



Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick
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Years ago my wife's family decided to have an "old fashioned" Christmas. When Lezlie, her brothers and cousins showed up at the Cooper grandparent's home it was lit only by oil lanterns. Popcorn and cranberries were waiting in bowls to be strung for decorations. Grandad then brought in the pine tree that he had cut down and the stringers were added. For gifts, the girls were given homemade doll cradles and the boys got wooden, toy guns with clothes pin triggers to shoot rubber-bands.

I even think they made a joke about making the kids use the dilapidated out-house so they could get even more of a real feel for what it was like way back then.

When the previous generations settled this wild area they sure

didn't have Christmases like we do. The television was not bombarding them with the latest electrical gizmo needed to keep up with the neighbors or kids at school. I doubt if there were pepper spraying incidents at the general store in town.

Stories from those times seem to center on simpler things. Christmas was a break between the daily chores of survival. The holidays most remembered were the ones where people appreciated the joy of simply being together on a day to remember the true purpose of December 25.

Materially, a present was simple and often had a utilitarian purpose.

And folks humbly thanked the Lord for sending His Son into this world.

I wonder if where we have come is what is meant by the word "progress?"

Home Circle potluck
Hallis DeProng will be the hostess for the annual Home Circle Club Christmas Pot Luck and gift exchange. It will be held at the Manor at noon, on Thursday Dec. 15.

Community Club
The Bird City Community Club will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 12, at the senior center.

Get well cards
Get well cards and letters will reach Roberta Linin at: Shelly Beese, 6203 West 146th Street, Overland Park, KS 66223

Senior birthdays
The Bird City Senior Center birthday party will be on Monday, Dec. 12 at 3 p.m.

Santa Day
Santa is coming to Bird City on Saturday, Dec. 17. Dinner will be held from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Legion Hall.

Community Christmas Chorus
The Community Christmas

Chorus practice will be held each Sunday from 1:30 to 3 p.m. until Sunday, Dec. 11. The chorus will perform at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 18, at Peace Lutheran Church, St Francis.

Yuletide Festival
The Yuletide Festival is coming on Sunday, Dec. 11.

Fair board
Cheyenne County Fair Board will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

Library books
While doing your fall cleaning, check under your bed for any overdue library books. The Bird City Public Library is not charging any fines for 6 months in an attempt to recover items. So please help out by returning items from months or years back. If we are not open please leave items in the outside return.

Books needed
The Cheylin elementary parent group is planning a book exchange along with the I-Carly spaghetti supper this spring. They are asking for donations of preschool, elementary or junior high level books. Bring to the elementary office or Title I room. The evening of the supper, students will have the opportunity to choose one book to keep.

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.

Tag deadline
All residents with last names beginning with W, X, Y, Z should purchase their car, pickup, motorcycle and motorized bike tags and pay their vehicle personal property tax by the end of the month to avoid paying a penalty. Driver's license needs to be presented or entered on form at time of renewal.

Blue star banners
Do you have a son or daughter, grandson or granddaughter serving

in active duty military service? The Goodland Elks Lodge 1528 would like to present you with a "blue star banner" for your window to show your pride! Please call the secretary at (785) 890-6251 to visit with her about this.

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!

Narcotics Anonymous
Narcotics Anonymous meetings are held at 104 W Webster/Methodist Education Building on 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.

Church announces Christmas service

The annual Christmas service will be held Saturday, Dec. 17, at Salem Lutheran Church, 8 miles northwest of St. Francis. Follow signs on U.S. 36 at Road 9 or on K-27 at Road R.

Prelude music begins at 4:30 p.m. Following the lighting of the Advent candles, "Silent Night" will be sung as individual candles are lit. The service is held at 5 p.m. in the unique setting of the historic church. The program is titled "Christmas in the Country, Candles, Bells and Carols."

Once again, the Methodist Church handbell choir will be playing several Christmas carols. Other music includes Christmas carols by Salem Lutheran Choir, Once Again Sound Band, recorder duets, Holiday Community Choir and congregational singing.

Refreshments will be served in the church basement following the songfest. There will be a free-will offering.

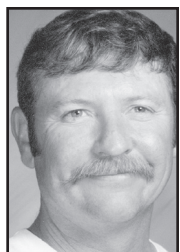
The community is urged to attend the service of music and fellowship.

Obituaries

Garold Dee Lee

June 2, 1955 - Nov. 12, 2011

Bird City resident, Garold Dee Lee, 56, died on Nov. 12, 2011, at Saint Francis Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs, Colo. Garold's final days were spent surrounded by family and friends that he had touched throughout his very memorable life.



Lee

A memorial service was held on Friday at the Immanuel United Methodist Church in Bird City, Kan.

Garold was born June 2, 1955, in St. Francis, Kan. He could accomplish anything on which he set his mind to do. He held many positions in many different places

throughout the U.S. He worked as a carpenter, candle maker, electric motor builder, maintenance for Cheylin School, and entrepreneur of Two Lee's Steak House, just to name a few of the careers he mastered. These endeavors took him from Wheeler, Kan., to Arkansas, Massachusetts, Florida, Arizona and finally, back to Northwestern Kansas.

Garold's life would seem too short to many, but those who were touched by him understand that the quality of existence far exceeded the quantity of time in which one lives. His gentle smile, compassion for others, and selflessness brought so much joy to friends and family.

Although Garold spent the last few years battling health issues, he gave those around him such courage and hope and reminded

them of the preciousness of life. He loved to fish, to do carpentry work and, most of all, he loved his family and friends. He would spend hours comforting or listening to a friend that needed someone close by. He enjoyed classic rock and in particular, the Doors.

