## By Casey McCormick

mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com A group in Massachusetts, the Brookline Political Action for Peace, is pushing for the Pledge

of Allegiance to be removed from their schools. Their argument is that the pledge has no educational value, is a loyalty oath reminiscent of McCarthyism and is at odds with America's most important traditions.

I don't have a clue what any of their position has to do with recognizing the country where we live or with the price of tea in China, for that matter. It doesn't

As far as having educational value, here's a quick history les-

Francis Bellamy (1855-1931) wrote the pledge for the 400th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of the New World. It was that?

first published in The Youth's Companion, a Boston publication, on Sept. 8, 1892.

In 1923 the "flag" was added. In the 1950s, President Dwight Eisenhower encouraged Congress to include "under God." Perhaps this did have something to do with McCarthyism, as plenty of people were concerned about the godless Communists

But I think Ike's motivation was more basic than that.

He said, "In this way we are reflecting the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource in peace and

So what could be wrong with

# Wellness center main topic at board meeting

By Norma Martinez

normamartinez@wildblue.net Plans for the Wellness Center were one of the main topics of discussion during the Sept. 12 Cheylin School Board meeting.

Rod Klepper, Bird City Wellness Center Committee member, determined a definite need for a wellness center for Cheylin as during the 2010-2011 school year the county health nurse reported 30 percent of the students were identified as being overweight; 19 students were obese, 26 overweight, 103 were a healthy weight, and four were

the Cheylin carpentry and construction classes, and provide community service in a learning environment that will benefit the community for years. All students who complete their classes will be listed on a plaque attached to the building for future generations to see.

Mr. Klepper presented the present plans on building the Wellness Center. Mila Bandel, county health nurse, and Amy Hendricks, presented facts on the success of other wellness centers in Beloit, Quinter, Burlington, Healy, Hoxie and Stanton County.

The original plans called for the Wellness Center to be built near the gym. After measuring up the situation, Mr. Klepper determined that was not going to work. The original size of 32 by 60 feet was going to be too small and there is no sewer line available.

The location will be changed to the lot north of the grade school.

"If we are going to have a community project," he said, "we want it to be visible to the public."

Site wise he feels there is no comparison; this site would be highly visible.

The original size is way too small and he is suggesting on this lot there would be plenty of room for constructing a 40 by 80foot building. This would allow room for a 10 by 14-foot utility room, 10 by 16-foot bath, 10 by 14-foot play area, 27 5-feet wide stations and a 40 by 60-foot open area in the center of the building for group workouts.

He is estimating the cost of building this Wellness Center to be \$95,000. These funds will be sponsored by the Cheylin School The Wellness Center will be District, Century II Community constructed through volunteers Foundation, and Cheylin Recrewho are willing to provide their ation Commission. Other levels time and effort to provide a of donors will be recognized hands-on learning experience to in levels of gold, silver and

# **School Menu**

# School Menu

*Oct. 3 – Oct. 6* 

Monday

Breakfast: pancakes Lunch: Mexican casserole, roll

### **Tuesday** Breakfast: bagels

Lunch: ham and cheese squares, chocolate cake

# Wednesday

Breakfast: sausage, scramble

Lunch: chili, cinnamon roll

Thursday

Breakfast: omelet

Lunch: hamburger on bun, peppered fries

Breakfast is served daily with toast, cereal, juice and milk.

Lunch is served daily with salad bar, fruit and milk



Serving the communities of Bird City and McDonald

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# **Bulletin Board**

## 75th birthday

Barbara Beougher will be celebrating her 75th birthday on Saturday, Oct. 1. To help her celebrate, her family is asking that people send cards to Barbara Beougher, Presbyterian Manor, 924 8th St., Room 315, Clay Center, KS 67432.

### **Hospital Guild**

Cheyenne County Hospital Guild will meet at 2 p.m. on Monday at the St. Francis Senior Center. Jeff Paulsen, administrator at the Good Samaritan Village, will give an update on the facility since the October fire. Hostesses are Dolores Wiley and Helen Burnham.

### Commissioners

The Cheyenne County Commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. on Friday in the commissioners room in the courthouse.

### Fair board

The Cheyenne County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 6, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

Benefit dinner

A benefit dinner for Linda Elfers has been scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 2, at the St. Francis high school cafeteria. Linda has recently been diagnosed with cancer and needs help with medical bills. Dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Donations matched by Thrivent for Lutherans.

