

## Casey's Comments

**By Casey McCormick**  
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The melody may be different but the lyrics say the same thing.

The other Friday night Lezlie and I attended several basketball games at the local high school. As we sat on the bleachers inside the gymnasium, the music from the student's pep band took me back in time. In a moment I left our corner of Kansas to the west side of Denver during the 1970s.

My brothers, sister and I were blessed by growing up in a home that valued the arts. In particular we all, to different extents, spent time studying instruments both from our Aunt Sissy and through public schools. Our high school, Wheat Ridge, had a very exceptional jazz, pep and marching band instructor, along with orchestra and symphony director in Larry Wallace.

Mr. Wallace was a terribly thin and soft spoken gentleman

from the southern U.S. whom you did not want to disappoint. He brought out the best in most all of his students. If you were good enough to make it into the top band, you knew you had earned it. You also knew that your group made some pretty special music.

Back to the pep band playing the other night in rural Kansas, the songs were different from what we played. A couple examples of Friday's tunes were versions of Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" and Jimmy Buffet's "Cheese Burger in Paradise." The funny thing is, when I was a teenage trombone player we thought we had pretty new "pop" songs as well. I wonder if today's youngsters would be tapping their toes to "Smoke on the Water" and "Proud Mary?"

At least the traditional high school "fight" songs never go out of style.

## South of McDonald

**By Sandy Binning**

Judi Barnabee and Barbara Krantz were Friday afternoon callers on Rita Officer.

On Thursday afternoon, Eleanor Swihart, and her niece and husband, Claire and Dick Baughman of New Jersey called on Lynn and Rita Officer.

The Baughmans attended John Brown University with Lynn and Rita.

Tony Sramek of Germany and Pat Sramek called on Lynn and Rita Officer Friday evening.

Lynn and Rita Officer attended the Heartland basketball games Saturday in Colby. They enjoyed watching Alexi Regier play basketball, and Gracie Gundlach's class lead the National Anthem. Gracie was also on the cheerlead-

ing team.

Ellen Dewey called on Jerry and Sandy Binning Tuesday afternoon. The Shay children spent Friday and Saturday with Joe and Charlene Kramer.

Weekend guests of Craig and Diane Cox were Jeff and Ginger Montgomery and children of St. Joseph, Mo., Mark and Catina Montgomery and children of Denver, and Brad and Misty Montgomery and children of Edmond, Okla.

George and Kathy Banister attended the Cheylin - Golden Plains basketball games Friday evening in McDonald.

George Banister attended the St. Francis - Cheylin basketball games in St. Francis Tuesday evening.

## School Menu

**Monday**  
Breakfast: blueberry scones.  
Lunch: sausage with gravy, biscuits.

**Tuesday**  
Breakfast: breakfast bites.  
Lunch: beef strips, potato triangles.

**Wednesday**  
Freshman lunch.  
Breakfast: waffles, yogurt.

Lunch: oven fried chicken, cheesy potatoes, corn, strawberries and bananas, bomb pops, cheese cake.

**Thursday**  
Breakfast: sausage and cheese scones.  
Lunch: chili, cinnamon rolls.  
Breakfast is served daily with toast, cereal, juice and milk.  
Lunch is served daily with salad bar, fruit and milk.

## Obituaries

### Raoma Purvis Johnson

July 19, 1933 - Feb. 11, 2012

Raoma Purvis Johnson was born on July 19, 1933, to Ray and Naida Purvis. She died on Feb. 11, 2012 at the Good Samaritan Home in Atwood, Kan., at the age of 78.

Raoma was raised in the Atwood area where she attended school until her high school years. She graduated from Bird City High School in 1952 and shortly thereafter was married to Harold Johnson. To this union, two sons, Ray and Alan, and one daughter, Christina, were born.

While living in Bird City, Raoma was a part-time dispatcher for Cheyenne County, waitress at the local diners and eventually attended cosmetology school in Goodland in 1968. When the CF Truck Company moved from the area, Raoma and Harold moved to Torrington, Wyo., where Ramona enjoyed crocheting, making ceramics, playing bingo and Keno, and meeting with friends in the afternoon for coffee and conversation. One of the most enjoyable activities that Raoma did was talking on the CB radios, where everyone knew her as "Petunia." After 17 years, Harold retired and they moved back to Bird City in

1998.

Raoma was preceded in death by her parents, Ray and Naida Purvis; a brother, Darrel Purvis; a daughter, Christina, and a grand-son-in-law, Spencer Riddle.

Survivors include her husband, Harold; sister, Yvonne Underwood of McCook, Neb.; son, Ray and wife, Pam of Bird City and their children, Nikki Riddle of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Shayna Johnson of Bird City; son, Alan and wife, Ana, of Goodland, and their children, LeeAndra Johnson of Colby, and her three children, Adriana, Zavier and Cameron, A.J. Johnson of Florence, Colo., and daughter, Alyce, along with many nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

The funeral service, officiated by Rev. Dan Carson, was held Feb. 16, 2012, at the Wesleyan Community Church in Bird City. Casket bearers were Alan J. Johnson, Lyle Chipperfield, Randy Johnson, Laverne Young, Nathan Sowers and Randy Reynolds.

