

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick

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 Maybe I should write it off to the English degree I don't use, but I love language and the power behind it. If a person has command of words their ability to describe concepts, motivate others and explain the world around them has no limits.
 Merriam Webster's on-line dictionary put out their list of the 10 most-looked-up words of 2012. The list has something to say about us and where we are as a society.
 The list is really 11 words as the first listed are "socialism" and "capitalism." These are followed by "touché," the French word meaning to either score a point in fencing or argument.
 The next two couple interesting together: "bigot" and "marriage." Apparently, today, if you are not riding the progressive wave of allowing marriage between members

of the same sex, then you can be labeled as a closed-minded bigot.
 The other words most looked up are "democracy," "professionalism," "globalization." Joe Biden inspired "malarkey," "schadenfreude" and "meme."
 The last two I had to look up myself.
 Schadenfreude, from the German that combines "damage" and "joy." The word is used to describe finding enjoyment at the misfortune of another. I suppose that is why we have reruns of AFV.
 "Meme," which rhymes with beam, describes an idea, style or usage that spreads from person to person in a culture. In the spirit of the season, "Santa Claus is a meme most kids are thinking about this time of year."
 So as Christmas approaches, may your heart not be filled with schadenfreude toward your fellow man. And that's no malarkey!

Letters to the Editor

Letter to the Editor:
 We're absolutely blown away by the amount of things and money you were able to collect through the Support Our Soldiers project. You are truly amazing communities, said Karen Stark, Oklahoma City, who is in charge of the program and picked up the items from the county. We truly appreciate everything you do and have done to make life better for those in harms way.
 We were busy packing 5,000 boxes to be shipped shortly. Your gifts are appreciated and needed and we feel so blessed by our friendship with you kind folks that continue to support this very worthwhile cause.

she added.
 We, here in Cheyenne County, want to add our personal thanks and appreciation for those of you who gave so generously. We hope and pray we will continue this worthwhile cause as long as we have men and women who are willing to lay their lives on the line to protect us from our enemies. May you be blest knowing that you gave to make life a little better for those who received one of the Christmas gifts. God bless our troops and all of you who shared a gift with them.
 Hulda Dorsch
 Christi Wurm
 Project coordinators

Dear Editor:
 This time of the year is for rejoicing in the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. Commercialism has detracted us from our focus by burdening us in seeking just the right present for our loved ones, and friends, especially the children. To add distraction from our focus on the birth, burial and resurrection of Jesus this year; the nation has been faced with a great tragedy. This tragedy has saddened the nation and even caused our President, President Obama to show tears of grief over the senseless loss of 20 young children and six teachers in Newtown, Conn..
 Rev. W. Paul James, the district superintendent for the Wesleyan Church in Queensbury, N.Y., sent Pastor Dan Carson the following letter which is worthy of extending to other community members.
 As you may know the elementary school where that horrific shooting took place is within our district's jurisdiction. We feel especially responsible to respond in some tangi-

ble way, but we realize that the rest of the country and the entire Wesleyan Church must wish there was something they could do too.
 One of our pastors, Keith Warner came up with a unique idea and ran it by Dr. Lyon, general superintendent of the Wesleyan Church, on a way to get the word out in case others want to get involved.
 The idea is to send thousands of sympathy cards to the affected families. This same pastor Keith Warner, has offered his church to make sure the cards are labeled and that they get to the proper destination.
 Imagine the blessing that people across our country and residents from Bird City, can be to this grieving community and State at a time when they are reeling in pain and fear. Will you help us send the love of Jesus into this community?
 If you would like to get involved, you will need to know the address to which to send the card.
 Cross Pointe Wesleyan Church, 3 Bogardus Ave., Catskill, NY 12414

Christmas in the Barn
 Celebrate "Christmas in the Barn" at the Steve and Jan Busse farm, 4 1/2 mile south of Bird City on CR I and 27, Christmas Eve at 6:30 p.m.
St. John Lutheran
 A Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 24. Communion will be held on Christmas Day.
New Year's Eve dance
 Bird City Century II Development Foundation is holding a New Year's Eve dance at the American Legion hall from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 31. All ages are welcome.
Santa Day
 Santa Day will be held Saturday in Bird City at the Legion hall. Soups and hot dogs will be served from 11 to 12:30 p.m. The program with drawings and prizes will be held from 12:30 until all the prizes are given away.
Home Circle Club
 The home Circle Club will be having their annual Christmas pot luck/gift exchange on December 20, at noon. It will be at the Manor with Avis Hazuka hosting.

owners 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 Story-Time Hour until after the first of the year. Keep an eye out, Story-Time Hour will be trying some new programs.
Bingo
 The American Legion Auxiliary in Bird City will be conducting bingo games the first and third Saturdays of the month. Due to the extensive remodeling at the Legion hall, Bingo will be held at Bird City Senior Center until further notice.

