

# Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick

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 "I want to live in A-mer-ic-a!"  
 That catchy tune from the musical West Side Story captures a common theme for many.  
 Immigration reform is a hot button topic that is being dealt with in Washington, D.C. But no matter where you stand on the issues of immigration, unless you can mark yourself down as being a Native American, your family came "off the boat" at some time or another.  
 No wonder people from other countries want to come here. Despite all that is wrong with our nation, it still has a quality of life unequaled anywhere else.

I had a chance recently to ask a green-behind-the-ears American what it means.  
 Lounie Erskin came to northwest Kansas through marriage from the island nation of the Philippines. Recently she passed all of the requirements and joined around 140 individuals from 28 different countries at a naturalization ceremony in Wichita.  
 "It's an honor," said Lounie. To be able to live the American Dream is very special to this new citizen.  
 Seeing the excitement in her eyes made me wonder about what it was like for my Scottish forebearers when they got here?

# Obituary

## Gayle (Tunney) Loker

March 29, 1925 - Jan. 28, 2013

Gayle Bonnaparte (Tunney) Loker, son of Jerome B. and Elvie Mae (Hamors) Loker, was born on a farm two and a half miles east of Atwood, Kan., on March 29, 1925. In 1936, with the family, Tunney moved to a farm in Cheyenne County, northwest of Bird City. From there, they moved to a farm 11 miles southeast of Benkelman, Neb., on the Kansas-Nebraska state line in 1941.

Tunney took his service physical in August 1945, and was 1-A Class to be called to the next draft when the war ended.

Tunney married Leila Charline Torkelson in the Oberlin courthouse on Aug. 20, 1946. He took his new wife and moved north of McDonald to farm with his parents. To this union, five children were born: Gary Gayle, Lila Mae, J.B., Lester Joel and Bradley Lee. During this time, he drove a school bus, worked for a rancher and did custom haying work.

Upon the death of his father in 1958, he then moved his family into McDonald. In 1959, the family moved five miles south of McDonald. He became a member of the St. John Lutheran Church. They bought the S.C. Loker farm in 1974. In 1977, Tunney and his wife purchased a farm near Parks, Neb. Throughout these years, his children assisted him often, mostly on weekends.

Tunney sold Moews Seed Corn, Vesa Ramp for easy loading and Boss Side-rolls for Irrigation. Moews dealership gave Tunney and his wife the opportunity to take enjoyable trips to Chicago, Ill., Nashville, Tenn., Washington, D.C., and St. Louis, Mo.

Within these years, he welcomed new grandchildren and great-grandchildren of which he cherished and appreciated their visits.

He enjoyed being a member of the McDonald Lions Club. He loved to play cards, dominoes,

8-ball pool, telling jokes and really enjoyed and restoring old tractors of which started his collection.

In 2001, Tunney and his son, Les, started a collection of pre-1960 International Harvester tractors. Over a 10-year period, they restored several tractors. He enjoyed working on the tractors and teaching his son how simple it was to "make it run." When Les would haul another project into the shop, Dad usually found it listed in the "Farm Journal." He loved negotiating the price as many of us can recall his quest of the best deal. They located a few more rare models to restore.

The 11-tractor collection was featured in the December 2011 Red Power Magazine. The collection resides in McDonald in his son's shop.

Preceding him in death, his wife, Leila, his parents, sisters, Glenda, Ezella, Hilda, Lorraine and brothers, Leroy and Dale.

He is survived by his children, Gary and wife, Penny, Lila and husband, Dennis, J.B. and wife, Brenda, Les and wife, Trish, all of McDonald. Brad and wife, Tammy, Parks; grandchildren, Sheila and husband, Todd of Kansas City; Brian and wife, Dana, Bird City; Jannelle and husband, Adam of Kansas City, Mo.; Debralee and husband, Damien, Kansas City; Cynthia, Oakley, Zach and wife, Jennifer, Benkelman; sister-in-law, Ratha Lee Loker, caregiver, Hazel, his niece; great-grandchildren, Breanna, Brittany and husband, Adel, Teryn, Allison, Logan, Emily, Mitchell, Kyla, Abigail, Colton, Davon, Gage, Tucker, Dylan and Avery; one-great-great-grandchild, Ethan, and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

Tunney died Jan. 28, 2013, at the age of 87. Funeral services were held Feb. 2 at St. John Lutheran Church, Bird City, with burial in Grace Cemetery, McDonald.

