



Bulletin Board

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick
scmccormick@nwkanssas.com

An out-of-the-blue e-mail got me digging through some old newspapers here at the office.

A request came from Cary Hatch for information about an event. Now a resident of Cedar Park, Texas, Cary grew up on a farm northwest of McDonald during the 1950s and 1960s.

On a summer evening, the still country air was shaken by a huge explosion. A jet had left Schilling Air Force Base near Salina in route to Lowry AFB outside of Denver. At 32,000 feet the SAC (Strategic Air Command) B-47 bomber caught fire in two engines and burst into a ball of fire.

This story came from the lone survivor of the crew of three. Copilot Lt. Howard J. Steen, then 29 from Fergus Falls, Minn., was ejected just before the explosion and parachuted to safety. He landed five miles south of Benkelman and was

picked up by farmer Virgil Hatch, Cary's uncle.

The pilot's, 1st Lt. Douglas Powell, 28, and navigator's, 1st Lt. Harry Dan Welborn, 27, bodies were found in and near the wreckage.

Sections of debris landed north of Bird City on the farms of Ralph Leach, Edward Meger, Jim Hickert and Guy Lamb and near the Willis Burr home. One of the engines came down on the Bird City Golf Course.

The survivor was taken to the St. Francis airport and later spent a sleepless night at John Hancock's home.

At the time, Melvin Mast was a Bird City city marshal. He was quoted in the paper as saying 3,000 spectators were at or near the wreckage within an hour of the crash. Police from St. Francis and Atwood came to the scene and the National Guard was called up from Colby to control the crowd.

Thanks for the e-mail Cary.

Death notice

Funeral services for Edwin William Henry Meyer were held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday at St. John Lutheran Church in Bird City. Edwin died at the Cheyenne County Hospital on Saturday, Jan. 15, on his 99th birthday.

Memorials may be made to the St. Francis Senior Center.

Hospital Board

The Cheyenne County Hospital Board will meet at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 27, in the clinic basement meeting room in St. Francis.

County Commissioners

The Cheyenne County Commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 31, in the commissioner's room at the

courthouse in St. Francis.

Stockholders meeting

The St. Francis Sale Barn's annual stockholder meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 26, at 1 p.m. in the Bankwest basement, St. Francis. See ad in this issue.

Annual Equity meeting

The annual St. Francis Equity Meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 19, in the St. Francis high school cafeteria. A meeting will follow the dinner.

Kansas Day

Kansas Day will be observed on Saturday, Jan. 29. This is the 150th birthday celebration for the state right here in Cheyenne County at the Legion Hall in Bird City. Registration begins at 10, with a potluck lunch at noon.

Guest speaker, William D. Keel will present a program titled "The German Heritage of Kansas".

Historical Society

Jan. 23 is the date for the annual meeting of the Cheyenne County Historical Society. Note, the date was originally Jan. 16. The event will begin at 2 p.m. in the Old Country Church on West Highway 36. The business meeting will be followed by "Kansas History Stumpers," prizes, special

presentations and a birthday cake. Everyone is welcome to celebrate Kansas 150th birthday with the Historical Society.

Women Managing the Farm

The Women Managing the Farm will hold its statewide conference, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 11-12 at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita. The theme of the conference is "Growing Together."

For more details go to the website at www.togpartners.com/wmf or contact your local K-State Research and Extension Office or the local USDA Service Center. Early bird registration is due by Jan. 28.

Branson program in Oberlin

The Branson on the Road show will be held at the Oberlin Gateway Center at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 29. It will include fiddle, mandolin, banjo, guitar, upright slap bass, rhinestone costumes, hilarious comedy and a great classic country, bluegrass, rockabilly and gospel music to the Gateway. For details call Mary Henzel at (785) 470-0218 or Ella Betts at (785) 475-3557.

Head Start

Cheyenne County Head Start is accepting applications for the

2011-2012 school year. This is a free preschool program for 3- and 4-year olds of qualifying families residing in Cheyenne County. The classroom is located at 222 E. Webster, St. Francis. To apply or receive additional information, please call the classroom at 332-3110 or Lori Rieger at 332-2418.

Peace of Mind AA

Peace of Mind AA will meet at the St. Francis Public Library at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays. Contact Kris D. at (785) 332-4410 or (785) 772-5090.

Narcotics Anonymous

Narcotics Anonymous meetings are held at 104 W Webster/Methodist Education Building on Sunday nights at 8 p.m. and Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m. Contact (785) 342-0028.

Northwest Kansas Family Shelter

Northwest Kansas Family Shelter provides 24-hour 7-day-a-week service 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.

Legislative News

By Ward Cassidy, Representative, 120th District

Week one in Topeka!

I went to Topeka several days early to get my office organized and set up my computer. Unfortunately, I left my own computer at home and have not yet received my legislative computer. With 33 new freshmen legislators I imagine they are having lots of trouble getting everyone going.

My wife, Gloria, my two daughters, their husbands, and my treasurer, Michael Day and his wife Brenda, all traveled to Topeka for the Inaugural Ball. It was a fun evening and I was grateful they made the trip.

Sam Brownback was sworn in as the 46th governor of the state of Kansas. The snowstorm caused the event to take place in the house chambers Monday morning. After a short speech, Governor Brownback hosted an open house in his first floor offices. Gloria and I have met his wife, Mary, and we had a very nice visit with her before we had the opportunity to congratulate the new governor.

At 2 p.m. on Monday there was a swearing in of the new house members in the house chamber. I felt a tremendous responsibility as I took the oath to stand up for my 120th district and to serve Kansas.

Wednesday evening we sat in the chamber and listened to the State of the State Address. I knew that there were going to be major budget cuts but I was hopeful, after talking to the budget director, Steve Anderson (he grew up in Oberlin), that Northwest Kansas would not be hit too hard. We are now \$570 million in debt and

I believe we all knew it was going to take some tough decisions to get the state budget back in line.

