



Administrators could face jail time for prayer

Two Florida school administrators face possible jail time for a prayer over lunch at a boosters meeting held to dedicate a new fieldhouse.

While religious-right groups claim the administrators, Principal Frank Lay of Pace High School and Athletic Director Robert Freeman, could be jailed for praying, that's not exactly the case.

The men face contempt-of-court citations for breaking a judge's order to avoid pushing religion at school. The American Civil Liberties Union, which filed the original suit asking for the order, says it did not ask for the contempt charges and did not suggest that anyone go to jail. It's the judge who's angry.

The civil liberties group, which has at times defended everyone from Communists protestors to neo-Nazis, says it just wants to keep religion out of schools.

"The ACLU is trying to keep us from praying again," someone will say. "Aren't we a Christian nation? Weren't the Founding Fathers all Christians?"

But the union would be as apt to defend people's right to pray as it is to stick up for individual children's rights not to be forced to pray.

And, no, we are not a Christian nation. By law, under the Constitution, we are a secular democracy. The happy fact that most of us share a common European and Christian heritage has helped hold the country together, but no law makes us a Christian nation in the sense that England is officially Christian or Iran officially Muslim.

It's true that many groups came to the New World so they could practice religion the way they wanted to. It's also true that most of these same groups had no plan to let anyone else practice religion the way they wanted to.

While much of New England was settled by rather severe Protestant groups, the forerunners

of our Congregationalists, the south was settled by orthodox Church of England followers, Anglicans with a mix of Protestant and Catholic leanings. The free-thinking brothers Wesley had to flee colonial Savannah, Ga., when John was indicted for heresy, a felony in those days.

Maryland was founded as a haven for Catholic colonists, who at times were unwelcome elsewhere - Georgia included. But few colonial cities were exclusively Christian. Jews were represented in America from the first days.

The Founding Fathers, led by Jefferson and Madison and a few others, saw the need to guarantee our rights, something the Constitution itself was mostly silent on. They recognized the most basic of our freedoms - religion, free speech and the press, assembly and political speech in the efficiently written First Amendment. The First not only guarantees our right to pray, but forbids the government from "respecting any establishment of religion."

It's this provision Santa Rosa County school officials were accused of violating when a federal judge issued an order forbidding them to foster prayer in school. It's this judge the two must answer to.

Anyone who's actually gotten involved in school prayer disputes knows the divisions of colonial times have not left us. Baptists complain if Mormons are allowed to talk in school, and Catholic parents can be suspicious of Baptist theater groups. And Muslim and Jewish children often are left to fend for themselves.

The Fathers wisely put all that aside, banning organized religion from not just schools, but all public affairs. They did this for the protection of our religious rights, all of us, and not to harm or belittle religion.

We should thank them for their courage and foresight, not complain that we can't mount the 10 Commandments in school. For a government that can compel one prayer can just as easily ban the next.

— Steve Haynes

Hangin' With Marge

Technology

By Margaret Bucholtz



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The first time I went to a meeting about getting internet in St. Francis, I thought "WHY." What was so important about looking up things on the internet?

Later when I got my first computer, I was so happy to learn how to use it. I now would hate to give up having it.

However when the kids started sending text messages on a cell

phone, I knew I would never do that. I have trouble calling on a cell phone so why would I want to spend my time texting. I kind of like hearing a voice on the other side. When you live most of your days with no one around, a voice is nice.

However this weekend, when I had teenagers in our car, I received a text message. I decided they could walk me through the steps.

When I finally found all the right

letters on the phone and got them entered and sent. It was probably about a 10-minute chore to get a one line message written.

I was really feeling kind of good about it until I got an answer back. All it said was, "Type Forrest type."

Don't think I will spend the time doing it again.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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I know that we are not the first parents to send a son or daughter off to college. But that still doesn't fill the empty space in our lives left by our boy, Trevor.

Time has been the culprit by moving too fast. From his senior year, high school graduation, to making plans and road-trips visiting his new home, all has

happened too quickly. This past weekend was the final trip to Wichita before the last "good-byes" were spoken. We got through the moving and shopping chores, putting off the inevitable. But it finally came.

