

The freedom of speech is not a one-size-fits-all

Freedom of speech. We talk about it. We write about it. We point fingers at others we don't think are doing a good job. We discuss it endlessly. But it's really hard to get your mind around. Schools are struggling with how much leeway to give student newspapers. If the students' writing is subpar, will the teachers and administration be blamed? If the students write about some sensitive subject — abortion, homosexuality, AIDS, sexual abuse — will it embarrass their parents, their teachers, the administration, the government? If the students write gross, vulgar things, use four-letter words and say things we would have gotten our mouths washed out with soap, will people be embarrassed, angry, disgusted? Probably, all of the above. On the other hand, how do students learn what is acceptable? How do they learn that here in America, we believe in letting everyone express themselves? Even when we don't agree with them? Even when what they say embarrasses, angers and disgusts us? We have few answers. A young soldier from McCook died in Iraq. When he was buried, four members of the congregation of the Rev. Fred Phelps' Westboro Baptist Church congregation from Topeka came to visit. Most of us know about Mr. Phelps and his church of hate. While a family is burying a beloved son, he and his people will be in front of the church or cemetery carrying signs that say such things as "God

Hates Fags." They claim deaths in Iraq are part of God's vengeance on America for tolerating homosexuality. At times like this, it's hard to defend Mr. Phelps' right to freedom of speech. But, that's what we do here. We try to keep Mr. Phelps and his members away from the church doors or the cemetery walk, but we allow him to vent his rage and frustration with a government he feels supports homosexuality. On a recent trip to Tunisia, in North Africa, we saw something different. In its fight against fundamentalism that has caused so much heartache in the Islamic world, Tunisia doesn't allow the Fred Phelps of that country to organize or cause dissension. At a university, we were told that the teachers and students don't talk or write about politics. Seeing the trouble that fundamentalism has caused in Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia and dozens of other countries, we can understand and somewhat agree with the Tunisians' stand. But, we don't want that here. We want the freedom to say that President Bush is an idiot and Congress a bunch of puppets, if that's what we believe. Maybe, freedom of speech isn't a one-size-fits-all idea, but, after 200 years of trying, the one we have is the best we've been able to come up with. We need to keep defending it, which means — hard as that is — allowing students to make fools of themselves sometimes — and the Fred Phelps of our world to have their say.

— Cynthia Haynes

Hangin' With Marge

Snow

By Margaret Bucholtz



Remember how I told everyone I loved the snow? Well, I still love watching the white snow flakes fall and the frozen tree branches with white frost as the sun turns them into a world of glitter. What I forgot to remember was the spring thaw! As the snow melted we had one spot on our road that had the biggest mud puddle at the bottom of a hill that I ever seen. Every day I would go through it was like taking a new trip as you never knew which way it was going to throw you next.

One evening I started down the hill and there in that mud puddle was a man on a four wheeler and he was driving back and forth. I wondered what he was doing and who he was. Just before I reached the mud hole he pulled to the side of the road to let me go through. I thought I would show him what a great driver I was so I entered the edge of the mud, then I stopped, put the 4 wheel drive on and plowed through. It felt like I was doing a commercial for

Ford country, even though I was driving a chevy. When I reached the other side I saw it was the neighbor man so I stopped. He told me he was trying to drive through the ruts to pack them so when it froze the next morning they would be able to drive their car through. They had not been able to get to town for a few days. I really felt kind of bad as I had just created more ruts for him to smooth out

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



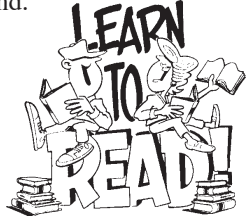
A tradition can be a very special thing. The family of Jordan Gienger began their wrestling tradition back in 1944. Last weekend Jordan won the state championship at the 3-2-1A State wrestling tournament in

Hays. He joins his two grandfathers, Warren Gienger and Elton Keller, great-uncle Pete Gienger, uncle Perry Keller and father Kelly Gienger. I don't know what is in the water at the Gienger and Keller farms, but it produces some special athletes. Wrestling may not be everyone's cup of tea, but in this area it is a source of great pride. The sport reflects the country values of working hard as an individual and also working with others to achieve goals.

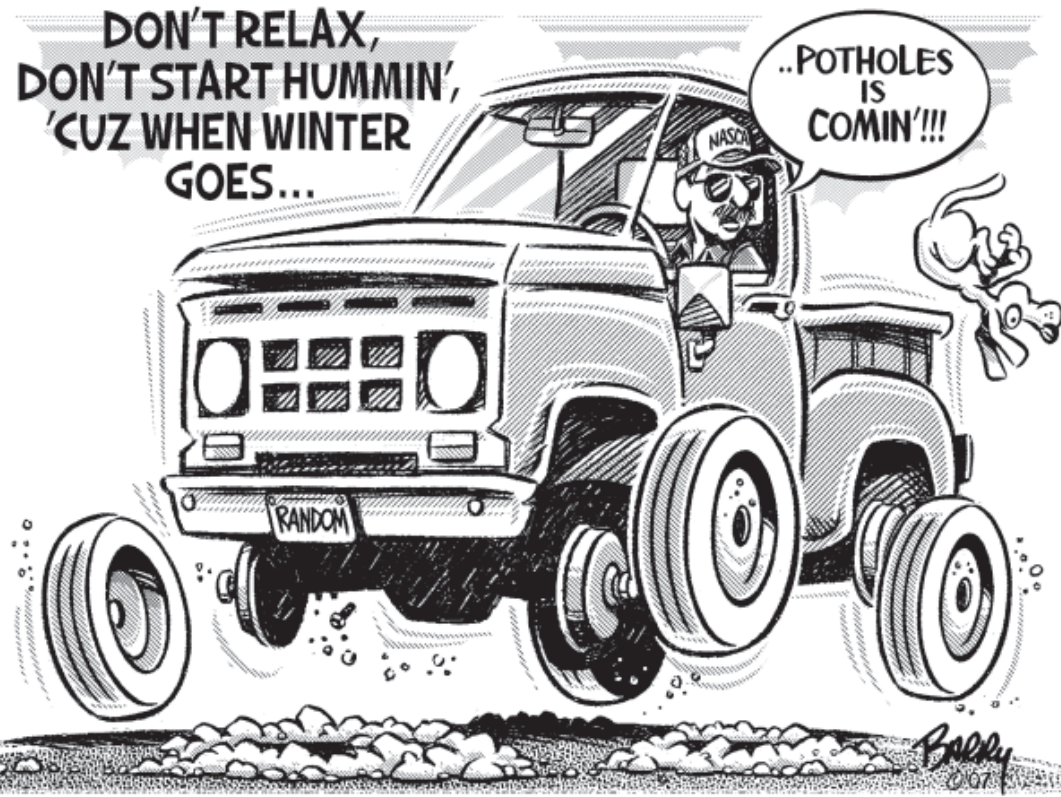
Anyone who knows Jordan can see he comes from a good family. Whether he is volunteering his time to referee little kid's flag football, hanging around with friends or representing his school and community, Jordan does so with a smile and quiet reserve. In both the sporting arena and everyday life he holds the heart of a champion. Who's to say how far the Gienger-Keller tradition will go?

