



Public notices are under attack by the legislature

The centuries-old concept of giving the public notice of government and court action through publication in a newspaper is under attack in the Kansas Legislature.

The push is coming from cities that see a way to save a little money and public officials who just don't like the press.

One bill (SF 164), sponsored by Sen. John Vratil, vice president of the state Senate, would allow cities to publish all their notices on their own websites.

This violates the basic principles of public notice, because a city website is not a neutral posting, because a website does not constitute a permanent record of the publication as a newspaper would, and because not everyone could get to the web page — or even know where it is.

It's better to have these notices delivered to taxpayers' homes, but some officials claim the cities will save money. The result for many small Kansas towns, however, might well be the loss of their newspaper.

This might not bother Sen. Vratil, who is from Leawood in Johnson County, and is known for his dislike of reporters and editorial writers. It might well be a blow to small Kansas towns which already have lost many of their businesses and much of their identity.

While legal notices are but a small part of many newspapers' income, they might represent the margin of survival for the smallest papers. The Legislature would be wise to avoid finding out, at least from our perspective.

The "scorched-earth" bill is not expected to pass, at least not this year, but Sen Vratil is a powerful man and he might resort to late-session

trickery to get his way. Our own senator, Ralph Ostmeier of Grinnell, is on the Local Government Committee, which will decide this bill.

Another bill, SB 245, sponsored by the League of Kansas Municipalities, avoids the Internet issue and seeks only to save cities some money on publication of long ordinances. It would require publication only of a summary of ordinances, referring citizens to the city office for details.

This may sound like a good idea, but no one knows what damage it might do to those same small newspapers. People in the towns that would be affected probably would not be too happy to learn that their city is saving some money at the cost of their town's newspaper.

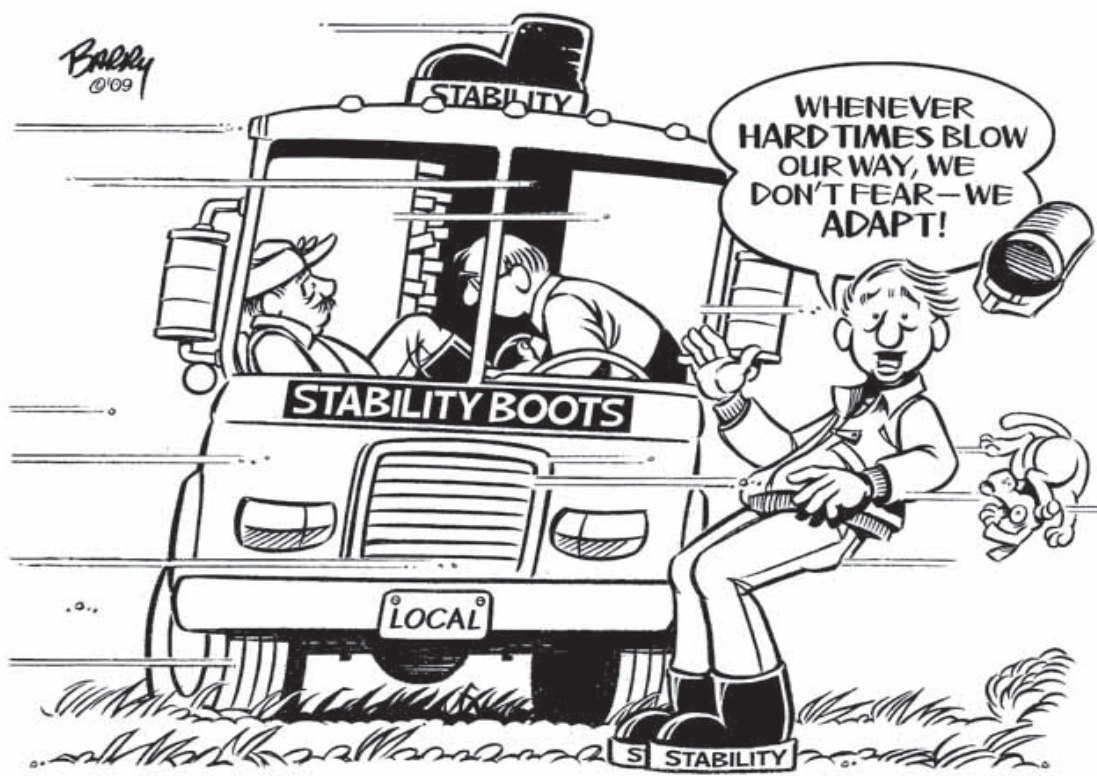
A better idea would be to require publication of a summary explaining the impact of every ordinance, along with the full text. Posting on the Internet along with newspaper publication would be a great idea.

