

## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick

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Last week, on Dec. 7, marked the 71st anniversary of the Japanese bombing of the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor. As one of the most historic events in this nation's past it deserves a little reflection.

The attack was planned for a Sunday morning as it would be the time to most likely catch the Americans off guard. Of the 2,390 service men and 49 civilians who died in the attack, nearly half were members of the U.S.S. Arizona's crew.

Aboard the battleship that still lies in 40 feet of water, 1,177 either remain entombed or were buried. The ship exploded when a bomb reached the forward magazine and set off the explosives stored there.

These numbers are well documented, but what most may not know is that there were many

relatives among the Arizona's crew. 37 pairs, or trios, of brothers were serving that day. Of the 77 men, 62 were killed, including 23 sets of brothers.

Only one full set survived; Kenneth and Russell Warriner. Kenneth was in San Diego attending flight school. Russell, although severely injured, recovered from his wounds.

Also, there was a father and son aboard. Thomas Augusta Free and his boy, William Thomas Free, both perished.

It was not uncommon for relatives to serve together in the Navy. After Pearl Harbor the military tried to deter the practice, but it was not until the sinking of the U.S.S. Juneau and the loss of the five Sullivan brothers in Nov. 1942 that it was officially forbidden.

## Funds needed for child's special helmet

Paxton Jackson was born on July 13 to Wendy Jackson, Bird City resident. This little boy was born with craniosynostosis. Paxton was diagnosed with two specific kinds of craniosynostosis: sagittal synostosis and lambdoid synostosis.



Paxton

Her grandmother, Peggy Jackson, explained that the skull has three parts and Paxton's lower and medium skull were grown together, which would not allow his brain to grow.

Medicaid has covered the costs of all surgeries but there is one last surgery which will be performed Jan. 9 in Wichita. When the surgery is over, Paxton will be required to wear a helmet.

Peggy said the special helmet, which costs \$2,500, is not covered by Medicaid but Paxton is required to wear it. The helmet, which will protect his skull and brain, is considered "cosmetic" by Medicaid.

We can't afford \$2,500 for a helmet, Peggy said. And, we need

to have \$800 by Jan. 8, the day before the surgery and the rest after the surgery.

In order to help raise the money, Peggy and Wendy placed containers in the Thrift Stores in both St. Francis and Bird City as well as the Bird City Library, Bird City City Hall, Big Eds and The Bank. In St. Francis, a container can also be found at Majestic Service.

Unfortunately, Peggy reported, the container at the library was opened and the bills were taken. There were only some coins left, she said. Someone stole from my grandson, she said.

There is also the matter of gas to get to Wichita so Paxton's family can be near him while he is in intensive care. The Jacksons are making and selling Christmas wreaths and other decorations. Orders can be placed by calling them at 785-734-2414.

For more information on how to help, contact the Jacksons or Pastor Dan Carson at 785-626-2076.

## Carson signs with Washburn University

Samantha Carson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tim Carson, Topeka, and granddaughter of Ed and Phyllis Carson signed to play softball for Washburn University

on Nov. 16. Samantha is a senior at Washburn High School and has played softball for three years on the high school team.

The Wesleyan Community Church in Bird City is having their children & adult's Christmas program on Sunday evening, December 16 at 5 pm. Everyone is invited and there will be snacks and fellowship to follow.

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## American Profile

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## Bulletin Board

**Death notice**  
Ronald Powell, Montrose, Colo., died on Thursday, Nov. 22. Funeral services are pending.

**St. John's Lutheran**  
A Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be held on Monday Dec. 24 at 5:30 pm. Communion will be held Christmas Day at 10  
**Christmas in the Barn**  
Celebrate "Christmas in the Barn" at the Steve and Jan Busse farm, four and 1/2 mile south of Bird City on CR 1 and 27, Christmas Eve at 6:30 p.m.

**Christmas in the Country**  
Salem Lutheran will host its eighth annual "Christmas in the Country" at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 15, with prelude beginning at 4:30. Come enjoy an evening of scripture and carols sung in German and English, many instruments, handbells, brass, several choirs and congregational singing. Finger food will be served following the program in the church basement. A free-will offering will go to local helping agencies.

**Public meeting**  
A public meeting will be held at 3 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 17, at the

Cheylin High School. This will give people a chance to have input on finding a new superintendent for the Cheylin Schools.

