katia, and Ryan and Diane Shay and children were among relatives and friends of the Beims family attended the funeral of Donna Beims in Atwood Tuesday.

Diane Montgomery was in San Angelo, Texas, for Christmas to visit friends and family. She spent New Years with Brad and Misty Montgomery and family in Edmond, Okla., and returned home Sunday.

Letters from Linda

By Linda Schneider
dublinlms@gmail.com

Is anyone as surprised about the public's reaction over Tiger Woods' "transgressions" as I am?

What I mean is, with all the liberties, freedoms, and pursuits of happiness everyone in this country is so sure is their privilege and birthright, what is wrong with Mr. Woods exercising some of these rights as an American?

When we have to vote on whether marriage should be between a man and woman only and 16-year-olds can have an abortion without parental permission; why is everyone getting in an uproar over a married man having a few transgressions.

When I first heard about Mr. Woods, I thought, "Another bites the dust..."

A rich and famous man married to a beautiful woman, two beautiful children, and having everything anyone could dream of. Really, he has the life that is envied by millions worldwide, and he drops the preverbal faithful husband ball. So what and who cares? Evidently, America cares.

What could it all mean? Well, along with the statistics that shows abortions are slowing down, 30 states have voted to ban same sex marriage

and grassroots organizations like the Tea Party forming, it could mean that Americans are taking their heads out of their ostrich holes and really taking stock of what is going on in this country.

I have said it before and I will say it again, a piece of paper does not have any guarantees, look what happened with the federal banks. A piece of paper does not guarantee faithfulness; look what happened to the Woods family.

We have so many laws written on paper they fill hundreds of libraries, and yet our prisons are full. Finally, look at our Constitution and Declaration of Independence documents, they are written on paper. Just words on paper.

In my opinion, it takes more than words on paper to make a difference — it has to mean something deeper — something in the soul. I called it a conscience.

I found it interesting that Mr. Woods would use the word "transgressions" to describe his actions, I think some folks had to look it up to find the definition.

In my opinion, his should have used unfaithful, then it would not have taken the dozen or more women to explain what his transgressions were.

McDonald News By Vera Kacirek

New Year's Day visitors of Ray and Marlene Johnson were Mr. and Mrs. Alan Cline of Colby, George Vandegriffe and Bob and Helen Johnson.

Sunday visitors of Ray and Marlene Johnson were Ted and Dixie Bethell of McCook and Connie Sabatka.

Joan Tongish, Betty Lewis and Eleanor Swihart attended the 65th wedding anniversary party for Laddie and Vera Kacirek.

David Banister of Salina was a Wednesday afternoon visitor of Karlyne Atchison and Amelia Banister.

Kelsey Miller and Montana Rhymes spent from Monday to Thursday with Gail and Kay Miller while their dad had hip surgery in Denver.

Eleanor Swihart accompanied Betty Lewis to Denver before the holidays. Eleanor was a guest of her son, Steve and

family in Lakewood during the holidays. Betty enplaned to Santa Maria, Calif., where she spent the Christmas and New Year's holidays with her son, Thaa Lewis and family. The ladies returned home last Tuesday.

David and Becky Kacirek, Nathan, Ben and Annie were "Bed and Breakfast" guests of R.J. and Susie Sabatka while attending the Kacirek's 65th wedding anniversary party on Sunday.

Bird City News

The home of Vernetta Haack was a whirlwind of activity during the holidays. Ron and Arlene Haack, Tampa, Fla., and Dave and Pam Jensen, Blair, Neb., arrived on Tuesday, Dec. 22.

On Wednesday, Dec. 23, the Jensens traveled to Denver International Airport to pick up Brittini Jensen, Nashville, Tenn., and Ryan Jensen, West Palm Beach, Fla. They returned to the Haack home on Christmas Day.

Arriving on Christmas Eve were Chris and Lindsey Mullen, Brady and Alexis of Garden City, Mo.

Christmas dinner guests were Ron and Arlene Haack, Pam and Dave Jensen, Brittini and Ryan, Chris and Lindsey Mullen, Brady

and Alexis and Tena and Brendon Haack. The day was spent opening gifts and playing games.

Justin and Tenley Haack, Elizabeth and Jameson from Grimes, Iowa, who were staying at the home of Tenley's parents in Atwood, joined the group on Thursday for lunch and on Saturday for breakfast and lunch. Justin installed a web cam for Grandma Vernetta. Roger and Sharon Haack, Misawa, Japan, via the web cam, joined the family

gathering.

The Chris Mullens departed for their home on Saturday. The Dave Jensens left on Sunday for Flagler, Colo., for Christmas festivities with Dave's parents.

Monday evening, Tena and Brendon, Destany and Phoenix were dinner guests and the children opened gifts.

Ron and Arlene Haack departed for their home on Tuesday, Dec. 29.

School Menu

Cheylin cafeteria has begun featuring a different favorite lunch for each grade. This week enjoy lunch with the kindergartners

Monday, Jan. 11
 Breakfast: ham biscuit.
 Lunch: chicken fajita, rice.

Tuesday, Jan. 12
 Breakfast: oatmeal, fruit.
 Lunch: grill bites, au gratin potatoes, roll.

Wednesday, Jan. 13
Kindergarten lunch
 Breakfast: yogurt, boiled egg.
 Lunch: fish, green beans, roll,

ice cream.

Thursday, Jan. 14
 Breakfast: scones.
 Lunch: Mexican casserole, dessert.

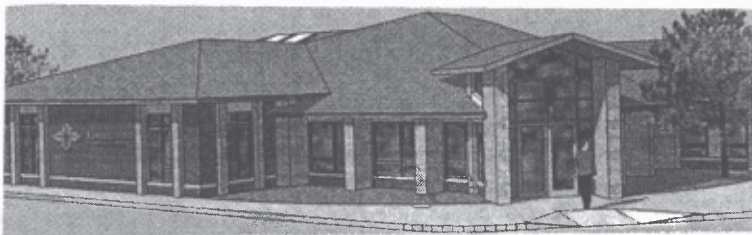
Friday, Jan. 15
 Breakfast: sausage scrambled eggs
 Lunch: barbecue rib sandwich, french fries
 Breakfast is served daily with toast, cereal, juice and milk
 Lunch is served daily with salad bar, fruit and milk

OPEN HOUSE

January 13, 2010 3:00 - 6:00 P.M.



Farm Credit
 of Western Kansas
 1190 South Range Colby KS



You are invited to stop by and see the new Farm Credit Office Building, and visit with the Farm Credit Board of Directors and staff. Refreshments will be served and sign up for some great open house prizes.

The Bird City Times

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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

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

H1N1 Flu Clinic Scheduled
 Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2010

7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cheyenne County Health Department
 (located in basement of clinic)

H1N1 vaccine is free of charge

Those to be vaccinated: anyone 6 months of age and older

For questions please call: Mila Bandel, RN County Health Nurse at 785-332-2381