



Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick
scmccormick@nwkansas.com

Last week I wrote about the explosion of a SAC B-47 bomber north of Bird City. I hadn't planned on this being a two-part story, however some important information was left out.

The item came from the July 12, 1962 issue of *The Saint Francis Herald* which was printed a couple days after the accident. I had another comment from the daughter of Edwin Meyer. She said the newspaper article had the name wrong on one of the farms where the debris had fallen. Instead of Edward Meger's farm, it should have been Mr. Meyer's farm.

I have to mention something about Gus Zweygardt. Born on Sept. 4, 1912, Gus got to see a lot of things come about in his life.

As a boy, the horse was what people used to get around with before automobiles. Man was just beginning to fly, but in Gus's time he saw a man walk on the moon. He was born before the First World

War and lost a brother in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

But despite all the incredible things that happened during the span of his 98 years, Gus remained a very humble and gentlemanly farmer.

On Sundays he and his wife of 71 years, Martha, would shuffle down the aisle past the pews greeting all within hands distance.

Gus had a twinkle in his eyes that betrayed his old exterior. It was a glint that might have shown a mischievous memory or boyish past. But whatever its origin, the gleam displayed a profound joy of being who he was and being where he wanted to be.

It is hard to find sorrow for a man with that sort of peace in life.

One last topic this go around. Moviegoers at Saturday's presentation got a little extra entertainment for their buck. After the film a banana, chased by a gorilla, followed by a safari hunter bolted from behind the screen and past the surprised viewers.

Only at the Cheyenne Theater!

Hospital Guild

The Cheyenne County Hospital Guild will meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 7 at the St. Francis Senior Citizens Center. The program will be Hospice Update. Hostesses are Wilma Lampe and Sonya Modrell.

Veterans Affairs

Jody Tubbs, of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs, will be in St. Francis at 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 3, 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.

Western Plains Arts Association

The Wichita Children's Theatre Professional Touring Company will present an original musical about Kansas history entitled

Bulletin Board

"Kansas Kan." The show will be presented in Atwood, Colby, Brewster and Goodland on Jan. 27 and 28.

Equity annual meeting

The St. Francis Equity annual meeting was postponed because of the weather. It has been rescheduled for 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 9, in the cafeteria at the St. Francis Community High School. Dinner will be followed by the meeting.

Hospital Board

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

County Commissioners

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

Kansas Day

Kansas Day will be observed on Saturday 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."

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. For details call Mary Henzel at (785) 470-0218 or Ella Betts at (785) 475-3557.

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

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

If you are following the political happenings in Kansas, here is a brief breakdown of Gov. Sam Brownback's recommendations:

Increase private sector jobs, cut 2,000 unfilled state jobs, eliminate corporate tax subsidies, allow Kansas businesses to deduct a higher percentage of investment costs, waive state income taxes for individuals relocating to counties with a double-digit percentage population decline in the last 10 years (this includes almost all of the northwest Kansas counties), build the Holcomb power plant, expand wind energy projects, update policies that govern wireless and broadband access, reform the school finance formula, and establish an Office of the Repealer.

Gov. Brownback has the daunting task of dealing with a \$570 million budget shortfall this year, and if everything works this year, we will still be working on cutting \$400 million the following two years.

It is one thing to say state government needs to be smaller, but it is quite another to identify the specific reductions and push for their enactment. The governor's budget calls for another \$750 million in budget cuts.

That translates into a 6 percent reduction in state spending.

For public schools, the impact is sizable. Because federal stimulus dollars were used to keep school spending up the past two years, school budgets were not hit as hard as other state programs. This year, the stimulus money is gone, and it won't be made up.

The governor is quick to point out that while base aid to students falls under their plan, rising costs associated with teacher pensions and building projects make the overall state spending going into education larger.

A task given to the Legislature is to define the word "suitability" in education finance. We will get input from many sources, and I would love to hear from the people of northwest Kansas as to their definition.

Areas directly affected by the budget proposal include:

- Community Mental Health Centers - All remaining state aid (\$10.2 million) is eliminated. That money is used to provide services to poor people who have no private insurance or Medicaid.
- Early Head Start - Gone, all funding (\$11.3 million). This money is provided for our poorest young children.

• Kansas Art Commission - eliminated July, 2012 (\$800,000). The governor feels that private groups will pick up these programs outside the state budget.

• Public broadcasting, all state funding eliminated (\$1.7 million). Several entities will come out OK. In our area, that includes the Department of Corrections. All \$40 million of lost stimulus money will be replaced with state general funds.

The Department of Transportation can handle a \$200 million sweep of highway funds into the state general fund for next year. The overall 10-year plan stays in place.

House Bill 2035 dealing with abortion will be one of the first to hit the floor. I cosigned with several other representatives and feel that it would be beneficial if passed. You can read the full material on the Kansas Legislature website when it gets up and running this year.

