

Should lawmakers make English the official language?

Sometimes we just want things to happen too fast.

As the Kansas Legislature and those in other states across the country try to come to grips with how to integrate immigrants into society, they are looking at making English our official language.

Bad idea, lawmakers. Laws don't force people to change; social pressure does.

Just give it time, and what you want will be accomplished.

Across this country, schools were taught in German, French, Italian, Chinese and a hundred other languages. City council meetings and church services were conducted in the language that the people could understand — Bohemian, Spanish, Irish, Yiddish, German, you name it.

Each new wave of immigrants brought with them their language, religion and customs. They set up communities where they socialized mostly with each other and were comfortable.

But their children weren't comfortable. They wanted to move over the hill, across the river, into the next neighborhood. They needed to learn new things, new ways of doing things and frequently a new language.

So they did. They learned English, though many kept their native tongues because they still wanted and needed to communicate with parents, grandparents and friends back home.

Then their children came along. Mostly, they heard English at home. That's what Mom and Dad spoke, so that's what they spoke. They saw

Grandma and Grandpa now and then and picked up a few words of old tongue, but without much practice, they didn't keep it.

Occasionally, a great upheaval would quicken the process.

In Kansas, the Eudora City Council held its meetings in German until the beginning of World War I. It was probably difficult to change, but it was politically expedient to switch to English. Social pressure came to bear.

Today, we see these early waves of immigration through rose-colored glasses. We all want to be Irish on St. Patrick's Day, but 100 years ago, you might have found it hard to get a job if you were Irish — or Polish or Chinese.

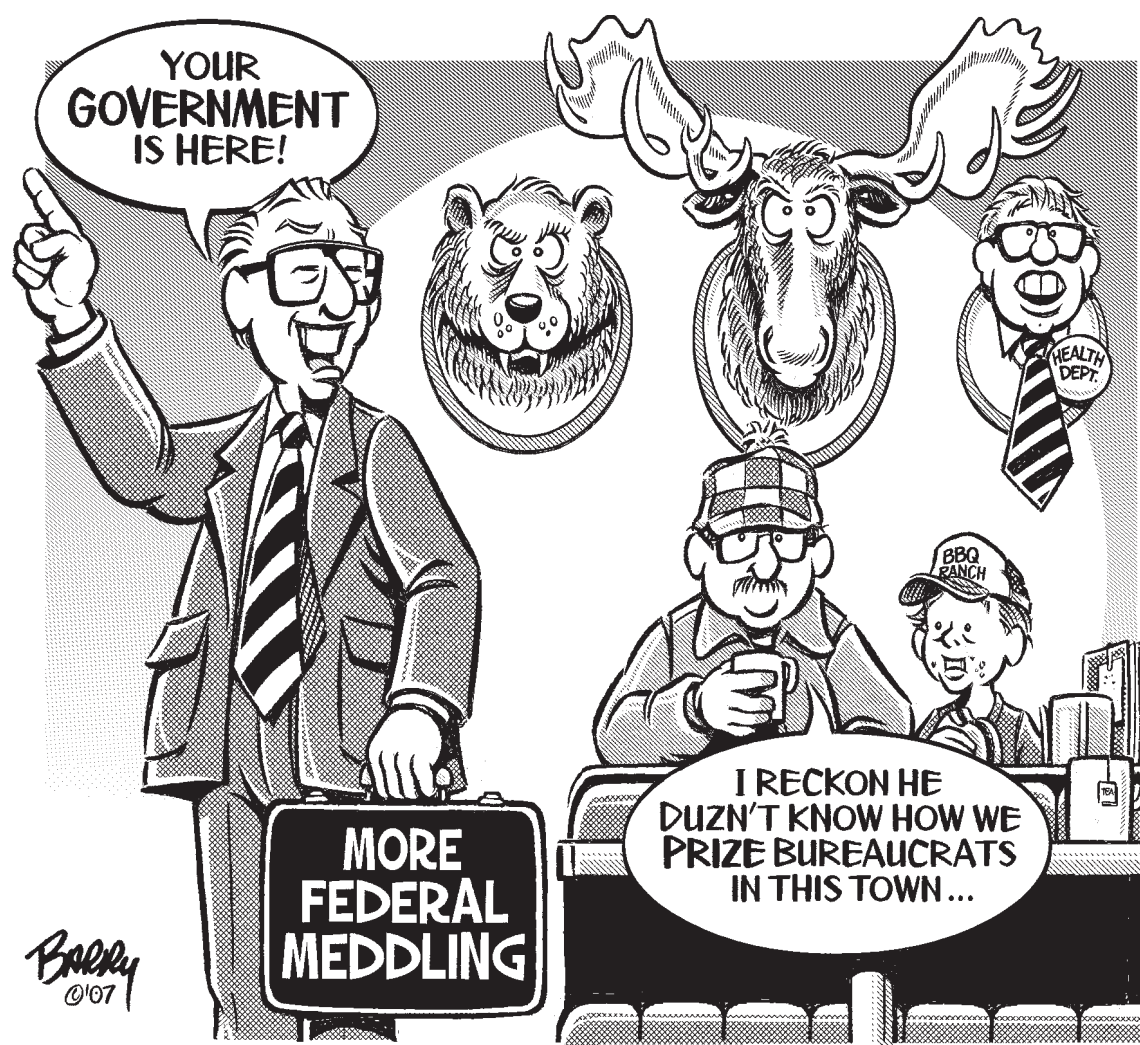
Today's immigrants — Mexican, Asian, African — band together and speak Spanish or another tongue. But their children and their children's children will go over the hill, across the river and into the next neighborhood.

