



Governor negotiates a quick compromise

Many Kansans were not prepared for the speed with which our new governor negotiated a compromise allowing one coal-fired power plant to be built near Holcomb in return for concessions to improve the environmental impact of the plant.

The diligence with which Gov. Mark Parkinson moved on the issue contrasted starkly with the two-year standoff engendered by his predecessor, Kathleen Sebelius, who left a record of conflict with the Republican-dominated Legislature. Her seat barely had time to cool as she flew off to be sworn in as secretary of Health and Human Service, and the deal was done.

The agreement was all the more surprising, considering the fact that Gov. Parkinson had served in the Legislature as a Republican not that long ago. Still, many GOP leaders had predicted he would actually be easier for them to deal with than Mrs. Sebelius, a lifelong Democrat.

The former governor, who's now more concerned with Swine Flu than power plants for the time being, had vetoed three bills meant to allow construction of the power plant. Her secretary of health rejected an air quality permit for the plant on the grounds that it would produce carbon dioxide pollution, and she stood squarely against any compromise that would have allowed it to be built.

It took just a matter of days for the new governor to show a different style. Maybe he is more effective because he has promised not to run for a full term, or maybe his experience as a lawyer and legislator taught him the art of compromise.

In any event, he and plant backers seem to have come to an agreement that is good for all concerned. The plant will be built, assuming everything goes as planned; western Kansas will get badly needed jobs; and rural electric customers in Kansas, Colorado and Texas will have the power they need.

Under the agreement, the owner, Sunflower Electric Power Corp. of Hays, said it will install "unprecedented" carbon mitigation to counter the plant's emissions. The plant, the second on Sun-

flower's Holcomb site, is expected to create up to 1,500 construction jobs and nearly 200 permanent jobs.

"We're bringing people together to create hundreds of jobs, increase our renewable energy production and ensure a comprehensive energy plan for our state," Parkinson said in a statement. "Prior to this agreement, the Legislature was at an impasse on energy issues. With this agreement, we can start to move forward."

The agreement hinges on the Legislature passing a Comprehensive Energy Package proposed by Parkinson and Sebelius in January. Sunflower said that the company and its partners — Tristate Generation and Transmission Association of Colorado, Golden Spread Electric Cooperative of Texas and Midwest Energy of Hays, all consumer-owned cooperatives — will install, operate or purchase Kansas wind resources equal to 20 percent of the new plant's output, or 179 megawatts.

