

## Read the from paper back to front; notices are news

The front pages of our nation's newspapers are more colorful and compelling than ever. From the smallest county-seat weekly to the largest city tabloid, action shots reach out to the reader, trying to draw you in.

We try our best to help you stay informed, even as you blog, GPS and phone-video your way through the world.

But while there's plenty of interesting news in the front, we find the back of the paper even more important. We invite the reader to join us there.

The public notices in most newspapers appear in the classified section. In some states, that is because the law considers them classified ads. In others, it's simply tradition. They've been there for all of our lives. Lewis and Clark used public notices. Most state constitutions were drawn up with the help of public notices.

Now they are so much part of our tradition that we sometimes forget them. These notices are part of the three-legged stool of democracy: open public meetings, public records and public notices.

They let us know about tax increases, zoning changes and property foreclosures — when they are allowed to work.

Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire drew attention to these notices this year when she signed a bill requiring her governments — state and local — to go back to using public notices to inform citizens. The law she signed was a reaction to a state Supreme Court decision involving the owners of a small business whose property in south Tacoma was condemned to make way for a train-station parking lot.

The public notice provided by the transit authority was posted solely on the agency's own Internet website. There it announced condemnation of private property. The property owners never saw the notice. They sued, but the Washington Supreme Court said notice on an obscure website was good enough.

The state legislature thought otherwise. It now requires notices to be mailed to property owners — and a notice to be put back into the newspaper, where people will see it. As the state of Washington has acknowledged, people have a right to know. And notices are meant to be noticed.

Newspaper notices also help get people back together with something they have lost — unclaimed property.

In most states, an unclaimed property fund

exists in the state treasury for assets in long-forgotten bank accounts, uncollected insurance claims and personal property, all belonging to someone who has not yet found it or laid claim to it. Not surprisingly, some state governments happily sit on these assets. In the days of more vigorous newspaper notices, readers could pore over interesting catalogues of unclaimed heirs and uncashed checks — and let their friends know of an unclaimed bounty. Today, in many states, notice of these funds has shrunk to a website page buried in a state computer.

A federal judge in California has stepped into that state's hoarding of these rich deposits. He stopped the state from continuing to rake in the contents of abandoned lock boxes and the like. He demanded a better effort by the state to find rightful owners. (The list of unclaimed property in that case included a Medal of Honor and Navy Cross awarded to a World War II hero who is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.)

One big problem with California's program is the lack of newspaper lists of the property. The public's right to know is served when we can see for ourselves what is going on. Other states should pay attention to this lesson of government accountability: a government website doesn't do the job.

The Internet is going to be an important channel for delivery of newspaper information. It also will help newspapers provide broader public notice. But the Internet must not become a tool of secrecy for our governments.

Washington's governor and legislature understand this principle. The California judge knows visible public notice is important. Newspapers provide public notices week after week where people can see them, not locked away on some obscure website.

That's why so many readers are like us. We read the paper from back to front. — Steve Haynes

*This editorial was distributed to publications across the country for the observance of National Newspaper Week this week. Steve Haynes, publisher of The Oberlin Herald and president of Nor'West Newspapers, which operates six community newspapers in northwest Kansas, is president of the National Newspaper Association. He is a former president of the Kansas and Colorado Press associations.*



DOORS BURY THEIR MISTAKES, LAWYERS HIDE THEM IN IMPENETRABLE PROSE, ARCHITECTS PLANT VINES. BUT NEWSPAPER PEOPLE LAY THEIRS OUT FOR ALL TO SEE. BYRON DOBELL

## News From the Past

### 10 years ago - 1997 Oct

Homecoming week was enjoyed at the high school with T.J. Burr and Trista Kriehg being named King and Queen. The Indian football remained undefeated by scoring a 22-10 come-from-behind victory over Holyoke, the number one rated team in Colorado in their class.

KM Clothiers held their grand opening the first week of October. The ladies clothing store was formerly known as Anny's.

The gift of the Vets Hall building was one of the topics discussed at the City Council meeting. Members of the council decided to investigate the cost of the renovating the building before the next council meeting.

A 55-mile-per-hour wind hit St. Francis causing many thistles to gather throughout the town including a large number at the Good Samaritan Village. Shingles were also flying and the roof at the grandstand at the fairgrounds was flapping tin.

The Lamp House for the Cheyenne Theater has arrived and movie goers will see the difference this weekend when they attend the movie.

Ethyle Roelfs, who has been making women beautiful for 58 years, has sold her equipment at Modern Beauty Shop which she owned and retired.