Now that we are back without him, a shadow follows us. Familiar sights and sounds are not as they should be.

I've felt this way before. It's much like a death in the family. We are going through a "mourning process."

But time will turn around and then become a comfort. Days will pass and normalcy will return. But we are not there yet.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Keith Bracelin, Goodland; Howard and Kristen Peters, Omaha, Neb.; Evelyn L. Ellis, Vancouver, Wash.; R.W. Stuart, Hays; Bill Smith, St. Francis; Gene Matthes, Burlington, Colo.; Majestic Service, St. Francis; Evelyn Henderson, Levant; Mark Jamison, St. Francis;

GOD SAYS
Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.
Romans 12:9, 10

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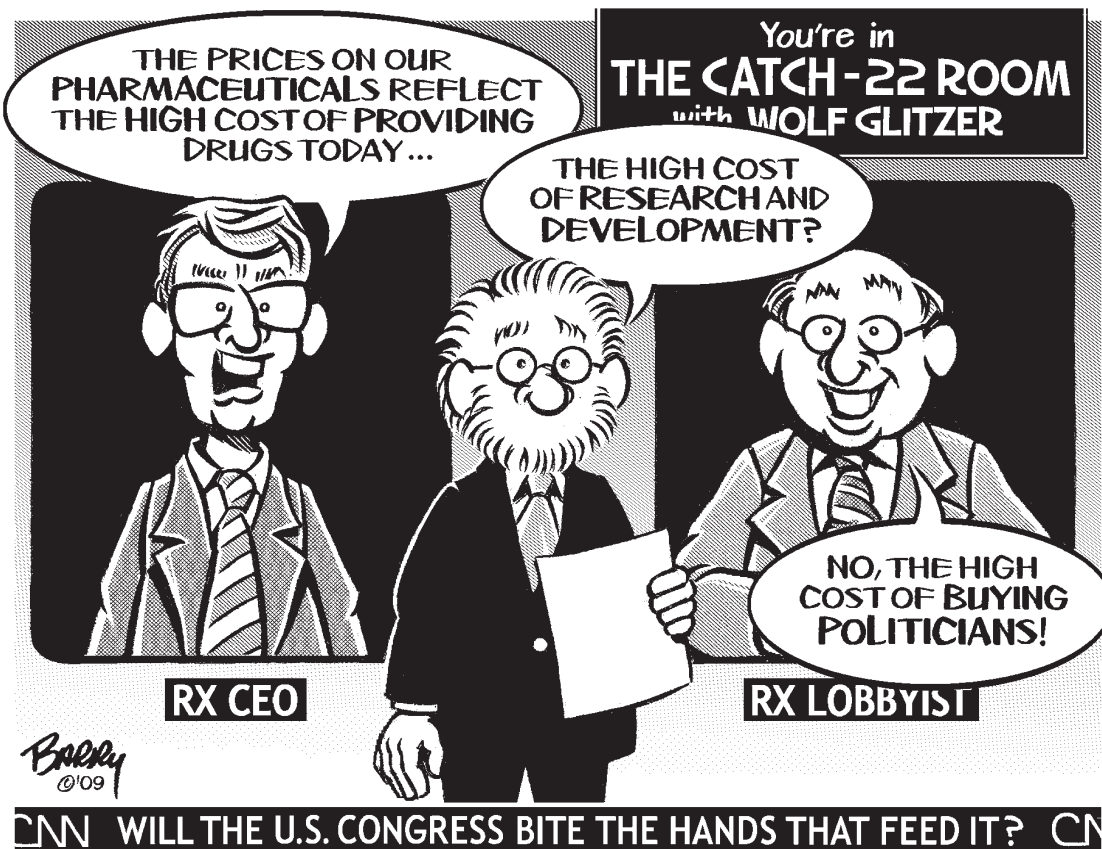


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News From the Past

30 years ago - 1979

Mrs. Vera Gorthy was named the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show Queen. Mrs. Gorthy came to Cheyenne County in 1900 when her family returned to the county from Iowa. She married Paul Gorthy Sr. in 1919.