They will learn English and speak it to their children and integrate into the social structure, not because the government tells them to, but because of social pressure. If you don't speak English, you don't get the good jobs, you can't do business with people in other communities and the world.

But it takes time and no one, especially the Legislature, wants to allow enough time for natural social change to occur.

What's the rush? It'll all work out.

— Cynthia Haynes



News From the Past

5 years ago - 2002

"Flags of the Free" was the theme for the Bird City Kansas Day celebration in honor of 141 years of statehood.

Brent Rueb is the new owner of Tri-State Lumber and Tubing. The lumberyard has been in business for over 60 years.

Dara Loyd, a St. Francis sixth grader, received second place in the state PTA Citizenship Essay contest.

Lucille Rossbach, English teacher at Idalia High School, was the recipient of the 2001 Elizabeth Bailey Teaching Award.

Students in the junior high music department brought home 16 I Ratings from the league festival. The musicians had 15 II ratings and no III ratings.

Wrestlers qualify at Regionals for the State Tournament include Kevin Brown, Dallas Walz, David Rose, Ryan Zwegardt, Jeremiah

Wiley, Ben Swihart and Ty Long.

First National Bank on Main Street has been tearing down and getting ready for some remodeling and parking. When the building, which had once been Modern Beauty Shop came down, it revealed a sign saying "Community Parking Lot in the Rear." There is discussion about what might have been in the building at the time the sign was painted.

Hangin' with Marge

What children might worry about

By Margaret Bucholtz



When my oldest grandchild was in kindergarten his parents had taken him out trick or treating. What fun he had and he was so delighted when they got to our home to show us his large bag of candy he had received while knocking on all the neighbors' doors.

The next morning he had to go to school and wanted to take his

candy with him so he could show his teacher and friends. Of course his mother told him he couldn't take any candy to school and sent him out the door to get on the bus.

That day the teacher noticed that Travis wasn't his usual happy little self. She wondered if maybe he wasn't feeling well, but thought he might get better as the day went on. She noticed he didn't

have a temperature, nor did he act like he was sick. It was more like something was really on his mind.