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Bruce Feikert, St. Francis; Sharon Olson, Oberlin; Willard Peter, St. Francis; Lori Weber, Salina; Tony Vandike, Bird City; Eva Murray, Bird City; Florence Peacock, St. Francis; Majestic Service, St. Francis; Pauline Herman, Rawlins, Wyo.; Alan Archer, McDonald; Jeff Dankenbring, Denver, Colo.; Shirley Amack, Bird City; Chad Miller, Manhattan; Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Squires, Goodland.



GOD SAYS
Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man: so are children of the youth.
 Psalms 127:3, 4



News From the Past

25 years ago - 1982

Bankers' Award winners included Bill Fuller, Dean O'Brien and Neal O'Brien. Marvin Orth and Gordon Orth received the Goodyear County Conservation Award. Alvin Holzwarth received the Terrence Maintenance Award and Warren Cook received the Wildlife Habitat Award. The theme of the Kansas Day celebration in Bird City was "Yesterdays and Schooldays." Kanred EHU celebrated its 60th anniversary as part of the Kansas Day observance. Giving the featured address at the Boy Scouts Baden Powell Banquet was Dr. Ham Jackson. The closing was given by Pack 120 of St. Francis. Among the St. Francis Scouts receiving awards were Jimmy Vap, Noel Schultze, Shawn White, Jeff Williams, Brian Stern, Danny Blair and Billy Hale. Among the Eagle Scouts recognized at the Banquet were Mitchell Hilt, Bradley

Merklin and Gene Kincheloe.

Zimbelman Motors is adding more office and storage space to the inside of the building on Highway 36. The upstairs portion will be the office space and the lower portion is for parts. The St. Francis Future Farmers of America farm management team placed first in the Northwest District Farm management and Meats Judging contest held in Kensington. Team members are Jeff Royston, Bill Northdurft, Cara Curry, Jerry White and Randall Rath. Lyn Wiley is the advisor. Volunteer labor was busy cleaning up at the Cheyenne Theatre and helping with the laying of the new carpet in the projection booth. Many young people were among the volunteers. **50 years ago - 1957** Carl H. Sperry will become principal of St. Francis Community High School effective in August. He has taught industrial arts since the fall of 1948.

A long-time dream will be recognized by the St. Francis Lodge 404 A.F. & A.M. as the result of the final approval of the plans to erect a new lodge hall. The new one-story masonry structure with brick veneer front will be erected on lots owned by the local Masonic organization located on north Quincy Street, just south of the Rieb Motor Company. Saintry placed second at the Regional Wrestling Tournament. Melvin Zwegardt and Ken Krien won championships. Maureen Stewart was elected State Secretary of the Future Homemakers of America Association. Ronnie Ewing will earn the rank of Eagle Scout at a ceremony at the Scout Hut on March 7. This is Scoutings highest award. A picture of the St. Francis Light and Power Plant was on the cover of January/February issue of the Midwest Municipal Utilities.

This is the Place

Cheyenne County Development Corporation, Carol Redding, Coordinator "Cheyenne County — the land of open spaces and friendly faces." This is just one of many slogans that have been applied to our great communities. What else could apply? Let's try "we love change," or

"agriculture opportunities unlimited," or "we make things happen," or "the land of open minds and helping hands." For nearly three years, our two local papers have graciously carried this column. This is the last one I'll write, as I'm retiring [again]. I appreciate the support from

county residents; please continue to support upcoming efforts by the Cheyenne County Development Corporation. The board will soon be interviewing applicants for the coordinator's position. Feel free to contact Kim Zwegardt, 332-2487, to discuss Cheyenne County development.

Reader questions the need for a gym

Wants vs Needs? My father tells of my 4-year old cousin paging through the catalog and pointing at various items one each page saying "I need this" when he meant that he would like to have them. I sometimes tell myself that I need many things, but the bottom line is that I want them.

Letter to the Editor Last week a front-page article indicated we needed a new gym. do we really need a new gym, or would it be nice to have a new facility? Could we have a public discussion on this issue? Are there other

"Needs" that need greater attention? I for one would like to her rational comments on both sides of this issue... Mr. Bee...785-332-2950... Elmer Kellner

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 502 W. Spencer
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 Morning Worship 10 a.m.
 Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

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 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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