

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick
 mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com

At one point several years ago I thought I had lived a complete life. I'd seen a few things and thought it had all been done. Everything would be down hill from here.

But then the dear Lord chose to change everything and give me a son.

Joey was born when I was 35. Frankly I had reached a time when I doubted that the McCormick line was going to get much help from me. But my experiences weren't done and I had to give parenthood a whirl.

Now I have a 16-year-old boy. Actually I should clarify that with a "we." My wife Lezlie and I have five wonderful kids, although only two remain at home. Having children is a true bless-

ing. Life seems to give you more when you are dealing with it on terms of a group rather than on your own. But by getting more sometimes you experience bitter lows between the plateaus and peaks. There is nothing like watching your kids succeed. However you also must help them along when they fall into the valleys of living and learning.

I haven't figured it all out yet. I don't know why we, or the ones we love, get thrown a curve ball from time to time. But I do know that looking back at the summits and pits we've had as a family has made my life much, much richer indeed.

Best wishes to all the other parents out there that are learning as they go. And thanks to our folks who did the best they could with what they had.

Bulletin Board

Meeting postponed
 The Bird City Historical Association, Inc. meeting will be postponed until Feb. 10. If you have any questions about this, please call 785-734-2383.

Senior potluck
 The Bird City Senior Center will have a potluck at 12 p.m. on Jan. 23.

Home circle club
 Avis Hazuka will be the hostess for the January meeting of the Home Circle Club. It will be held at the Manor on Thursday the 19th at 2 p.m.

Story time
 The Bird City Public Library is organizing a Story Time for children ages 2-5. The storyteller will

be Linda Schneider, beginning on Friday, Jan. 20, from 9-10:30 a.m. Please come into the library to sign your child up. If you have any questions, call the library 734-2203, or Linda 734-7231.

Thresher show meeting
 Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Association meeting, Sunday, January 29, at the Methodist Church Hall, (30) thirty minutes after the Kansas Day celebration is over. "Everyone is invited to attend".

Kansas Day
 Kansas Day in Bird City will be held on Sunday, Jan. 29, at the Legion hall with registration starting at 10 a.m. A potluck dinner will be held at 12:30 p.m. and the program will follow at 1:30 p.m. The theme this year will be concentrating on the history of Cheyenne County churches, past and present.

Library books
 While doing your cleaning, check under your bed for any overdue library books. The Bird City Public Library is not charging any fines for 6 months in an attempt to recover items. So please help out by returning items from months or years back. If we are not open please leave items in the outside return.

Books needed
 The Cheylin elementary parent group is planning a book exchange along with the I-Carly spaghetti supper this spring. They are asking for donations of preschool, elementary or junior high level books. Bring to the elementary office or Title I room. The evening of the supper, students will have the opportunity to choose one book to keep.

Blue star banners
 Do you have a son or daughter, grandson or granddaughter serving in active duty military service? The Goodland Elks Lodge 1528 would like to present you with a "blue star banner" for your window to show your pride! Please call the secretary at (785) 890-6251 to visit with her about this.

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!



CHARLES COLEMAN has coffee cake and coffee at the Bird City Senior Center. Times staff photo by Norma Martinez.

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

Get well cards
 Get well cards and letters will reach Roberta Linin at: Shelly Beese, 6203 West 146th Street, Overland Park, KS 66223.

Recycling
 The Bird City City Council is requesting that all recycling rules be followed especially breaking down cardboard boxes before they are thrown in the bin.

Free popcorn
 The Cheyenne Theater Committee is asking, that the first weekend of the month, those attending the movie bring a canned food donation for the Food Pantry and they will receive a free sack of popcorn.

Tag deadline
 All residents with last names beginning with W, X, Y, Z 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

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.

Students to be recognized March 5

This year's edition of Fort Hays State University's annual 13-city, two-month Student Recognition Program will end in Colby on Monday, March 5. The focus of each event is the recognition of scholarship winners.

High school juniors and seniors and transfer students in Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado have been invited to an event in their area. The Colby event will be at 6:30 p.m. at Colby High School, 1890 S. Franklin. Pizza will be served. The deadline for reservations is Thursday, March 1.

Any student who lives outside the area is welcome to attend the nearest program, but must make a reservation by calling (800) 628-FHSU (3478) or (785) 628-5666 or at www.fhsu.edu/admissions/srp

Fort Hays alumni in each town will hold a reception, with a dessert or pizza buffet, provided by the Alumni Association. Students and their parents can mingle with faculty, staff and administrators and area alumni before and after the presentation. Alumni and others who are interested also are invited.

Scholarships to be awarded include the \$1,200 Miller Black and Gold Academic Award and the \$800 Hays City Silver Academic Award. Both are renewable provided students keep their grades up. Also to be awarded are the \$2,000 Presidential Scholarship, the \$700 Fort Hays Bronze Academic Award and the \$500 Copper Academic Award, all one-time scholarships for in-

Legislative News By Ward Cassidy, 120th State Representative

Informative reports from the Legislature, reports that include up-to-date information and also inform about the overall process, seem to be the columns most enjoyed by readers.

