



Public schools should have a bullying program

Another statistic. The son of a family friend has already quit his high school football team.

The boy is a freshman and played football in middle school. He was looking forward to the glamour and pageantry of high school ball. That won't happen now thanks to the belt buckle of a teammate, slung like a whip, on his back.

Our friend's son was the victim of bullying. After the incident, he just packed his bags and headed for home, leaving his helmet and shoulder pads behind. His parents were surprised to see him at home when they thought he should have been at practice. He told them what happened.

His parents went back to the school to talk to whoever was important enough to see what could be done to make sure their son could play again, without being intimidated by a teammate. The boy who flung the belt has long been a nuisance with others. I don't know if anybody ever tried to get the boy on the right track.

The parents didn't find the answers they were looking for, but it didn't matter, as their son had already made up his mind. He didn't want to play no matter what was said. His parents accepted his decision.

Kids can be cruel at times, especially during the high school years. Bullying has become more noticed in schools across the country. Freshman initiation rituals, done in high schools for years, turned violent, and even criminal, before school officials began some sort of program to make sure innocent, new kids to high school, were not threatened. All public schools should have such a program.

There's probably as many reasons for bullies as there are bullies. One factor I've heard school psychologists and parents of victims say the most is bullies usually have a fear of something. The bully's actions are a way to hide that fear — or act it out.

Bullies may have been neglected, or even abused, by their parents. So bullies think violence and intimidation should be the norm for everybody.

Bullies may also be the so-called spoiled brat. Since the moment the doctor brought them into this world, they have been given everything on a silver platter and got to keep the platter too. When the bully does not get what he wanted, or when he wanted it, they throw a fit and blame whoever is in front of them for not getting what they think they deserve.

Unintentionally bumping into such a bully in line at school or when the person in front of the bully takes the last prized food item off the ala-carte tray at lunch — that is all it takes for a bully to be engaged. I've seen happen when I was in high school.

Our friend's son did the right thing. He didn't give the bully a response, another thing I've noticed bullies can struggle with. I have noticed several times how people in anger can get even more angry if the person they are belittling keeps calm. Bullies tend to gain momentum on the fear or outrage of others. If there's no anger in return, the bullies lose their spark. They don't know how to handle control.

There's so much to say about how to prevent bullies in the first place. Of course, parents need to instill in their children how important it is to instill respect and compassion. Children who are victims of bullies, even younger than our friend's son, need to learn how to keep their cool and not create an even bigger situation with a bully that will potentially continue.

I can't imagine completely getting rid of bullies, but maybe we can make the statistics much smaller.

— John Van Nostrand, publisher of the Colby Free Press

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



I like that we live in a quiet corner of the state. Usually time passes along at as leisurely a pace as possible these days.

But not this week as Governor Kathleen Sebelius came to Cheyenne County for a tour of three farms.

Kansas Farm Bureau hosted the

event which kicked off at the Fair Grounds. Locals gathered for a little breakfast with the Governor before climbing on buses. Three establishments were visited: the Melvin Schlepp, Roger Zwegardt and Douthit Brother's Farms.

Different farming practices were discussed and people got a chance to see Mrs. Sebelius.

I don't know how much this opportunity will have on the scope of things in northwest Kansas once the Governor returns to Topeka. But, ideally, it will help her remember that this quiet corner of the state does exist.

Sincerely, Vickie Cress and the Rebekah Lodge St. Francis

People urged to give blood

Letter to the Editor: The American Red Cross stands ready to provide blood when and where it is needed. With the support of the St. Francis and Bird City communities, we are able to build a strong lifesaving team.

The Red Cross is grateful for every blood donor in the county who

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makes the personal commitment to share the gift of life.

Volunteer blood donors help save precious patients such as a premature baby who needs emergency surgery, a little boy who needs blood after a car accident or a little girl who needs platelets to fight leukemia.

On behalf of hospital patients everywhere, thank you to all our local heroes who give blood. The gift you give is priceless.

You can give blood on Thursday, Sept. 27, from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the grade school gym in St. Francis. Please call 1-800-GIVE LIFE to schedule an appointment. Walk-in donors are also welcome. However, those with appointments will be given priority.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Darla Raile, Salina; B's Pump and Well, Goodland; William Raile, St. Francis; Jay Underwood, Chandler, Ariz.; Elmer Hilt, St. Francis; Kip Wiese, St. Francis; Hertha Kelley, St. Francis; Clyde Smith, St. Francis; Shawn Rogers, New York, N.Y.; Dallas Friedli, Hope; Mac Frewen, Hays; Dan Leiner, St. Francis.

