

Opinion

It is important to stay involved in the process

a good time to think about what we have in this where else would the idea of the "Melting Pot" 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 als.

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

Many times, they are right.

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

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 implemen-

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 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 lot. century.

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

Have you ever been in a converpeople. Not only why, but where

This happened to me the other I thought about scenes in mov-

day. Three of us ladies were talking ies where you see couples feed-

about things we like to do. We had ing each other chocolate-covered

discussed gardening, genealogy and strawberries, however that didn't

cooking when one of the ladies said, actually seem like something she

scmccormick@nwkansas.com cookin'." She's easy to find on

Two of the best things around television, in magazines and has

I know this sounds kind of silly, but or her husband would do.

feeding her husband, but quickly

thought that couldn't be it. Then

My mind starts wandering derstand where you would have ture of her spoon-feeding some-

about why you would like to feed to go to spoon-feed someone, I one out of my mind.

Casey's Comments

several cook books available.

Paula is the first to point out

that many of the southern dish-

es can't be eaten every day. It

wouldn't be too healthy and it

would make buying new clothes

expensive. But her recipes are

The reason I bring this up is

fantastic for special occasions.

sation that was going along really would you go to do that.

good and then someone mentions

something that you just don't quite

I just love feeding people."

are southern cooking and Paula

I guess I came to enjoy south-

ern cooking naturally. The Mc-

Cormicks were based in south-

western Kentucky for many gen-

erations. Some dishes came with

them when they moved to Ohio

For me I also got a good educa-

tion 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

Now Paula Deen epitomizes all

me and had a heart attack.

and later Colorado.

understand?

With the election just a few days away, this is would all religions and sects be tolerated. Nomean that anyone who came could become "an American."

It's true, we've seldom lived up to these ide-

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

Where, if you sought a better place, would

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 to find those that excel at one thing or another, we've seen. In state and county elections, votand sometimes, these can be a shining example ers 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 bal-

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

I had this vision her spoon said, "Where do you feed people,

Finally, not being able to un- really glad to get the mental pic-

See you at the polls. —Steve Haynes

do you work at the Village or hos-

She looked at me shocked and

said, "No, I just like to cook and

take people that have no one to

I not only have to admit that I

cook for a plate of food."

Casey

because a blood drive is going to

be held on Nov. 5 at the St. Fran-

cis 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.

McCormick

See Y'all there!



THE SPECTRE OF 1929 HAUNTS MANY LIVES TODAY ...

Population has declined for years

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 a population is in decline there is

-Letters to the Editorthat gives real opportunity to those nothing left to work toward, that that would want to join us, it can the heavy lifting is over.

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 SERI-

OUSLY 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

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 Residents urged to give blood **Miscommunications** Bucholtz

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

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

Donate at the Red Cross blood

drive at the St. Francis grade Givin' Y'all." school on Nov. 5 from 8 a.m to

As Paula says "Thanks for

Cinda Dankenbring St. Francis Blood drive coordinator

Couple enjoys paper

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

ing community. It truly is "As Elmer and I miss all our dear Good As It Gets." (Yes, we are

Elmer and Joyce Carper

Honor Roll

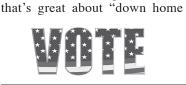
Francis; Dwight Brewer. Tucson, St. Francis; Janet Young Elliott, cis; John Kite, St. Francis; Royce Kehlbeck, Bird City; Haddon Leibbrandt, Aurora, Colo.; Ken-Weaver, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Ethyle Roelfs, St. Francis; Harland

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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



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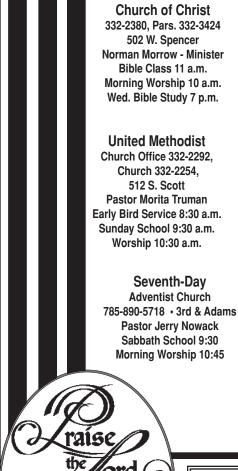
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