



Healthy rural economy helps urban taxpayers

While the prison in Norton, with its nearly 270 state jobs, appears to have dodged the bullet for now, the fact that it was targeted for closing says a lot about how officials in Topeka think about rural Kansas.

It's not a pretty sight. Secretary of Corrections Roger Werholtz told employees he might have to close prisons in Norton, Winfield and Stockton to close the gap created by a proposed 3.9 percent budget cut.

That's two of four prison facilities in western Kansas and three of four in rural towns. No mention was made of cutting facilities in eastern, urban areas.

Losers would be rural counties where the state has converted old hospitals into prisons, as in Norton and Winfield, and built the honor camp at Stockton.

There are several ways you can look at the situation. Rural prisons suffer from their very distance from the bulk of their "customers," most of whom come from the state's cities. It can be expensive to haul them out and back, to administer far-flung enterprises, to deal with dispersed employees.

The Norton and Winfield prisons occupy recycled state hospital campuses, and the older buildings may drive up costs, but probably no more than at historic prisons in Lansing and Hutchinson.

The loss of 300 state jobs would be a drop in the bucket to Wichita or Kansas City, a bee sting for Salina, but a devastating blow to rural Norton, where jobs already are scarce.

You could argue that rural Kansas already has more state jobs than it deserves, in proportion to population. Most taxpayers today, after all, live in urban Kansas, not in rural areas.

But one thing Kansas should do — for the sake of rural and urban counties alike — is try to help repopulate our rural counties. We need to do this both because it will help save the rural way of life in our state, and because rural Kansas can more easily absorb growth than our already-burgeoning urban counties can.

A healthy rural economy helps urban taxpayers as well as rural folk, because a healthy economy out here means rural Kansas can pull its share of the load. We're not looking for subsidies; just a chance to live and work where the sky is blue, the land fertile and the people friendly.

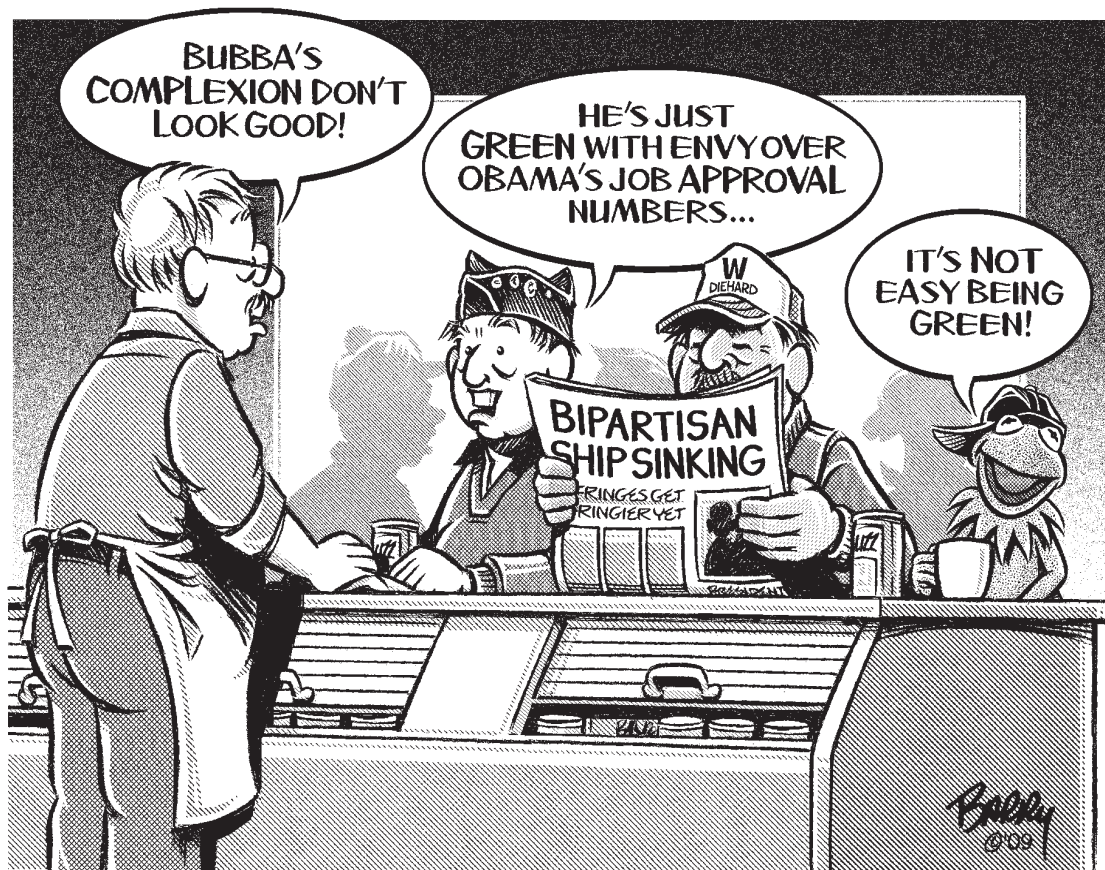
The late Sen. Stan Clark started a movement to move state jobs out into rural towns rather than adding more and more office buildings in Topeka. He had the right idea. Disperse state workers, and there'll be no need for expensive improvements in the capital city.