The issue should not only be saving a little money, but making sure the taxpayers and voters know what their city is up to. Allowing the full text to be tucked away in some office to gather dust just goes against all reason. The very parts that will offend or injure taxpayers may well be buried where they will never make the summary.

And if the ordinance is not published, how will people ever know. Remember, the city itself will be writing the summary.

Voters upset by this kind of closed-government thinking ought to complain to their senator and representative. It's not right, but it's how public officials sometimes think.

— Steve Haynes



News From the Past

5 Years Ago - 2004

Two Bankers Awards were given at the Cheyenne County Conservation District meeting. Those honored by the Kansas Bankers were Dwen and Charilyn DeDood and Jim and Jeanne Dunn. De-Good's won the Soil Conservation Award and Dunn's the Windbreak Award.

Raedell's Massage has moved her massage therapy practice to the Poling Chiropractic and Family Health Center at 709 S. Benton.

Members of the St. Francis Boy Scout Troop include Tanner Lacey, Jacob Riedel, Jon Finley, Scott Ford, David Meyer, Matt Whitmore, Chase Barnhart, Jeremy Meyer and Jeff Meyer. Members of the Webelos include Brendon Finley, Logan Whitmore and Robbie Herman. Lucas Carmichael, Zach Genger, Billy Ray Lee, Tony Meyer, Foster Grant, Mason Schiltz and Dalton Davenport are members of the Bears.

P & L Ideal Meat Market will be carrying more grocery items, and as of this week are now selling Daylight Donuts.

Chet Gardner, a St. Francis hunter education instructor, has been recognized as Region 1 Kansas Hunter Education Instructor of the Year.

30 years ago - 1979

The Peace Lutheran Church received their new electric organ last week. Church organists, Sandy Bandel, Linda Hilt, Rosemary

Krueger, Phyllis Bandel, Darlene Feikert, Hilda Mlinek, Chris Flemming and Penny Keller, will be presenting a concert on Feb. 4.

The Goodyear Conservation Award was presented to Harvey Lampe this year at the conservation banquet. Melvin Carman received the Outstanding Terrance Maintenance Award.

Two \$1,000 scholarships will be available this year from the Alice Gillispie Memorial Academic Scholarship fund.

Gina Floyd and Brenda Carmichael have been chosen to attend Girls State this summer by the St. Francis American Legion Auxiliary.

Ten St. Francis wrestlers have qualified for state. Those going are Daryl Loyd, Dan VanVleet, Chris Richard, Barry O'Leary, Todd Miller, Jim Culwell, Troy Krien, Rod Weeden, Darrel Wiley, and Tim Royston. For the first time this year the tournament is a 3-2-1A tournament instead of just a 2-1A tournament.

40 years ago - 1969

Three St. Francis Boy Scouts will receive Scouting's highest rank at a special Court of Honor at the Calvary United Methodist. Being honored are Bruce Lejbrandt, Roger Jensen and John Henry, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Rod Richardson have taken over the ownership of the Pla Mor Recreation in St. Francis.

Mrs. Opal Winston has an-

nounced the opening of a new store in St. Francis this week. "Hers," features a full line of girls wear and sportswear for juniors and ladies.

Head football coach Pepper Rodgers of Kansas University this week announced the hiring of J.C. Hixon of St. Francis to the full-time coaching staff at the University.

The new engraving machine at the Herald office is led for the first use by Chet Gardner of the Herald staff. This modern piece of equipment will allow for a more extensive and faster use of news photos in the Herald.

Construction is progressing rapidly on the new Catholic Church in St. Francis. The new structure is located on River Street near Highway 36.

