

# Opinion

# Local graduates need to be encouraged to return home

As graduates filed across the stage during the ties are fewer and farther between. weekend, how many of them have been encouraged to learn and study and return to St. Francis, or even to some part of rural Kansas, to help make this a better place?

Graduates collected thousands of dollars in scholarships from colleges, civic groups, businesses and the like. Most of that money was earned here, by people who spent their lives building a business, a farming operation, a life on the plains.

Early on, we knew we wanted the best for our children. We wanted them to have the best education possible before they went on to whatever they would

At first, a great many of them did come back. In the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century, it was expected that children would continue a family business or farm.

All that changed with the end of World War II. The so-called Greatest Generation came home from war wanting other things — a better life in the city being first among those.

And since then, fewer and fewer of our graduates have come home to run businesses, to keep farms going, to make life better for rural America.

And we raise money each year to pay them to go. We send our own children off to a university with little hope they will come back, even though this is a good life.

We help raise money for other people's children to do the same. At the twilight of our lives, those who have made some money often leave a chunk of it for scholarships. It's a wonderful thing, a noble cause.

But in the end, we are financing the flight of our youth to life in the city. We're paying them to flee the plains and the life our grandfathers built.

To some extend, that's just life in America today. Rural areas have been losing population. Opportuni-

But it doesn't have to be that way. The culture of small-town life changed before, and it could change

Why do we have to give kids scholarships so they can get a good job in the city?

Why not encourage them, with our money, to learn how to make a living and grow a business or a professional practice here, at home, where life is safe and relatively simple?

We are not talking about coercing anyone. Youths should be free to make their own decisions, and some always have - and always will -chose city life. There are things you can only do in New York or Los Angles or Washington, after all.

But we could encourage them to value small-town life and we could give them money to study for a career in rural America.

It's our money, after all. We can give it however

The day should come when every scholarship raised here, or in any rural town, encourages somehow not just a good education, but a desire to contribute to a better life in St. Francis, in rural Kansas, in small-town America.

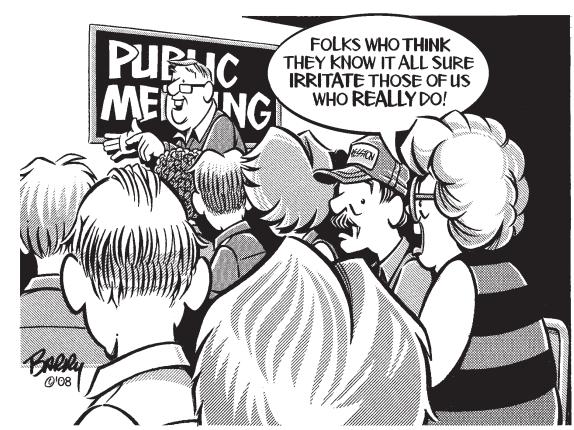
No law, no rule of life, no moral imperative forces us to keep spending as we always have spent, with no thought for where these kids will end up.

If we continue as we are, we are pounding nails in the coffin of rural life. We can change that. We should change that.

We should encourage our lifestyle, cherish its values and pass them on. Not pay kids to make a life in the crowded, crime-ridden cities and sprawling suburbs.

So why don't we?

- Steve Haynes



# **News From the Past**

20 years ago - 1988

A stately addition to the city of ed public library. The building, located on the corner of Jackson and Scott streets, will be officially dedicated on May 15.

The fair board has announced that the Younger Brothers will be taking top billing on the entertainment list at the fair this year. They will also be playing for the fair dance. The group was hired

May 22 is high school gradu-St. Francis is the newly construct- ation day. Thirty-four seniors will be receiving their diplomas. The program includes a talk by Shawna Stevens and the senior farewell by Chris Bracelin, class president.

Roths, vocal music instructor, hurdles.

grades seven through 12.

Terri Sharp set a new school high jump record of 5-6 at the league meet held in Oakley. She is also one of the Sainty tracksters who will be heading to State. Also qualifying for State are members of the 1600-meter relay team, in-The school board has accepted cluding Sharp, Jauna Krien, Lorthe resignations of Michelle Ma- na Hilt and Angie Renk. Krien rostica, junior high special science will also be involved in the 400instructor and coach, and Cynthia meter dash and Renk in the high

## Hangin' With Marge **Margaret**

**Anniversary** 

margeb@cityofstfrancis.net Wow! Where do the years go? remembered it that week. I fiing and I thought about how life

When we had been married about five years I told Kurt that and burn thistles. Shortly he came we just got married too late in life out to help and while we were to ever be able to celebrate a mile- burning it dawned on me that tostone. I just knew we wouldn't day was our anniversary. Now I live long enough to see 25 years. am dressed in a old pair of cutoffs Kurt being an optimist told me, that are way to big and an overno, we will see the 25th but prob-sized shirt covered with paint. My ably not the 50 year mark.

celebrate 50 years of marriage the fire when I dropped my pitch- been a wonderful trip.

if we totaled up our actual married years, but not to each other. Sunday Kurt and I had our 23 I really tried hard to convince him anniversary. Neither one of us that we could have a big crowd if we invited all of our ex's and their nally did about 10 in the morn- families and called it "Old Home Week." Of course he didn't see the humor in that plan.

Sunday I got up early to go out anniversary". hair was not only not combed but I know in two years we will have I decided then that we could it was singed by getting to close to reached a milestone and it sure has

Bucholtz fork and went over to him.

Kurt isn't too wide awake in the morning so I am sure he was wondering what I was up to. I threw my arms around his neck and kissed him and then said, "Happy

He kind of stood there a little stunned. I really wonder if he was shocked by the fact he didn't remember the date or if his mind was looking at me and saying, "What was I thinking at the time.'