Yearbook photos
 The Cougar yearbook staff at Cheylin welcomes the public to share any photos taken at school or community events that might be usable in the yearbook this school year...a limited staff will make covering all events difficult. Sports, clubs and organizations, assemblies, banquets, class activities including pre-kindergarten through 12th grade.
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.
Grief Support Group
 The Grief Support Group will continue to meet every second and fourth Mondays at 2 p.m. Meeting place is the Immanuel United Methodist Church, 116 E. Fourth, Bird City. For more information, call 785-734-2739.
 The group is a confidential support to all who have experienced the loss of a loved one in a safe place of mutual help and comfort.

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.
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.



County employee health insurance goes over budget

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkansas.com
 Health insurance for the county employees has been an issue for the past two years. The cost of the insurance goes over budget and continues to cost the county and taxpayers. At the last meeting, Tim Carson, vice president of Corporate Plan, went over the options for the county.
 Mr. Carson had sent a new quote for the commissioners to go over at the Monday meeting. The quote would save the county about \$36,000 but the responsibility of the employees would go up. The employee's out-of-pocket costs would go from \$700 to \$1,500

and, the family out-of-pocket expense would go from \$1,200 to \$3,000.
 Dale Patton, commissioner, had looked into a state insurance but, he felt that they would be just as well taking the Corporate Plan again, especially with the \$36,000 savings. Insurance, he said, is just high and, now with the new health reform regulations, it will probably be higher in the future. If we make this step now, I think it is a step in the right direction.
 Andy Beikman, commissioner, said he felt the county should

have a policy in place where current employees who stay with the county, they will have the opportunity to have their insurance grandfathered in. When new employees come on, they will know up front that they will possibility not have the same insurance benefits. The county has a good benefit package and we need to keep our employees - good employees are hard to replace.
 No decision was made on the insurance but it was the consensus of the board to go with the proposed Corporate Plan.

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 called in at 772-7098 so he will know how much food to prepare.
Taxes due Dec. 21
 The first half of the Cheyenne County personal property taxes are due Friday, Dec. 21.
Veteran's Affairs
 The Cheyenne County Commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 31, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse, St. Francis.
Information needed
 To better serve the cattlemen of Cheyenne County, the sheriff's office is requesting land-

SHOWTIME: 7:30 p.m. 1 hr. 37 min.
Rise of the Guardians
Animated/Family/Adaptation
/Fantasy
 PG
CHEYENNE THEATER St. Francis, KS
 785-332-2747
 Children 12 & Under: \$4 All Others: \$6
 3D Movies: Children 12 & Under \$5 All Others: \$7

Thank You
 The family of Larry Henry would like to say thank you for the outpouring of support and sympathy for our loss. Our gratitude is immeasurable for the excellent care he received at Cheyenne County Hospital and for his caregivers at Good Samaritan Village. A special thanks for Dr. Miller and Susan Roelfs for seeing that Larry's last wish to come home to Cheyenne County came true. A special thanks for his Hospice nurse, Tami and Pastor Tom Bailey for their support and guidance. To Brenda and Lori, the UMW, Jane and Pastor Tom, and John Knodel thank you for making his service so very special to us. And to all of you with your kind words and remembrance of him, Thank you.
 Treva Henry and family

Santa Day
 Saturday, December 22nd
 American Legion Hall, Bird City
 Soups / Hot Dogs
 (on behalf of Community Club)
 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 Free-Will Donation
 Program
 12:30 - Drawings and Prizes

BIRD CITY CENTURY II
Development Foundation
 Proud to be a supporter of this community event

CHEYENNE COUNTY HOSPITAL 210 W. 1st • St. Francis, KS
 785-332-2104
 Happy Holidays to you and your family from the staff at Cheyenne County Hospital, Cheyenne County Clinic and Cheyenne County Health Department.

"The Wonder of Christmas"
 Candle Light Service
Dec. 24 • 6 p.m.
Immanuel United Methodist Church
 Everyone Welcome

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
 Customer Appreciation
Friday, Dec. 21 • 1 - 4 p.m.
 Stop by Farm Bureau office for Cookies and Hot Apple Cider or Coffee.
 Pick up your 2013 Calendars
Farm Bureau Financial Services 102 Washington St. Francis, KS 67756
 785-332-3312

Horseplay

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 For more information contact: **Tim Burr**
 at 785-332-3162

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