

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick
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Decoration Day, as Memorial Day used to be called, is an important time to reflect on those who have paid the highest price for being an American. A visit from a family member got me thinking a bit more about those who sacrifice a part of their lives to provide for our freedom.

We have a nephew, Tyler Larson, who is beginning boot camp with the U.S. Marines in San Diego, Calif. Kayleen, his mom, stopped by our house to share her first letter from her son.

Actually it was four letters. The first was a hand written note from Tyler, saying he was okay and getting used to doing all manner of daily duties with all the other recruits.

"We eat, bathe and brush our teeth all at the same time," he said.

The other pages were type written. One was a general statement as to what the soldiers would be doing for the next few months. Then there was a letter from Tyler's platoon commander and another from the Gunnery Sergeant in charge of his unit. Each told of the challenging road ahead for the new Marines. But they also said that they would be well cared for.

Sitting around our table, looking at the letters, I believe a feeling of reassurance could be felt by Kayleen and the rest of us.

That same sense of reassurance can be shared by a grateful nation. For as long as we have brave men and women who are willing to make the sacrifice and they in turn have the leadership, tradition and history of our military, we can all rest assured that our freedom is well protected.

Bulletin Board

Card shower

Rodney Partch of Bird City will celebrate his 90th birthday on Monday, June 13, with a card shower.

Rodney was born in Bird City. He was a farmer and former extension agent. He married his wife, Bette, in 1944. She died July 17, 2009.

His children are Sue and Glenn Laubhan of Salina and Ted and Carol Partch of Bird City. Grandchildren are Shelly and Tim Blake, Jill and Drew Paugh, Randy and Katie Partch and Kevin Partch. Cooper Paugh is a great-grandson.

Cards may be sent to 210 E. Bressler, Box 513, Bird City, KS 67731.

Volleyball Camp

Volleyball summer camp will be held at the Cheylin High School gym from June 27 to June 30. The junior high session will be held from 4 to 6 p.m., and the high school session from 6 to 9 p.m. If interested contact the coaches, Lydia Smith Dodrill, or Christi Antholz.

Community Vacation Bible School

Make plans to send your pre school - sixth grade children to Community Vacation Bible School from June 27 to July 1. It is to be held at the Cheylin schools. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.

and Bible school will be from noon to 3 p.m. Learn about God with friends.

Cheyenne County Fair Board
 The Cheyenne County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m. tonight (Thursday).

County Commissioners

The Cheyenne County Commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. Wednesday, June 15, in the commissioner's room at the courthouse.

Veterans Affairs

Jody Tubbs, of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs, will be in St. Francis from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. (today) Thursday at the county clerk's office. People may also contact the Veteran's Affairs office in Colby any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday at 785-462-3572. The Veterans' Service representative will only be in St. Francis on the third Thursday of each month.

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.

additional savings on utility bills.

Reading the instructions for ceiling and other fans to adjust airflow is recommended, said Mr. Snead, who recently was appointed as director of extension energy programs at Kansas State University.

More energy efficient tips in cooling a home are available at K-State Research and Extension offices throughout the state and online, at the extension engineering website: www.engext.ksu.edu/home.asp.

Legislative News By Ward Cassidy, 120th State Representative

What a year to start in the Kansas Legislature!

We started this year with a \$550 million deficit and tremendous uncertainty of what cuts were going to have to be made. On the 90th day of the session at 6 a.m., I voted for the budget that transformed that deficit into a \$50 million ending balance. The budget passed the House 69-55. Some did not vote for the budget because the cuts were too severe and some voted against it because the cuts were not severe enough.

By statute we were to have a positive ending balance that is 7.5 percent of the \$6 billion State General Fund. We did not meet that statute and \$50 million is a pretty thin cushion. I am hoping that revenues continue to improve and that we are not faced with another deficit when we start the session next January.

A big concern in the state and Northwest Kansas is that each year when the legislature reconvenes and reviews the 2011 budget—the Rescission Budget—that more cuts will have to be made. If the revenues remain consistent there will not be any more cuts to the budget. This would allow us to work on streamlining government and still providing necessary services.

