



Opinion

Government agents enter land without permission

This editorial, published Nov. 29, 2006, won third place among smaller weekly newspapers in the National Newspaper Association's annual Better Newspapers Contest. It was written by Publisher Steve Haynes.

Government agents enter land against the owners' will, spreading poison.

An armed officer stands guard, keeping the landowner away.

The government plans to send the landowner the bill for killing his animals.

This happens in Communist China, perhaps? Soviet Russia? Fidel's Cuba?

No, western Kansas, where the deer and the antelope play, and the skies are not cloudy all day.

It's a high-stakes game of prairie dog eradication, and the script just drips with irony.

The land in question is owned by Larry Haverfield, a maverick rancher who touts unorthodox grazing ideas and thinks that deep down, prairie dogs might not be so bad. He's convinced there's a place for all of God's creatures and he sure doesn't want the county telling him how to run his ranch.

His neighbors don't see things quite that way. They share the average western prejudice against prairie dogs. They read all the stories about how we've killed millions and millions of the little critters, reduced the range and driven them near to being listed as an endangered species.

And they think that's a pretty good start.

Most of them, if they could push a button and eliminate every single prairie dog from the face of the earth, they'd do it. In a heartbeat.

Larry Haverfield thinks you should leave some, maybe not all, the rodents around. His neighbors think he's nuts — maybe worse.

Other landowners want Haverfield's dogs eliminated. They have the Logan County

commissioners and the weight of the law behind them. Commissioners, under pressure from other landowners, refused to approve any plan from Haverfield that includes keeping prairie dogs around.

What really rankles many landowners is that Haverfield and a couple of friends have invited the federal government to help them "manage" the prairie dogs by reintroducing the black-footed ferret on their land. This rare, endangered species lives among and eats prairie dogs. How well it can control them remains to be seen, since only a few hundred of the cute little devils remain.

Commissioners and landowners fear if the endangered ferret is let loose in Logan County, they'll never be able to poison prairie dogs again. Opposition is at a fever pitch, and you can almost see the villagers gathering, pitchforks and firebrands in hand, to confront the evil that lurks.

On any given day, we're sure, most of the farmers, ranchers and county officials of Logan County are decent, conservative types who support the National Rifle Association and belong to the Farm Bureau. They likely espouse the freedom to own guns and private property.

Property rights, however, go just so far, and in Logan County, they apparently don't cover harboring vermin — or cute little endangered ferrets.

How else can you explain the county sending exterminators unannounced onto private land and an armed officer to keep landowners from interfering.

Sound sort of un-American to you?

Apparently, property rights are only for those we agree with.

With all due respect to the feelings most ranchers and stockmen have about prairie dogs, maybe this is carrying things just a bit too far.

— Steve Haynes



News From the Past

30 years ago - 1977

More than 400 people showed up for the International Luncheon sponsored by the EHU units in Cheyenne County. There are eight units in the county: Farmerettes, Bird City Town and Country, Better Homes, Jolly Janes, Kanred, River Valley, Happy

Homemakers and South Fork.

35 years ago - 1972 Arden Seiler will be the new Cheyenne County Agricultural agent. Thad Douthit, a director of the Kansas Hereford Association for many years, has been elected the 1972-73 state vice president.

Construction is underway on the new building for Zimbelman Motor Company, which will be located south of US 36, across the highway from the Catholic Church.



Lines from the Library

By Pat Leibbrandt

The following new books have arrived at the library: *The Choice* by Nicholas Sparks; *Candy Cane Murder* by Joanne Fluke; *Dead Heat* by Dick Francis; *The Bone Garden* by Tess Gerritsen; *Playing For Pizzaz* by John Grisham; *The Tail Of The Tip-off* by Rita Mae Brown; *The Cat's Eyewitness* by Rita Mae Brown; *Catch As Cat Can* by Rita Mae Brown; *The Return To Zion* by Bodie Thoene; *A Daughter of Zion* by Bodie Thoene; *The Gates of Zion* by Bodie Thoene; *The Key To Zion* by Bodie Thoene; *A Light In Zion* by Bodie Thoene; *River, Cross My Heart* by Breana Clark; *A Redbird*

Christmas by Fannie Flagg; *The Burnt House* by Faye Kellerman; *Critical* by Robin Cook; *Play Dirty* by Sandra Brown; *When Joy Came to Stay* by Karen Kingsbury; *Sweet Revenge* by Diane Mott Davidson; *Celebrate The Season 2007*; *Laura Bush* by Ronald Kessler; *Comeback* by Dave Dravecky; *The Closers* by Michael Connelly; *Diana - Secrets and Lies* by Nicholas Davies.