### 30 years ago - 1977 Sept

A few weeks ago nearly 90 cubic yards of concrete were poured, smoothed and troweled into a finished sidewalk around all four sides of Sawhill Park by a volunteer crew of 36 St. Francis men. The perimeter sidewalk is just the first part of the plans for the work to be done on the park this year. Funds for the sidewalk

were raised by PRIDE from the past two Fourth of July programs. Nearly \$2,700 was donated to the park restoration project.

Cindy Henderson and Steve Love, members of the U.S. Collegiate Wind Band which traveled through Europe this summer, were caught in New York City's big power blackout. Members of the band were attending a performance at Radio City Music Hall when the lights went out.

Albert Burr and Dick Johnston were presented 30-year pins by Charles Claar, Equity general manger, at the annual Equity meeting.

The grand opening of the new St. Francis Senior Citizen's Center on Saturday was declared a huge success.

A new school-news telephone line has been installed at the office of the superintendent of schools. The line gives recorded messages of school news including upcoming events, scores of athletic contests and information on buses running storm routes, etc.

The Future Homemakers of America Club at St. Francis Community High School took first place in Regional competition. The club will now take the display to Topeka for the State competition. Alice Griffin is the club's advisor and Carla Shoemaker is the president.

The Cheyenne County Soil Conservation Office has moved to new quarters and is sharing office space with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Office on Highway 36.

### 60 years ago - 1947

Cindy Frewen is the new Honored Queen of the St. Francis Job's Daughters.

St. Francis High School football coach Ray Huffman is assisted this year by Bud Burnham, line coach; Kyle Mines, backfield coach; Lyle Dickason, line coach and Terry LaValley, line coach. Ward Cassidy assisted by Pat Dixon will work with the junior high.

### 75 years ago - 1932

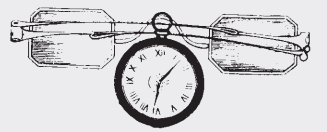
Everett Kyle, local aviator, went over to Goodland this week to look over the airplanes that are stopping there for fueling on their way to Los Angeles, from which point they will enter the national air derby to Cleveland, Ohio. They will stop again in Goodland to refuel on their way to Cleveland.

The ladies are taking quite an interest in the softball games and their teams are practicing every day. Roberta Savage has named her team "Savage Savages" and Iva Boech is sponsoring a team known as "The Three B's."

Rev. F.J. Jungck, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church of St. Francis and St. Paul Lutheran Church in Cheyenne Valley, returned from a Central District Convention of the American Lutheran Church.

One hundred seventy students have enrolled in the high school. At the grade school on the first day of registration there were 335 students enrolled. E.R. Shaerer is starting on his 10th consecutive years as principal of the grade school.

E.T. Sherlock took the Grand Champion prize for a sow that he exhibited at the Norton Fair recently.



## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



scmcormick@nwkans.com There have been plenty of "Joes" in baseball.

"Smoky Joe" Wood, "Shoeless Joe" Jackson, "Jolt" in Joe" Dimaggio and now Joe Torre, the soon to be ex-manager of the New York Yankees.

Now I can only think of one "Boss" in baseball. That would be George Stienbrenner, the owner of

the Yankees.

Mr. Steinbrenner is a very rich man and owns the most expensive team in baseball. For the last twelve years his team has been managed by Torre.

In twelve years the Yankees have made it to the post season each year and won four World Series Championships (1996, 1198-2000). But this is not good enough for Mr.

Steinbrenner.

He is either ignorant, arrogant or both. But he has spoken and Torre's fate seems certain.

Torre has shown great class as the skipper of the Yankees. No doubt he will soon be wearing the uniform of another team and will lead that lucky club to success.

In the mean time, we are hiring at the St. Francis Herald and Bird City Times. Maybe this Joe would like to try the other side of the newspaper business between baseball jobs.

## Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Joshua Schultz, Lakewood, Colo.; Jennifer Fey, Flowery Branch, Ga.; Craig Brent, St. Francis; Terry Miller, St. Francis; Terry Crites, Kirk, Colo.; Joel McAtee, Manhattan; Pete Kinen, St. Francis; Robert Hammers, Englewood, Colo.; Dean Clark, Haigler, Neb.; Kaycee Siegfried, Parker, Colo.; Mike Holzwarth, Fort Collins, Colo.; Dr. and Mrs. Tim Hoskins, Wichita; Phyllis Carroll, St. Francis; Dillan Zweygardt, Manhattan; Darci Unger, St. Francis;

Rio Rancho, N.M.; Nancy Follett, St. Francis; Charles Curry, St. Francis;

Don Kramer, St. Francis; Connie Weems, Goodland; E.B. Firkins,

**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

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**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

**Salem Lutheran Church**  
332-3002  
Pastor Chris Farmer  
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 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.

**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.

**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.stfccfamily.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.

**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.

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**Praise the Lord**