

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick
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Last Tuesday, March 18, a local veteran earned the highest military honor this country has to offer. Jack Weinstein, of St. Francis, joined nine other Korean War soldiers who were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously from President Obama. To put this into perspective, only 3,463 of these medals have gone out since the Civil War. Sergeant Weinstein joins a select group of only about 30 Kansans, the latest being military chaplain Father Emil J. Kapaun, also during the Korean War, for his service to other soldiers while being held in a P.O.W. camp before he died. On October 19, 1951, Sgt. Weinstein's platoon was fighting on a hill near Kumson, Korea.

The enemy, with vastly superior numbers, forced a retreat. Volunteering to stay behind to provide cover, Sgt. Weinstein killed six combatants. When his ammunition ran out he took grenades from the dead North Koreans and continued to fight off the advance until friendly forces were able to retake the location. Looking at the other Kansans who have held the Medal of Honor, the conflicts they participated in were the Civil War (2), Indian Wars (9), Philippine Insurrection (5), Mexican Campaign (1), World War I (2), World War II (7), Korean War (4) and Vietnam War (1). Jack Weinstein died on April 20, 2006. But having a Medal of Honor recipient in this area will certainly leave a lasting impression.

Bulletin Board

Co-ed basketball
The Cheylin Recreation Commission is sponsoring co-ed town team basketball, Sunday evenings, 7-9 p.m., at the Bird City High School gym. Call Nick Boyson 332-6031. 12-13.

Senior potluck
The monthly senior potluck will be at noon on Monday, March 24, at the Bird City Senior Center. 11

Hospital Guild meeting
The Cheyenne County Hospital Guild will be meeting Monday, April 7 (please note corrected date from article in last week's paper) at 11:30 a.m. in the Cheyenne County Clinic. Judy Rockwood, hospital administrator, will be giving the program. This will be a luncheon.

Firemen and Emergency Responder fund raiser
The Bird City Community Club will be holding an appreciation night fund raiser on Saturday, March 22. Beginning at 6 p.m. a free-will barbecue dinner will be held at the Emergency Building. Following, people can tour the building and meet the volunteers. At 7 p.m., presentations will be given by Midwest Energy, the Cheyenne County Emergency Preparedness department, and the Sheriff's department. This is a community event, and all donations will go to the Bird City departments. 11

Lions Club collection
The St. Francis Lions club collects wheelchairs, bicycles, and bicycle parts that are then taken to the correctional facility in Norton for repair. After being repaired, these items can be brought back to St. Francis for use here or distributed to persons needing them in the US or other countries. Persons wishing to donate for this purpose, please call: 785-332-3119 or 785-332-2950. 11

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*

In my next two articles, I will try my best to explain the details of the recent Supreme Court ruling in the Gannon case. There are two components mandated by the Supreme Court - Equity and Adequacy. This week, I will write about the Equity component. The Supreme Court unanimously ruled that the state failed to provide equity of educational opportunity as required by the Kansas Constitution. The equity issue surrounds equalization of two funding sources for schools. Those two sources are Capital Outlay and Local Option Budgets (LOB). Equalization is a process that sets out to equalize the difference in money collected among all school districts. Some districts have more property value to collect tax on. In general, urban school districts collect more taxes from 1 mill levy than rural school districts. The equalization difference is made up by the state giving some districts that collect tax more revenue out of the State's General Fund to make up the difference, or equalize. Here is an example of how this works. In an urban area, 1 mill may collect \$1,000,000 in property tax. A rural area 1 mill might be \$400,000. Equalization money from the State General Fund would be \$0 to the urban district and \$600,000 to the rural district. Thus, both districts would have \$1,000,000 in equaliza-

tion funds. Schools are allowed to levy up to 8 mills of property tax to fund their capital outlay needs. Capital outlay purchases would be for things like buses, new buildings, building repair, and certain types of equipment. The state was to equalize amounts collected by districts. The state stopped equalizing in 2009. The Supreme Court found that stoppage to be unconstitutional on an equity basis. The amount needed to solve this deficiency statewide is approximately \$25 million dollars. Local school districts can also raise additional money locally for general operation of their schools through property taxes. Equalization works a little different with these Local Option Budget (LOB) funds. Schools that are at the 81.2 percentile or more in Assessed Valuation Per Pupil (AVPP) are regarded as "wealthy districts" and receive no equalization aid in their LOB. However, schools that are less than the 81.2 percentile in AVPP receive money from the state to bring them up to the 81.2 percentile. For the 2013-2014 school year, the state only equalized at 78% rather than the full amount. The cost for this inequity statewide is about \$104 million. The Supreme Court has said these Equity issues have to be solved by July 1, 2014. The correction must come in the form of fully funding,

funding over a specific time frame, or making changes to current statutes. In the House, the Appropriations Committee, which I am a member of, has been given the task of solving these issues. Next week, I will address the Adequacy issue of the Gannon ruling.