I am a strong supporter of Governor Brownback and I feel he did an extraordinary job in his first few months of office. He had many tough decisions to make and he made them. He heard what we all heard — "cut government, just not what af-

fects my programs." All cuts made by the governor and the legislature were an attempt to spread the pain as evenly as possible. Of course, there were some that were hit pretty hard. As I have stated before, "we can't keep spending more money than we have or our children will never see the light of day." Good news - the All Funds budget is the lowest since 1972.

There were many attempts to save the taxpayer money so the budget could be used to better serve our citizens. One of the most creative was eliminating the purchase of bottled water in the capitol, reducing office supplies, and eliminating some cell phone contracts. That alone saved \$2 million. There were over \$3 million in savings when welfare recipients were required to have a valid social security number. Hard to believe that would be allowed to happen and there are several employees in that department now looking for jobs. Governor Brownback also cut 2,000 full-time positions. Most of those were positions not currently being filled but the agencies were using those numbers in their budget.

I feel the most significant legislation passed to help our state's economy was the Worker's Compensation Reform Bill. It was fair to both workers and employees. This legislation will increase the ability of Kansas to attract job-creating industries to the state while insuring injured workers receive the care and benefits they need. Promoting Employment Across Kansas

Club Clip

Red Hat Mamas

A strong southeast wind blew the 11 McDonald ladies transporting salads to join with the seven Bird City Red Hat Mamas who prepared desserts on May 17. The table at the Bird City Senior Center on West Bressler Street was an explosion of spring.

Marlene Young arranged for the group to tour Monty's Smoked Jerky, 215 South. Bird Ave. before the potluck. This family-owned business was a quest to fill a niche for exceptional jerky in the mid 90s. Robyn Raile enthusiastically presided over the walk-through with aroma in the air. Each smoker holds 100 pounds of the beef that is raised locally featuring hormone and antibiotic free meat. The natural beef is cut and semi-frozen to allow for trimming and slicing every Monday. An overnight marinade of the strips and then its onto the racks and into the 160 degree smoker on Tuesday. Wednesday is packaging day. A strict schedule is kept as a U.S. Department

of Agriculture inspector is on site every day.

Humorous reading chairwoman, Phyllis Wingfield, ensured members that laughter was the "cure all" and then followed with four stories to carry out her theme. The visual on the last one erupted into laughter. Two tables of exuberant dominoes were the afternoon enjoyment.

At the business meeting, Marlene Young was thanked for arranging the day. Queen, Margaret Voorhies, continued by announcing the June gathering will be a High Tea at the McDonald Senior Center.

Red Hat Mamas attending were: Ana Antholz, Sandra Antholz, Frieda Black, Bonnie Burr, Linda Carroll, Bethel Goldt, Vernetta Haack, Bev Higgins, Diane Kribs, Iris McIntosh, Carol Mears, Lois Morelock, Edna Roesener, Connie Rooney, Joan Tongish, Margaret Voorhies, Phyllis Wingfield and Marlene Young.

(PEAK) and unemployment insurance reform were also passed to promote job growth, expand the Kansas economy, and shore up the unemployment insurance trust fund. The Governors Rural Opportunity Zone program was passed to help promote growth in rural communities.

Other significant legislation was the pay-go rule which limited political motivated spending amendments, there were four Pro-Life bills passed, flexibility in school finance was passed, Kansas Public Employee Retirement System (KPERs) reform was recognized as an urgent need and is being addressed, and voter identity will be enforced in the future.

There has been and will be many discussions on the accomplishments or failures of this year's session. My main focus was to do what I promised — stand up for Northwest Kansas. I feel some of my best accomplishments were working toward not allowing things to happen that would have affected us adversely.

I loved being our representative. When I have on my State Representative ID, I can get into see the head of any office in no time at all. There were quite a

few people in the 120th that requested my help and I did my best to act quickly.

I am proud that I made a mark on this year's legislative session. I was fortunate to have a bill that was passed into law and my investigation into the Fire Marshal's office resulted in several million dollars of savings to schools, hospitals and nursing homes. I appreciate the phone calls and e-mails, and in most all cases I responded to them the day they were received. I also got a lot of compliments on my legislative updates as they were mine and not the canned variety.

Between now and next January, I plan to be throughout the 120th. I would like the Republican chairs to send me their rosters, e-mails and phone numbers. I want to get them all together with me for a meeting. We need to work together in all of our communities to fight for and promote Northwest Kansas.

