



# Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick

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Maybe it's because my dad was an old destroyer salt in World War II, but I couldn't pass up sharing a great story about Naval vessels.

Soon the U.S.S. Iowa will be moved from Richmond, Va., to become a permanent museum in Los Angeles. The battleship saw action in World War II as well as Korea and Vietnam.

Although it was part of many actions, the chapter I'm speaking of occurred in November of 1943.

A secret mission involved the Iowa taking President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to meet with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Russian Premier Josef Stalin for conferences in Cairo and Tehran. Also aboard the American battleship was Secretary of State Cordell Hull, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the head of the Navy, Admiral Ernest J. King.

One of the escorts for the trip was a destroyer, U.S.S. William D. Porter. If you were to look up the term "bad luck" in the dictionary, it could easily have a photo of this ship.

Newly built, the Porter and it's crew first ran into trouble leaving the pier to join the Iowa. One of its anchors drug across the deck of a sister ship tearing railing, life boats, davits and generally mauling it while the anchor sustained a few scratches.

Next, while in formation with the battleship's flotilla, rough seas caused an unsecured depth charge to roll off the Porter. Due to radio silence, once the explosion was noticed the convoy assumed anti-submarine maneuvers in order to avoid being hit by a supposed Nazi sub.

Once the seas calmed down FDR wanted to see how well the Iowa could defend itself from an air attack. With weather balloons set aloft for target practice, the mock drill began. In the mean time the Porter took the opportunity to run a pretend torpedo run.

Par for the course, the destroyer accidentally shot a live torpedo toward the Commander and Chief along with the pride of

the U.S. Navy. With the radio silence still being observed, light signals were attempted to warn the Iowa to take defensive measures. Even this was difficult for the ill-fated crew as the signal came across as "we are backing up at full speed."

When that form of communication did not work, the Porter's radio operator broke orders and silence so the ship could make a hard turn to avoid contact.

The president became aware of the incoming torpedo and asked that his wheel chair be moved to the railing so he could see the "fish" go by. It's said one of his secret service men drew his revolver in order to protect his charge.

The torpedo missed the ship but exploded in its wake. All guns on the Iowa were then trained on the hapless U.S.S. Porter as it was the source of the suspected assassination attempt.

The Porter and its crew became the only incident of an entire boat's compliment to be arrested and sent to Bermuda for trail. The captain and some officers and sailors were transferred to obscure shore assignments. The torpedo man who failed to disarm the weapon was given 14 years of hard labor, which was later rescinded by the president.

Naval command figured the safest place to send the U.S.S. Porter was the Aleutian Islands of Alaska where nothing was really happening. But eventually the ship and crew were allowed to participate, and distinguish themselves, in the Pacific Theater.

The ship was lost when a Japanese kamikaze plane missed the Porter but floated and exploded directly under the unusual destroyer.

But before that happened, whenever the vessel entered a harbor with American ships the other crews would send out the greeting, "Don't shoot, we're Republicans!"



# Bulletin Board

## National Day of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 3, at Wesleyan Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join in prayer for our nation.

## Library StoryTime

StoryTime will be Friday at 9 a.m. through 10:30 a.m. Parents and friends are invited to bring ages 2 - 5 years old for time of reading and fun. Come for 10 minutes or for the entire time.

## Cinco de Mayo

On May 5, an authentic Mexican dinner will be served. It will be held in the Cheylin High School gymnasium. Serving begins at 5 pm through 8 pm. A free-will donation will be accepted.

## American Legion meeting

American Legion Auxiliary meeting is on Friday at 2 p.m.

## National Day of Prayer

The St. Francis Ministerial Association urges everyone to join together for the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, from noon to 1 p.m., on the courthouse lawn. (The meeting will move to the County Commissioners room in case of inclement weather.) "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12).

## Memorial service

A memorial service for Lester and Pearl Powell will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday at the senior center in McDonald with John Hines, Bar None Southern Baptist Church, Casper, Wyo., officiating. Their urns will be buried together as one in the Powell family plot at Grace Cemetery, McDonald. A reception will follow at 3:30 p.m. at the senior center.

## Death notice

Funeral services for Wayne "Keith" Sanders, Bird City, will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 5, at Immanuel United Methodist Church in Bird City. Memorials may be made to the church or to the Cheyenne County Emergency Medical Service.

## Commodities distribution

Cheyenne County commodity distribution of government surplus will be from 5 to 5:30 p.m., on Monday, March 26, 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, nonfat 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.

## Senior potluck

Because the May potluck falls on Memorial Day there will be no potluck in May. The Center will be open that day for coffee and rolls after the Memorial Day Services at the cemetery. More information on this event will be provided later.

## Treasurer's office closed

The county treasurer's office is having training, office hours will vary. Check ad elsewhere in paper for specific hours.

## Storytime

Storytime will be Friday at 9 a.m. -10:30 p.m. Parents are invited to bring 2-5 year olds for a time of reading and fun. Come for 10 minutes or the entire time.

## Grief Support Group

The next Grief Support Group will meet on Monday, May 7, and continue to meet every second and fourth Mondays at 2 p.m. For this meeting bring a picture of your lost loved one. 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.

## Tornado Safety drills

The Cheyenne County Communications Center will conduct monthly siren testing starting the second Wednesday in April at 9 a.m. The testing will continue through the end of September.

## Bird City Alumni

The Bird City Alumni is planning the annual banquet for this year. It will be held on May 26 at the Cheylin High School. Any and all help will be appreciated. Contact the Bird City Library, 785-734-2203 or Dave Hickert 785-734-2522.

