



## Offshore drilling debate causes gas prices drop

Gas prices have eased a bit this past week, dipping to \$3.62 in Goodland and even lower in eastern Kansas, where they are down to the \$3.50 level, but the price remains higher than many feel it should.

A central debate in the past few weeks has been a lifting of the ban on offshore oil drilling by President George W. Bush, who called on the Democrats in Congress to lift their ban on the basis this would encourage more oil exploration and help lower the gas prices by reducing our dependence on foreign oil.

Ironically, it was Bush's father who signed an executive order in 1990 to ban coastal oil exploration, and President Bill Clinton extended the ban until 2012.

Much of the discussion has been about allowing oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve in Alaska and expanding exploration in the Gulf of Mexico.

Both presidential candidates, Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama, have taken positions on the question.

If the price at the pump continues to fall, as some analysts predict, the pressure may lessen, but it will remain an economic issue throughout the campaign.

An example of how public sentiment changes as prices go up can be found in California where the Public Policy Institute of California's latest survey showed a change of heart, with 51 percent in favor of more drilling. This was the first time since the question was first asked five years ago that a majority of Californians have favored drilling, while 45 percent oppose drilling.

The Republicans are pushing the issue as a way to embarrass House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who is from California. They'd like to claim that her refusal to allow a vote on the offshore drilling question makes the Democrats responsible for the higher gas prices.

The truth is, as in most debates, both sides have their points.

Researchers believe great untapped oil reserves can be found off the outer continental shelf, both along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, plus the western Gulf of Mexico. This would be billions of barrels, enough to reduce the amount of foreign oil to some degree. The problem is the amount of time and money it will take to develop these areas.

Environmentalists, who are being described as extremists, believe the oil companies have not explored all the offshore areas where drilling is allowed. The National Resources Defense Council says even if the ban were lifted today, it would be at least 10 years before any new oil would reach the American public.

The main question is whether it is worth the risk to explore in the offshore areas. The survey in California appears to show the American public can be persuaded by economics to change its position and favor taking the risk.

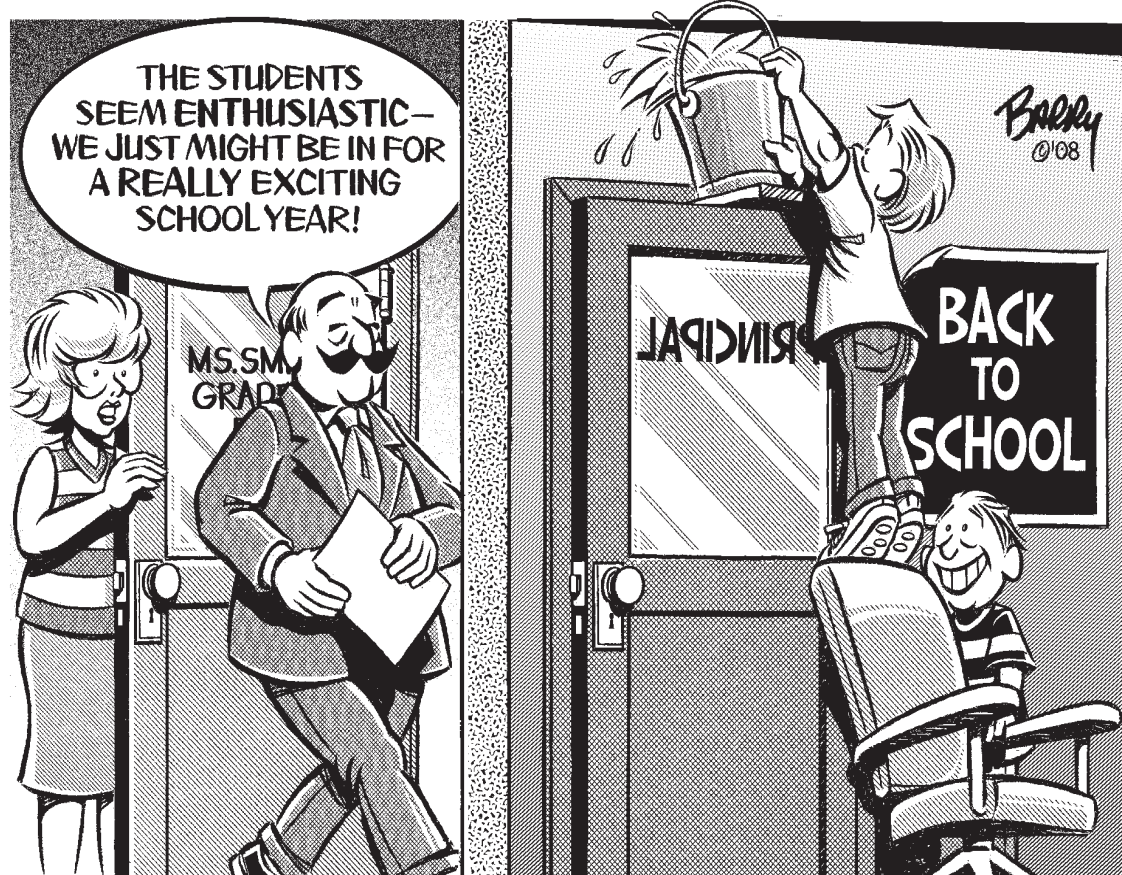
People who live in Alaska remember the Exxon Valdez spill in 1989, and the people of Santa Barbara, Calif., remember the black sludge that covered 35 miles of coastline in 1969 from an oil drilling rig blowout.