# Notice

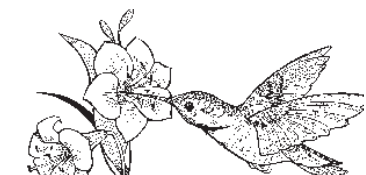
**For the tax year 2013 a study by the Cheyenne County Appraisers Office of the vacant, residential and commercial real estate indicated that the market is stable with no general upward or downward trend.**

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R	O	M	A	N	E	C	O	L	A	V	I	D
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## Bird City Times

(available in local area only)

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# American Profile

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# Bulletin Board

## Card shower

A card shower is requested for Darlene Burr on her 80th birthday on Saturday, Feb. 16. Her address is P.O. Box 417, Bird City, KS 67731.

## Senior birthdays

The senior birthday party will be held at 3 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 11, at the Bird City Senior Center.

## Soil fertility school

In-depth soil fertility school will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 14, at the Cheyenne County 4-H building. Topics include Nitrogen management and losses, meeting phosphorus needs, secondary and micronutrients, and using foliar fertilizers and fertilizing using sensors. If planning to attend, call the Sunflower Extension District St. Francis office, 785-332-3171. Lunch will be provided.

## Board of Education

The Cheylin Board of Education will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 11.

## Wedding anniversary

Stan and Neva Wahrman will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, Feb. 9, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Bird City Legion hall.

## Holy Ash Wednesday service

Holy Ash Wednesday Service will be held at 7 p.m. on Feb. 13 at Immanuel United Methodist Church, 116 E. 4th Street, Bird City. The ecumenical service is open to persons of all faiths and disciplines.

Ash Wednesday begins the days of Lent. The custom of having oil and ashes placed on one's forehead is an ancient practice of the season marked by fasting, prayer, repentance, mourning, and redirection. Join Pastor Tom and others in this special service of personal reflection and spiritual renewal.

## McDonald Post Office meeting

A public meeting concerning the future of the McDonald Post Office will be held at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12, at the McDonald Senior Citizens building. The number of people attending and the surveys returned will show how interested people are in keeping the post office. Note: Surveys must be in Oma-

ha, Neb., by Tuesday, Jan. 29.

## Wildlife banquet

The Cheyenne County Wildlife banquet will be held Saturday, April 6, at the Bird City Legion hall. Doors will open at 6 p.m. The price of the ticket includes membership dues. There will be no tickets sold at the door. Check with a Wildlife member for more information.

## Community Club

The Bird City Community Club will meet at 6 p.m. in the senior center for a potluck and games. Bring a dish and a friend and join in an evening of fun.

## Home Circle Club

Cheryl Lee will be the hostess for the Feb. 21 meeting of the Home Circle Club. It will be held at 2 p.m. at the Manor. Don't forget to wear your Valentine's Day red and hearts ladies.

## Historical Association

The Bird City Historical Association will meet on Friday, Feb. 8, at 2 p.m. at our office.

The program will be the continuation of development of the Stewards of the Land Historical booklet. Members are asked to bring photos, stories or other materials for the theme of farming of the past to add to our historical booklet.

Anyone who is living on a family farm is invited to attend this meeting.

## Veteran's Affairs

Judy Tubbs from Kansas Veteran's Affairs will be in St. Francis at 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on November 7, to assist with VA claims. She may be contacted at 785-462-3572.

## Board of education

The St. Francis Board of Education will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 14, in the meeting room at the high school.

## Fair board

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

## Information needed

To better serve the cattlemen of Cheyenne County, the sheriff's office is requesting landowners and

stockmen provide locations, brands, descriptions and a contact phone number pertaining to livestock in pastures, grazed stock residue and CRP within the county. The officers will compile the contact numbers and locations, giving a copy to the county communications dispatch office to be used when stray livestock are found on the roads. The contact numbers are for officers' use only and will not be provided to the general public. Call the sheriff's office at 785-332-8880.

## Yearbook photos

The Cougar yearbook staff at Cheylin welcomes the public to share any photos taken at school or community events that might be usable in the yearbook this school year...a limited staff will make covering all events difficult. Sports, clubs and organizations, assemblies, banquets, class activities including pre-kindergarten through 12th grade.