His cause has been picked up by his successor, Sen. Ralph Ostmeier, who proposed rural offices in place of a new state office building. It's a good idea, but for now, we'd settle for the state leaving us with the jobs we have now.

We need them, and Topeka, Wichita and Hutchinson will hardly notice the difference.

We'll talk about bigger steps when the economy looks better and the state could afford to renovate old schools and other buildings out here.

— Steve Haynes



News From the Past

75 years ago - 1934

Noreen Holliman was installed as Worthy Matron at the Doric Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, meeting. Alice Roach was installed as Associate Worthy Matron.

Ramblers Club met at the home of Mrs. J.H.A. Peck. Mrs. Charles Odell was joint hostess. Jim and Thad Douthit are taking two 18-month white face Hereford baby beef steers to the Western Livestock Show.

Robert Keller is also taking a baby beef to the show. All three boys are members of the Cleveland Run 4-H Club.

A fire of unknown origin completely destroyed the fine large barn of Emil Hendricks on his farm in Lawn Ridge township. There was probably 15 ton of hay and 1,500 bushels of wheat in the barn.

The young folks of the East Guerny community organized a 4-H Club Monday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jake Feikert. Pauline Nighswonger was named president.

The federal government has

approved a grant to the St. Francis Community High School for the purpose of completing their building in St. Francis. The entire proposition is for a total of \$70,000.

50 years ago - 1959

Ed's Standard Service on Highway 36 was broken into sometime Monday night or early Tuesday morning and approximately \$138 in cash and checks were stolen.

45 years ago - 1963

Leo O'Leary was named city police chief at the city council meeting in December. It was also announced Ronald Hoyer had been hired on the police force.

Three St. Francis freshman girls received an invitation to spend Thanksgiving weekend at the Governor's mansion in Topeka. They received the invitation after Sue Lynn Sherlock and Phyllis Roelfs met the Governor's daughter, Carrie Anderson, at band camp in Lawrence over the summer.

Teresa Cook met Carrie when she went to Lawrence with family members to pick up Sue Lynn and Phyllis at the end of band camp. The girls took the train out of Sharon Springs to Topeka.

More than 1,400 head of cattle arrived at the Tri-State Feeders new feedlot Friday afternoon, Dec. 29, fulfilling Mike Callicrate's prophecy that the yard would be ready to receive cattle by the end of the year.

30 years ago - 1979

Mike Day is the new president of the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce.

Six Cheyenne County farm owners are to be honored at the annual Cheyenne County Conservation District meeting.

Four Bankers Awards will be presented as will a Goodyear Conservation Award and an Outstanding Terrace Maintenance Award. Etta Harper and Ernie Ketzner, in eastern Cheyenne County; Ben and Jake Leibbrandt, and Francis and Harold Sherlock in the western part of the county have been named Bankers Award winners; Harvey Lampe will receive the Goodyear Award and Melvin Carman the award for outstanding terrace maintenance.

Former chief of police explains that she resigned from position

Dear Editor,

I find it appalling that I feel compelled to write this letter but continuing problems dictate this necessity.

On June 4, 2008, I wrote in part the following to Mayor Schultz: "It is with regret that I inform you of my resignation as Chief of Police for the City of St. Francis. We have all agreed on several occasions that many unresolved predecessor issues came with this job. Although I expected some of these issues, many arose that none of us expected. I feel that I have not had adequate support to create the professionalism I expect of a Police Department. I do not feel that I am the person to support the City's direction of this Police Department. This is not a matter of blame, just simply a realization that we are not the right 'fit' for each other."

The Saint Francis Herald correctly published on June 12, that "Chief policewoman, Deborah Farland, turned in her resignation and the council accepted it."