Drilling proponents say the technology and safety measures since these disasters has reduced the risk, and that offshore drilling is the safest way to increase America's independence.

The offshore question seems a long way away from our state, but the recent debates over coal-fired power plants and the determination of Gov. Kathleen Sebelius to push for more wind power makes the issues relevant.

In a debate, a judge or panel of judges have to decide who wins. In the energy debate, it will be up to the voters in November.

— Tom Betz, *The Goodland Star-News* editor



## Hangin' With Marge

Little Lies

By Margaret Bucholtz



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I love the times that I get to spend with my grandchildren. They are so much fun to watch grow up.

A few weeks ago we were able to have Cooper with us for a week. We spent a weekend in the camper down at Keller pond. He learned how to fish and once he figured out how to cast out the line and reel it back in that was all he wanted to do. When he caught a fish it just made that trip complete.

Later that week I got out a slip and slide and he had a great time on it. However when I bought it I didn't realize that it was only

for kids ages 6 to 10. This was a disappointment to him as he wanted his cousins, Trey and Trevor to be able to slide with him.

On our way to town the next day, Cooper was looking at his fingers and asked me the question why people get white spots on their finger nails.

Remembering my aunt's experience with her son, I told him, "You get them when you tell a little white lie. Have you told one?" He smiled very sly and said, "Yes, I told Trevor that he could use the slip and slide because the ages were between the ages of 6 to 20." I asked,

"Do you have more than one?" He looked his fingers over very close and replied, "No."

A few minutes later I told him that wasn't really why you get them, I was just teasing.

When my cousin had asked his mother she told him the same thing and asked him if he had lied. He replied, "Yes, I told you I had watered the horse, but I really hadn't."

I had waited a long time for someone to ask me that question. My kids didn't notice if they had white spots. I am sure they were too busy dreaming up the next thing to do.

## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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Last weekend I was able to wear my kilt in the Cheyenne County Fair Parade. The Hilltop General Store ran a float with the title, "It's a Small World After All." Kids rode the display wearing costumes from different countries and I walked along side representing Ireland, with a flag, and Scotland, with my kilt.

A lot of people in America don't really know what to think about a man in a kilt. If you're one, let me explain.

For centuries, Scotland was ruled by numerous families named clans. Each was identified by a particular plaid, known as a tartan. By seeing what tartan a person wore, it was easy to tell if they were a

Campbell, Buchanan, MacDonald, MacIntosh, Ross, Stewart or other family.

The United States and Scotland share a common bond since they were both under English rule in the 1700s. The Scots rebelled behind the "Great Pretender," Prince Charles Edward, in 1745.

The English were hard pressed by the kilt wearing warriors from the north, who were turned back just outside of London. The rebellion failed when the English, under the Duke of Cumberland, defeated the Scottish army on the field of Culloden near Inverness, Scotland.

To punish the Scots, an Act of Parliament was passed which disarmed the rebels and made the wearing of tartan a penal offense.

This act was not repealed until 1785, several years after the Americans had gained independence from the English crown.

The tartan I wear is the ancient hunting of the McIntyre clan. That just happens to be my mother's maiden name. My kilt was made in Inverness in 1983. It has been worn to weddings, funerals, formal dinners, Highland games and even a round of golf (What could be more Scottish than that?) Now I can add a parade to the list.

Although my loyalties are 100 percent American, each time I put on my kilt it is with pride of my Scottish roots.

## Volunteers make Fair what it is

Letter to the Editor:

I was on the first Cheyenne County Fair Board and things have sure changed a lot!

We had to hire a carnival which had crooked people running rides and games. There were many things we had to do, too.