South of McDonald News
By Sandy Binning

Rosalind Bundy had back surgery Thursday in Denver. She returned home Monday. Friday afternoon, Charlene Kramer and Diane Shay and children were among the group of home school students that toured the McCarty Dairy near Rexford. Linda Dewey was a weekend guest of her parents, Ote and Ellen Dewey. Diane Cox spent the weekend in Denver with Mark and Catina Montgomery and family. She also visited Betty Lewis who was in the hospital there.

Home Circle Club
Home Circle Club will meet at 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 20, at the Methodist Church in Bird City. Dorothy Chipperfield is the hostess.

Banquet tickets
Cheyenne County Wildlife banquet tickets are available at Owens True Value, Frontier Arms, Bumper to Bumper, Republican Valley Auto, or any board member. The banquet is March 29 at the Legion hall in Bird City. There will be a vote on amending a section of the by-laws. This year's drawing will be for an AR10 and a Winchester 243. 07

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.

McDonald News *By Sandy Binning*

Stan, LJ, and Kamie Purvis visited their grandparents, Jerry and Betty Knapp, Tuesday afternoon. Monday evening, March 10, at the Western Keg in Benkelman, friends and family gathered to celebrate the March birthdays of Josh Johnson, Kenny Wilkinson, and Walt Biggs. On Friday, March 14, Kenneth

and Phyllis Wilkinson, and Agnes Reeh attended memorial services for Vera Kacirek at the Oberlin Good Samaritan Home. Kenneth and Phyllis Wilkinson were Sunday afternoon guests at the JJ and Lori Denny home for cake and ice cream to celebrate belated March 12 birthdays of Claire Denny and Kenneth Wilkinson.

School Menu

March 24 - March 27	
Monday Breakfast: Breakfast sundaes, yogurt, string cheese, fruit cup, cereal, and milk Lunch: Italian pasta bake, California blend vegetables, oatmeal roll, garden spinach salad, mandarin oranges, peaches, and milk	Wednesday <i>Fifth grade lunch favorites</i> Breakfast: Breakfast bites, fruit cup, fruit juice, cereal, and milk Lunch: Chicken nuggets, macaroni and cheese, dinner roll, dirt pudding, garden spinach salad, strawberries and bananas, kiwi, and milk
Tuesday Breakfast: Pancakes, fruit juice, fruit cup, toast, and milk Lunch: Hamburger on bun, curly fries, corn, cottage cheese, broccoli salad, romaine and tomato salad, tropical fruit, pineapple chunks, and milk	Thursday Breakfast: Biscuit and sausage gravy, fruit cup, cereal, and milk Lunch: Taco salad, Spanish rice, steamed carrots, mixed lettuce salad, peaches, fruit cocktail, and milk <i>*Menu Subject to Changes</i>

•Fireman •EMT •First Responder Appreciation Night

Saturday, March 22 6 p.m.
Emergency Building
Fireman-Style BBQ Dinner

- Tour the building
- See the new equipment
- Introduction of Volunteers -7 p.m.

Sponsored by
Bird City Community Club
100% of all donations will go to the Bird City Departments



Trees for Sale

The Cheyenne County Conservation District will be taking orders for trees and shrubs. Order early to guarantee availability. Anyone may order in any amount. Trees will be available for pick up on Saturday, April 12, 2014, from 8 a.m. to noon. We also sell heavy duty fabric weed barrier and drip supplies for your windbreaks, gardens or landscaping projects. Stop by the office on West Highway 36, St. Francis or call 785-332-2341 ext. 101 to order your trees



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March 21-23
Starring: Diogo Morgado, Amber Rose Revah & Sebastian Knapp
The life story of Jesus is told from his humble birth through his teachings, crucifixion and ultimate resurrection.

CHEYENNE THEATER St. Francis, KS 785-332-2747
Children 12 & Under: \$4 All Others: \$6
3D Movies: Children 12 & Under \$6 All Others: \$8

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

Cheyenne County Spring Health Fair
Blood Lab Draws:
St. Francis - March 24, 25 & 26
6:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Cheyenne County Health Department, St. Francis
Bird City - March 27 & 28
6:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Bird City Clinic (no appointment needed for lab draws)
Lab Fee: \$45.00 due at time of service!

Please TAKE your prescription medication & drink plenty of Water prior to the lab draw! - No other foods or drinks after midnight the night before lab draws.


Men & Women Exams: April 14-18- all day in St. Francis
St. Francis - Call clinic for appointment 332-2682
Men & Women Exams: April 14-18, 2014 in Bird City 9:00 a.m. - noon
Bird City - Call clinic for appointment 734-2306
Exam Fee: \$25.00 due at time of service!
For more information Contact: Mila Bandel, RN, County Health Nurse 785-332-2381. Sponsored by Cheyenne County Hospital, Clinic & Health Department

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