It doesn't matter because now

# World Crohn's and Colitis Day Letters to the Editor -

Friday, May 23, is the second annual World Crohn's and Colitis Day. It was founded by Josh Golder, director of the film True Guts, a documentary about people with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). This day was made to spread awareness about the two most common forms of IBD, Crohn's disease (CD) and Ulcerative Colitis (UC). Only around 1 million people in the United States have been diagnosed with one of these two forms of IBD. That number is always on the rise. Out of the million people, I happen to be one of the few that is suffering from Crohn's.

The Northwest Kansas Domes-

tic and Sexual Violence Services,

Inc. (NKDSVS) has received

funding from the City of St. Fran-

cis in the amount of \$1500. \$750

for fiscal year 2007 and \$750 for

fiscal year 2008. These funds

will be used to provide direct ser-

Dear Editor:

to become raw and chronically part of the intestine, Crohn's disinflamed which is accompanied by deep intestinal ulcers. The inflammation leads to stomach pain, internal bleeding, weight loss, and diarrhea, among many other things. Seventy to eighty percent of all Crohn's disease patients undergo surgery for out-of-control symptoms, or common complications.

There are many theories as to how a person gets Crohn's, but currently no one knows the realife changing disease. Many dif-Crohn's is an auto-immune disease that disrupts the normal func- patients including, countless pills, tion of the body's immune system. IV infusions, special diets, and The immune system attacks the GI eventually surgery. Despite the tract which causes the intestines surgery to take out the inflamed

vices to victims of domestic and

sexual violence in Kansas, and it

is greatly appreciated. It is a for-

tunate community indeed whose

governmental officials recognize

the need of all of its citizens.

ease can never be cured. In most cases, Crohn's reappears in a different part of the GI tract in as little as months, or as long as years after surgery is performed.

Now, I wouldn't be surprised if you've never heard of Crohn's or Colitis. I hadn't until my life was forever changed six years ago in fifth grade when I was diagnosed with Crohn's disease. Since this disease hits so close to son people are effected by this home for me I would appreciate your support in helping me celebrate World Crohn's and Colitis day and spreading the word by wearing purple, the color of our cause. If you would like to learn more about Crohn's disease or Ulcerative Colitis please visit www. ccfa.org. There you can become more informed of IBD, or make donations to help support research to put an end to our suffering and help us finally fine a cure.

> (All information was taken from 100 Questions and Answers about Crohn's disease and Ulcerative Colitis: A Lahey Clinic Guide by Andrew Warner and Amy Barto.)

> > Your Fellow Crohnie. Nikki Johnson

### Casey's Comments But she was much more than a

entist faithful.

scmccormick@nwkansas.com "Ask not for whom the bell sister and mother. tolls, it tolls for thee."

(Meditation XVII by John Don-Most of you didn't have the op-

portunity to know Kathryn Thacker-McCormick-Baker. She lived in Ohio, Colorado and California. But I knew her well as she was my Aunt Sissy.

The oldest sibling with two brothers, and the mother of one child named Kathy.

-Honor Roll-

New and renewed Herald sub-

scriptions: Patrick Duncan, Man-

hattan, Kans.,; Gary Gibson,

St. Francis; Rueben Schultz, St.

Francis; Karna Saunders, Wich-

life to the needs of others. She was providing for her husband of many years. Uncle Bake suffers from dementia and now needs However, in the big scope of

She played piano in New York

Aunt Sissy devoted her whole

City auditoriums and was a prac-

titioner to countless Christian Sci-

this universe, her time of giving yond in similar fashion.

came to an end last Saturday.

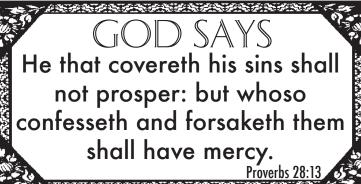
By

Casey

**McCormick** 

I hope we all have someone in our lives who gives much more on this planet than they ever take.

This is my column and opinion, so I can say this: I don't know how often the Lord uses the express train that brought Mother Theresa to Heaven, but I know Aunt Sissy made a very quick trip to the be-



#### ita; Chad Miller, Manhattan; David Guthmiller, Sterling, Kans.; Genella Howland, Spring Hill, Kans.; Velda Smith, Goodland; Larry Brunow, St. Francis; Saint Francis Herald



(USPS 475-960)

A Century of Service to Cheyenne County

P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050

Published each Thursday by Haynes Publishing Co., 310 W. Washington, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050. Entered as periodicals matter at the post office at St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050, and at additional offices.

Official newspaper of Cheyenne County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Colorado Press Association and Inland Press Association.

Subscriptions: One year \$33 (tax included) in Cheyenne and adjacent counties; \$38 (tax included) elsewhere in Kan-sas; \$42 elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscrip-ANSAS tions, \$25 extra per year (except APO/FPO). POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050

Nor'West Newspapers

8:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri.  $(785) 332-3162 \quad \text{Fax} - (785) 332-3001$ E-mail - sfherald@nwkansas.com

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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** 

Service receives funds

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

NKDSVS, Inc. - Advocate

Sincerely,

Jennifer Follis

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.

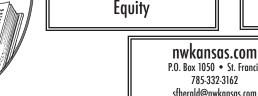
First Christian Church **Pastor Jeff Landers** 332-2956 • 118 E. Webster Bible Fellowship 9:20 a.m. Church Service 10:30 a.m.

**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.

> **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.

Peace Lutheran Church,



St. Francis

Herald

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