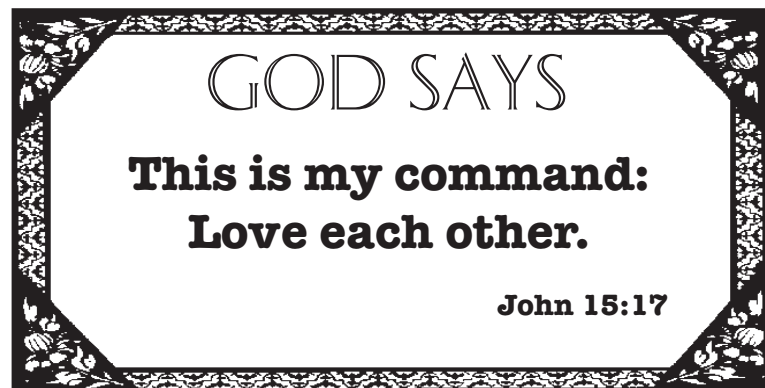
Last week, when I was out at the fairgrounds, I realized again, how much work everyone does — from the carnival people, to the fair board, to the 4-H'ers, leaders, and parents and Extension office. The Parade Committee and participants as well as The Herald office also helped in making the fair what it is.

I would just like to say "thanks"

## Letter to the Editor

to everyone who had a part in the fair. It was one of the best fairs yet.

Tobe Zweygardt  
St. Francis



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## Lines from the Library

We have the following new books at the library: *Rogue* by Danielle Steel; *Fearless Fourteen* by Janet Evanovich; *No Choice But Seduction* by Johanna Lindsey; *Tailspin* by Catherine Coulter; *Sail* by James Patterson; *Death Angel* by Linda Howard; *Married Lovers* by Jackie Collins; *Plague Ship* by Clive Cussler; *Resolution* by Robert Parker; *Compulsion* by Jonathan Kellerman; *The Front* by Patricia Cornwell; *Domestic Affairs* by Eileen Goudge; *Fame* by Karen Kingsbury; *Family* by Karen Kingsbury; *Forever* by Karen Kingsbury; *Found* by Karen Kingsbury; *Forgiven* by Karen Kingsbury; *Last Kiss* by Luanne Rice; *One Of The Malibu Nights* by Elizabeth Adler; *Made In The U.S.A.* by Billie Letts; *Summer* by Karen Kingsbury; *Tribute* by Nora Roberts; *Damage Control* by J.A. Jance; *Silent Thunder* by Iris Johansen; *Stokes Backyard Bird Book* by Donald Stokes; *Jumpstart - The 21-Day Plan to Lose Weight, Get Fit, And Increase Your*

*Energy* by Denise Austin; *Keep The Connection* by Bob Greene; *Death Rides A Chestnut Mare* by Ralph Compton; *Treasure Of The Temples* by Tim Champlin; *Death On The River Walk* by Carolyn Hart; *Forged In Blood* by Joyce Christmas; *Showdown At Stony Crest* by Joseph Wayne; *Wolfer* by Mac McKee; *From The High Plains* by John Fischer; *The Overland Kid* by Max Brand; *The Song Of The Whip* by Max Brand; *Blind Cartridges* by William Colt MacDonald; *Angel Peak* by Peter Dawson; *Branded* by Walt Coburn; *A Force Of Habit* by

Christine Hilger; *Day Of Wrath* by Larry Bond; and *Trail Of The Tattered Star* by Cliff Farrell.

The following new books have arrived in the children's department: *Just The Right Home* by Judy Kentor Schmauss; *Real-Life Robots!* by James Buckley Jr.; *Really Big Things* by Michael Teitelbaum; *Princess Jessica And The Best-Friend Bracelet* by Vivian French; *Sailor Taylor Sets Sail* by David F. Marx; *Princess Georgia And The Shimmering Pearl* by Vivian French; *Aaaarrgggh!! Spider* by Lydia Monts.

## Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Brice Buffington, St. Francis; Brian Hobrock, St. Francis; Ken Hohberg, Topeka; Chance Hobrock, Hays; Jason Johnson, St. Francis; Amber Kechter, Denver; Rex and Royce Roberts, St. Francis; Greg Peter, Huntsville,

Texas; Travis Larsen, Hutchinson; ErvaGene DeAragon, St. Francis; Evelyn Ellis, Vancouver, Wash.; LaVonne L'Heureux, St. Francis; Rod Lampe, St. Francis; Shawn Rogers, New York; Dallas Friedli, Hope.

**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.

**St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church**  
625 S. River • 332-2680  
Fr. Roger Meitl  
Sunday Mass 11:00 a.m.  
Weekday Mass 8 a.m.  
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

**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.

**United Methodist Church**  
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.

**Salem Lutheran Church**  
332-3002  
Pastor Chris Farmer  
No Sunday School until Sept.  
Morning Worship 10:30 a.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.

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

**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  
Prayer Time 8:45 a.m.  
Worship 9:30 a.m.  
Fellowship Time 10:30 a.m.

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

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