### Poker run

The Cheyenne County Cruisers will hold a poker run open to all types of vehicles on Sunday, Oct. 2, starting at 1:30 p.m. at the city park in downtown St. Francis. All proceeds will go to benefit Linda Elfers, who was recently diagnosed with cancer. Arrive by 1 p.m. to get the instructions and draw the first card. For more information, contact Kent Kechter, 785-332-0039 or Scott Schultz, 785-332-3960.

### 100 years of 'Living the Colors of Faith'

St. John Lutheran Church in Bird City will celebrate its 100th anniversary on Sunday, Oct. 9, at 10:45 a.m. They will also have an open house on Saturday, Oct. 8, from 2 to 5 p.m.

**Winter Bowling Leagues** Anyone interested in joining a winter bowling league, contact Jenny Wright at 332-2211 or Mary Bier at 332-2119.

# Free popcorn

The Cheyenne Theater Committee is asking, that the first weekend of the month, those attending the movie bring a canned food donation for the Food Pantry and they will receive a free sack of popcorn.

**Historical society programs** 

800-524-9678

1986 Ford F-250 XLT, 6.9L diesel, #T5131B

1999 Ford Taurus SE, Air, Cruise, #T7813B 2000 Chevy 2500 4WD, 150K, #T1026B

2004 Ford F250, S/C, 141K, #T2049B

2001 Chevy Silverado LS, Ext. Cab 4x4, #T5192C

2004 F350 Crew XLT, 4x4, L.Box, 112K, #T1256A

2007 Ford Focus, Happy Yellow, 86K, #54444A

2008 GMC Acadia, SLT pkg., Dual DVD, #T0869B

2008 F250 Crew XLT, 4x4, AT, 6.4, 70K, #T3329A

2010 Ford F-150 4x4, Blue, Crew Cab, 34K, #T1028A

2010 Ford Ford F-150 XLT, 11,500 miles, #T4951A

2010 Ford F-150 XLR, Crew Cab, Blue/silver, 5K, #T0244A

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2009 Ford F-150 Lariat, 36,400, #T7873A

2010 Focus SE, AT, 4 door, 20K, #27020

1986 Ford F-250 Supercab 4x4 Flatbed, 109K, #T1325C

2006 Ford 250, R/C, Long box, 100,000 miles, #T4374A

2008 F350, S/C, XL, 4x4, AT, 6.4L, Flatbed, 80K,#T7537A

Scott Knebel

Sunday, Oct. 23, Audrey Ka- to assist veterans and their de-County Theater. She will preview her newest DVD, "Kansas, the Center of it All." This event will begin at 2 p.m. with a reception following at the St. Francis Public Library. The program is presented by the Cheyenne County Historical Society.

# Veterans' affairs

Jody Tubbs, of the Kansas Commission on veterans' affairs, will pay their vehicle personal propbe in St. Francis at 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the County Clerk's office to avoid paying a penalty.

Raymond Lyle Johnson was

south of McDonald. He attended

three country schools and later

graduated from McDonald Ru-

ral High School with the class of

ducted into the United States

Army and served in the Corps of

Engineers, stationed at Fort Leon-

ard Wood, Mo., and Fort Belvoir,

Va. Following an honorable dis-

charge, he returned to the farm

home of his parents, eager to get

back on the tractor and work in

On March 20, 1948, he was

married to Marlene Vandegriffe

of Owensville, Mo. To this union

a son David Ray, two daughters,

Dixie Annette and Connie Jean,

were born, bringing much joy

In 1949, they purchased what

would become their lifelong

home in McDonald, where Ray

was employed by several differ-

ent businesses through the years,

including two grocery stores,

McDonald Hardware, McDonald

Texaco and worked as a substi-

tute mail carrier as well. He was

later employed by USD 319 as

custodian and bus driver for more

Ray enjoyed children and, for

many years, the college boys

would come home, look Ray up

and go to the grade school gym to

After 1971, he worked for Raw-

lins County Highway Department

for two years. He enjoyed work-

ing with wood and also worked

for Rawlins County Construction

**Brent Rueb** 

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shoot a few hoops with him.

and happiness.

than 20 years.

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After graduation, he was in-

livoda will be at the Cheyenne pendents with VA claims work on Thursday, Oct. 6. If you are unable to contact Ms. Tubbs in St. Francis, you may contact the office in Colby any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday at (785) 462-3572.