Finally late in the morning she took him aside and asked him, "Travis what seems to be bothering you?" to which he replied, "I am afraid my mother is at home eating all my Halloween candy."

Ag Talk with Jeanne

Weed and Feed

Jeanne Falk, K-State Multi-County Agronomist

With the plentiful moisture we have been blessed with, it is a good idea to be making plans for weed management your dryland and irrigated winter wheat.

Since a great deal of the wheat will be topped with nitrogen, there is the opportunity to apply both herbicides and fertilizer to the wheat. These herbicides can provide both contact and residual control of weeds, such as blue and tansy mustard, along with other winter and spring annuals.

Control of mustard is essential in growing high yielding wheat and once some of this snow melts, there will be the opportunity to make a one pass treatment across this wheat to "weed and feed."

As winter melts away, it is important to keep a close eye on your fields for weeds and to catch them

at an early stage of growth. Smaller weeds are much easier to control and it is imperative to treat them before they begin to bolt.

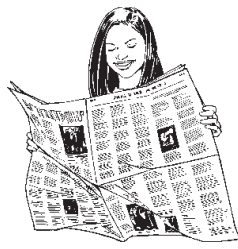
Competition from even small weeds can affect the overall yield in the field. If you wait to treat, you can be limited on products used, total weed control, and use of fertilizer. In addition, it is important to get the fertilizer into the root zone before the wheat begins jointing. The greatest yield response to fertilizer occurs at this time frame.

One concern that must be addressed is your crop rotation. Certain herbicides allow you to go to a grass crop, such as corn or milo, much earlier than broadleaf crops, like soybeans or sunflowers.

It is important to consult the herbicide label or the 2007 K-State

Chemical Weed Control Guide for rotation restrictions. Your local chemical and fertilizer dealer can also develop a chemical program that will allow you to address your fertilizer and weed control needs now and allow you to rotate to your preferred crop in the next growing season.

This is one time to think ahead of the curve with wheat and be ready when the snow starts to melt to get protection early to give your wheat what it needs to produce bushels.



GOD SAYS

The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?

Proverbs 18:14

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Delores Zuege, Haigler, Neb.; Dustin Gilliland, St. Francis; Norman Dorsch, Bird City; Bill Hook, St. Francis; Roger Sauer, St. Francis; Rodney Myers, St. Francis; Virginia Sawhill Gallo-way, Denver, Colo.;

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Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick

Have you noticed? After weeks and weeks of repeated winter storms, we're getting a break.

Temperatures are rising above freezing, the huge piles of snow and ice are melting and people are venturing outside again.

I saw my first robin of the year in our backyard Monday. At the

local hardware store they have seed packets displayed. With the thick blanket of white, that has been on our buffalo grass, I know I will finally be able to run an aerator on our lawn and take some decent plugs out.

For the first time since I relocated to Kansas, I am imagining how the wheat fields and pastures will look.

I see vast expanses of green just around the corner.

Spring isn't there yet, but with the days getting longer and warmer weather, it's clear that a great growing season is on the way. Gardeners and farmers rejoice!

By Casey McCormick



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.

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 of Assisi Catholic Church
625 S. River • 332-2680
Fr. Roger Meitl
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.
Weekday Mass 8 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

First Christian Church
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Sunday School 9:20 a.m.
Church Service 10:30 a.m.
Wed. night Bible Study 7 p.m.

Grace Assembly of God
332-2925, Pars. 332-2899
208 E. 2nd
Rev. Rob Meyer
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30
Sunday Eve. Service 6 p.m.

St. Francis Community Church
332-3150
204 N. Quincy Street
Pastor: David Butler
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
332-2888 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor Mike Larson
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

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

Peace Lutheran Church
202 N. College
Pastor Ken Hart
332-2928 Pars. 332-2312
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Clough Valley Church of Hope
12 m. west, 6 m. north of SF
Pastor Jason Howard
332-3152
Saturdays 8 p.m. CT or 7 p.m. MT

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