



Opinion

Computers are not environment friendly

Tired of hearing the younger generation brag about reading their books on e-readers or cell phones?

Many abandon newspapers and magazines, claim they are "saving trees!" Other techno-enthusiasts disparage your driving or flying to a conference as they brag how environmentally-friendly their video-conference was. Well, their economic calculations are downright wrong.

According to a Climate Group report, all these mobile phones, computers and printers, and all the servers and ancillary equipment that drive the computer and online operations, emit 830 million tons of carbon dioxide per year. That is about 2 percent of the manmade carbon footprint and equivalent to all the world's aviation-generated CO2.

And it makes sense. The person reading a book on an e-reader is constantly drawing electrical power from either a household outlet or a battery. Reading a paper book uses no electrical energy at all.

Pollution and environmental costs include both materials to make the equipment and the ongoing energy-use combined. Electronics loses on both counts.

One downloaded "book" on an e-reader is stuck on that one machine, not transferable to others, and will soon be obsolete. About one-fourth of the energy consumed by computers and electronic devices is in their manufacture;

about three-fourths is spent in their ongoing use. And their lifespan is fleeting.

Printed books are far cheaper to produce, consume no energy in their use, and can last for centuries. Printed books are often given or sold as used books, serving many readers before they are ultimately recycled as paper.

"Save a tree" by switching from paper to electronics? Paper is a renewable resource and most paper companies plant efficient and fast-growing trees for the pulp industry. But very little of the metal-and-plastic mobile phones, computers and ancillary equipment is "renewable."

And lifespan? Hardware and software turns over in five to six years. Kids are trading in cell phones almost monthly! Thrown in the junk bin twice a decade, our "old" electronics contains some of the world's most problematic toxic wastes, including cadmium and lithium batteries.

The Climate Group report estimates that electronic-related emissions will increase about 6 percent per year through 2020 as more and more people acquire personal computers, mobile phones and broadband internet.

Next time the techno-enthusiasts brag they are "saving a tree" by going paperless, point out that they are the ones using up far more natural resources and energy. And that the paper pulp forests planted to generate our paper are helping to offset their bigger electronic carbon footprint. — Richard Schrock

Amendment day is recognized

It's not recognized as a national holiday.

We don't get the day off from work.

We don't see throngs of people carrying signs celebrating it — or denigrating it, for that matter.

And the day doesn't even show up on most calendars.

In fact, if Jay Leno went "Jay-walking" and asked the average American citizen what we celebrate on Dec. 15 each year, he likely would get nothing more

than a blank stare.

Dec. 15?

"I have no idea," would be the common answer. "I'm too busy shopping for Christmas presents."

Yet, on that day and virtually every other day of the year, Americans freely exercise the rights that came with the ratification of the Bill of Rights, the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

Freedom of speech.

Freedom of religion.

Freedom of assembly.

Freedom of petition government for a redress of grievances.

The right to due process.

The right to bear arms.

The right against self-incrimination.

The right to a jury trial.

And, lest I forget, freedom of the press.

Yes, 218 years ago, the founders accepted almost verbatim George Mason's "Virginia Declaration of Rights" as the bedrock statement of our individual rights as Americans.

George Mason isn't a household name, unless you're a huge sports fan, especially of college basketball.

While we should put our nation's founders on their own unique pedestal, we can't lose sight of the fact that had it not been for George Mason's dogged

determination to get his "Declaration of Rights" accepted as the first amendments to the new Constitution, we might not live in a country where we can speak out, hold opinions that others find objectionable or even abhorrent, be considered innocent until proven guilty, exercise our religious beliefs or choose not to believe and assemble for or against an issue without fear of recrimination.

George Mason held back his support of the new Constitution, saying that the blueprint for a new nation lacked the absolutely essential ingredients that would place the individual above the state in almost all circumstances.

Had he not done so, we might be living in a very different country today.

So, on Dec. 15, whoop it up a little in celebration of Bill of Rights Day.

And if you happen to go to a holiday party or two, you can impress your fellow guests with your knowledge of the history of the Bill of Rights.