The first report of the year could be called State Budget 101. The state, in effect, has two budgets. The All Funds Budget, controlled by the Governor and his staff, is twice the size of the General Fund Budget. Last year, the All Funds Budget was just shy of \$14 billion while the General Fund was a little over \$6.1 billion.

The All Funds budget includes the General Fund plus many dedicated funds, which must be spent on specified activities. All federal grants to the state (representing about 17 percent of the All Funds budget) flow into dedicated funds.

The Legislature has no control over how federal grants must be used, but it can change the laws governing state revenues used to pay for some activities (unless a federal grant stipulates state matching funds). For example, the State Highway Fund, the largest dedicated revenue fund at roughly \$1.4 billion, must be used to construct and maintain

roadways. The highway fund receives its money from motor fuel taxes, motor vehicle registration fees, a dedicated portion of the state sales tax and the federal government.

However, the Legislature (and governor's staff) often sees fit to re-direct sales tax money from the State Highway Fund to the General Fund to pay for what a majority perceive as more urgent priorities. The same thing could happen with the motor fuel tax.

The State General Fund generates the budget debates you read about in the news. As stated in the governor's Budget Report: "The State General Fund receives the most attention in the budget because it is the largest source of the uncommitted revenue available to the state. It is also the fund to which most general tax receipts are credited. The Legislature may spend State General Fund dollars for any government purpose."

That being said, I read in the *Topeka Capital* that this year's session will likely be historic. As I have said all along, shoring up the Kanas Public Employees Retirement System, reforming Medicaid and school finance will dominate the session.

Wednesday night, the governor gave his "State of the State" address. The pomp and circumstance associated with the evening was rather impressive. The governor's new tax plan adds one more giant item to consider in this session. It is still too early to give you my opinion of how it will affect us.

Last Tuesday, I was invited to the governor's home with several other legislators to discuss his school finance plan. I would have to say, at this point, there would need to be a lot of changes before western Kansas could support it.

Being put on a power committee (Appropriations) has added a lot more work to my daily schedule and a lot more people wanting to know my thoughts. My thoughts are always - "What is best for northwest Kansas and the state of Kansas?"

I appreciate input from my district and will respond to the best of my ability. You may reach me at ward.cassidy@house.ks.gov.

South of McDonald

By Sandy Binning
 Visitors this week of Lynn and Rita Officer were Ronan and Pat Sramek, Roland and Linda Loring, Diane Cox, Margaret Voorhies, Mark, Marilee, Seth and Gracie Gundlach, and Karlyne Atchison.

George and Kathy Banister attended the WKLL Tournament at Colby Saturday afternoon to watch the Brewster/Triplains - Greeley County game.

Craig and Diane Cox attended the wedding of Kayla Wilson and Justin Finley in Colby Saturday afternoon.

Kelly Dewey and children, and Barb Morton attended a baby shower for Ashley Wahrman in Hays Saturday.

Bethel Goltl attended church Sunday morning at the Methodist Church in Bird City to listen and see Amy Waters talk and pictures on her trip to Haiti.

Alan and Bethel Goltl, Doug and Karen Flemming and hunters all had supper Saturday evening at Park Hill in St. Francis. Afterwards they all enjoyed birthday cake at the home of Drew and Dennen Flemming in St. Francis.

Frontier Medical Rejuvenation

IPL Hair Removal
 IPL Photo Facials
 Acne Treatments
 Laser Spider Vein Treatments

Dr. Rebecca Allard

607 South Benton St. (785) 772-1906
 St. Francis, Kansas 67756 www.frontier-med.com

Thank You

We, the family of the late Zella Elaine Rooney, would like to express our gratitude to all our relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy through phone calls, flower arrangements, food, donations and numerous prayers and cards received during our time of bereavement. Special thanks to Norman Morrow for the beautiful service and to Dr. Lori Stonehocker and the Dundy County Hospital staff for their outstanding care and compassion before and after our mother passed away. We would also like to acknowledge Forch Funeral Chapel and Carpenter Breland Funeral Home for their kindness and warmth during our loss as well as the staff at El Dorado Manor Nursing Home.

Mike and Ruth Rooney & Family
 Pat & Connie Rooney & Family

SHOWTIME: 7:30 p.m. Sunday Matinee 2 p.m. 2 hr. 13 min.

Mission Impossible-Ghost Protocol
 Jan. 20, 21 & 22 Action/Adventure, Adaptation, Sequel and Thriller

Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Simon Pegg, Paula Patton, Michael Nyqvist PG-13 for disturbing images, violence, sexuality/partial nudity.

CHEYENNE THEATER St. Francis, KS 785-332-2747

Children 12 & Under: \$4 All Others: \$6
 3D Movies: Children 12 & Under \$5 All Others: \$7

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

Arthritis Program Offered through County Health

The Arthritis "Walk with Ease" classes will be held three days a week for five weeks at 10 a.m. Start Date: Feb. 6th at the Cheyenne County Health Department.

Class dates are as followed:
 Feb. 6, 8, 10; Feb. 13, 15, 17; Feb. 20, 22, 24; Feb. 27, 29, Mar. 1 and Mar. 5, 7, 9

This program is free of charge. For more information and to sign up for the arthritis class, please contact Mila Bandel, RN County Health Nurse at 785-332-2381.

Com-ucopia

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