**Wesleyan Christmas program**  
The Wesleyan Community Church in Bird City is having their children and adult Christmas program on Sunday evening, Dec. 16, at 5 p.m. Everyone is invited. There will be snacks and fellowship to follow.

**Free Christmas dinner**  
A free Christmas dinner will be held at 12:30 p.m. at the St. Francis United Methodist Church on Christmas Day. There will be food, fellowship and games. Everyone is welcome but Rev. Warren Cico would appreciate reservations be called in at 772-7098 so he will know how much food to prepare.

**Bird City Historical Association**  
The Bird City Historical Association will not meet on Dec. 14 due to member's medical appointments. The Association will meet on Jan. 11, weather permitting. If in doubt, call 785-734-2750. At that time members with information on family farms are asked to bring copies of their information and

copies of photos. The program at that time will be the compiling of information for the "Stewards of the Land."

**Taxes due Dec. 21**  
The first half of the Cheyenne County personal property taxes are due Friday, Dec. 21.

**Veteran's Affairs**  
Jody Tubbs of the Kansas Commission on Veteran's Affairs will be in St. Francis at 10:30 until 11:30 at the County clerk's office to assist veterans and their dependents with claims work on Thursday, Dec. 6. 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.

**Salvation Army**  
The Salvation Army is looking for a representative for Cheyenne County. Those interested can call Dolores Jenik, 332-8810 or the area field consultant, Stephen Burpee, 800-336-4547, extension 389.

**Attn: Cheylin high students**  
**Community service opportunity for scholarships**

Help with preparing the American Legion Hall for Santa Day, Saturday, Dec. 15, 9 a.m. - noon. cleaning walls, windows, washing dishes, stock cabinets, set table and chairs up

**County commissioners**  
The Cheyenne County Commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 17,

**Information needed**  
To better serve the cattlemen of Cheyenne County, the sheriff's office is requesting landowners and stockmen provide locations, brands, descriptions and a contact phone number pertaining to livestock in pastures, grazed stock residue and CRP within the county. The officers will compile the contact numbers and locations, giving a copy to the county communications dispatch office to be used when stray livestock are found on the roads. The contact numbers are for officers' use only and will not be provided to the

general public. Call the sheriff's office at 785-332-8880.

**StoryTime Hour**  
Because of the holidays coming up, there will be no StoryTime Hour until after the first of the year. Keep an eye out, StoryTime Hour will be trying some new programs.

**Wesleyan service**  
The Wesleyan Community Church of Bird City is having Sunday evening services, starting at 6 p.m. There will be Contemporary Praise and Worship, followed by interactive preaching and Bible study.

**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.

## Christmas in the barn

Celebrate Christmas Eve in a unique way this year.

St. John Lutheran congregation, Bird City, invites everyone to the Christmas candlelight worship on Monday, Dec. 24, 5:30 p.m. at the church.

Then "Christmas in the Barn" will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the farm of Steve and Jan Busse, located four and 1/2 miles south of Bird City on County Road 1 and 27. Come and witness the re-enactment, with animals in the background, of the birth of Jesus Christ as told in the Gospel of Luke.

Christmas Day worship with Holy Communion at St. John Lutheran Church begins at 10 a.m. the following morning.

## School Menu

School Menu	School Menu
<b>Dec. 17 -Dec. 20</b>	<b>Monday</b>
Breakfast: Star spangled pancakes, ham pattie, juice, toast and milk.	Lunch: Frito pie with corn chips, refried beans, black bean corn salsa, taco bar, citrus applesauce, fruit cocktail and milk.
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
Breakfast: Breakfast pita with salsa, hash browns, pears, cereal and milk.	Breakfast: Scrambled eggs with cheese, orange slice, toast and milk.
Lunch: Beef and noodles, mashed potatoes, corn, blueberry oatmeal square, spinach salad,	Lunch: Chicken quesadilla with salsa, steamed broccoli fruit crisp, pears, tropical fruit and milk.
	<b>Thursday</b>
	Breakfast: Breakfast biscuit with ham slice, juice, cereal and milk.
	Lunch: Taco soup, fresh baby carrots, cornbread, spinach salad, royal brownies, peaches, applesauce and milk.

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

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

**Diabetes Education Management Meeting**  
Wednesday, Dec. 19 1:30 p.m.  
Cheyenne County Clinic Basement

Topic: Diabetes & Exercise Physiology – Carmen Winter from Hays Medical Center

For more information contact  
**Mila Bandel, RN – County Health Nurse**  
785-332-2381

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