The second bill in my Corrections Committee is to make the drug Sudafed available by prescription only. Meth making is still a problem, and law enforcement has requested this law.

As of today, Thursday, Jan. 20, there are 45 new bills started. I

find it challenging to stay abreast of all the legislation. I really want to make decisions based on what is best for northwest Kansas and our state.

Ward Cassidy, a St. Francis Republican, is the state representative for the 120th District. Reach him at ward.cassidy@house.ks.gov. The phone number is (785) 296-7696.

School Menu

Jan. 31 - Feb. 3

Monday

Breakfast: French toast.
Lunch: Taco salad and rice.

Tuesday

Breakfast: Yogurt.
Lunch: Pig in a blanket, potatoes triangle.

Wednesday

Breakfast: Oatmeal and fruit.
Lunch: first grade menu: Chicken legs, mashed potatoes and gravy, roll, green beans, strawberries and bananas, ice cream cups.

Thursday

Breakfast: Ham and scrambled eggs.
Lunch: French dip, dessert.

McDonald News By Vera Kacirek

65th anniversary

On Saturday, Jan. 22, Kenny and Phyllis Wilkinson celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary at their farm home northeast of McDonald.

Family members who came for the celebration were Brad and Rose Wilkinson of Chanute, Dr. Larry Wilkinson, Mary and Andrew from Wichita and a friend, Mikayla Lewis from Fort Hays State University, Dana Palmer and children from Corina, Ind., J.J. and Lori Denny and children from Colby, Rod and Lisa Johnson, Josh and Sammie Johnson, Greg and Cheryl Wilkinson.

The delicious meal was prepared by Shawn Wilkinson. The day was spent just enjoying being together. After Mass at St. John Church in the evening, Kenny and Phyllis renewed their marriage vows.

All of the family had left for home

by Sunday evening, except for Dana Palmer and children, who stayed to visit until Wednesday.

February events

Wednesday, Feb. 3: McDonald Area Development; Monday, Feb. 7: McDonald Senior Citizens meeting and dinner; Wednesday, Feb. 9: McDonald Garden Club Valentine Luncheon at noon.

Eleanor Swihart attended a Pro-Life dinner on Sunday at the Christian Church in St. Francis.

Susie Sabatka left on Sunday to spend the week in Manhattan where she will baby sit with the children of Rachel Mallett and Chanda Dowling.

Jennifer Sabatka, Tyler, John and Lilly were Monday evening visitors of Laddie and Vera Kacirek.

Letter to the Editor

This is a letter to voice a concern over the Cheylin athletes not having individual photos in the sports inserts. I hope this letter will be placed in both newspapers because it pertains to our students and Saint Francis' businesses. I called Karen Krien to voice my concern after receiving the insert. Karen's comment was that not enough businesses will support a picture for the insert at a cost of \$45 per athletes. I have a couple of issues with that statement.

One glaring issue is that we in the Cheylin/Bird City community support several of the Saint Francis businesses whose money is only used to support the Saint Francis athletes. I assume this is not how those businesses specified their ad contributions be spent. Some of those businesses get work from our school district. I am sure if they specifically don't want to support Cheylin students/athletes, that we would certainly like to know. Our money might also be spent better elsewhere, also. I really don't believe this to be the case, and I would encourage those businesses to let the newspaper know that you

don't need the newspaper running off any of their business.

I also believe there are plenty of businesses and generous souls in our community that would support the cost to have a student, possibly their own, in the insert. There are over 20 supporters of the Cheylin honor roll. I'd guess many of these would contribute for the athletes as well. Karen indicated that she had an ad in the newspaper looking for sponsors and only one person responded. I personally did not see the ad, but I don't doubt it was in there just maybe not visible enough at a busy time of year. With all the Bird City people that get the Times, they have our addresses. The newspaper could send out a letter.

My issue is not with the Saint Francis businesses or their community. I truly believe the issue is with how the newspaper decided to divide their advertising donations. My issue is that I would like to see the Cheylin student recognized at the same level as in the past and that the Indian athletes enjoy. We are all proud parents.

Clayton Janicke, Bird City



Wesleyan Community Church

Showing JESUS FILM
movie presentation

Sunday, Jan. 30 • 4:45 p.m.

Snacks & Soup provided

W. Hwy 36, Bird City

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.



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Casey McCormick, Editor
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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)

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The Times

"Your sponsorship could be right here."

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

A Come & Go Baby Shower

Natasha Gordon

and baby boy

Raiden Thomas due on Feb. 20

Saturday, January 29

4 - 5 p.m.

105 E. 7th, Bird City



CHEYENNE COUNTY HOSPITAL

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

Mark Your

Calendars NOW!

Cheyenne County health fair
April 11-15, 2011

April 11, 12, 13 - blood lab draws

April 13, 14, 15 - well women & men exams

Education exhibit booth fair -
April 14th

for more information; contact
Mila Bandel, RN County health @ 785-332-2381
Stacy Kaup - Clinic Manager @ 785-332-2682