



Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick
mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com

I understand the importance of buying local, as most of you do too. But some items just can't be found in the area stores that will satisfy a young ladies taste for fashion.

Yep, it must be time to find a prom dress.

Do to my better judgment not to embarrass our daughter in this column (I doubt too many of her friends bother reading it) I won't go into too many details. Let's just say two trips to Denver after many hours spent shopping on line.

I got to thinking about how much has changed over the years.

My high school proms were in 1977 and '78. Back then disco music turned us into replicas of John Travolta. Everything was big; big lapels, big hair, big shoes and big egos!

I'm really not sure if I miss those times or not.

The kids today sure have an easier time with the style of the day. Their time capsule will probably be a bit more boring than ours.

But it is fun to see them experience the emotional highs of youth. Little do they know these will be their reference points to their own kids on down the road.

General sign-up period set for farmers to begin enrollment

A Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signup has been announced from March 14 through April 15 according to Adrian J. Polansky, State Executive Director of U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Kansas. This is the second consecutive year that department has offered a general Conservation Reserve Program signup.

"Financial incentive available through Conservation Reserve Program affords farmers and ranchers a low risk opportunity to implement a variety of

conservation practices that will benefit the environment in a number of ways," said Mr. Polansky. "Over the past 25 years, this program's practices have improved water and air quality, increased wildlife habitat and prevented soil erosion."

Landowners enrolled in the program receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. Land that is not currently enrolled in the program can be offered during sign-up if all eligibility requirements are met.

Letters to servicemen
Vance Churchwell is attending Navy Boot Camp at Great Lakes Ill., and would enjoy receiving cards and letters. His address is: SR Churchwell, Vance S., Ship 09 Div 137, Recruit Training Command, 3415 Sailor Drive, Great Lakes, IL 60088-3513

Home Circle Club
Carol Marsh will be the hostess for the Saint Patrick's Day meeting of the Home Circle Club. It will be held at the Manor on Thursday, March 17, at 2 p.m. Wear green!

Bird City Birthday dinner
Bird City Birthday party is 3 p.m. on Monday.

Tornado Warning Test
A Tornado Warning Test will

be taking place at 1:30 p.m. today (Thursday).

Meeting rescheduled
Troy Burr, mayor, has rescheduled the first Strategic Planning meeting to Tuesday, March 15.

Revelations meetings
Starting March 27, the St. Francis Community Church will be conducting in-depth studies through the book of Revelations. The study will start at 6:30 p.m. at the church on 204 N. Quincy Street.

4-H model meeting
The 4-H model meeting contest for this evening is cancelled due to the weather. It has been rescheduled for Friday, March 18.

Relay for Life
The time has come to begin thinking about organizing teams for the Cheyenne County American Cancer Society Relay for Life which is planned for June 11 at Sawhill Park in St. Francis. Teams will gather at Sawhill Park overnight to join the fight against cancer from 6 p.m. Saturday, June 11, until 6: a.m. Sunday, June 12. Additional information is available in a story in this issue.

"The Call to Holiness"
Stewards of Hope: "The Call to Holiness" will be presented in a series of lessons beginning at 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 13, at the St. Francis Catholic Church. The sessions will be one hour in length during the six weeks of Lent. The sessions will provide enrichment for the season of Lent.

Palm Sunday cantata
The Peace Lutheran worship choir would like to invite any community choir members to join them in presenting the Palm Sunday cantata "Who do you say I am." Anyone interested in participating should contact Cinda Dankenbring at 332-2884. Rehearsal start soon, tentatively March 20.

Starting Smart
A "Starting Smart" program from 6 to 9 p.m. April 4 in the clinic basement in St. Francis. Topics include:

- How early experiences affect brain development.
- Emotional development and the infant brain.
- SIDS, Shaken Baby Syndrome, and the Happiest Baby program.
- The importance of Quality in Infant-Toddler Child Care.

The program is free and participants will be given a chance to win a new baby swing. It is put on by Smart Start of Northwest Kansas and the Cheyenne County Hospital.

Incident Command Classes
Just a reminder that the Incident

Command Classes (ICS) 300 class will be in Colby April 5 and 6, and Incident Command Classes 400 will be in Goodland May 3 and 4. For those that still need Incident Command Classes to be National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliant, Ryan Murray, emergency manager, would encourage them to take advantage of these opportunities close to home. He has also have been informed that in order to receive anymore grant money or equipment from Homeland Security, they must be National Incident Management System compliant.

Sign up for classes at <https://ks.train.org> and click the correct location under the registration tab.

Jazz Ambassadors
The Jazz Ambassadors America's Big Band is the official touring big band of the United States Army. This concert, sponsored by Western Plains Arts Association, will be taking place at 7:30 p.m. on Monday in the Colby High School Auditorium. To obtain free tickets, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Pat Ziegelmeier, CCC, 1255 S. Range, Colby, KS 67701. Please allow turnaround time for the post as well.

3110) for additional information

Storm spotter class
Storm spotter class will be held in St. Francis on Wednesday, March 16. Class will start at 6:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. Everyone interested in identifying severe weather should plan to attend. The class is free.

Wildlife banquet
The Cheyenne County Wildlife banquet will be held April 1, at the Bird City Legion hall. Doors will open at 6:30. Dinner is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. with the auction at 8:15. Tickets are available from any board members or at Bumper to Bumper or Owens True Value.

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.

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. assistance, please call the toll-free number 1-800-794-4624

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Landowners enrolled in the program receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. Land that is not currently enrolled in the program can be offered during sign-up if all eligibility requirements are met.

