



Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick
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Do you ever wonder how you would handle an emergency situation?

In this world of instant access to news it has been easy to follow the story from Tuscany, Italy of the tipped and semi-submerged luxury liner. What isn't easy to understand is why the captain acted in such a cowardly way.

Certainly, when all the dust settles and the Italians have a chance to sort out the facts, the rest of us will have a better understanding of how the ship ended up off course and striking a reef. I guess the good news-bad news was that the damage from the sea's bottom came close to land.

Unfortunately it appears that over 30 passengers and crew lost their lives due to a terrible accident.

But back to Capt. Francesco Schettino. When disaster struck the Costa Concordia what did the top man do? Apparently he wasn't too worried about anyone's safety but his own. After heading to his cabin for some valuables he "slipped and fell" into one of the lifeboats while his charges were left to fend for themselves.

Touching back on the original question of handling adversity, I really don't know what I would have done. I'd like to think that I would help others to safety before looking out for number one.

When a person takes command of a ship it is with the possibility of inherent danger. For as long as men have gone to sea in boats, those things have sometimes sunk.

So I would hope most of us would do better than Capt. Schettino.

Letter to the Editor

Letter to the Editor:

As I look through the sands of time and the mist of memory, I thought that I saw something move. It was surely my imagination but yes there was something there. It seemed to struggle and its breathing was labored, but yet there it was a horse that was lathered and moving swiftly past with names and numbering written all over the horse and on the horse there was a haggard red bird holding on with all its might. I really couldn't read the writing on the horse, but it's hard to stop a bird on a runaway horse.

When the horse was gone they

ask themselves, whose horse is that? What was the bird doing on that horse and what was the writing all about? Some ask how the bird and the horse got out anyway. Others ask, where was that dumb bird taking that horse? There's nothing out there but darkness and the bird and the horse will be lost forever.

Then there were some that said dadgummit, I know that bird. But I still can't figure out what all the writing and numbers on the horse are all about. Then there were those who said I think we could still catch the bird because I can still see the old horse and he is running out of steam. Some said the horse is old and the horse was crazy to hold on this long.

Alumni and friends of Bird City Rural High School, your help is needed if we are going to catch the bird on the horse as they have lost their way in the sands of time and the mist of memory, and are heading for the darkness that lies beyond. This history is an important part of Bird City, but there seems to be a lack of appetite for the preservation and the display of this history in a public venue that is accessible to the public. With the pressure to move this history from its present location at the building that was once home of Bird City Rural High School, there is a real possibility that this history will be lost forever.

Your tax deductible donation can be made to: Bird City Century II Development Foundation, 107 West Bressler, PO Box 539, Bird City, Kansas 67731, or call 785-734-2556.

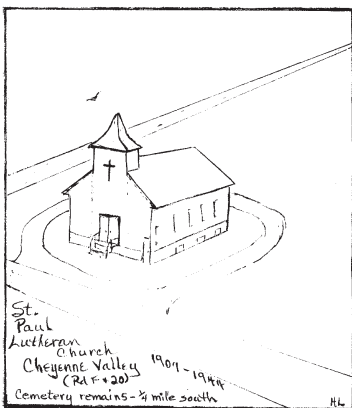
Kent Voorhies
Bird City

83rd Annual Kansas Day Celebration

Bird City Legion Hall, Bird City

Sunday, Jan. 29

Registration — 10 a.m.
Potluck — 12:30 p.m.
Program — 1:30 p.m.



Theme Sunday
On The Prairie
Program
is remembering
Prairie Churches.
Area men and
women will give
short presentations
on early churches.



Bulletin Board

Kansas Day celebration

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. The theme this year will be highlighting prairie churches with several area people giving short presentations on the church of their heritage or interest.

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.

Cinco de Mayo planning

A Cinco de Mayo celebration planning will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 9, at the Cheylin Elementary cafeteria. All those interested in the celebration are urged to attend.

Hospital Guild meets

The Cheyenne County Hospital Guild meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 6, at the St. Francis Senior Center. Cheryl Lee, R.N., will speak about home health services. Hostesses are Lucille Price and Wilma Lampe.

Commodities distribution

Cheyenne County commodity distribution of government surplus will be from 5 to 5:30 p.m., on Thursday, Feb. 2, at the Church of Christ, 502 W. Spencer in St. Francis.

The types of food vary and include vegetables, fruits, juices, meat, cereals, peanut butter, non-fat dried milk and pastas.

The food is shipped to the Church of Christ. It is supplied four or more times per year.

To be eligible for commodities, the household's total monthly income must be below:

\$1,180 — household of one;
\$1,594 — household of two;
\$2,008 — household of three;
\$2,422 — household of four.
For each additional family member, add \$414.

Get well cards

Mary Dorsch had hip surgery, and she is home at the farm. Cards and calls can be sent to her there.

Thresher show meeting

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

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.

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.

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 time of renewal.

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!

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.

Clinic receives insurance money

The Cheyenne County Clinic in St. Francis has received \$1,650 from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Foundation.

The clinic was among 28 primary care and community health centers providing care for underserved Kansans to share \$46,200 in year-end grants from the Kansas Foundation. Each clinic received a grant of \$1,650.

These clinics have stretched their budgets to the maximum in order to assure that the growing number of uninsured and underinsured Kansans have access to quality health care, said Marlou Wegener, chief operating officer of the Foundation.

In recognition of the important work these clinics do in the communities they serve, the Foundation is providing each with these funds in the hope that the funds will help them continue to provide crucial health care services to the Kansans who rely on them.

"This money will be used to help break the cost of service to the un- and under- insured people without resources to cover their own cost of care," said Les Lacy, Cheyenne County Hospital administrator. "In 2011, we provided \$89,894 in charity care. In addition to this, we had an expense of \$230,019 related to uncollectible accounts. Our Primary Care Clinic Grant also provides money to help cover this expense, but tax

dollars are also needed to cover these expenses."

Besides the Cheyenne County Clinic, others receiving money in

this area were: Greeley County Health Services, Sharon Springs; and Rawlins County Dental Clinic, Atwood.

Stolen truck with load of corn is recovered

On Dec. 5, a tractor trailer semi with a load of corn was taken from a rural grain bin site near Bird City. The tractor trailer semi was also used in another grain theft in Cheyenne County.

After an investigation by the Cheyenne County Sheriff's Office, two men were arrested on Jan. 11 in connection with the thefts. Kurt Stapleton of Liberal, and Jimmy

Ray Ketcherside of Plains, are being held in the Scott County Jail. The tractor trailer semi was recovered in rural Thomas County.

Charges are pending. Stapleton and Ketcherside are also being held for involvement in other thefts that have occurred in Cheyenne County, and other counties in the states of Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma.

SHOWTIME: 7:30 p.m. Sunday Matinee 2 p.m. 2 hr. 6 min.

We Bought A Zoo

Jan. 27, 28 & 29

Adaptation/Drama

Matt Damon, Colin Ford, Thomas Haden Church, Scarlett Johansson

PG

CHEYENNE THEATER

St. Francis, KS
785-332-2747

Children 12 & Under: \$4
3D Movies: Children 12 & Under \$5

All Others: \$6
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.

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