

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick
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By the rising red of the thermometer and the crackly pops of fireworks being set off by amateur pyrotechnicians, my guess is that July Fourth is nearby.

Thank goodness we still take time to celebrate our forefather's signing of the Declaration of Independence on that fateful day in 1776. Hopefully that tradition will live on for many more years.

With another four-year term winding down for an American president, the political process is rolling again with the next election's contenders coming out of the woodwork. It is a very good thing that we continue to live in a democratic society, having an opportunity to choose a future course for our nation.

But looking at the quality of individuals we have to pick from, it sure seems a far cry from those brave, first patriots.

What courage it took to put their names on that piece of paper. How many of us would be brave enough to sign what ended up being a death sentence for some. For others is spelled the loss of property. For all is meant several years of enduring the hardships of war against great odds, with no certainty of victory over tyranny.

These men sacrificed the easy road of the status quo for some obscure vision of "freedom."

Looking at many of our current elected officials makes one wonder if their desires are as honorable. But at least we still have a voice in who we pick.

Happy Independence Day!

Obituary

Ruby Tracy

May 2, 1931 - March 17, 2011

Ruby Mae (Wederski) Tracy was born May 2, 1931, (a leftover May basket as Ruby would always say).



Tracy

She was the 11th of 16 children who were born to Julius and Elsie (Cope) Wederski of Beardsley, Kan. Ruby grew up in Beardsley. Being born into a large family, she developed work ethics that prevailed throughout her life. This enabled her to help with family siblings and work for others in her younger years. She then graduated from Atwood High School.

On May 28, 1949, Ruby married her boyfriend of three years, James Edward Tracy. They lived on the 1,000 acre family farm which was 12 1/2 miles north of McDonald. In January, 1965, Jim and Ruby adopted a brother-sister set, Karla Rae, age 7, and her brother, James Michael, age 5. Jim and Ruby became full-time dairy farmers in 1967 along with Jim's brother, Willis and wife, Ruth, who was Ruby's sister. Many enjoyable years on the farm went by, but with falling cattle and dairy prices and retirement age coming, the decision was made to have a farm sale and retire. Their memories of the farm will always be very special.

In October, 1986, Jim and Ruby purchased the Glenn Hiatt property in McDonald, and in March, 1987, they moved

to town. They attended the Federated Church of McDonald and were active in both the senior center of McDonald and Bird City. Ruby was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary in Bird City.

Jim and Ruby always enjoyed the opportunity to be host and hostess of the Eggers building at the Antique Thresher show in Bird City. They also would never miss the yearly Center Church Association gathering south of Bird City, where Jim attended in his younger years. Many people always enjoyed Ruby's homemade pie and all the fresh garden produce they would share.

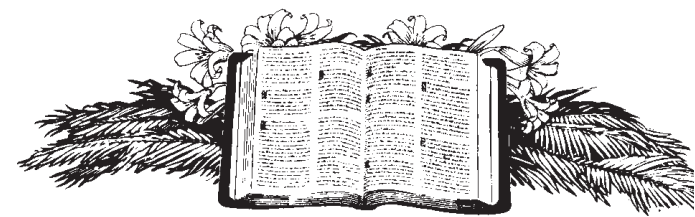
Due to health reasons in September, 2008, Jim and Ruby moved to the Good Samaritan Village in Goodland.

Survivors include: son, James M. Tracy of Wichita; two sisters, Phyllis Homedale of Colorado and Lela Wederski of Kingman, Ariz.; nieces, nephews, and many very special friends.

Preceding Ruby in death were: her parents, Julius and Elsie Wederski; husband, James E. Tracy; daughter, Karla; eight brothers; and five sisters.

Ruby died on March 17, 2011, at Hays Medical Center at the age of 79 years. The funeral was officiated by Pastor Adams with the Federated Church providing lunch.

Memorials have been established in her name to the Federated Church of McDonald and to the McDonald Senior Center. She was buried in the Bird City Cemetery, Bird City.



The Bird City Times

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Mommy and Me

Mommy and Me swimming classes are being sponsored by the Cheylin Recreation Commission starting July 1. Classes are for mommy and children up to 4-years of age, and will be held on every Friday through the month of July. Mommy and children may attend one or all five lessons. For times and more details call Tina Sager at 785-734-2478.

Beardsley Beavers

The Beardsley Beavers 4-H Club will be selling fireworks in McDonald on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 10 p.m. and on Monday, 10 to 8 p.m.

