



It is important to stay involved in the process

With the election just a few days away, this is a good time to think about what we have in this country, and why it's important to stay involved in the democratic process.

It's fashionable at election time to criticize our government, our process, the state of our society.

Candidates, whoever they are, whatever they believe, cry for change. That's how they get attention.

Many times, they are right.

Our system could stand a good overhaul. Our government has its faults. Our nation is far from perfect.

For more than 230 years, we've been searching for the American ideal. We haven't reached that state of perfection yet.

But this is a nation founded on principles and ideas that transcend their imperfect implementation.

America is more than the sum of its flaws. It is, first of all, the best and brightest place to live and think and be free in the history of man. And while that's not a modest claim, it's not that hard to back up.

Other nations may have better health care or better schools or a better bureaucracy. It's easy to find those that excel at one thing or another, and sometimes, these can be a shining example for us to measure up to.

But no other nation cherishes quite so much the traditions of free speech, free thought, religious liberty, equality, diversity and economic freedom embodied in the words of Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Mason and a few other forward thinkers of that era in the 18th century.

The ideals that formed the American nation, enshrined in the Constitution and especially in the Bill of Rights, set us apart. Nowhere else

would all religions and sects be tolerated. Nowhere else would the idea of the "Melting Pot" mean that anyone who came could become "an American."

It's true, we've seldom lived up to these ideals.

The founders tolerated slavery, subjugated women and minorities, looked the other way at many sins. That does not taint their ideals.

Over the centuries, we've welcomed immigrants and then treated them poorly, from the Irish and the Italians and Poles to the current crop of Hispanics. We gave slaves their freedom, then levied a poll tax and built separate and unequal schools.

The unique thing about America is we keep reinventing our democracy. We change and grow, admit our mistakes and move on.

We'll never reach perfection, but what nation has?

Where, if you sought a better place, would you go?

Where would it be possible to demand change — and get it — as it is here?

And now, your country is calling you to help. Your vote is needed next week.

The presidential race is important as any we've seen. In state and county elections, voters face decisions that will affect many lives for many years.

If you choose not to vote, others will make your decisions for you. But that's not what America is about. We all have our duty.

If you want change, or you don't, you have to go to the polls on Tuesday and mark your ballot.

That's how each of us plays our part in this great tradition of striving for a more perfect American. It really works.

See you at the polls. — Steve Haynes



THE SPECTRE OF 1929 HAUNTS MANY LIVES TODAY...

Population has declined for years

Letter to the Editor:

According to official census figures, Cheyenne County's population reached its apex in 1930 (6,948 residents) and from that point began its gradual decline to its current population which, according to census figures, stands at 3,165 residents. By reason, we also know that the community of St. Francis and its schools have experienced this decline as well.

The question I have is this; if we choose to reject community projects simply because of our declining population, have we not just given up? Have we not thrown in the towel and relegated ourselves to being just another casualty in rural America?

If, on the other hand, we accept the challenge to be a community

— Letters to the Editor —

that gives real opportunity to those that would want to join us, it can be done and should be done.

I recently polled my 16 Advanced American Government students on the following question (remember, these are teenagers): "How many of you have SERIOUSLY thought about coming back to St. Francis to raise a family at some point in the future?" More than half said they have and would prefer to do so.

There is real interest among our young people, but they HAVE to be convinced that this is a community that is investing in its future—not one that has surrendered to the notion that simply because a population is in decline there is

nothing left to work toward, that the heavy lifting is over.

And finally this: ALL of us have benefitted from decisions that have been made in the past by forward thinking people who were genuinely concerned about the preservation of this community. How is it that we don't think we have a similar responsibility today?

As I see it, this is not entirely about building a gym but a mindset that says to all that would listen...we will fight to move forward, sacrifice to that end, and be a beacon of what is best about rural America.

Steve Jenkins
St. Francis

Hangin' With Marge

Miscommunications

By Margaret Bucholtz



Have you ever been in a conversation that was going along really good and then someone mentions something that you just don't quite understand?

This happened to me the other day. Three of us ladies were talking about things we like to do. We had discussed gardening, genealogy and cooking when one of the ladies said, "I know this sounds kind of silly, but I just love feeding people."

My mind starts wandering about why you would like to feed

people. Not only why, but where would you go to do that.

I had this vision her spoon feeding her husband, but quickly thought that couldn't be it. Then I thought about scenes in movies where you see couples feeding each other chocolate-covered strawberries, however that didn't actually seem like something she or her husband would do.

Finally, not being able to understand where you would have to go to spoon-feed someone, I

said, "Where do you feed people, do you work at the Village or hospital?"

She looked at me shocked and said, "No, I just like to cook and take people that have no one to cook for a plate of food."

I not only have to admit that I am a little slow thinking, but I was really glad to get the mental picture of her spoon-feeding someone out of my mind.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



scmcormick@nwkans.com Two of the best things around are southern cooking and Paula Deen.

I guess I came to enjoy southern cooking naturally. The McCormicks were based in southwestern Kentucky for many generations. Some dishes came with them when they moved to Ohio and later Colorado.

For me I also got a good education in southern fare when I lived in Lafayette, LA. It was pretty much the center of Cajun, Creole and chickenfried paradise. When I moved back to Denver from there my doctor took one look at me and had a heart attack.

Now Paula Deen epitomizes all that's great about "down home

cookin'." She's easy to find on television, in magazines and has several cook books available.

Paula is the first to point out that many of the southern dishes can't be eaten every day. It wouldn't be too healthy and it would make buying new clothes expensive. But her recipes are fantastic for special occasions.

The reason I bring this up is

because a blood drive is going to be held on Nov. 5 at the St. Francis Grade School. Donors will receive a Paula Deen apron for giving, while supplies last. What a deal for anyone who loves to cook and give to a great cause. See Y'all there!

GOD SAYS
Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.
Ecclesiastes 9:10

VOTE

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Residents urged to give blood

To the editor:

This holiday season, Food Network's Paula Deen joins the American Red Cross in drawing attention to the on-going need for blood, especially during the holidays. All those coming to donate blood during November will receive a limited edition Paula Deen inspired apron, along with special recipes and a holiday message of thanks from Paula (while supplies last).

With the holiday season comes fluctuations in our community's blood supply, the Red Cross needs your help to make sure blood is available for every patient in need. Each day, even on holidays, more than 38,000 people in this country need blood to help treat everything from planned surgeries to car accidents. Join Paula Deen and the America Red Cross and add donating blood to your list of important things to do this holiday season.

Donate at the Red Cross blood

drive at the St. Francis grade school on Nov. 5 from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

As Paula says "Thanks for

Givin' Y'all." Cinda Dankenbring
St. Francis
Blood drive coordinator

Couple enjoys paper

To the editor:

Elmer and I miss all our dear friends in St. Francis and wish to renew our subscription for another year. May God bless all who make up such a unique and heartwarm-

ing community. It truly is "As Good As It Gets." (Yes, we are homesick.)

Elmer and Joyce Carper
Kingman

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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.

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 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 Sunday School 10 a.m. Morning Worship 11 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 785-890-5718 • 3rd & Adams Pastor Jerry Nowack 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 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday Eve. Bible Study 7 p.m. Communion 1st Sunday of the Month

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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Saint Francis Herald

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Praise the Lord