As most of you know the governor presents us the budget, the legislature holds hearings on how the money is spent and what services are provided for the money that is available. The different agencies then come in to present their plan for delivering the specific services they provide.

Education is going to be hit hard again. Every one of the 120th school districts will lose significant amount of dollars again this year and in next year's budget. The stimulus money was a blessing when it arrived, but a curse now that the state has to wean itself off federal money. There is not going to be any agency that does not feel the budget crunch. Hopefully, there can be decisions made in Topeka and in our local communities that will help us provide services till the economic recession turns around.

I do believe that with the Republican governor and the large Republican majorities in both the House and the Senate there will be enough votes to pass conservative legislation. The budget deficit and the unfunded pension liability of the state employees retirement system, close to \$7 billion, are going to dominate the session in both the House and Senate. There will also be a strong move to pass legislation outlawing late-term abortions. There is a group of legislators that want to repeal the 1-cent sales tax. The governor is not in favor and I would be surprised if it happens this year with our large deficit. There is also

a move to repeal the Clean Air Act and I am definitely not in favor of doing that.

The governor has also recommended many changes and consolidations of 11 different agencies that will save \$9.2 million in the budget. One that will affect our area is the merging of the Animal Health Department and State Conservation Commission to the Department of Agriculture.

Personally, I have been working on Oberlin's water problems, a statute that affects a business in Phillipsburg, and my first committee bill that will put more teeth in laws against internet predators. I really love my job and am constantly talking to fellow legislators on how their decisions will affect Northwest Kansas.

My office secretary is a wonderful lady named Evelyn. This is her first year working in the legislator. She has three of us to serve and works very hard. My office phone number is 785-296-7696. Next week the legislative web site is supposed to be up and I will include my e-mail address in next week's article.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Times subscriptions: Josh Johnson, Bird City; Irene Kehlbeck, Colby.



VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS HONORED – Stephanie Busse and Whitney Churchwell were honored at the school board meeting for receiving Western Kansas Liberty League honors following the fall season.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez.

School Menu

Monday

Breakfast: Cherry wrap.
Lunch: Potato soup and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

Tuesday

Breakfast: Breakfast casserole.
Lunch: Corn dog and dessert.

Wednesday

Breakfast: Breakfast burritos.

Lunch: Second grade menu: beef and noodles, mashed potatoes, roll, corn, strawberries and bananas, bomb pops.

Thursday

Breakfast: Omelets.
Lunch: Pork fritter sandwich, baked beans.

The Bird City Times

(USPS 056-720)

Serving the communities of Bird City and McDonald

Casey McCormick, Editor
Norma Martinez, Co-Editor
Karen Krien - Publisher
Shawn C. McCormick - Adv. Mgr.
Periodicals postage paid at Bird City, Kansas 67731-0220
Phone (785) 734-7031
Fax (785) 332-3001
Or Phone (785) 332-3162
E-Mail bc.times@nwkanssas.com
Published every Thursday
\$33 per year in Cheyenne and surrounding counties; other in-state \$36 and all out-of-state subscriptions, \$40 (strictly in advance).

Postmaster: Send address correction to P.O. Box 220 Bird City, Kansas 67731-0220

Official City Newspaper
Published Weekly By
Nor'West Newspapers,
Incorporated
Bird City, KS 67731



Fifth Street Apartments in Bird City, Kansas, have 2-bedroom duplex apartments for rent. We are offering free cable television for one year to new tenants. Applicants must income qualify for this property. For more information and an application you may contact N.W. Kansas Housing, Inc. at 785-421-2151 or pick up an application at Century II in Bird City.



Access



Equal Housing Opportunity

We make insurance simple with ONE deductible.

When you experience damage to your home, vehicles and other possessions, you pay **ONE deductible** – no matter how many items are damaged in a single occurrence. For certainty after the storm, you can rely on us.



David L. Browne III
Agent & Commercial Specialist
Farm Bureau Financial Services
550 N. Franklin, Colby, KS 67701
Phone: 785-462-3388
Cell 785-443-3449

FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES
Insurance • Investments
www.fbfs.com

Auto | Home | Life | Business | College | Retirement

Securities & services offered through Equitrust Marketing Services, LLC, 5400 University Ave., West Des Moines, IA 50266, 877-860-2804, Member SIPC, Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company, Western Agricultural Insurance Company, Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, West Des Moines, IA. Affiliates Company providers of Farm Bureau Financial Services © 2010 FBL Financial Group, Inc. MCD14 (5-10)

SHOWTIME: 7:30 p.m. **1 hr. 38 min.**

Little Fockers
PG-13 for mature sexual humor throughout, language and some drug content.
Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller, Owen Wilson, Dustin Hoffman, Barbra Streisand
Comedy and Sequel

CHEYENNE THEATER St. Francis, KS
785-332-2747
Children 12 & Under: \$3 All Others: \$5

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDER MEETING

Stockholders are invited and encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting:

WEDNESDAY

JAN. 26, 2011 @ 1:00 P.M. CT
Bankwest Basement, St. Francis

Plan to attend as we decide the future of St. Francis Sale Barn

CHEYENNE COUNTY HOSPITAL

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

The St. Francis Recreational Department; Cheyenne County Clinic & Health Department present:

General Nutrition & Weight Toning Classes

Organizational Meeting is scheduled for: **Monday, January 24, 2010 7:00 p.m.**

High School Cafeteria
Instructor: **Greg Wolaver – Personal Trainer**
For more information contact:
Stacy Kaup at 332-2682 at the Clinic or
Mila Bandel, RN County Health Nurse at 332-2381

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

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