

Immigration reform is moving forward

Immigration reform is moving forward in Congress, but not without a lot of grumbling.

The nation needs this bill, but we need to be sure whatever comes out of the mill is something that will work — that's vital — and something everyone can live with.

Our immigration and border control machinery is way past broken. Founded on illogic and surrealism, the system ground to a halt years ago. All the billions pumped into beefed-up fences and patrols and high-tech solutions have only served to point out how wrong the system is.

Our country brutalizes immigrants, insults visitors and inconveniences citizens without keeping anyone out who really wants to get in — low-wage worker or terrorist alike.

One important feature of the current compromise is the realization that we're not going to uproot 12 million illegals and deport them all. We don't have that many buses, that many judges or that many border cops.

Our goal should be a rational system that regulates the flow of immigrant labor, not a wall to keep people out. That never has worked. They come no matter what we do, and more of the same isn't going to stop them.

It's OK to ask people who broke the law to come here to pay a fine to stay. Regulations requiring them to go back to their native land to apply for legal entrance probably won't work, though, especially if they have to leave family and job to do it.

As a nation, we have had enough of a system that

deports parents while leaving citizen-children here, that divides families and dehumanizes visitors. That's not America.

Any bill needs to take into account the fact that our economy needs a certain portion of immigrant labor, and that those who come here to work often represent the best workers their lands have to offer.

We should welcome them, not degrade or insult them.

At the same time, no law of man nor nature requires us to provide welfare services to immigrants, illegal or otherwise. Anyone who comes here to go on welfare or use taxpayer supported services should be denied. Congress should be tough on that, and so should the states that supply services.

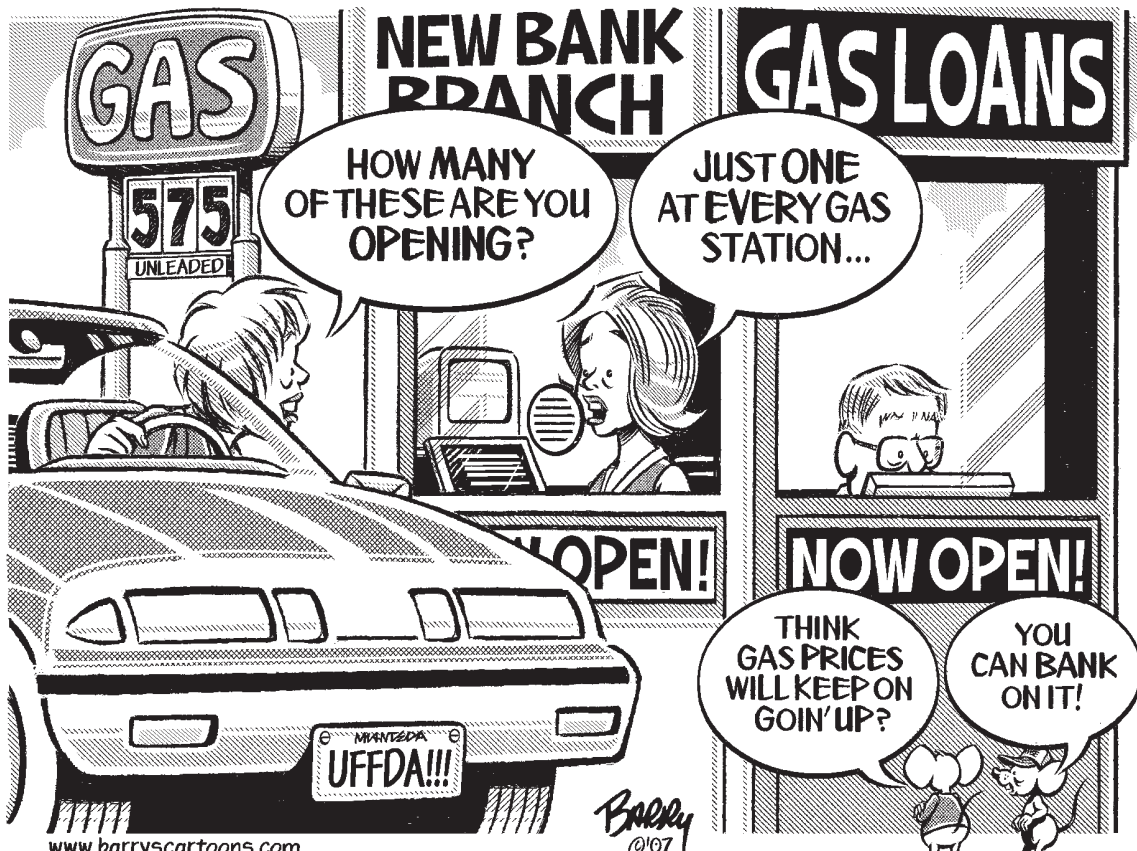
One thing all of us should fear is the trend for government to use fear of terrorism and immigration to tightly control travel and entry into the country. Our freedoms could be lost in police-state technology and star-chamber secrecy if we let them.

Fear drives many decisions, and many of the things done to "protect" us can later be used to control all of us, citizen and visitor alike.

It's good to have law enforcement looking over our shoulder at the border, but not too closely.