Garold is survived by his loving parents, Ray and Jo Ann Lee of Wheeler, and Faye McConnell of Osborne; sisters Gena Lee of Queens Creek, Ariz., and Jody Ray Fritsche of Somer Set, Ohio; brothers Gail Lee of Osborne, Billy Lee of Wheeler, and Bobby Lee of Dearborn, Minn.; children Casey Lee of Hays, and Crystal Chick of Monument, Colo.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Immanuel United Methodist Church Food Bank, 116 E. 4th St., Bird City, KS 67731

Zella Elaine Rooney, age 88, of Stratton, Neb., died Friday, Dec. 2, 2011, at the Dundy County Hospital in Benkelman, Neb.



Rooney

Elaine was born on a farm north of Bird City, Kan., on Dec. 18, 1922. She was the second child of Earl and Marjorie (LeBow) Burr.

She attended a rural country school called Sunshine Plain before graduating from Bird City High School in 1941. She went on to attend St. Luke's School of Nursing in Denver, Colo., graduating in 1944. Following graduation Elaine was employed by Morehouse Hospital in Benkelman, Dundy County Hospital in Benkelman, and the Hitchcock County Hospital in Stratton.

Zella Elaine Rooney

Dec. 18, 1922 - Dec. 2, 2011

Elaine married John E. Rooney Jr. on Oct. 8, 1946, in Salina, Kan. To this union two sons were born, H. Michael and Patrick Earl.

She was a lifelong member of the Church of Christ in Stratton. She enjoyed gardening and working in her yard. She also loved quilting and spending time on her computer e-mailing family and friends. She invested countless hours keeping her family's genealogy up-to-date online.

Elaine was preceded in death by her husband John in 1984, her parents, and two brothers, Marvin Burr of Flagler, Colo., and Willis Burr of Bird City.

Elaine is survived by her two sons, Michael and wife Ruth of Bird City, and Patrick and wife Connie of McDonald, Kan.; six grandchildren, Lisa and husband Troy Rien of Lincoln, Neb., Michelle and husband Tim Heinemann of Smithfield, Neb., Shane Rooney of Lincoln, Paul Rooney and wife Shelley of

Benkelman., Jenny and husband Brad Owens of Benkelman, and Amy Rooney of Benkelman; and eight great-grandchildren, Alex and Jacob Rien, Samuel and Julie Leibhart, Colton, Justin, and Konner Owens, and Piper Williams; nine step great-grandchildren, Devin Watkins, Emma and Andrew Heinemann, Nichol, Jacob, Kiley and Chelsie Elwell, Chad Miller and Gena Olson. Also surviving are sisters-in-law Delphia Burr of Flagler, Bonnie Burr of Bird City, Tamzen Rooney of Atwood, Kan., and Mabel Pulanski of Vernon, Pa.; step sisters Manette Henderson of St. Francis, Kan., Inez Bargo of St. Francis, and Nadine Bryon of Lincoln, as well as many nieces, nephews and friends.

Memorials are suggested to the Donor's choice.

A funeral service will be held Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 10 a.m. at the Church of Christ in Stratton, Neb. with Norman Morrow officiating. Burial will follow in the Rose Hill Cemetery in Stratton.

Visitation will be held prior to the funeral service on Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2011.

Librarians gather for fall meeting

The 2011 Fall Full System meeting of the Northwest Kansas Library System was hosted by the Bird City Library. George-Seamon, director of the system, started the meeting by greeting the member librarians and guests. Bird City's library director Darla Deeds, Marcia Hickert and Roseanna Underwood made everyone feel welcome and presented each guest a handmade bag full of items as welcome gifts.

The general consensus of those who attended was reassuring to know their system is making a difference and a positive impact on community as well as neighboring communities by living up to their mission and vision statements.

The mission statement of the Northwest Kansas Library System is to provide service where it exists in the participating counties and to provide library service where it does not exist.

The Northwest Kansas Library System Vision Statement is: The Northwest Kansas Library System will lead the quest for information sharing through innovative services and technology for member libraries.

School Menu

Dec. 12 - Dec. 15

Monday
Breakfast: polish sausage supreme.
Lunch: ham and cheese sandwich, vegetable.
Tuesday
Breakfast: breakfast bites.
Lunch: turkey noodle soup, rolls, vegetables.
Wednesday

Breakfast: boiled eggs, yogurt.
Lunch: fish patties, macaroni and cheese, vegetable.
Thursday
Breakfast: tornados.
Lunch: french-dip roast beef sandwich, chips, vegetable.
Breakfast is served daily with toast, cereal, juice and milk.
Lunch is served daily with salad bar, fruit and milk.

SHOWTIME: 7:30 p.m.; Sun. Matinee: 2 p.m. 1 hr. 58 min.

Breaking Dawn
Dec. 9, 10 & 11 *Drama, Romance, Thriller and Sequel*
Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner, Ashley Greene, Jackson Rathbone
PG-13 for disturbing images, violence, sexuality/partial nudity and some thematic elements.

CHEYENNE THEATER St. Francis, KS 785-332-2747
Children 12 & Under: \$4 All Others: \$6
3D Movies: Children 12 & Under \$5 All Others: \$7

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

You can't always be there for an aging parent, or loved one who lives alone. But you can help increase their confidence to live independently - with Philips Lifeline through Cheyenne County Hospital.

Lifeline is a simple, wireless device worn as a pendant or wristband that allows the wearer to summon help with the push of a button from anywhere in their home or yard, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The button connects to a trained Lifeline response associate, who quickly accesses the profile and calls responders for help.

There are 3 different units now, the new one is a cordless phone or if you have plenty of phones there is just the unit and the third option is a regular phone unit. The cost for a Lifeline is a one-time installation fee of \$50 and the monthly cost is \$30 and for the new cordless phone it is \$35.

For more information or to get one installed call Shawna at Cheyenne County Hospital 785-332-2104.

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