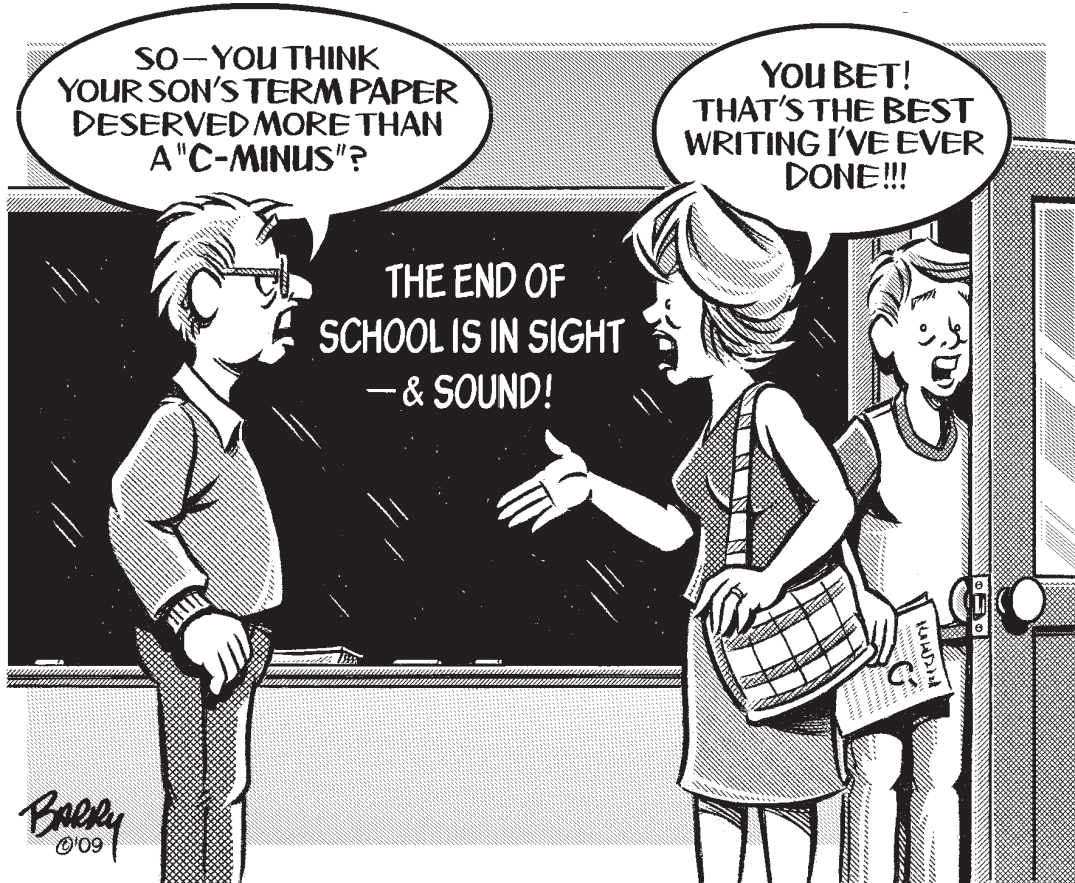
Sunflower also promised to add renewable energy to its portfolio five years sooner than planned, use "biomass" for 10 percent of the plant's fuel if possible, build two transmission lines to move coal and wind power to electricity-hungry Colorado and stop using two older plants.

Holcomb 2 will cost an estimated \$2.2 billion to build. Sunflower had estimated that construction of the previously planned two 700-megawatt plants would have cost \$3.8 billion. Holcomb 1 is a 360-megawatt coal-fired power plant.

While the fear of global warming from carbon emissions is real, Sunflower says it can capture or offset almost half the increase. Many arguments against the plant were spurious at best: opponents claimed that most of the power would be exported while pollution stayed in Kansas, for instance, but the same could be said of any product the state produces, from wheat to airplanes to cars.

This agreement is an impressive accomplishment and a fine way to start a new administration. Hats off to our new governor.

— Steve Haynes



News From the Past

20 years ago - 1989

Prom dresses were displayed by students as part of the program when the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce had their Ladies Spring Luncheon.

Josephine Churchill, 95, received a pin honoring her 75 years in the Alpha Chi Omega Sorority at Kansas University in Lawrence. She was one of the 17 charter members of the chapter.

Rusty Hawkins and Colleen Brown, Mason Essay winners, each received a check from Don Kramer, Worshipful Master of the St. Francis Lodge.

The Cheyenne County Fair Board appointed Bob Ochsner as Parade Committee Chairman.

Shane Felzien won two gold medals at the Sharon Springs track meet. He placed first in the 200-meter dash and in the discus.

The Cheyenne County Commissioners were on hand to wish County Attorney Scott Condray farewell at an open house held at the courthouse. Condray will be moving to Concordia at the end of the month.

35 years ago - 1974

The Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis will have a public

auction Saturday, May 11, to raise money for a Century whirlpool bathing unit for the Village.

New Buster's Tavern to reopen Thursday. The Tavern has undergone a complete remodeling job with new carpet, paneling and horseshoe bar.

The Reverend H. Gene Shoemaker will be taking over the duties of the Reverend Jack Harris of the United Methodist Church after his move to St. Francis the first of June.

Tony Gienger and Brenda Connett gave the highlights of the "class of '74" at the commencement exercises held on Tuesday.