I hope to be our representative for several terms and would appreciate your support. Please check my website www.wardcassidy.com. It has some new pictures and a way you can contribute to help with the thousands of miles I drive in our district.

McDonald News By Sandy Binning

Dorothy Rummel of Littleton, Colo., was a Friday afternoon visitor of Iris McIntosh.

Iris McIntosh and Dave, Nancy and Alan Pallozzi attended the annual McIntosh Gathering at Frontier Park, Hays, Sunday noon.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Fisher of Wichita were Saturday afternoon guests of Ray and Marlene Johnson.

Karlyne Atchison called on her aunt, Marie Holzsworth in St. Francis Wednesday.

Karlyne Atchison was among those attending the McDonald Alumni Dinner Sunday.

Becky and Ray Nelson were weekend guests of Lavina and Fred Waters.

Jim and Louis Morelock attended their granddaughters high school graduations. Kala Coulson in Larned, and Courtney Sager in Salina both last weekend.

Saturday guests of Myra Miller were Karlyne Atchison, and Ronnie and Judy Hartman. Sunday guests were Don and Jan Hartman of Loxley, Ala.

Thursday through Monday

guests of Joan Tongish were Cheryl and Mary Jane Beamgard of Northville, Mich.

Sunday afternoon and evening guests of Joan Tongish were Mike and Diana Tongish, Clinton Hopkins, and Doug Tongish.

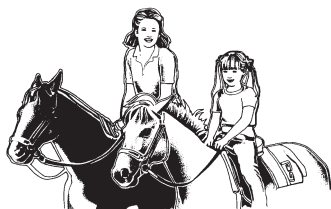
Brenda Knapp was a Saturday and Sunday guest of her parents, Jerry and Betty Knapp.

Travis Knapp was a weekend guest of his parents, Jerry and Betty Knapp.

Lowell and Doris Martin of Strasburg, Colo., were Saturday and Sunday overnight guests of Jerry and Betty Knapp.

Kenneth and Phyllis Wilkinson visited Laddie and Vera Kacirek at the Good Samaritan Home in Oberlin.

Kenneth and Phyllis Wilkinson attended the Cheyenne County Spring Livestock Show Saturday.



Installing ceiling fans cuts utility bill costs

Installing ceiling fans is a familiar recommendation when it comes to cooling a home or other room, but the fans, themselves, are not cooling units, said Bruce Snead, K-State Research and Extension residential energy specialist.

In moving the air, the fans produce a cooling effect that can reduce reliance on an air conditioning unit and yield a savings on overall utility costs, he said. He encourages using the fans while rooms are occupied, but turning them off when the rooms are unoccupied for

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SHOWTIME: 8 p.m. 2 hr. 17 min.

Pirates...3D

June 3, 4 & 5

Johnny Depp, Penelope Cruz, Ian McShane, Kevin R. McNally, Astrid Berges-Frisbey

Action/Adventure, Comedy and Sequel

PG-13 for intense sequences of action/adventure violence, some frightening images, sensuality and innuendo

CHEYENNE THEATER

St. Francis, KS 785-332-2747

Children 12 & Under: \$4

All Others: \$6

PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION

Sunday, June 12, 2011 @ Noon CT

Location: Western Auction & Real Estate Pavilion, W HWY 36, St. Francis, Ks

4-Wheeler Trailer, Wegele Mower, Push Mower, Many Shop Items, Tools, Butcher Supplies, Furniture & Misc. Plan to attend this auction - lots of goodies for everyone!

Licensed in Kansas, Colorado, and Nebraska for your Real Estate needs!



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(available in local area only)

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For more information contact: Anita at 785-332-3162

CHEYENNE COUNTY HOSPITAL

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

Answer the Call and give your input on Health/Eldercare in Cheyenne County
 Phone survey done by FHSU
 Docking Institute
 6-8 p.m. calls will be made
 Your opinion Counts!

Healthcare CPR
 June 13, 5-8 p.m.
 Clinic Basement
 Cost \$40 includes manual

RSVP to Candi by June 10 to 785-332-2104

or cdouthit@cheyennecountyhospital.com