The library has the following new books in the children's department: *The Berenstain Bears And The Big Spelling Bee* by Stan Berenstain; *Behold, No Cavities!* by Sarah Willson; *A Very Krusty Christmas* by David Lewman; *Hooray For Dads* by Erica

Pass; Pup And Hound Hatch An Egg by Susan Hood; *Do Kangaroos Wear Seat Belts?* By Jane Kurtz; *Leap Frog* by Tracy Kompelien; *Monarch Butterfly* by Tracy Kompelien; *Lone Shark* by Anders Hanson; *Whale Tale* by Anders Hanson; *Pup And Hound Catch A Thief* by Susan Hood; *The Berenstain Bears And The Trouble With Commercials* by Stan Berenstain; *The Case Of The Booby-Trapped Pickup* by John R. Erickson; *The World Series* by Stephanie Peters; *Dale Earnhardt, Sr.* by Glenn Stout; *Arthur's Tree House* by Marc Brown; *Arthur Jumps Into Fall* by Marc Brown; *Dora Climbs Star Mountain* by Alison Inches.

Hangin' With Marge

By Margaret Bucholtz



Have you ever wondered what your husband will look like when he is older? I found out, quite by accident, how you can do it.

This morning I went out to start the pickup so it would be warmed up for Kurt. He has been down in the back for over a week and I just wanted to help out. Of course by the time we got to the pickup it was still

frosted over as I didn't turn on the right setting.

Kurt just ran the windshield washer and the frost came off and we headed down the drive. Now we all know how water on a cold windshield works—lots of steamed over windows.

As we were heading down a hill I happened to glance over and there

sat Kurt all hunched over, leaning forward and trying to look out the little cleared spot at the bottom of the windshield.

I just couldn't help but laugh and tell him, "Now I know what you will look like when your 90."

Resident appreciates firemen

To the editor,

Oct. 18, 2007, was a day I will long remember as a day of high winds, fires that many firemen, law officials, medical assistants and personnel and volunteers worked hard to prevent more spreading of fires.

If so many hadn't helped, homes, farms, animals and people's lives

would have been more at risks.

To me we have already had a "pre-thankful time."

I know, I for one, take for granted having homes in town and country, and in just a short amount of time, storms can cause so much damage through hail, tornadoes, fire and heavy rains.

In smaller communities it seems team work is what it is all about in different situations.

Those who take time to care for others are very special people!

A thankful Cheyenne County resident.

Ruth Anne Yonkey St. Francis

Letter to the Editor

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Cleone Hendricks, Arvada, Colo.; Joyce Faulkender, St. Francis; Pat Owens, St. Francis; Alice Isernhagen, St. Francis; Marjorie Hickert, Bird City; Steve Jenkins, St. Francis; Toni Landenberger, St. Francis; J.D. Hawkins, Goodland; Penny Archibald, Goodland; Tanner Kinen, Hays; Merlyn Yonkey, St. Francis; Donald McQuillen, St. Francis;

GOD SAYS
And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. Matthew 24:4, 5

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



scmcormick@nwkansan.com

Before I moved to Cheyenne County I visited the area a few times. On one trip I was talking to a farmer who gave me some advise.

"A man will get along fine here," he said, "as long as he's willing to help his neighbors when they are in need."

Not only is that good advice but that mentality is embodied every day by the volunteer fire-

men of the county.

Nothing against the professional firefighters of the cities. They put their lives on the lines daily to serve and protect others.

But the rural fireman wears a different hat.

Often it is a ballcap with an implement dealer's logo or a sturdy cowboy hat.

He might be a business man, store owner or even a crop duster.

But he is never a fireman by trade.

And when the alarm sounds he is quick to gear up and head out.

Whether it is an accident on the highway, fire in a distant field or other emergency, these men put their own safety second, just to help out a friend or stranger.

You won't find a better neighbor.

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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.sfccfamily.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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