

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick
 mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com
 There sure are a lot of rules we have to follow. It goes with the territory, so it should be no surprise knowing that if you are a member of a society you have to follow the laws of that group. Of course, this makes sense since no thinking individual wants anarchy to reign supreme. But sometimes, the laws get in the way of what is really important. For instance, two thousand years ago the Jewish religious leaders of Israel tried using the laws against a power much higher

than themselves. The four books of the gospel give examples of how the Pharisees and Sadducees tried to trap Jesus with the laws of their religion. Rather than seeing the Son of God as their savior, they saw him as a threat to their control, who had to be destroyed. While we are here on this earth we need to "give unto Caesar that which is Caesar's." We should follow the rules and behave like law abiding citizens. But during the Easter celebration it warms my heart to know that there is something so much greater than the here and now. Happy Easter to all!

Fourth graders go on out-of-town trip

Tammi Carmichael and her fourth grade class were caught during school time eating ice cream at the McDonalds restaurant in Goodland on Thursday. No, they were not ditching school. They were on a field trip. They had been at the High Plains Museum, visiting the Imaginative Play exhibit. Here they took a tour of the museum and built I-Pod houses, and all sorts of stuff with the oversized tinker-toys. From there, they stopped at McDonalds, where Scott Angelos gave them a tour of the restaurant and treated them to an

ice cream cone. Next stop was to meet David Floyd, meteorologist with the National Weather Service, and have lunch with him, learning about the weather and touring the weather station. The final destination was to board the Cheylin little bus and return to school, just in time to go home for the week end. On Monday, they will discuss all that they learned about the museum, building with tinker-toys, and how to recognize abrupt changes in the weather.

School Menu

April 21 - April 25

Monday NO SCHOOL	Thursday Breakfast: Pumpkin chocolate chip squares, ham patties, fruit cup, cereal, and milk Lunch: Italian pasta bake, steamed carrots, wheat roll, broccoli salad, romaine and tomato salad, mandarin oranges, tropical fruit, and milk
Tuesday Breakfast: Scrumptious coffee-cake, fruit juice, fruit cup, cereal, and milk Lunch: Hamburger on bun, potato wedges, green beans, Watergate salad, romaine and tomato salad, fruit cocktail, apricots, and milk	Friday Breakfast: French toast sticks with syrup, sausage links, fruit cup, cereal, and milk Lunch: Beef and noodles, mashed potatoes, California blend vegetables, cottage cheese, mixed lettuce salad, pineapple chunks, peaches, and milk
Wednesday <i>Junior class lunch favorites</i> Breakfast: Sausage gravy and biscuit, fruit cup, fruit juice, toast, and milk Lunch: Chicken nuggets, macaroni and cheese, peas, garlic toast, cherry crisp, garden spinach salad, pears, applesauce, and milk	<i>*Menu Subject to Changes*</i>

Benefit for "Miss Char"

A benefit for Charlene Fiedler will be held on Sunday, May 4 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the St. Francis High School Cafeteria. A taco, fajita, dessert bar will be served. There will also be a bake sale. This event is sponsored by Thrivent, St. Francis Community Schools, and the community of St. Francis. Donations will be used to offset medical and personal expenses. 16

Easter Service

The Easter Community Sunrise Service will be held at 7 a.m. at the Thresher Grounds. Breakfast will follow the service at 8 a.m. at the Immanuel United Methodist Church. 16

Home Circle Club

Home Circle Club will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, April 17, at the Methodist Church in Bird City with Diane Claudiu as hostess. Each member is to bring something made or received as a gift for "show and tell." 15

'Choosing of the 12'

"Choosing of the 12" will be held on Wednesday, April 16 at 7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in St. Francis with refreshments afterwards; and Thursday, April 17, at the Immanuel United Methodist Church in Bird City, with the UMYF serving soup and sandwiches from 5:30 to 6:30, and the program beginning at 7 p.m. 15

Lions club

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. 16

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

Education Funding

Every year at this time, the news from Topeka is about education funding. It was March 7 when the legislature received the Gannon decision. The task was before us and only a short time to get it done - equity and adequacy.

Building consensus between the House and the Senate on any topic is always difficult. The House originally passed a bipartisan bill that would have met the Gannon equalization mandate. The Senate leadership wanted policy attached, and so back and forth we went.

My biggest concern was funding. I saw problems developing that could have resulted in the layoff of at least two teachers in each of my districts. When the debate was on to reduce transportation expenses, I received information from most of the 120th District Superintendents as to how much that would cost their district. The message was to do my best to not let that happen.

When all was complete, our districts received property tax relief and more money to the classroom. For that to happen, the House had to agree to teacher tenure being revoked and to a tax credit for corporations to grant a scholarship to pay for low-income students to attend private schools.

The corporate scholarship program is capped at ten million dollars—not a real high price compared to the six billion that will be spent on K-12 in Kansas this year. I have learned a lot

about the diversity of education in Kansas and how our achievement gap keeps widening between poor students and those not on free and reduced lunch.

Legislators are looking for ways to diversify our education. Right now, the only real school choice in Kansas is our virtual schools. Virtual schools are growing rapidly, and we now have 93 approved virtual school programs in the state.