Since then, my family, friends, coworkers, and I have been subjected to numerous inquiries about why I was fired or let go from the

Letter to the Editor

St. Francis Police Department. I can only assume we are being asked this because people are being told this. Criminal defamation is, in part, communicating information to a person, knowing the information to be false and with malice tending to expose another to ridicule or depriving such person of public confidence and social acceptance. It would appear that some or many have lowered themselves to this behavior rather than to risk the truth being known. My above mentioned resignation was a professional and very condensed summary of the real reason I resigned — a refusal to compromise my beliefs by performing law enforcement in a biased manner.

I have heard many lament the declining population of St. Francis and I'm certain St. Francis wishes to promote and bring people into the community. Until the commu-

nity decides to embrace outsiders rather than shun them for not being related to the founding families, the decline will likely continue. If St. Francis is "as good as it gets," those who have done so should further refrain from participating in such slanderous liability. In summary, I resigned from the position as Chief of Police - I was not asked to leave, given an option to resign instead of being fired, or anything else of that nature - I simply decided it wasn't right and moved on. Period. Many, many people were helpful and supportive of my brief tenure as Police Chief. Those people can be assured their support was greatly appreciated. As I move on with the choices I have made, I simply ask that my family and I be allowed to do so with truth and in peace.

Sincerely,
Deborah Farland
St. Francis

MISTAKES • We Know We Make Mistakes
Please remember that we attempt to include something for everyone within the pages of our newspaper. We realize that some folks enjoy finding fault and for those readers we thoughtfully include a socially acceptable number of errors within our publication!

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Elaine Gerdes, Early, Iowa; G.L. Pershall, Yukon, Okla.; Ervin Rogers, St. Francis; Tony Vandike, Bird City; Manette Henderson, St. Francis; Tom Hnizdil, St. Francis; Eugene Bier, Rudolph, Wis.; Howard Clark, St. Francis; Alan Archer, McDonald; Dustin and Amber Dunn, Overland Park, Ron Loudon, St. Francis;

GOD SAYS
If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.
II Chronicles 7:14

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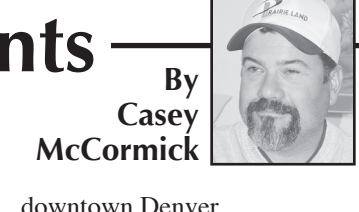
Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick
It's always interesting when you share a common experience with one of your kids. Lexi, our 15-year-old, will soon have her driver's license. I'm confident she'll be a good driver. She's got enough common sense to be aware of what's happening around her. I'm taken back to when my twin brother and I were learning to drive. Since there were two of us, our

folks would take us in separate cars. We would go to one of the few places in Denver where there were open streets without many cars: Crown Hill Cemetery.

About the only traffic there was my sibling coming from the other direction.

When it came time for our practical driving with an instructor, my brother and I went together. The experience is vivid today as there were two sections to the excursion. One was driving on some mountain roads and the other was



downtown Denver.

Both were nerve racking for a novice driver, but the city driving was the most frightening. Cars were flying by on each side as we managed the heavy traffic. We even had to parallel park!

The training to drive was important, but there is no substitute for experience. I know with time, Lexi will do well behind the wheel.

Church of Christ
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424
502 W. Spencer
Norman Morrow - Minister
Bible Class 11 a.m.
Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
625 S. River • 332-2680
Fr. Roger Meitl
Sunday Mass 11:00 a.m.
Weekday Mass 8 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

First Baptist Church
2nd & Scott • 332-3921
J.W. Glidewell, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.,
Wed. AWANA Club, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

United Methodist Church Office 332-2292,
Church 332-2254,
512 S. Scott
Pastor Morita Truman
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Salem Lutheran Church
332-3002
Pastor Chris Farmer
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.

St. Francis Community Church
332-3150
204 N. Quincy Street
www.sfccfamily.com
Pastor: David Butler
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Potluck & Communion -
Every 2nd Sunday
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Solid Rock Baptist Church
412 S. Denison
Welcomes You!
Pastor Allen Coon
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30
Prayer Meeting, Wed 7:30 p.m.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
785-890-5718 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor Jerry Nowack
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

First Christian Church
Pastor Jeff Landers
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Bible Fellowship 9:20 a.m.
Church Service 10:30 a.m.

Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC
202 N. College
Pastor Ken Hart
332-2928 Pars. 332-2312
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Eve. Bible Study 7 p.m.
Communion 1st Sunday of the Month

St. Francis Equity

Saint Francis Herald

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202 S. Benton • St. Francis
785-332-3131