John David Harvey, Jeanie Loop and Roger Zwegardt are planning to attend one of the State Farm Bureau seminars in June.

Perry Keller was chosen to attend the Sunflower Boys State in June.

The St. Francis Jaycee charter banquet was held at Riverside. Bill Delano was sworn in as president.

45 years ago - 1964

Frank Wolbach, St. Francis, received the Kansas Safe Driver of the year award from Gov. John

Anderson for his feat in logging more than 2.7 million miles in 35 years without an accident.

The beautiful new building at the Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis will be dedicated with an open house for the public to inspect the building afterward. The building has living quarters for 25 residents and contains a kitchen, dining and recreational facilities for the entire 100 residents of the rest home.

Clinton Schlepp and Rudolph Douthit of St. Francis are among the 134 Kansas Future Farmers of America members who have been recommended to receive the State Farmers degree at the 36th Kansas FFA meeting to be held in Manhattan.

Bill Showalter, St. Francis grade school teacher and football and wrestling coach for the past four years, has resigned to accept a position as head wrestling coach at the Oberlin High School.

The St. Francis population is up to 1,678. This is a gain of 39 residents during the last year. Cheyenne County, however, showed a drop from 4,757 a year ago to 4,713 in 1964, a loss of 44.

Hangin' With Marge

Bad Week

By Margaret Bucholtz



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I am still outside working away on the flowers, but this has not been a good week for me.

We have one of those little cultivators that is really handy and something that I can handle. Last year it kind of started acting up and Kurt promised me he would fix it this summer.

Bless his heart! He worked on it for at least two weeks. Finally the parts all got here and he got it going.

While he was at work, I just needed to tear up a little bit of ground and was so happy to get my tiller instead of spading it by hand or foot whichever you want to call it.

I carried it over to the flower yard and it started right up. I tilled for a little bit and then it died. I checked the gas and it still had gas so I pulled the cord again. Nothing! The next time I pulled the cord as hard as I could and my finger hit some of the tin bracing and it just sliced the top layer of skin off my finger.

I knew my finger hurt but I was so excited that the tiller started I didn't notice that it was bleeding until the blood started dripping down my arm.

I got a bandage and put my gloves on this time and tried starting it again. Once more I hit another one of my fingers and it started turning black and blue.

I calmly stood the tiller by the fence and got out my hand digging equipment. I was defeated by the power tool.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Dennis Floyd, Seattle, Wash.; Barbara Stevenson, Austin, Texas; Elmer Richers, Arvada, Colo.; Gilbert Ochsner, St. Francis; Norris Anderson, St. Francis; Eldon Palmer, Goodland; Steve Daniels, North Attleboro, Mass.; Ronald Daniels, Great Bend; Diana Brunswig Bosso, Arnold, Mo.; Jan Plambeck, Kene-saw, Neb.; Thelma Schauf, Castle Rock, Colo.; Allen Trimble, St. Francis;

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GOD SAYS
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord.
Isaiah 65:25

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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This is a time when hope seems to call out.

Last weekend our family sat in a crowded gymnasium as we watched a middle son graduate from high school. His future is a blank slate just waiting for many marks he will make as he moves along with new experiences. Sure there will be mistakes and difficulties, but he

will learn and grow from them.

Looking at his older and younger siblings, there is hope that they are doing the right things. Those in school are working hard and the oldest is working to move forward.

But what really gives me hope now is in the beautiful green fields that are waving in the breeze. The sight of wheat transforming from seed to long grass will never grow

old to me. What better example of our dear Lord's creation could there be?

And there is hope that it will continue doing well until harvest, with mild weather and nourishing rains. Ah, life is good and hope is all around!

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Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

United Methodist
Church Office 332-2292,
Church 332-2254,
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Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
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Pastor Jerry Nowack
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

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Weekday Mass 8 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

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

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Pastor Jeff Landers
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Bible Fellowship 9:15 a.m.
Church Service 10:15 a.m.

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.

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.

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

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