Swimming lessons

Swimming lessons begin July 5. Check ad for details.

Beardsley Beavers

The Beardsley Beavers 4-H Club will be selling fireworks in

McDonald on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 10 p.m. and on Monday, 10 to 8 p.m. Note ad.

Death Notice

Velma Case, 93, of Benkelman, Neb., died June 17, 2011. Services were held June 24 with burial in Benkelman beside her husband.

Offices closed on Monday, July 4

The deadline for ads, pictures and stories for the July 7 issue of The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times will be at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, July 5, as the offices will be closed on the Fourth of July. The newspapers will be published and delivered one day late that week.

Help needed

Fair time is fast approaching and a number of volunteers are still needed to run the booths and rides at the Cheyenne County Fair. Please call DeEtta Knorr at

785-332-2551 or 785-332-4073, if you can help in any way.

Fair board

The fair board will meet on Thursday, July 7 at the fair grounds.

Veterans Affairs

Jody Tubbs, of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs, will be in St. Francis from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 7, at the county clerk's office. People may also contact the Veteran's Affairs office in Colby any Monday, Wednesday or Friday at (785) 462-3572.

Triathlon scheduled for Fourth of July

The Saintly Sharks are hosting a triathlon on Monday, July 4 starting at the St. Francis swimming pool. All entries are due by July 1. For more information call Margaret Poling at (785) 772-7374.

County Commissioners

The Cheyenne County Commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. Thursday, June 30, in the commissioner's room at the courthouse.

Narcotics Anonymous

Narcotics Anonymous meetings are held at 104 W Webster/Methodist Education Building on Sunday nights at 8 p.m. and 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.

McDonald News

By Sandy Binning

Beverly Lattin, Littleton, Colo. was a Thursday and Friday dinner guest of Myra Miller and Iris McIntosh.

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Cline and Tommy and George Vandegriffe were Sunday visitors of Ray and Marlene Johnson.

Gilbert and Jan Antholz were Sunday guests of Dave and Sylvia Hubbard.

Kenneth and Phyllis Wilkinson called on Laddie and Vera Kacirek Tuesday.

George and Norma Jean Adams of Olathe are visiting this week with Pastor Mark and Marilyn Adams. They are Mark's parents.

Eleanor Swihart attended the Red Hat meeting at the McDonald Senior Center Tuesday.

Eleanor Swihart was a Saturday evening guest at the Simmons home for a barbecue.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Times subscriptions: Lori Janicke, Bird City; Dexter Leach, Minneola; Sally Hudson, Benkelman, Neb.; Roy Shrader, Bird City; Florence Peacock, St. Francis; Keith Dorsch, Bird City; Doug Flemming, Bird City; Dennis Wright, Bird City; Gerald Lillih, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Maynard Wright, Bird City; Keith Sanders, Bird City.

4-H club holds June meeting

Bird City Go-Getters

The Bird City Go-Getters 4-H Club met at the Lutheran Church in Bird City on June 3. Roll call was answered to by "What is your favorite football team?" Six members, one tag-along, and one adult attended the meeting.

The Cheyenne County Fair is fast approaching. "Reach for the Stars and Lasso your Future" is the theme for the fair this year. Club members discussed booth ideas and food stand shifts.

