

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick

In my travels along I-70 there is one sight that amazes me with each encounter.

Traveling between Hays and Salina is a forest of monstrous, modern windmills to the north of the interstate. Hundreds of these giant towers with massive propellers churn the prairie winds both day and night.

I've seen them colored pink by the setting sun, brilliant white during the day and hidden at night, except for a myriad of blinking red lights.

Also off the road is the smaller reminder of yesteryear that are much fewer in number. Some of the old, wooden windmills still stand, dwarfed by their larger cousins.

The two together speak of Kansas, past and present. We are a state that continues to move toward the unknown future. But from the people that have come before we have a good road map of what does and does not work.

Ever moving on it pays to remember, and learn from the past.

McDonald News

By Vera Kacirek

Betty Knapp was a Monday morning visitor of Joan Tongish. Mike and Diana Tongish were Monday evening visitors of Joan Tongish to celebrate Valentines day. They brought pizza for supper.

Josh and Sammie Johnson were Sunday evening guests of Kenny and Phyllis Wilkinson to attend the St. John's Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) supper and program.

Many of the members and guests of the Federated Church enjoyed a Valentine supper on Saturday evening at the church.

Kalyne Atchison and Amelia Banister were among the members who attended the Valentine supper on Saturday evening.

Betty Lewis and Leonard Vyzourek, who were celebrating February birthdays, were surprised with a birthday cake at the home of Phyllis Wingfield.

Jerry and Betty Knapp went to Colby on Sunday to take their daughter, Brenda out for a Valentine dinner.

Jennifer Sabatka and children were Monday evening visitors of Kenny and Pauline Micek and Laddie and Vera Kacirek.

South of McDonald

By Sandy Binning

Joe and Charlene Kramer were Friday overnight guests of Roland and Linda Query in Firestone, Colorado.

Merinda Crayton, Devon and Trinity, and John Binning were weekend guests at the Binning Ranch.

Brewster hosted the Regional Scholars Bowl. Kathy Banister

is the Brewster High School coach, and George Banister helped with the tournament.

George and Kathy Banister attended the Cheylin- Weskin basketball games Friday evening in McDonald.

Tom and Kelly Dewey and children attended the Sportsman Banquet in Atwood Saturday evening.

Sheriff Report

In the month of January, 2011, Cheyenne County Sheriff's office deputies performed over 143 hours of patrol and case work in Bird City.

Deputies responded to calls to service by residents of Bird City, as well as performed patrol. The sheriff's office checked doors of businesses and responded to the

following complaints: one dog complaint, three warnings for dog at large, one theft investigation, one assault investigation, one reckless driver complaint, one welfare check, one property damage complaint, three traffic warnings, one unattended death investigation, and one suspicious vehicle investigation

Menu

Feb. 21-24

Monday

Breakfast: Bagels.
Lunch: Fish with baked potatoes and roll.

Tuesday

Breakfast: Boiled egg and sausage link.
Lunch: eighth grade menu: Pizza, corn, chocolate chip cookies.

Wednesday

Breakfast: Cherry wrap.
Lunch: Turkey and noodles, mashed potatoes and roll.

Thursday

Breakfast: English muffin deluxe.
Lunch: Pork fritter sandwich with fries.



The Bird City Times

(USPS 056-720)

Serving the communities of Bird City and McDonald

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Norma Martinez, Co-Editor
Karen Krien - Publisher
Allen Edgington - 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@nwkans.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



80th birthday

Floyd Jensen will celebrate his 80th birthday from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 26, at Riverside. All family and friends are welcome. He requests no gifts.

Give'em Hell, Harry Truman
The Western Plains Arts Association production of Give'em Hell, Harry Truman scheduled for Feb. 20, has been cancelled due to unforeseen health issues of the performer.

The next presentation on the Western Plains program is Brett Family show on Saturday, Feb. 26, in Oakley.

Historical meeting rescheduled
Due to illness, the Bird City Historical Association meeting had to be postponed until 2 p.m. today (Thursday) at the Bird City Senior Center. This meeting was originally scheduled for Feb. 11.

Hospital Board

The Cheyenne County Hospital Board will meet at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 24, in the clinic basement meeting room in St. Francis.

Free tax help

Free tax help is available for middle- and low-income people at the St. Francis Library on Wednesdays, 2 to 5 p.m.; and at the St. Francis senior center on Thursdays from 2 to 5 p.m. For more information or make an appointment, call Rowland Roelfs at 785-332-3490.

Cheyenne County Conservation Awards Banquet

The Cheyenne County Conservation Awards Banquet which was postponed on Monday night has been rescheduled for Monday, Feb. 21 in Bird City at the Legion Hall.

Pianist and entertainer

Ronnie Kole, one of America's



Kramer

Birthday celebration held



The family of Joe Kramer is having an open house to help him celebrate his 70th birthday. The open house will be from 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 26, at the McDonald Legion Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

most exciting pianists and entertainers, will perform at The Gateway in Oberlin on Saturday, Feb. 19, during the dinner theater at 6:30 p.m. and also at the program, which will follow at 7:30 p.m. in Morgan Theater. "Around the World on 88 Keys" Dinner Theater is sponsored by the Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission. Reservations are required for the dinner. For details, call Ella Betts (785) -475-3557 or Mary Henzel (785)-470-0218.