## Grief Support Group

The Grief Support Group will

continue to meet every second and fourth Mondays at 2 p.m. Meeting place is the Immanuel United Methodist Church, 116 E. Fourth, Bird City. For more information, call 785-734-2739.

The group is a confidential support to all who have experienced the loss of a loved one in a safe place of mutual help and comfort.

## Emergency number

The new phone number for Cheyenne County Communications Center (Dispatch) for non-emergency calls: 785-332-8822, Dial 9-1-1 for an emergency.

## 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.

# Screening held last Wednesday at hall

By Norma Martinez

*bc.times@nwkansan.com*  
 The new lighting at the American Legion Hall set a perfect hospital setting for the technician crew from Life Line Screening last Wednesday. Mildred Vargas the Ultrasound Technologist reported there were 32 local residents who took advantage of these tests. It was the first time screening for all but one of these participants.

The reports have to be returned to Independence, Ohio for the detailed results of these screenings that will be returned within 21 days. Sherry Le Fevre the Medical Technician was happy to report none of the participants showed any critical results. She explained, "If the technicians find any critical results showing cause for a stroke,

they need to be seen by their doctor right away or in no less than 24 hours. In the case of an abdominal aneurism measuring 3.0 they must be referred to a doctor, and at 5.0 they are considered critical and must see a doctor right away.

Life Line Screening technicians come from all over the United States and travel as a team conducting these screenings.

Since 1993, they have screened over seven million people, and currently screen over one million people each year in over 16,000 screening events nationwide. The team at Bird City consisted of two Ultrasound Technicians, and three medical technicians. After packing their vans in Bird City they were going to McCook, Neb., and then on to Norton.

# School Menu

## Feb. 11 - Feb. 14

### Monday

Breakfast: Biscuit with sausage gravy, apple wedge, cereal and milk.

Lunch: Pig in a blanket, potato wedge, broccoli with cheese, garden spinach salad, fruit juice jello, mandarin oranges, tropical fruit and milk.

### Tuesday

Breakfast: Breakfast lasagna, pears, cereal and milk.

Lunch: Chicken wrap steamed carrots, Spanish rice, taco bar, romaine and tomato salad, kiwi, pineapple chunks, pears and milk.

### Wednesday

#### Second grade lunch

Breakfast: Western omelet quesadilla with salsa, tri-potato, orange wedge, toast and milk.

Lunch: Sloppy joe on bun, corn on cob, macaroni salad, garden spinach salad, dirt pudding, fresh strawberries, citrus applesauce and milk.

### Thursday

Breakfast: Scrumptious coffee cake, sunrise smoothie, cereal, fruit juice and milk.

Lunch: Baked potato bar, nacho cheese, green beans, dinner roll with jelly, romaine and tomato salad, fruit juice jello, peaches, valentine cookie, fruit cocktail and milk.

## Bird City Diner

US 36 - Bird City

### Breakfast Night

Every Wednesday  
5-7 p.m.  
Starting February 6

*In Loving Memory  
To My Wife, Our Mother,  
Grandma & Great-Grandma  
Betty Gleason  
who passed away on 2-13-03*

Mom,  
10 years ago you left this earth  
So God could help you breathe  
Your memories live on with us  
In all our daily needs  
Not a day goes by that I don't

Shed a tear — thinking about times  
together  
So I want to say this little prayer and  
thank God for making you my Mother

I Thank you, Love you and  
Miss you very much!

~ Claudette

SHOWTIME: 7:30 p.m. 1 hr. 36 min.

## Guilt Trip

Feb. 8, 9 & 10 Comedy  
Barbra Streisand, Seth Rogen,  
Yvonne Strahovski PG-13

**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  
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*Now available at the Cheyenne County Clinic is a secure Patient Portal. With this portal, you can:*

- Request appointments;
- Review your medical history
- Request medication refills
- Ask questions on-line

To sign up, please contact the front desk at 785-332-2682.

### Diabetes Education Management Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 20 @ 1:30 p.m.  
Cheyenne County Clinic Basement  
Presenter - Dr. Mary Beth Miller - It's All about Teamwork with Patient & Provider.  
Plus Knowing Your Lab work Numbers  
For more information contact  
Mila Bandel, RN - County Health Nurse  
785-332-2381

## The Bird City Times

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