



It is time to stop playing politics with our future

Isn't it about time to stop playing politics with our future?

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius is holding up construction of two relatively clean coal-fired power plants in western Kansas to support her political ambitions while 18 old, dirty plants spew pollution into the air in eastern Kansas.

A couple of power plants may not seem like much to eastern Kansas, where jobs are plentiful and growth is the norm. Out here, 200 jobs is major economic development.

No one says these plants should be allowed to degrade the air. Proponents say the plants are as clean as you can get, but if they need to be cleaned up some more, by all means, let's do it.

Since the state has no standards for carbon dioxide emissions, though, it's hard to meet them. That's what the governor and her minion, Secretary of Health and Environment Rob Bremby, seem to expect.

Sunflower Electric Power Corp. of Hays, a "generation and transmission" cooperative owned by rural electric co-ops out west, hopes to build to the plants to supply its farmer and municipal customers, and similar cooperatives in Colorado and the Texas panhandle.

The plants would be state of the art, much cleaner than any operating in Kansas. The administration has laid down a challenge here, saying the state essentially won't allow them to be built because they would produce a lot of carbon dioxide.

Even an experimental plan to grow algae to soak up the carbon hasn't bought the plants any credibility. Opponents claim the scheme won't work, though they all believe in the magic of wind power.

What we know is that the rural electrics do need the power, and rural customers across five states the plants would serve likely will

pay a lot more for out-of-area power if they are not built.

A reasonable position on the plants would not fit well with the governor's higher political ambitions, though. She's running hard right now for vice president, no matter how modest she makes out to be.

People are starting to see her as a rising star, and that star is firmly hitched to Barack Obama's coattails. It's pretty obvious the reward for supporting Sen. Hillary Clinton could be no higher than a cabinet post, but with the Illinois senator, No. 2 does not seem unreasonable.

Out on the Plains, though, people will be paying higher electric rates to finance this ambition. It's a shame.

What Kansas needs is the jobs and power the plants would produce. What the governor needs is environmental credibility.

The issue is complex. The threat of global warming may be real, but there's really no alternative today to coal plants. Wind power is undependable at best, and solar needs years of research.

Developed eastern Kansas may not understand this, any better than the Front Range understands the needs of rural Colorado. It's unlikely the plants will produce any more pollution than the General Motors plant in Kansas City, or the cars it produces.

Some argue that the power will go mostly to other states, but so do the cars. The jobs belong here in either case, and we doubt Wyandotte County wants to give them up to save the earth.

A reasonable compromise would see the plants built with strict regulation, but it'll surprise us if that happens. Not until after the elections, anyway.

— Steve Haynes



TORNADOES DEVASTATE TOWNS IN AMERICAN SOUTH...

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



Whatever happened to the Dixie Chicks?

Used to be, they were the hottest act in Country and Western music.

But then they stood up before audiences in Europe and poured obscenities on President Bush.

After that they said anyone who claimed to be a patriotic American was practicing "jingoism."

The term, "jingoism," came from Victorian England at the time of Imperialism. During the Nineteenth Century the European powers were busy dividing up much of the world. The more

powerful nations seemed justified in seizing the less powerful people, who were looked down upon as inferior.

According to the Wikipedia encyclopedia web-site; "Jingoism is today generally employed as a deprecatory (devalued) term for the confident expressions of a Western and particularly Anglo-American, culture that viewed its superiority as both self-evident and merited."

In other words, if you are a patriotic American then you think you're better than anyone else.

Well, in my humble opinion,

I don't think I'm any better than someone from another country, but I do live in the best country in the world!

That's how my relatives must have felt when they left Europe. That's how I was raised. That's how I hope my kids and grandkids will feel.

If being proud of this great land is too corny for the Dixie Chicks, then that's too bad for them.

By the way, whatever did happen to them anyway?

Hangin' With Marge

Genealogy

By Margaret Bucholtz



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My first loves are my husband, children and grandchildren, and my second is doing genealogy.

Genealogy is like putting a puzzle together. When you get stuck, you almost quit working on the

puzzle, but just in the nick of time you find that next piece.

I was never interested in history or geography until I started finding my family tree. It is amazing how you start discovering where places are when you

find your family roots.

When I first started I was reading a book that a lady had compiled about one side of my family. Now I would be the first to admit that I tend to scan lots of words and soon I found out just how many words I missed.

I was telling someone about how I had royalty in my family. I just knew that because the book talked about Queen Mary. They kind of laughed at me because they didn't think I acted to much like someone who came from any kind of class.

Several years later I decided to look up who Queen Mary was. I really couldn't find much so I went back to the book I had read it in. Sure enough, I wasn't from any Queen Mary, it was the ship that brought the family over from England.

I really haven't looked any further as it was probably the ship that the prisoners came over on.

Still Genealogy is my passion.

Honor Roll

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Worthless Facts

• Oak trees do not produce acorns until they are fifty years of age or older.

• The first product to have a bar code was Wrigley's gum.

• The king of hearts is the only king without a mustache.

• A Boeing 747's wingspan is longer than the Wright brothers' first flight.

• American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating 1 olive from each salad served in first-class.

• Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise.

• The first CD pressed in the US was Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the USA."

• Apples, not caffeine, are more

efficient at waking you up in the morning.

• The 57 on the Heinz ketchup bottle represents the number of varieties of pickles the company once had.

GOD SAYS
Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. James 1:12

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Reader writes about St. Francis

Editor's note: The following letter was written by a former St. Francis resident who now lives in Colorado. Donna Moberly was upset by the decisions made by the city officials to not decorate with colored lights. In her letter which was published in the Fort Collins' Coloradoan, she refers to coming to town to see the lights and that town was St. Francis.

Children deserve display
I am almost 70 years old. I was born in a sod house in western Kansas.

Our Christmases were more love than gifts — we just didn't have the money. But from the time I can remember, my parents took us to "town" at Christmas time.

The little towns would gather money around their communities and decorate. There were many colored lights and a big Christmas tree on Main Street. It was so won-

Letter to the Editor

derful to a small child. We truly looked forward to this every year. We couldn't afford many decorations at home, but the wonderful fantasy of seeing all the beautiful decorations in town made Christmas special for us.

What if those towns took a notion to not have pretty lights or Christmas trees? Do you think it would have been so wonderful? I think a lot of people in our Fort Collins area have forgotten one precious element in this conflict (Christmas decorations). And that is the children. It will be so sad for everyone, but especially

to the children, to have blah white lights for decoration.

Please reconsider. I know it's the way it is for 2007, but, by 2008, let's put on a "show" and encourage families to come and celebrate. They might even buy something while enjoying decorations. These decorations could be simple trees, greenery, Nativity scenes, a menorah or stars, but lots of beautiful lights for us all — we all need that!

Life is hard, but let's keep the fantasy of Christmas!

Donna Moberly
Fort Collins, Colo.



Praise the Lord

<p>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.</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Salem Lutheran Church 332-3002 Pastor Chris Farmer Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Seventh-Day Adventist Church 332-2888 • 3rd & Adams Pastor Mike Larson Sabbath School 9:30 Morning Worship 10:45</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>First Christian Church Pastor Jeff Landers 332-2956 • 118 E. Webster Bible Fellowship 9:20 a.m. Church Service 10:30 a.m.</p>

St. Francis Equity

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