St. Francis Rec Commission
February rec classes include "Alternative Answers" DVDs with Kate Jenkins, Feb. 2: High Level Health; Feb. 9: Detoxify

Your Home. Call Penny Gienger (785) 332-3949.

3-on-3 basketball

The second annual Wray 3-on-3 basketball tournament is being held Feb. 21, at the Wray High School. Pre-registration is open until Feb. 18. Post registration is 8 to 9 morning of play. This tournament is for players in grades second through eighth. Call Michelle Swisher at (970) 630-7105 for additional details.

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.

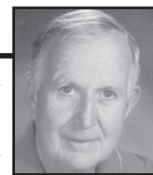
Northwest Kansas Family Shelter

Northwest Kansas Family Shelter provides 24-hour-7day-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.

Bulletin Board

Legislative News

By Ward Cassidy



I saw a quote this week that really struck home: "You should only get even with those who have helped you." Thanks again to all of you who supported me and I am working hard to represent you. It is difficult to update you on everything that is going on. The legislature is moving quickly and all of the committees are sending out bills fast and furious. I have now voted 10 times and feel that all of those votes represent Northwest Kansas values. It is going to get a lot tougher voting, as there are many issues coming up that have many ways to be interpreted.

Major items discussed in the House this week: Pay - go, on the surface a common sense approach to budgeting. The pay-go rule would prohibit any floor amendment that would increase spending without a companion piece that identifies where the budget would be cut to fund the net increase. This is a tough pill to swallow, for some legislators, but I believe with our debt load we should show fiscal restraint, and I voted for the bill.

After four hours of debate on the House floor, we passed Governor Brownback's freeze bill which transforms a projected \$50 million deficit for the current fiscal year into a \$37.5 million positive ending balance. As I said last week, every dollar saved this year is worth two dollars in next year's budget. Let's hope the Senate agrees and sends the bill to the Governor.

During the four-hour debate, an amendment was offered taking all state funding away from Planned Parenthood to insure that state dollars are not used for abortion services. The money would be prorated to local health clinics instead. It passed the House with 91 votes and I voted for this bill.

House members debated the ins and outs of closing their party caucus meetings to the media. Both parties say they will hardly ever do that. I do believe that there should be transparency in government and feel that it is unnecessary on most all occasions. The vote to do so passed, and I supported the

majority.

The executive order to abolish the Arts Commission and transfer their duties to the Kansas Historical Society has been a hot topic since Governor Brownback issued it. I truly support the Arts and hope that the change works.

We heard an excellent presentation by the State Library Association in my Education Budget Committee. Libraries are such an important tool for our state and Northwest Kansas and I am hoping the cuts will be limited. This organization is doing a great job of adjusting to budget shortfalls and still providing new and outstanding services.

I appreciate the letters and e-mails discussing "suitability." We have to do a good job of providing quality education for our youth. Boards of education are going to have to work very hard to support their local schools and communicate their importance to their communities.

A big item coming up - Should legal concealed carry permit holders be allowed to possess firearms in buildings which do not offer metal detectors

and security officers (college campuses).

I presented my first bill to the Finance Committee that will allow professional corporations to become members of professional accounting partnerships. In simple language, it would allow someone that farms to be a partner in a professional corporation without having their farm being held liable. We have several folks in Northwest Kansas that farm and would like to do accounting. This will allow us to keep accounting firms growing.

Thursday, Feb. 10, the House proposed a constitutional amendment to not allow the federal health care reform package. If approved by two-thirds of the House and Senate members it will be put on the ballot for Kansas voters in the November 2012 election. I voted for it.

Contact me with your comments and concerns at ward.cassidy@house.ks.gov, 785 296-7696.

Club Clip

McDonald Senior Citizens

Joan Tongish welcomed 26 seniors and nurse, Rose Whitehurst, to the Monday, Feb. 7, meeting of the McDonald Senior Citizens. Birthdays and anniversaries were acknowledged. Owen Wingfield read a story and then led the meal blessing.

Phyllis Wingfield had decorated the tables in a pretty Valentine theme.

After a bounteous meal, bingo was played with Ray Johnson winning the blackout game.

At the short business meeting Joan Tongish appointed the March committees. Ray Johnson will call the bingo games. Poem and prayer will be by Emma Threlkel; presents will be by Joan Tongish, and kitchen help will be Phyllis Wikinson, LaVina Waters, and Annie Antholz.



SHOWTIME: 7:30 p.m.

1 hr. 59 min.

The Green Hornet

Feb. 18, 19 & 20

Seth Rogen, Jay Chou, Cameron Diaz, Christoph Waltz, Edward James Olmos, David Harbour, Tom Wilkinson

PG-13 for sequences of violent action, language, sensuality and drug content.
Action/Adventure, Crime/Gangster and Adaptation

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785-332-2747

Children 12 & Under: \$4

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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

DEW Drop Angus

(Formerly Wilson Bros. Angus)



Saturday, February 26, 2011

At The Ranch, 32946 Rd. 707, Parks, NE 69041 • 1:00 MST

From Parks - 2 mi. E, 2 mi. N; From Benkelman - 7 1/2 mi. W on Benkelman River Road then 2 mi. N.

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40 Commercial Bred Heifers

Bred to TC Bextor 740

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