GOD SAYS

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

I Thessalonians 4:13, 14

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News From the Past

20 years ago - 1987

After 10 years of residing in a rented building the senior citizens have officially purchased the Senior Citizens Center, located on the corner of Washington and River streets.

The St. Francis community has a new student, Ricardo Gonzalez, from Chile who will be residing at the home of Roger and Dottie Lewis.

The roofing crew erected approximately 50 trusses across the top of the new library building with the help of the city's cherry picker.

New teachers at St. Francis Community High School are Mac Thompson, counselor and driver education instructor, and Rob Schiltz, industrial arts instructor.

Clint Burns, Cheyenne County Road and Bridge Department, retired in August and the commissioners have now named Dave Fleming as shop foreman and mechanic.

The opening school enrollment figures for the new year show 437 students. This is 16 students less than registered at the opening of school a year ago.

Returning volleyball letter winners include Terri Sharp, Sarah Ochsner, Heidi Pittman, Shawna Stevens, Crystal DeGood and Lorna Hilt.

Roger and Ron Neitzel claimed the first prize winnings with their 1971 Chevy "Generic Derby Car" at the St. Francis Demolition Derby.

60 years ago - 1947

A virtual flood of golden grain has been pouring into the county's 14 elevators in one of the area's greatest wheat harvests. A total of 222 cars have

been shipped out from the six elevators in St. Francis. 88 cars from the three elevators in Wheeler and 209 cars from the five elevators in Bird City.

Work is going ahead on the new domestic arts building at the Cheyenne County Fairgrounds. This building is a permanent addition to the grounds and badly needed in order that domestic arts may be exhibited.

Roelfs Electric Company has this week moved to new quarters, the Broadman building, which will house both the post office and the electric company.

Dolores Raile, Pat Cody, Bonnie Roach, Robert Rath and Bill Wilber are attending a high school music clinic at Gunnison, Colo.

Nearly 50 beautiful floats took part in the Cheyenne County Fair Parade. There were also over 200 horses.

The Fair Association coupon-selling campaign to raise money for improvements at the fair-ground saw 5,483 coupons sold. Winning third prize, a Firestone electric refrigerator, was C.D. Holliman. Second prize, a Speed Queen washer.

90 years ago - 1917

Fred Henry went to Kansas City and enlisted. He was allowed a visit home but was called on Tuesday to come back at once.

Harold and Forrest Ragle, the sons of Rev. Ragle, former pastor in St. Francis, are with General Pershing's army in France.

The Camp Fire girls, along with their guardian Mrs. Quigley, had a hike and bacon roast down at the river.

The following teachers have been elected for the various departments: Iva Riddell, primary; Tessie Lawless, second primary;

Ethel Finley, intermediate; Dora Thomas, grammar; L.D. Dowling, high school principal; Anna Daniel, Hazel White and Josephine Jaqua, assistants at the high school.

100 years ago - 1907

A young man from Phillipsburg paid \$1 and costs in police court this morning for the privilege of riding his bike upon our sidewalks. It comes pretty high.

DeGood and Lathan was this week awarded the contract to erect a parsonage for the German church 12 miles northwest of St. Francis.

The St. Francis Transfer Company has begun the erection of a large transfer barn on the corner of Jackson Avenue and Quincy Street. The barn will be built of cement block. The company will install a feed grinder for their own use.

The recent storm played havoc with the telephone lines. It is reported that the switchboard at McDonald was burned out.

The average wheat yield in the Eureka town ship is 5 bushels per acre.

Joe Tapp has begun the erection of his new barn in the southwest part of town.

The Ramblers had planned their annual picnic out at the old Sam Ferguson grove but the rain prevented going out of town.

School is about to open and the following teachers are in charge: Mrs. Pearl Kincaid, First Primary; Miss Ethel Lockard, Second Primary; Miss Hattie Scannell, Intermediate; Mrs. Winnie Crosby, Grammar; Prof. C.F. Mueller, High School.

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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.

St. Francis Community Church
332-3150
204 N. Quincy Street
www.sfccfamily.com
Pastor: David Butler
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Potluck & Communion -
Every 2nd Sunday
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

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



St. Francis Equity

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