

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick

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Phillip Seymour Hoffman won the lottery!
That would be the "Hollywood Lottery." As movie actors go he did very well. An Oscar winner, he could reap huge amounts of money while cherry picking what roles appealed to him. But that life led to an early grave following a drug overdose.
How often do we think, "If only I could hit that million dollar jackpot, all my troubles would go away?" It is so easy to fall into

the money-can-buy-happiness trap.
I'm as guilty as anyone. I need to check myself often to make sure the correct course in life is being followed.
When not, it's time to look at all I have right here and now. God has certainly blessed me and I believe he will continue to come through.
Yes, living in the moment and realizing that life is pretty good now sure beats living the life of a celebrity or hitting the lotto.

Sainty alumni meet

On Nov. 23, 20 St. Francis Community High School alumni met to determine whether to continue the alumni reunion and reorganize the alumni association. This group of individuals voted unanimously to continue a reunion and to reorganize the association.
The weekend of June 20 -22 was designated for the 2014 reunion.

Shirley Zweygardt has retired. She had organized the reunion, handled the finances of the association and maintained the alumni contacts since 1992.

If this community activity is to continue into the future, alumni volunteers need to meet, share their ideas, and organize reunions and reorganize the alumni association.

Planning meeting set
At 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 10, a meeting to further plan for the alumni reunion has been set in the high school cafeteria.

If the 2014 reunion is to be successful, said Tom Keller, one of the organizers, it is time to contact alumni, plan activities to attract more alumni of all ages, and reorganize the association to meet our future needs. Please encourage your spouse, children or classmates to attend if you are unable to attend.

Those unable to attend the meeting should respond and volunteer to help in some manner. Your response will determine whether one of our remaining community social functions continues into the future, Mr. Keller said.

Deadline for application

The final date to purchase Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for feed crops such as cane, sorghum dual purpose, and millet, is March 15. Crops eligible for the benefits are limited to those not insurable in the county.

fee is \$250 per crop, up to \$750 per county, and not to exceed a total of \$1,875 per producer for individuals with farming interests in multiple counties. The application and service fee must be filed by March 15. Limited resource producers may request a waiver for service fees.

The application and service

Conservation District Meeting

The Cheyenne County Conservation District Producers Appreciation Supper and Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, February 10, at the Bird City Legion Hall, beginning at 6:00 pm. 06

85th Birthday

ErvaGene DeAragon will celebrate her 85th birthday on Wednesday, Feb. 12. Her family is requesting cards be sent to her at 506 E. Second, Street, St. Francis, KS 67756. 06

Death notice

Glenn Glasco, 89, died Saturday, January 25, at the Good Samaritan Village, St. Francis. Memorial services will be held February 14 at 1:30 pm at the Immanuel Methodist Church, Bird City. 05

Senior birthdays

The February birthdays will be celebrated at 3 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 10, at the Bird City Senior Center. 06

Blood drive

The American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held, starting at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 13, at the Peace Lutheran Church, St. Francis. 06

Bulletin Board

Sod house stories

Do you or a member of your family have memories of growing up in a sod house? The Herald is looking for stories from Cheyenne County residents that grew up during the early 20th century in a sod house. Please send your story to PO Box 1050, St. Francis, KS 67756. Or, if you wish, you can call and tell Amanda Miller your story so she can write an article telling about your experience. Please call 785-332-3162 to tell us your story. Everyone that shares their story will be featured in the paper! 04

Veterans' Affairs

Jody Tubbs of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs will be in St. Francis from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the county clerk's office to assist veterans and their dependents with Veteran Administration claims work on Thursday, Feb. 6. If you are unable to contact Ms. Tubbs in St. Francis, you may contact the office in Colby any Monday, Wednesday or Friday. That phone number is 785-462-3572. 05

Alumni planning meeting

A planning meeting for the 2014 St. Francis Community High

School alumni reunion will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 10, at the St. Francis high school cafeteria.

If the 2014 St. Francis Community High School alumni reunion is to be successful, it is time to contact alumni, plan activities to attract more alumni of all ages, and reorganize the association to meet our future needs.

Those unable to attend the meeting should respond and volunteer to help in some manner. Your response will determine whether one of our remaining community social functions continues into the future. 06

Cheylin school security

All visitors must enter the west entrances for the elementary and high school buildings after 8:30 a.m. All other doors are locked for security purposes. Please report to the office upon entering building. There is visitor parking available in front of the high school west entrance and on the north side of the elementary building.

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

Emergency number

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

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.

Legislative News

Ward Cassidy
120th State Representative

I would be amiss to not remind everyone who follows the events in Topeka that there will be lots of noise, about many topics, but all that noise boils down to it is a long way from becoming a law or a budget change.