So far, what's in Congress is a good start on reform, but nowhere near perfect. It'll be interesting to see what comes out of the debate.

— Steve Haynes



More teams needed for cancer relay

To the editor:

The Cancer Relay for Life needs more teams!

The Cheyenne County Cancer Relay for Life Committee is looking for more teams to enter the 2007 Relay. We are way down on team numbers this year, and to meet or beat our 2006 record of third in the state of Kansas per-capital income, we need several more teams.

We need you to help sell our luminarias and to walk for the cure. If you were on a team last year who has not

Letters to the Editor

signed up yet, please call your teammates and sign up again. If you would like to be on a team, please call Penny Krien, 785-332-2173, or Jenny Busse, 785-332-3215, our team co-chairmen, to sign up.

Betty Petersen, corporate chairman, is looking for more sponsors this year, and also would like to invite you, your family, or your business to donate an item, or a theme

basket for our second annual auction to be held in the band shell starting at 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18. Last year's auction featured lively bidding for many baskets and items. Contact Betty Petersen, 785-332-8990, for more information or to donate.

Betty Loudon
publicity chairman
St. Francis

Pet owner upset with missing cats

Letter to the editor,

We moved into St. Francis in 1999. We brought a dog and two cats with us. Since we have lived here we have accumulated three more cats who lived outside and were probably strays until they came to our door. Then we were given another one from a family who couldn't keep it anymore and another from a friend who had a litter and couldn't get rid of all of them. Then a last one from a neighbor. It was sick and they didn't know it. We nursed it to health and it claimed us as it's family.

We love cats and dogs and will take about any one in who hasn't a home. Most of them become like one of the family.

I know there are other people out there who feel the same way about animals. But in the past three years, four of our cats have disappeared, just gone, no reason, not sick or anything, and two days ago another one disappeared. She was a yellow cat with white feet and a white upper body who would answer to Sally. She lived in the house most of the time and when she went outside it would be only to the driveway or down the alley a little. She was never out of the house very long before she would come back and check on things. She was definitely

part of the family and has left a big hole in our hearts.

If someone is taking it upon themselves to poison or catch and haul off or in some manner get rid of what they consider nuisance animals, I wish they would first think how they would feel if someone hauled off one of their kids.

To us who only have animals we love for companionship, it is about

the same thing. I hope I am reaching someone because we have four other cats and it isn't fair to keep an animal locked in the house all the time, we need to feel they are safe going outside to play and scout around like is the nature of animals.

Wayne and Kitty Keeker
410 E. Jackson
St. Francis

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Hangin' With Marge

Another Storm

By Margaret Bucholtz



Last night was another night of storms. I had an exciting time! Kurt had called earlier and said he was going to be late and that was fine with me as I was busy doing my thing on the computer.

All of a sudden I decided to come upstairs to take a look at the clouds. Wow, it was dark, dirty looking and the dogs were nervous. I decided to be a nice pet owner and locked them into the backroom of the house. Then I proceeded to go out on the steps and watch the clouds.

One cloud was churning one way and another one was coming the other way. I sat on the steps until the first gust of wind hit. The lights went out and I was all alone.

It was then that I heard the snapping of wood and went to the basement. I knew I didn't want to take any chances with getting under the stairs

as I just know there are spiders and centipedes and whatever else is growing in there so I thought of getting a mattress and covering myself. The thought of carrying a mattress was more than I had the power to do so I grabbed all the cushions from the chair and couch and covered myself with them.

While I laid there, I knew that the house was going to be a lot heavier than those little cushions were going to be so I crawled out and went back upstairs.

There I saw tree branches flying by. As I went into the bedroom I saw our wooden fence break into pieces and lay over. The wheel barrow was flying and turned upside down. Again I went to the basement. All covered again I decided it didn't sound so bad so I crawled back out and came back upstairs.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



There is something extra special about the Memorial Day holiday. Not only does it mark the beginning of summer (the kids are at the pool) but it gives us a chance to look back.

Some folks still call it "Decoration Day," as families remember their lost ones with flowers and tributes. But it is also important to reflect on the sacrifices of our veterans.

In Cheyenne County everyone seemed to be in a patriotic spirit. Flags were proudly flown from homes, businesses and along streets. Services were held at several of the area cemeteries. Time was spent thinking of those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

I need to see this kind of respect,

because it isn't everywhere.

Monday morning I turned on the television to watch some snotty nosed anchorman harass a general he was interviewing. The broadcaster wanted the commander to justify the number of soldiers killed in Iraq during the war.

The general handled the question well, getting back to the topic of the day, which was to honor not only

those brave individuals but also the many who have fallen in all U.S. wars.

Honor and respect may not be what earns television ratings, but it's a good start for saying thanks to those who have earned it.

GOD SAYS

**The Lord looketh from heaven;
he beholdeth all the sons of men.
From the place of his habitation
he looketh upon all the inhabitants
of the earth.**

Psalms 33:13, 14

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Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

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

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
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Pastor Mike Larson
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

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.

First Christian Church
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Church Service 10:30 a.m.
Wed. night Bible Study 7 p.m.

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

Grace Assembly of God
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208 E. 2nd
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Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30
Sunday Eve. Service 6 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.

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.

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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