

# Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick

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Looking at most people in the public eye doesn't always leave the best taste in one's mouth. Whether it is the movie actress bouncing in-and-out of rehab or the star professional athlete who is demanding more money or the crooked politician, they don't reflect a very positive image.

Last week, former First Lady, Betty Ford, died at the age of 93. She lived a very full life. At one point she even danced under the direction of Martha Graham.

But she did not have a perfect life by any means. Gerald Ford was president from 1974 to 1977. At that time, Mrs. Ford kept hidden from most that she was fighting a long-running battle with al-

coholism and prescription drugs.

With the help of her family, she overcame her addiction. But rather than using her weakness in a selfish way, she devoted time and energy to help others. The Betty Ford Center was established in the early 1980s.

She also brought breast cancer to the fore front of American thought after her own mastectomy in 1974. In a later interview Mrs. Ford said that when other women have this operation, it doesn't make the headlines. But when it happened to the wife of the president, women realized it could happen to them.

"I'm sure I saved at least one person, maybe more."

That sort of character seems unusually unusual these days.

# Society in phase 2 of remodel project

By Karen Krien

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On Oct. 19, a fire at the Good Samaritan Village destroyed the middle section of the facility. Residents were sent to different nursing homes in the area.

The Good Samaritan Society had the west wing restored and 23 patients were able to come back in March. The kitchen area was opened but food needed to be transported by going outside the building to the west wing.

The Society is in Phase 2 of the remodeling project which will add three private rooms and three offices, plus a corridor joining the kitchen and dining room with the west wing. The Society wants to partner with the county if the residents pass a vote to levy a tax not to exceed 6 mills for a home for the aged. The resolution signed

by the commissioners on May 16, does include that the money will be used for the operation of the existing nursing home.

A special election has been set for Tuesday, Aug. 2, in Bird City and St. Francis.

### Public forum

Before the election, a public forum will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, July 26, at the St. Francis high school auditorium. People are urged to attend so they will be better informed when they reach the election booth.

Those who have not registered to vote will need to do so before 5 p.m. on Monday, July 18, when the books will close. People can register during regular business hours at the county clerk or city clerk offices in St. Francis or at the First National Bank in Bird City.

# Entry deadline change

The 2011 Cheyenne County Fair open class wheat show is being held again this year. Samples were due by Wednesday, July 13, at the Extension office. However, the wheat show deadline has been extended to July 21.

Sponsored by Cheyenne County

grain dealers, wheat entries should be placed in a gallon zip-lock bag. The person entering can enter as many samples they want but they are limited to only one per field.

Wheat will be judged at the Kansas Grain Inspection in Colby. The top 10 samples will be entered in the Kansas State Fair Wheat Show.

The grand champion will receive \$75 and a plaque; reserve champion will receive \$50 and a plaque.

## Helpful Hints

### Expanding Frosting

When you buy a container of cake frosting from the store, whip it with your mixer for a few minutes. You can double it in size. You get to frost more cake/cupcakes with the same amount. You also eat less sugar/calories per serving.

### Reheating refrigerated bread

To warm biscuits, pancakes, or muffins that were refrigerated, place them in a microwave with a cup of water. The increased moisture will keep the food moist and help it reheat faster.

# Bulletin Board

### Summer Reading Program

Summer Reading Program will be held Monday, July 18 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

### Family Fun Night

Family Fun Night will be held Sunday at the Bird City Pool starting at 9:30 p.m.

### Concert

Sandra Petti has arranged for Judy Coder the International Yodeler Champion to do a concert on July 16, at the American Legion Center. All proceeds are to be donated to the Bird City Library.

### Hospital Board

The Cheyenne County Hospital Board will meet at 3 p.m. on Thursday, July 28, in the clinic basement meeting room in St. Francis.

### Courthouse closing

The Cheyenne County Courthouse will be closed from 2 to 5 p.m. on Friday, so friends may attend the funeral of Carl Williams

### Cemetery board meeting

Cemetery District 2 Board meeting will be held at 7:30 a.m. Monday, July 18, in the Cheyenne County Commissioners room.

### Fair board meeting

The fair board meeting has been moved to 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 21.

### Public meeting

A public forum will be held on Tuesday, July 26, in the St. Francis high school auditorium at 7 p.m. The meeting is being held to discuss the community assuming control of the Good Samaritan Village facility which will be voted on in a special election on Aug. 2.

This meeting will include presentations from Good Samaritan Society management from Sioux Falls, S.D., local health care providers, local government officials, businesses and families of residents. There will also be a question-and-answer period. This forum is scheduled one week prior to the election, in order to provide the most current information.

### Tag deadline

All residents with last names beginning with J, K and L should purchase their car, pickup, motorcycle and motorized bike tags and pay their vehicle personal property tax by the end of the month to avoid paying a penalty.

Driver's License needs to be presented or entered on form at time of renewal.