Burial was in the Bird City Cemetery, Bird City. Memorials may be made to the Rawlins County Hospice Services.

### Goldie Eileen Nygaard

Jan. 11, 1929-Feb. 16, 2012

Goldie Eileen Nygaard died Feb. 16, 2012, in Sterling, Colo., in at the age of 88. Funeral services were held at on Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2012, at Chaney-Reager Funeral Home, Sterling. Rev. Ed Bigler III officiated the service. She was buried at Grace Cemetery, McDonald, Kan.

Goldie was born on Jan. 11, 1929, to Henry Lee and Bertha Banister Hallagin, in McDonald. She graduated from the McDonald High School and continued her education by attending Fort Hays State University in Hays for one year.

She married Olay Nygaard on Dec. 2, 1944, in Englewood, Colo. They had three sons, Lonell "Olie," Nathan and Loyd.

Through the years, she was a homemaker, field hand, pipe layer, housecleaner and cafe owner.

In 2009, the Nygaard family was the Northeastern Junior College Family of the Year.

Goldie enjoyed being with her family as well as playing cards and board games.

She is survived by her sons and families, Lonell "Olie" of Sterling, Brandi Johnson, Ft. Collins, Colo., and Scott Stauffer, Greeley, Colo.; Nathan and wife, Shawna, of Sterling, Aislinn, Josie, Kjellung, Feliocity, Jason, Jamecia, Lezzie, all of Sterling; and Loyd and wife, Brenda, of New River, Ariz., Heather and husband, Adam, Sun City, Ariz., and Brandon, who is in the U.S. Army in Frankfurt, Germany. She is also survived by a sister, Rudy Waddill of Englewood, Colo. The family said that Goldie was survived by a great-granddaughter that she was never able to embrace.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Olay, in 1970, and son, Barry Lane Nygaard, and nine brothers and sisters.

Memorials may be made to the Relay for Life.



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**Get well cards**  
Cards and letters can be sent to: Ivalee Mears, Rm. 106, Citizens Memorial Hospital, 1500 N. Oakland, Bolivar, MO, 65613. For more information call Beth Klepper.

**StoryTime**  
On Friday there will be StoryTime at the Bird City Library. It will begin at 9 through 10:30 a.m. Children ages 2 - 5 are invited to come. Reading time can be for 10 minutes or longer. Parents are welcomed to stay. It is a great opportunity for children to begin experiencing what their local library has to offer.

**Veterans' affairs**  
Judy Tubbs of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs will be in St. Francis at 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at the County Clerk's office to assist veterans and their dependents with VA claims work on Thursday, March 1. If you are unable to contact Ms. Tubbs in St. Francis, you may contact the office in Colby any Monday, Wednesday or Friday at (785) 462-3572.

**Early childhood screen**  
The Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center (NKESC) staff will have a free early childhood screening on Monday, March 5 at the United Methodist Church in Bird City. Parents of infants, toddlers and preschoolers are encouraged to take advantage of this developmental screening. Please contact Deanna Nelsen at the elementary school at 734-2351, ext. 200, to set up an appointment.

**Senior potluck**  
Bird City Senior Center will host monthly potluck on Monday, Feb. 27 at 12 p.m.

**Get well cards**  
Get well cards can be sent to: Myra Miller, Villa Rehab Center, 7950 West Mississippi Ave., Lakewood, CO, 80226, Room 49.

**Get well cards**  
Sharon McCann had open heart surgery on February ninth. She came home last Thursday. Calls and cards can be sent to: 216 W Second St. 785-734-2471.

**Home Circle**  
Cheryl Lee will be the hostess for the February meeting of the Home

Circle Club. It will be held at the Manor on Thursday at 2 p.m. Be sure to wear red!

**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.

**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.

**Tag deadline**  
All residents with last names beginning with "A" 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.

**Grief support group**  
Confidential Grief Support Group, for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one, to be held in a safe place of mutual help and comfort. Information sessions will be Monday, Feb. 20 at 2 p.m. or 7 p.m. at Immanuel United Methodist Church in Bird City. Questions call 785-734-2739.

**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.

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

**Hugo 3-D**  
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**Cheyenne County Hospital, Clinic & Health Department would like to remind you that Flu Shots are still available.**  
**785-332-2381 - County Health**  
**785-332-2682 - Clinic**

**Influenza (the flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. The best way to prevent the flu is by getting vaccinated each year.**  
**Good health habits like covering your cough and washing your hands often can help stop the spread of germs and prevent respiratory illnesses like the flu.**

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