Someone once said they never discuss politics or religion.

What country are they from?

Doug Anstaett is executive director of the Kansas Press Association. An award-winning editorialist, he is a former publisher of the Newton Kansan and editorial page editor of the Topeka Capital-Journal.

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GOD SAYS
He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.
Proverbs 13:20



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News From the Past

120 years ago - 1889

The J.J. Armstrong store is showing some big bargains in mens' and boys' Duck Coats. They also have a stock of blankets and comforters, bought in large quantities, very cheap...enabling them to give you especially good goods for your money.

Call in and get some of that whole wheat flour at John Cunningham's. He unloaded stacks of superior flour last week.

For anything in the line of meat, call on Murphy Brothers.

Blackleg has broken out in this community again. Jacob Uplinger has lost 16 head, mostly 2-year-olds and we have heard of a number of other losses. We hope stockmen will be able to stamp the disease out.

The Misses Maude Denison and Dora Andrus were around soliciting for the Methodist Christmas tree this week.

Mr. C.F. Davis recently purchased the William Lebow farm near Bird City where he now resides.

Mr. W.H. Frederics has over a thousand sheep which keeps him busy this stormy weather.

Dr. E.R. Pegg supports a fine sleigh with bells and is envied by everyone.

The young people are taking advantage of the vacation to enjoy themselves skating on the river.

75 years ago - 1934

New officers for the St. Francis Masonic Lodge include Cline Wilson, Worshipful Master; Harold Couse, Senior Warden; and James R. Gough, Junior Warden.

The Citizens State Bank is displaying a box of pennies in their window and is giving prizes for the nearest estimate as to the number of pennies in the box.

The Equity Cash Grocery is selling Butternut coffee, 1 pound, 32 cents; delicious apples, basket, \$1.75; pork and beans, No. 300, 6 cents each; crackers, 2 pound box, 19 cents; and Millers Corn Flakes, 9 cents a box.

Boardman's Toggery has Arrow shirts, \$2 each; Stetson hats, from \$5 to \$6.50; Walter Booth shoes, new styles, \$3.25 to \$6.

Fred Churchill, local undertaker, is making some changes at his residence, 2 blocks south of the Christian Church, and when these changes are completed he expects to have a modern funeral home. The basement of the house will be fitted for a display

and work room and one room on the first floor will be made into a slumber room. There will be ample room for a chapel and for a family room when desired.

With very much of an open winter, satisfactory progress on the new school building has been made according to A.A. Miller of Salina, superintendent of construction. With the finishing of the brick and stone work last week and the completion of the roof the forepart of this week and the installation of the windows, the building has begun to take on the appearance from the outside of a finished structure.

20 years ago - 1989

John Stannard has assumed duties at the Cheyenne County Extension office as assistant agent/ag.

Freshman Chris Lampe placed first in the 103-weight class at the St. Francis Invitational Wrestling Tournament. Sainy, as a team, placed fifth with Garden City winning the team championship.

Matt Bandel received the award for high individual overall at the National Judging Contest. He is a member of the Colby Community College Livestock Judging Team.

Casey's Comments

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When I was a young man, growing up at the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains, I'd sometimes think of escaping up to the wilderness to be alone. At times, back then, the craziness of the people around made a hermit life in the hills seem very workable.

Luckily with time comes at least a little wisdom. The key word in that last sentence is

"little." I'm no wise-man, just a simple guy with an Irish-American name who needs to fill a few inches of space each week in this newspaper.

But life has shown me that we are created to be with others. We need to have contact with other humans and with that comes a desire to help others.

A life spent focused on self is a life lost.



I say this because this time of year it is especially important to think of others. How you help is entirely up to you. Just remember that they need you and you need them.

That's simply the way it's supposed to be.

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.

Salem Lutheran Church
 332-3002
 Pastor Chris Farmer
 Sunday School 10 a.m.
 Morning Worship 11 a.m.
 Communion 3rd Sunday

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.

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.

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 9:15 a.m.
 Church Service 10:15 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

Praise the Lord

St. Francis Equity

St. Francis Herald