### Tag deadline

All residents with last names beginning with P, Q and R should purchase their car, pickup, motorcycle and motorized bike tags and erty tax by the end of the month

Driver's license needs to be presented or entered on form at time of renewal.

#### **Cheyenne County** ambassadors

If you are proud of your community and your county and want to tell folks about it, stop by the Cheyenne County Development office at 107 W. Washington in St. Francis and pick up an "Ambassadors" package. Take one along on a trip or to an event. Let everyone know what a great place we live in

# **Obituary**

## **Raymond Lyle Johnson** April. 18, 1927 - Sept. 13, 2011

the first of four children born to Vandegriffe. For several years he Dorsey T. and Ida Ruth (Joseph) drove a semi, transporting grain. Johnson on April 18, 1927, in He had a strong work ethic and McDonald, Kan. The first years continued working even after reof his life were spent on a farm tirement Ray was a loving husband, fa-

ther and grandfather who cherished his family and was happiest when they were together. He had a quick wit and wonderful sense of humor and was always able to make people laugh.

As a "people person," he never met a stranger and loved talking with everyone he met. Ray trusted Jesus as his Savior many years ago when a good friend shared the salvation message. He was baptized, was a member of the McDonald Federated Church and served on the board as an elder and as treasurer. Community was very impor-

tant to him and he was always ready to lend a helping hand, no matter what the task. He served as mayor of McDonald 18 years, city council 6 years, president of McDonald Area Development for many years and was a 61 year member of the McDonald American Legion Post 229. He focused on helping oth-

ers and volunteering for activities such as calling bingo at Senior Citizens and Santa Claus Day, helping put up community Christmas lights and decorations, hosting the annual Easter Egg hunt in the Johnson yard, mowing countless lots in McDonald, painting and making repairs at

with his brother-in-law, George the ball field and road side park, just to name a few.

Ray died quietly in the comfort of his home, Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2011, after battling cancer for nearly three years. Preceding him in death were his parents, brother Tommy, and sister Eula Vandegriffe.

Survivors include his wife, Mar-

lene, love of his life for 64 years, son David and wife Elizabeth Johnson of Moundridge, daughter Dixie and husband Ted Bethell of McCook, Neb., daughter Connie and husband Brian Sabatka of McDonald, grandchildren Brent Johnson and wife Stephanie of Aurora, Colo., Deena Johnson of Aurora, Colo., Jeremy Johnson and Megan Johnson of Moundridge, Tara and husband Terry Lesiak of Clarks, Neb., Clint Bethell and wife Beth of McCook, Neb., Blake Bethell and wife Jodi of McCook, Neb., Tish and husband Lester Loker of McDonald, Carrie and husband Ray Magnani of Bird City, Brandon Sabatka and wife Samantha of Colby, Dana and husband Chris Howard of Bird City, 21 great grandchildren; brother Robert Johnson and wife Helen of McDonald, brother-inlaw George Vandegriffe of Colby, sister-in-law Audry McKinney and husband Jack of Owensville, Mo., nephews and a host of wonderful friends.

According to his family, Ray fought the good fight - please remember him with a smile!

# SHOWTIME: 7:30 p.m.

The Help Sept. 30, Oct. 1 & 2

Drama and Adaptation

Bryce Dallas Howard, Octavia Spencer, Jessica Chastain, Mike Vogel, Roslyn Ruff PG-13 for thematic material.

2 hr. 17 min.

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7 to 10 a.m. at the Bird City Clinic (no appointment needed for lab draws) Lab Fee: \$45.00 due at time of service!

No food or drinks after midnight except water & your prescription medication!

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MEN'S AND WOMEN'S EXAM: Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 12; All day on Thursday, Oct. 13, and All day on Friday, Oct. 14 In St. Francis - Call clinic for appointment 785-332-2682 Bird City -

9 a.m. - noon and Friday, Oct. 14, 9 a.m. - noon. In Bird City - Call clinic for appointment 785-734-2200 Exam Fee: \$25 due at time of service!

Wednesday, Oct. 12, 9 a.m. - noon; Thursday, Oct. 13,

For more information contact: Mila Badnel, RN County Health Nurse 785-332-2381. Sponsored by Cheyenne County Hospital, Clinic & Health Department

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