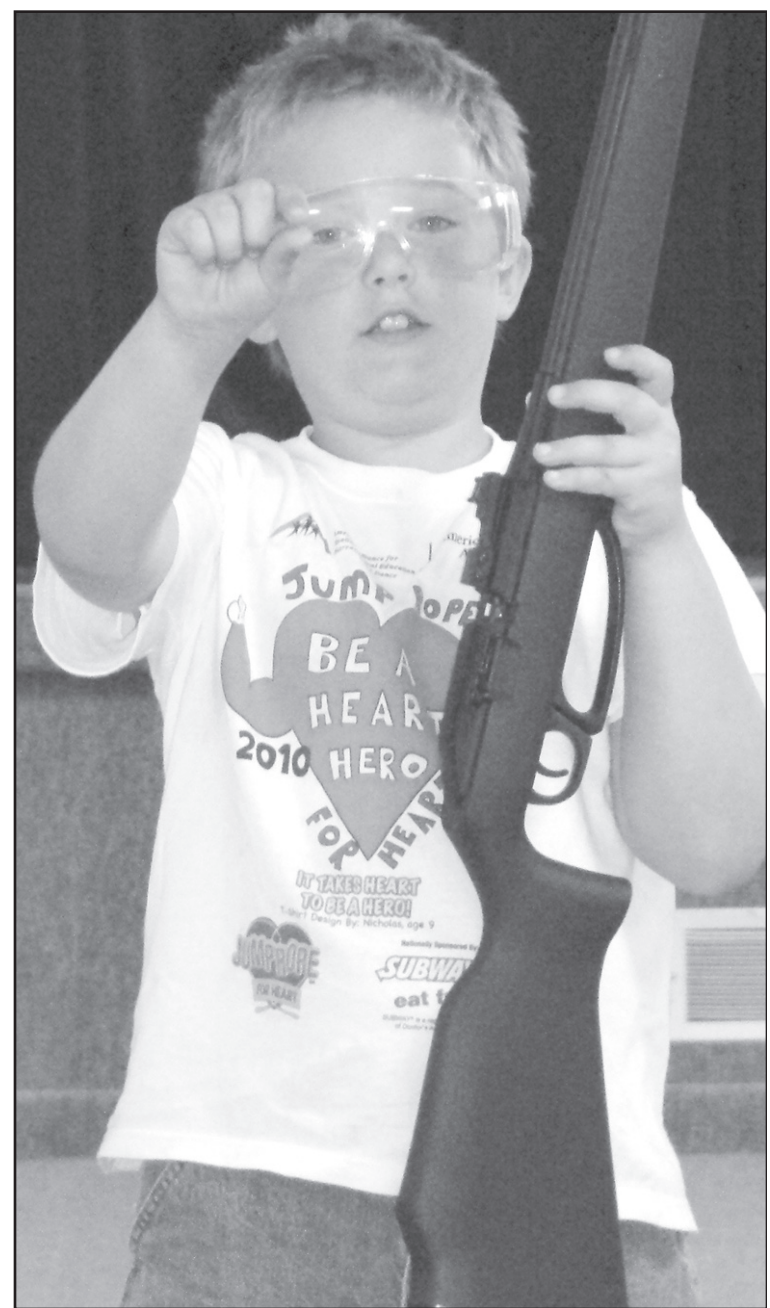
The 911 signs are ready for distribution by club members.

It was announced that Cheyenne County 4-H is now on Facebook. Please "like" our page to show your support for our members.

The next meeting of the Bird City Go Getters will be held at the Lutheran Church in Bird City on July 7 at 6:30 p.m.

After the meeting Joseph Augusta did an air rifle demonstration for club members.

Dominique Johnston, reporter



GIVING DEMONSTRATION - Joseph Augusta gives information on air rifles. Times photo by Linda Schneider

SHOWTIME: 8 p.m.

2 hr. 10 min.

X-Men

July 1, 2 & 3

James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender, Jennifer Lawrence, Rose Byrne, January Jones, Kevin Bacon

Action/Adventure, Science Fiction/Fantasy, Sequel and Adaptation

PG-13 for brief strong language, some sexuality and a violent image.

CHEYENNE THEATER

St. Francis, KS
785-332-2747

Children 12 & Under: \$4

All Others: \$6

Swimming Lessons

Starting Tuesday

July 5 - 8 & July 11 - 13

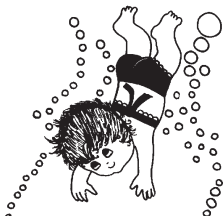
Level 5 at 8 a.m.

Level 3 and 4 at 9 a.m.

Level 2 at 10 a.m.

Level 1 and preschool age at 11 a.m. (55 min. sessions)

Call swimming pool with questions, 785-734-2241



"Dive In" at the Pool

Sunday, July 3rd

6-8 p.m. Serving hog dogs and hamburgers

Showing the movie "Up" in the pool at 9 p.m.

Cost for movie - \$1

Bring your own floaties or lawn chairs



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: Anita at
785-332-3162

CHEYENNE COUNTY HOSPITAL

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

Last
Public Meeting
Community Input
for Action will be discussed

Website with information is
www.krhw.net

Thursday, July 13

Serving lunch at 11:40
Meeting starts at Noon
and will last one hour.

RSVP to hospital 785/332-2104 or Tom Keller email:
tomekeller48@gmail.com
Riverside Recreation, St. Francis