### 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.

### Cheyenne County ambassadors

If you are proud of your community and your county and want to tell folks about it, stop by the Cheyenne County Development office at 107 W. Washington in St. Francis and pick up an "Ambassadors" package. Take one along on a trip or to an event. Let everyone know what a great place we live in!

### Fair coming

The Cheyenne County Fair is

set for Aug 3, 4 and 5. The Amateur Variety Show will be held Friday in front of the grandstand. Talent is needed. Contact Ruth Milliken, 785-332-3421 and enter today.

The fair parade will be held Saturday. The theme is "Reach for the Stars; Lasso the Future."

### 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 please call the toll-free number 1-800-794-4624.

### Correction

Wilma Lampe was the winner of the Harvest Countdown. It was stated as Wilma Floyd in the July 7 issue of The Herald and Times.

# Legislative News

By Ward Cassidy, 120th Representative

I thought the citizens of the 120th might find this mid-summer update interesting. Thursday, July 21, Governor Brownback will be in Colby to lead off an economic summit on the future of the Ogallala Aquifer. I plan to attend and will get to meet with the governor that day on some other issues pertaining to the 120th. One big issue is getting some assistance in making it easier for doctors to get qualified to be employed in our district.

The Kansas Department of Health and Welfare (KDHE) is using the social media to have a conversation with the four-million online Kansans about health-care items impacting their lives. We need the people in our district to use this resource to our advantage. Go to KDHE and talk with them.

The Kansas Board of Regents approved tuition and fee rates for the six state universities for the upcoming 2011 - 2012 academic year. The range of increase is from 3.6 percent (\$70.05 per semester) at Fort Hays State University to a 6.8 percent increase at Emporia State University (\$158 per semester).

Due to budget cuts and required expenditure increases in areas such as group health insurance and utilities, the six state universities face approximately \$24

million in overall reductions and required expenditures. The tuition and fee rates will raise \$26 million in additional revenue.

Twenty five years ago, state funding made up about 50 percent of the state university budgets; it is now less than 25 percent.

Someone without much else to do sent me these figures pertaining to the new 75 mph speed limit on selected Kansas highways. If you drove the entire 807 miles at the 75 mile per hour speed limit versus the previous speed limit of 70, you would spend 10 hours and 45 minutes driving time, instead of 11 hours and 31 minutes, saving you 46 minutes of driving time. I have traveled interstate in the past few days and it does seem more crowded and most people are driving 80.

The June state tax revenues ended at \$5.543 billion, \$685 million more than Fiscal Year 2010. On the full-year recap, it was individual income taxes which spurred the gains at \$2.709 billion, \$114.6 million or 4.4 percent more than predicted. Sales taxes for the fiscal year yielded \$24.6 million less than forecasted, at \$1.965 billion. That's 19 percent more than was received from sales tax in 2010 before the penny sales tax increase took affect a year ago.

The individual income tax re-

ceipts appear to show more people working, earning more money. That's good, but they aren't spending as freely as you would imagine, at least not on items that are sales taxable. Maybe it's paying bills, rent and gas but this recession may have altered spending habits of Kansans.

I received my final voting record this week for my first session and saw that we voted 306 times on final action. That is a lot of information to be accountable for. In reviewing my record there are just a few votes I would like over, but I believe the majority of my votes were a good representation of my district.

We have been working on agenda items for the next session and there will be some easy laws to amend - such as changing the law to make parents report missing children in a very timely manner. There will be some very difficult concerns such as immigration and tax reform.

Last year when we went to Topeka we were a negative \$550 million - we are now \$150 million to the good. The state of Kansas is still tied into the national economy and restrictions of the Environmental Protection Agency. Lots of work to still be done - I filed to run for my second term because I want to continue to promote Northwest Kansas.



The Fort Hays State University Kansas Small Business Development Center (KS-BDC) seeks a Business Consultant for the Bird City Outreach Center.

If you value small businesses, enjoy working with the public, and have strong business knowledge & skills, then consider joining the FHSU KSBDC team. The Business Consultant will provide counseling and training to existing and prospective business owners from the Outreach Center in Bird City, in cooperation with the regional center office in Hays. The position requires frequent day travel for on-site business assistance to the northwest counties and occasional overnight travel.

There is tremendous opportunity for personal and professional growth. Final candidate will have consented to and successfully completed a criminal background check. A complete position description can be found at <http://bigcat.fhsu.edu/positions/admin.php>. FHSU is an AA/EEO Employer.

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Patrick from France, 17 yrs. Loves the outdoors and playing soccer. Patrick's dream has been to spend time in America learning about our customs and attending American high school.

Elisa from Italy, 16 yrs. Likes to play tennis, swim, loves to dance. Elisa hopes to play American softball and learn American 'slang' while in the USA.

Make this year the most exciting, enriching year ever for you and your family. Share your world with a young foreign visitor from abroad. Welcome a high school student, 15-18 years old, from Italy, France, Norway, Denmark, Spain, Germany, Brazil, Thailand or China as part of your family for a school year (or less) and make an overseas friend for life.

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\*Sports physical forms must be completed and signed by parent before exam. Forms available at clinic.

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