Julie Howland, Bird City, was selected as the Cheyenne County Rodeo Queen. Jana Leydig, St. Francis, was selected as Junior Princess with Darci Roberson as first runner-up to the queen and Dena Knapp and Cheryl Carman first and second runners up to the princess.

At the 4-H Style revue, Ralph Lebow was judged best groomed boy and Kristi Lamb, was named winner of the style revue.

Lenard Schlepp, soil conservation technician, at the Cheyenne County Soil Conservation Service office in St. Francis, will be retiring from that position on Aug. 24, after more than 30 years of government service.

New teachers on the school

faculty this year include Debra Wilks, fourth grade; Gail Walter, fifth grade; Colleen Gardner, junior high English; Keith Holm, instrumental music; Jeff Olofson, high school biology, chemistry and advanced science and Paul Eckhoff, vocal music.

A stage lighting system is being installed at the St. Francis Community High School. The system will be used primarily for school theatrical productions.

50 years ago - 1959
The total tangible valuation of Cheyenne County has increased \$646,959 over last year.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Lewis have purchased the St. Francis Dairy King establishment on Highway 36 from Mr. and Mrs. Helmut Orth and have taken over the management of the business. As a special offer in honor of the new management, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis will give away free nickel cones Saturday afternoon, July 18.

Jim Lundin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Lundin, and David Garrison, son of Reverend and Mrs. Kenneth Garrison, were

presented with their Eagle Scout Awards at the Christian Church.

Southwestern Bell has purchased a 75x150 foot site on the southwest corner of Washington Avenue and Dennison Street as the future location of a new telephone office which ultimately will house a dial telephone system for St. Francis.

75 years ago - 1934

Another of Cheyenne County's native sons is steadily climbing the ladder of success. He is Dr. Ernest Geinger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Geinger. Dr. Geinger was born on his fathers' homestead some 5 miles northwest of St. Francis. He is a 1924 graduate of St. Francis Community High School and also a graduate of the University of Nebraska and the University of Southern California Medical School. Just recently he passed the state examination and was granted a physician and surgeon's license to practice in the state of California.

Plaque stolen from historic building

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In 2005 I bought a building in Bird City, Kan., where it is located on main street. It is a beautiful old building that was built in 1920 by Henry Hickert. The ground level floor was used for many things in its day, including a bank, the city post office, a photography studio, news paper office, insurance offices, and restaurants. The upper level was used as doctors offices, telephone office and later as apartments.

Wanting to make sure the future of the old building would be solid, I decided to find out if the building was eligible to be listed with the

Historical Society. After some time and a lot of research and writing back and forth, the building, now called the Henry Hickert Building was accepted first on the Kansas Historical Society's list of Historic Places and then on the National Historical Society's list of Historic places in the fall of 2007.

Since the Historical Society does not issue individual plaques, I decided the building "needed" one, and bought a beautiful brass plaque which hung proudly on the front of the Henry Hickert Building.

Some one has stolen that plaque right off the front of the building and I want it back where it belongs. I am offering a reward for information about the disappearance of it and/or the return of it. I have reported it stolen with the Cheyenne County Sheriff Department, and any person with information may contact them or myself.

Sincerely,
Connie Rooney
McDonald, KS

785-734-7769 or 785-538-2200

<p>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.</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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.</p>	
<p>United Methodist Church 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.</p>	<p>Salem Lutheran Church 332-3002 Pastor Chris Farmer No Sunday School Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>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.</p>	
<p>Seventh-Day Adventist Church 785-890-5718 • 3rd & Adams Pastor Jerry Nowack Sabbath School 9:30 Morning Worship 10:45</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC 202 N. College Pastor Ken Hart 332-2928 Pars. 332-2312 Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m. Communion 1st Sunday of the Month</p>	
<p>First Christian Church Pastor Jeff Landers 332-2956 • 118 E. Webster Bible Fellowship 9:15 a.m. Church Service 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p>St. Francis Equity</p>	<p>Saint Francis Herald</p>	
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