## 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, also no trash, or items not designated on bins.

## 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.

# Board talks up repairs to hospital, sprinkler

By Nathan Fiala  
*nfiala@nwkansas.com*

The Cheyenne County hospital board met on Thursday, April 26 in the basement of the clinic. First on the agenda was a department head report from Susan Roelfs, Registered Nurse and Case Manager. She was busy when the meeting started but came in shortly after and told the board of her background and current position as Case Manager. She talked about the learning curve she's had with billing, the swing bed program, patient review and discharge planning and how she's dealt with these issues.

In his administrator's report, Les Lacy said the hospital had met its cash needs for the month but had not been able to deposit money into the funded depreciation account. News about the grants the hospital had applied for should also be known by mid to late May. Repairs are planned for different parts of the hospital due to water damage, and cabinets will also be replaced in the kitchen. Mr. Lacy was able to procure free flooring for one room at a convention, which Scott Schultz will install. The kitchen will be inoperable for two to three weeks when it gets re-

modeled. An automatic sprinkler will also be installed at the Bird City Clinic. Michelle Sherman has been hired as the housekeeping supervisor.

Jackie John gave her Great Plains Health Alliance report, saying that the Supreme Court's hearing on the Patient Protection and Accountability Act, and their seemingly-divided stance on the issue, has raised a lot of concerns about future regulations and requirements. The ruling is not expected until at least June, so more news will come later.

Great Plains Health Alliance is having an educational meeting about upcoming regulation changes on May 2-3 in Salina. The meeting will cover discharge planning, pharmacy oversight and Meaningful Use criteria.

Meaningful Use phase two criteria have been published and are being commented on now. Some of the new regulations cannot be provided by vendors to health care providers and will most likely not make it into the final phase two criteria.

The next hospital board meeting will be on Thursday, May 24 at 3 p.m.

# School Menu

## May 7 - May 10 Monday

Breakfast: scrambled eggs with cheese  
Lunch: meat loaf, cheesy potatoes

## Tuesday

Breakfast: blueberry muffins, ham patties  
Lunch: deli turkey/roast beef sandwiches, fries

## Wednesday

Breakfast: cinnamon raisin biscuit, sausage links

Lunch: hard shell taco, vegetables, roll

## Thursday

Last day of school  
Happy summer vacation  
Breakfast: cherry wraps, ham patties, yogurt  
Lunch: hamburgers, hotdogs, baked beans, chips  
Breakfast is daily served with toast, cereal, fruit juice and milk.  
Lunch is daily served with salad bar, fruit and milk.

# CHEYENNE COUNTY HOSPITAL

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

# Attention Gardeners!!

There will be a Community Wide Garden Meeting & Plant Swap set for Friday, May 4, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. at the Cheyenne County Clinic Conference Room

We will plan work nights at the garden and ask for local businesses and organizations to help plant, pull weeds, water and gather produce. Bring your extra plants to swap with someone else that night.

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

# The Bird City Times

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SHOWTIME: 7:30 p.m.

1 hr. 32 min.

## The Three Stooges

May 4, 5 & 6

Action/Adventure, Comedy

Sean Hayes, Will Sasso  
Chris Diamantopoulos

PG (slapstick action violence, some rude suggestive humor including language)

## CHEYENNE THEATER

St. Francis, KS  
785-332-2747

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

All Others: \$6  
All Others: \$7

# \*\*\* NOTICE \*\*\*

THE SECOND HALF OF TAXES ARE DUE MAY 10TH WITHOUT PENALTY.

Please bring your bar code slip(s) to pay your taxes.  
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## Swap Your Ride Sales Event

1995 Ford Taurus, 113,000, #T2584M	\$2,650
2001 Ford Excursion XLT, V10, 4x4, 129,000 miles #T9176M	\$8,500
2002 Ford Ranger 4x4, S-cab, 4x4, V-6, 128,000 #T9176B	\$8,500
2003 Buick Lesabre, 128,700, Leather, #T8153	\$5,800
2004 Ford F-250 Lariat 6.0, 115,447, #T3872B, sale	\$14,995
2005 Ford F-250 XLT, 124,000 Super Cab, #T1920A	\$16,900
2005 Ford F-250 Lariat, L. Box, 133K miles, #T9945A	\$17,500
2006 Ford 250, R/C, L. box, Local Trade, 100K, #T4374A	\$18,900
2006 Ford F-350 Crew, #T1726B	\$12,900
2007 Ford F150 Lariat Crew Cab, Leather, 91K, #T0005A	\$25,500
2007 Ford F-150 King Ranch, Crew Cab, 69K, #T6497B	\$27,000
2007 GMC Yukon XL, 108,000, loaded, #T5284A	\$25,995
2008 Mercedes C300 Sport, 56K, loaded, #4538VA	\$28,500
2008 GMC Acadia, SLT pkg., Loaded, Dual DVD, #T0869B	\$17,000
2008 Chevy K2500 HD LT, Crew 76K,	\$25,700
2008 Ford Expedition King ranch, 76K, #T7062A	\$29,475
2009 Lincoln MKZ, Super low miles, 16K, #85233A	\$27,900
2009 Cadillac STS, loaded, #T2882A	\$29,000
2009 Nissan Altima, loaded, #22328A	\$17,000
2010 F-250 Super Cab Lariat, 10 K, 4x4, 6.4, #50842A	\$44,000
2011 Ford Edge Limited, #T8768A Was \$35,700 Now	\$31,300
2011 Chevy Impala LT, 34K, #06614B	\$19,500

View all of our inventory at

[www.yostford.com](http://www.yostford.com)

# American Profile

Celebrating Hometown Life

See American Profile magazine in this week's issue of

## Bird City Times

(available in local area only)

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



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