Conservation Reserve Program participants with contracts expiring this fall can make new contract offers during the sign-up period. Contracts awarded during this general sign-up will become effective Oct. 1.

Conservation Reserve Program is authorized a maximum enrollment of 32 million acres. Nationwide there is currently 30,859,317 acres enrolled on 730,547 contracts with an estimated 5,040,883 acres to expire this fall. Kansas currently has 2,726,425 acres enrolled on 46,641 contracts with an estimated 532,067 acres expiring Sept. 30.

All Conservation Reserve Program offers are evaluated and ranked using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) that indicates the environmental benefits of enrolling land in the program. There are five environmental factors that make up the Environmental Benefits Index: wildlife, water, soil, air, enduring benefits and cost. Decisions will be made following the end of the sign-up period and after analyzing Environmental Benefits Index data on all of the offers.

In addition to the general sign-up, the continuous Conservation Reserve Program sign-up program will be ongoing.

For more information, please contact the Farm Service Agency Office at the local US Department of Agriculture's Service Center or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/crp

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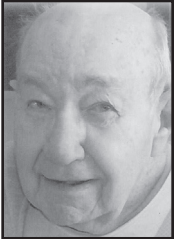
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Obituary

Benjamin James Loop
April 13, 1926 - Feb. 26, 2011



Benjamin "Ben" James Loop, 84, died Feb. 26, 2011, at the Hillcrest Care Center and The Towers in Wray, Colo.

He was born April 13, 1926, in Cheyenne County, Kan.

Benjamin was the oldest son of Earl and Mabel (Wilkins) Loop. Ben attended Walnut Groves School through the eighth grade. He then went to work for his uncle, Paul Wilkens. During that time he won several awards for his Hereford cattle.

Benjamin then moved to Wray, Colo., where he married Ollie Rosch in 1954 and they later divorced. Ben worked for the Yuma County Road and Bridge till the age of 70.

During this time he met Louise Vance and shared several years with her in Eckley, Colo., until her

death. Ben was known to be a jack-of-all trades. He became a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Benjamin leaves his brothers, Alvin of Bird City and Pat of Magnolia, Texas; sister, Mary Elley of Fort Collins, Colo.; sister-in-law, Mary Loop of Paxton, Neb., many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Leo and Loyd; brother-in-law, John Elley; sister-in-law, Mary Elizabeth Loop; nephews, Andrew and David Loop and great-nephew, Andrew David Elley.

Rosary services were held at the St. Andrew Catholic Church in Wray on Thursday, March 3, with Mass following at 10:30 a.m. with Father Jonathan Dellinger officiating.

Benjamin was buried in the Benkelman Cemetery in Benkelman, Neb. Memorials may be given to St. Andrew Catholic Church.

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School Menu

March 14-18 Monday
Breakfast: Sausage link.
Lunch: Hamburger gravy, mashed potatoes, roll.

Tuesday
Breakfast: Bagels.
Lunch: Potato bar, chili, broccoli and cheese, roll.

Wednesday
Breakfast: Biscuit.

Lunch: Chicken patty, and buttered noodles, roll.

Thursday
Breakfast: Pancakes.
Lunch: Rib-barbecue sandwich, dessert.

Friday
Breakfast: Quesadillas.
Lunch: Turkey sandwich and French fries.

SHOWTIME: 7:30 p.m. 1 hr. 51 min.

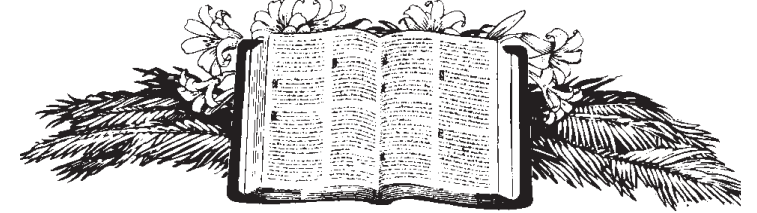
King's Speech

March 11, 12 & 13 *Rated R*

Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush, Helena Bonham Carter, Guy Pearce, Timothy Spall *Drama and Biopic*

CHEYENNE THEATER St. Francis, KS 785-332-2747

Children 12 & Under: \$4 All Others: \$6



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PRICE REDUCED ON COWBOY LOOP: Nice 3,400 sq. ft. convenience store located on large, paved corner lot. Well-maintained building features abundant parking and canopy-covered gas pumps with attractive signage. Located on Main St., Goodland, KS.

UPCOMING LAND AUCTION - APRIL 13, 2011: 1,360± ac. Yuma Co. Colo. dryland and grass to be sold in 6 tracts at the Wray Round House. Land is located 11 mi. N. of Idalia, CO.

2,138± ACRE YUMA CO., COLO. RANCH WITH LIVE WATER:
1775± ac. grass, 187± ac. CRP and 176± ac. farmground. 5 divided pastures, 2 wells with water piped to 8 tanks. Steel corrals. 3-bdrm ranch home. Great hunting! 6 mi. E and 7.5 mi. S of Wray, CO.

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www.shayrealty.com

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Diabetes Support Group Meeting

Wednesday, March 16, 2011 1:30 p.m.

Cheyenne County Clinic Basement

Guest Speaker: Dr. Mary Beth Miller

Topic: Diabetes Hotline: Is Anybody Listening?

For more information contact Mila Bandel, RN - County Health Nurse 785-332-2381

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