Last year the exact numbers of bill proposed in the House - 416 - 90 became law. There were 247 bills proposed in the Senate - 47 became law.

A great rumor, in the halls today, is that we will pass the Corrections Budget (it was vetoed last year) and gavel out to go home. We can then sit at home and wait to be called back for the results of the pending school lawsuit. I was quoted in the Topeka paper as "we are all waiting for the 500 pound

gorilla to jump." There are lots of maneuvers being made to support or oppose the results, but all are moot until it happens - just noise.

Surrogacy is the bill causing the most commotion this week. I have outlined before how difficult it is for a bill to become a law. When you see a controversial bill that you have strong opinions about, the time to express them is before the bill goes to committee. A constituent of mine sent me great information about surrogacy, and I can now refer to that information if I ever have to vote on it. I can also share my concerns, with intelligent comments, to someone on the committee. Last year, I testified for and against proposed bills in both the House and the

Senate. Over six-hundred bills are proposed each year, and no one can be an expert on all of them.

I also heard from a constituent about an Agency that was being very ineffective for a family member. I hand delivered their concerns to the Governor's policy maker and to the head of the committee that deals with the agency. I agree with their concerns and will always try to get a positive change in the agency.

An interesting fact is that 30% of Kansans are obese, making Kansas the 14th fattest state in the country. Reducing the average body mass of Kansans by 5% could lead to healthcare savings of

more than \$2 billion in 10 years. That would fund the Medicaid expansion being considered in Kansas.

Student News

2011 Cheylin High School graduate Craig Busse received semester honors from Kansas State University this semester.

Students earning a grade point average for the semester of 3.75 or above on at least 12 credit hours receive semester honors.

Craig is the son of Jan and Steve Busse of Bird City.

South of McDonald

By Sandy Binning

Seth and Gracie Gundlach were weekend guests of their grandparents, Lynn and Rita Officer. Seth, Gracie, and Rita called on Ratha Lea Loker Sunday afternoon.

Joe and Charlene Kramer, and Diane Shay traveled to Denver Wednesday and brought Ryan Shay home Thursday. Ryan had been a patient in Swedish

Hospital for two weeks. Kathy Banister attended the After Church Potluck Sunday at St. Joseph's.

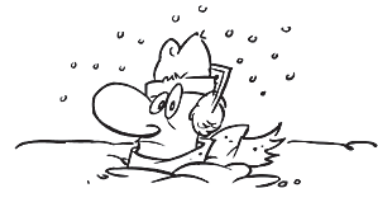
McDonald News

By Sandy Binning

Tish Loker called on Marlene Johnson Saturday morning.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Times subscriptions: Clint Bursch, Bird City; James and Cheryl Moore, Levant; Pat Cooksey, Houston, Texas; Sloan Phipps, Kearney, Neb.



2ND BEGINNINGS THRIFT STORE

Sack sale on "Women's" clothing only - \$5/sack



WED., FEB. 5, 9 A.M. - 9 P.M. CT
FRI., FEB. 7, 9 A.M. - 6 P.M. CT
SAT., FEB. 8, 9 A.M. - NOON CT

309 S. BIRD AVE. • BIRD CITY

2014 NAPA Filter Sale

February 10-15, 2014



Republican Valley
Auto Supply
100 E. Washington
St. Francis, Ks. 67756
785-332-2138

Cheyenne County Conservation District

Producer's Appreciation Supper & 64th Annual Meeting
Monday, Feb. 10, 2014
6 p.m. CST

Bird City Legion Hall, Bird City

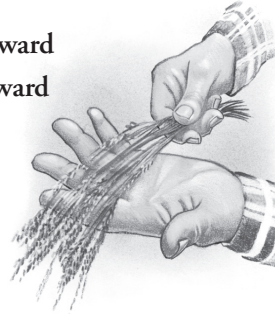
Meal Sponsored by Cheyenne County Bankers Assoc.

Presentation of Awards for:

- Kansas Bankers Soil Conservation Award
- Cheyenne County Home Garden Award
- Poster Contest for grades K-6
- NRCS Field Office of Kansas

Guest Speaker: Eric Banks,
State Conservationist

Please RSVP by Monday, Feb. 3 • 785-332-2341 ext. 101



CHEYENNE COUNTY HOSPITAL

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

Diabetes Education Management Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2014
1:30 p.m.

Cheyenne County Clinic
Basement

Presenter - Kirsten Angell, Dietitian & Diabetes Educator: Topic - Healthy Interactions with Diabetes Part II

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

It is not too late to get your influenza vaccine for this flu season!

Singer Frankie Valens

will be appearing at the St. Francis High School Auditorium
7:00 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 13
Free-will offering



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