I had no problem voting for the tenure portion, as I have always been opposed to that provision. What the tenure piece does is to eliminate the mandate that local districts provide a due-process hearing upon termination or non-renewal of a teacher contract, simply because the teacher has been with the district for more than 3 years. Due-process hearings will remain intact for any teacher who feels they were terminated because they were exercising a constitutionally protected right in the course of their job duties. School districts can still choose to include due-process hearings based on longevity. Again, the bill just revokes the state mandate to do so.

Teacher unions are not strong in Northwest Kansas. Teachers

realize their local boards and administrators are trying to provide a quality education for students and to put their teachers in a position to succeed. I know all of the 120th superintendents, and they would never give up a quality teacher just to save money by hiring a lower-paid teacher.

What I am most proud of this session dealt with higher education. I was again able to help Colby Community College and Northwest Kansas Technical College get decent funding and to curtail some proposals that would have hurt both institutions.

What I like best of all is helping constituents with state agencies. I have good contacts, in every agency, and have helped solve a number of problems for people in the 120th district this year.

The legislature returns for the Veto Session April 30, and I will have a wrap-up story at that time.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Times subscriptions: Frontier Ag Inc., Bird City

SHOWTIME: 7:30 p.m.	2 hrs. 18 mins.
April 18-20	Noah PG-13
A man is chosen by God to undertake a momentous mission of rescue before an apocalyptic flood destroys the world.	
Starring: Russell Crowe, Jennifer Connelly and Anthony Hopkins	
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

CPR Class Offered

at
Cheyenne County Hospital
Monday, May 5th
8:00 a.m. to noon
 Or
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Cost - \$60

Please contact Candi at 785/332-2104 to sign up.

The Bird City Times

(USPS 056-720)
 Serving the communities of Bird City and McDonald

Karen Krien, Editor
 Norma Martinez, Co-Editor
 Karen Krien - Publisher
 Tim Burr - Advertising Manager
 Periodicals postage paid at Bird City, Kansas 67731-0220
 Phone (785) 734-7031
 Fax (785) 332-3001
 Or Phone (785) 332-3162
 E-Mail bc.times@nwkansan.com
 Published every Thursday \$33 per year in Cheyenne and surrounding counties; other in-state \$36 and all out-of-state subscriptions, \$40 (strictly in advance).

Postmaster: Send address correction to P.O. Box 220 Bird City, Kansas 67731-0220

Official City Newspaper
 Published Weekly By
 Northwest Newspapers, Incorporated
 Bird City, KS 67731

YOST 800-524-9678 785-332-2188 yostford.com
 Sales Manager - Brent Rueb • Rell Zimbelman - Sales Agent

Use your Smart Phone to scan our Bar Code for complete inventory Like us on Facebook Yost Ford

Ford invites all non-Ford vehicle owners to drive cars & pickups with EcoBoost engines

COAST-TO-COAST ECOBOOST CHALLENGE
 See why people are choosing America's favorite brand.*

When you Purchase at YOST, you get the MOST!
 Trade in • Value • Service

The New Yost Ford

Bake Sale

Friday, April 18 - 9 a.m. to noon
 in front of Hometown Market, Bird City

Money raised will help Mercedes Ritchey with medical travel expense to Arizona for hand surgery. Thrivent will be providing matching dollars 2 to 1. For every \$2 raised, Thrivent will give an additional dollar.

Come out & help Mercedes with your support and get some great treats for Easter!

VISION SOURCE
 ST. FRANCIS

Optometrist Dr. Danielle McAtee

NOW ACCEPTING PATIENTS IN OUR NEW LOCATION
 103 W. WASHINGTON

OPENING MAY 2nd

CALL 332-2500 TO SCHEDULE
 Clinic Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Wednesday & Fridays
 Doctor Day: Fridays

Vision Source offers full service eye care - exams, glaucoma testing, glasses, contacts & sunglasses. Call any one of our offices to schedule your next exam.

COLBY - 785-462-8231 GOODLAND - 785-899-3654
BURLINGTON - 719-346-8415 ATWOOD - 785-626-9234
ST. FRANCIS - 785-332-2500

"Where To?"

S	A	S	H	A	S	O	I	L	S	T	A	S		
A	L	I	B	T	O	M	N	I	A	H	U	T		
M	E	M	O	R	Y	L	A	N	E	H	E	R	O	
B	E	F	A	L	L	S	A	R	I	S	E			
A	N	I	M	A	L	T	E	A	B	A	G			
W	I	F	E	Y	D	O	W	N	S	H	A	T		
L	A	T	S	A	I	K	E	N	T	R	E	E		
S	C	H	A	P	L	L	O	S	S	H	O	R	E	
A	P	O	L	L	O	S	P	R	A	I	N			
R	I	V	A	L	D	E	L	U	D	E	S			
A	R	E	N	O	T	O	R	E	O					
B	A	N	D	A	E	A	S	Y	S	T	R	E	E	T
A	Q	U	A	M	I	L	L	C	H	I	L	I		
T	I	E	S	P	L	O	Y	H	O	N	K	S		

American Profile
 Celebrating Hometown Life
 See American Profile magazine in this week's issue of

Bird City Times

(available in local area only)

Brought to you by The Times

"Your sponsorship could be right here."

For more information contact: **Tim Burr** at 785-332-3162