60 years ago - 1949

It was announced last week by Herbert Lampe of Lampe Hardware that an interest in the firm had been sold to Harold Raile, who for the past several years has been associated with the firm in the service department.

Vern Shoemaker was trapped for 40 hours in his car when a blizzard of swirling snow stalled his vehicle in a snow drift 3 miles north of Bird City. The road became blocked so he stayed in the vehicle for 40 hours until visibility was good enough to walk cross country to a farm. He suffered frozen feet.

Hangin' With Marge

First Impression

By Margaret Bucholtz



margeb@cityofstfrancis.net
The saying "The first impression is the most lasting one" sure is true. When in Wichita, Dina and I were talking about the first time she met the family. Darrin had been going with her for quite a while before he ever brought her home. Mostly the reason was because he had always been the one to embarrass his siblings when they would bring someone home and he certainly didn't want the payback that he deserved.

that she remembered the most. The family was in Denver while my dad was having an aneurism surgery so Darrin and Dina came up to see his grandfather. They had gotten there about lunch time so we all decided to go out and get a quick sandwich. We went to a McDonald's and, because we were such a large bunch of people, Kurt decided to go and save us some seats. As usual everyone stands there reading the menu and re-reading the menu, but no one stepping

forward. Finally I just stepped up to the counter because I knew the menu was not going to change. That was when Kurt, in a rather loud voice, said, "Margaret just get me one of those 'Big and Nasty's.'" All eyes turned on him and then someone said, "Kurt, I think it is a Big and Tasty." Neither Dina, nor any of us ever forgot that and from that point on we don't ask him, we just order a Number 4 with a smile on our face.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



scmcormick@nwkansans.com
"It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35
A new restaurant opened in St. Francis. It has also closed. For Valentine's Day my wife and I stayed home and made a special dinner for our two high school kids and their dates. Menus were made for Chateau McCormick. The table was decorated with table cloth, candles, rose petals, confetti and choco-

lates. Fabric napkins were neatly folded with silverware and the good china. Non-alcoholic punch was served in crystal wine glasses and the ambiance was completed with piano music by Richard Clayderman's "From Paris With Love" recording. Lezlie wore a nice suit and I had on a chef's coat. The dinner included shrimp appetizers, Romaine lettuce salads, fresh rolls, New York strip steaks and a hot pasta side dish. The culmination was a special Butter Finger dessert

made with candy bars, ice cream, pudding and whipped topping. After the dinner the couples left for the Valentine's Dance at the school and other Saturday night activities. We had to take pictures before they left, of course. I don't know who had more fun, the dinner guests or us doing the shopping, organizing, cooking and overall entertaining. It made for a Valentine's Day to remember.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Jill and Dusty Gary, Topeka; Mary Anderson, Bird City; Dorothy Smetad, St. Francis; Eugene Lillich, Goodland; Kenneth Zimbelman, Ozark, Mo.; Edwin Raile, Ozark, Mo.; Mike Holliman, Wichita; Naomi Holliman, St. Francis; Terry Holliman, Clackaman, Ore.; Dale Leydig, St. Francis; Rob Lawson, Norton; Kenneth Asche, Ogallala, Neb.

GOD SAYS
The poor is hated even of his own neighbour: but the rich hath many friends. He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he.
Proverbs 14:20, 21

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The 'Pagan' U.S. Government

Letter to the Editor:

I note that the "pro-aborts" are now more numerous than the "pro-lifers" in both houses of congress. This fact, coupled with the anti-God court decision record of the U.S. Supreme Court since 1960; plus the pro-abortion, pro-homosexual, pro-gay rights stand of the Obama administration leads

Letter to the Editor

one to the inescapable conclusion that the U.S. Government is a "pagan government," presently. I dare say that the founding fathers of this nation would "turn over in their graves," if they saw what has happened to this nation.

Terry Rueb
St. Francis
P.S. Needless to say, the pro-aborts, pro-homosexuals, pro-same-sex marriages, etc., will never find Bible justification for their views.

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

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
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.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.

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.

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

St. Francis Equity

Saint Francis Herald

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