

Court oks police to invade your privacy

A federal appeals court says it's OK for the police to slip into your yard or home and slip a global positioning device onto your car.

The court ruled that federal drug agents had not violated a suspected drug dealer's rights when they snuck into his driveway at night and attached a GPS recording device to his Jeep.

In court, the agents testified that the Jeep visited sites where marijuana was grown, linking the defendant to the crimes. The judges of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled twice, a three-judge panel, and later the full court, that the GPS logs could be used as evidence.

Though some, including the chief judge, dissented, the court ruled that there's no reason agents would need a warrant to attach the device to the Jeep. The dissenters said they believed, however, that the man's rights had been violated. One judge called the technique "creepy," the agents crawling under the man's car in the night.

The tactic itself is nothing new. Cops have been attaching bugs, beepers and tracking devices to suspects' cars for years. It's just that the technology has gotten a lot more sophisticated. GPS devices using today's software can project trips onto a map, showing exactly where a vehicle went.

Truth of the matter is, most of us are recording the same information all the time. Agents would need a warrant to get most of that, however, so

there is a difference. We think.

Cell phones can track the bearer by block and mile. Your phone, when on, talks to the nearest tower continually. How did you think the computer finds you when someone calls? It has to know where you are. It remembers.

Newer phones have GPS technology; they talk with the satellite system and record positions - if you turn that feature on. This gives them the ability to broadcast your location to the 911 operator in an emergency, but your phone is quite capable of remembering where you've been.

And remember, your phone tracks every call you make, to whom and where.

And the sweet-talking GPS in your car? Of course, it remembers where you've been all week as well. Notice those little blue lines going down the streets around your house.

If the government subpoenas your Garmin, you'd better hope you stopped only at the grocery, not the drug dealer's house - or your girlfriend's.

So with everyone recording their every move, do we have any expectation of privacy? With surveillance cameras at every store and on every corner?

Still, we can't agree that federal agents should be able to sneak into your driveway and bug your car without a warrant. That is creepy.

And so much a sign of our times.

— Steve Haynes

Hangin' With Marge

Snakes Again

By Margaret Bucholtz



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Most of you probably wonder why I talk about the snakes so often, but this time it is different.

Many of our neighbors are having the same problem. It is a different year for the rattlesnakes - more different than I have ever seen.

One of our neighbors told Kurt that she carries a gun every time she steps out the door and she is killing at least one rattlesnake a week.

We have killed at least six or seven this summer and they are not out in the pasture, they are in

our fenced-in yard. I have always had a lot of respect for snakes, but really wasn't deathly afraid of them. I know that if it is a rattlesnake, it will rattle and you just step away from it.

Last week I was working in one of my flower beds and I pulled a big weed out and there the snake was not over 3 inches of where my hand had been. He was coiled but he didn't bother to rattle nor did he bother to try to get away.

I went to the house and got the shotgun and it still just looked at me. I fired and believe me the snake flew about a foot in the air.

The flower had been blown in half with about a three-inch cut down the center.

I told Kurt about it at noon and asked if he would please move it for me. He did but he just couldn't believe that it hadn't rattled. When I told some other people about it, they told me that they had recently had the same experience.

Please, anyone reading this beware of the snakes and watch your children closely. For the first time in my life, I am afraid to go out in the yard and pull weeds.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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There are few things more satisfying than having a seed or seedling planted in the spring turn into a jar of goodness in the late summer.

Once again all the effort of turning soil, weeding, watering, nurturing and caring for a little plot of earth that is our garden has all been worth while. The days and nights spent worrying about hail and mornings and afternoons with backs bent over have paid out, several time over.

Lezlie and I have put up three batches of pickled cucumbers and okra. Yellow squash, zucchini, green peppers and jalapenos have

graced our table. And now the tomatoes have arrived.

Nothing, I mean nothing, can compare to the flavor of a just picked, home-grown tomato. Just ask our daughter Lexi. This time of year we can't have enough tomatoes to go with the cottage cheese around to keep her happy.

Last weekend, with over 50 red beauties on the counter, Lez and I got busy making her famous salsa. Even in a hot kitchen, it is a pleasure to be around piles of fresh onion, garlic, peppers and, of course, blanched and peeled tomatoes. Our little kitchen takes on

the look of a Mexican factory as we alternate between boiling pots and rattling Mason jars and lids that are sterilizing.

The entire scene is a delight to the senses. Bright colors, pungent smells and production sounds go together as canned salsa lines the counter.

Stepping back, a feeling of accomplishment comes with seeing the final glory of our little, side-yard garden. Now where are the tortilla chips?

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GOD SAYS

But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Romans 14:10-12

The 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 \$38 (tax included) in Cheyenne and adjacent counties; \$42 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$48 elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscriptions, \$28 extra per year (except APO/FPO). POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050

Nor'West Newspapers

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Monday - Friday
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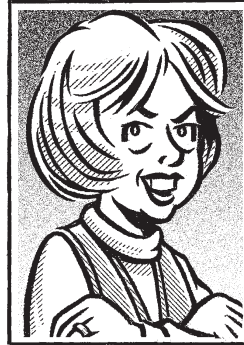
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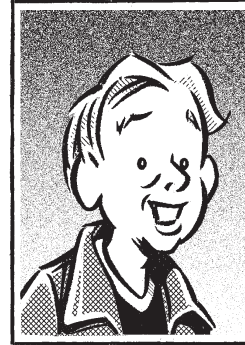
Baldy ©10

"It means I have to prepare my Fall hubby-do list."



IMA DeBAUS
LABOR ORGANIZER

"It means a one-day reprieve from Back to School."



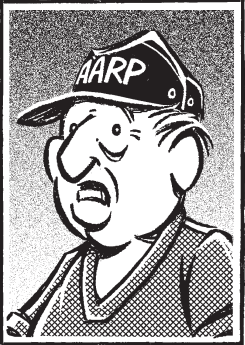
SKIP KLASS
STUDENT INACTIVIST

"It means I've gotta run! Th' wife is havin' a baby!"



JUSTIN TYME
ABOUT-TO-BE DAD

"I forget what it means -- I'll know it when I see it!"



KENT MEMMER
RETIREE (He Thinks!)

Reader upset about mosque site

To the Editor:

In the past week President Obama has voiced his support for a Muslim Mosque to be built at Ground Zero, the site of the 9-11 terrorist attacks in New York City. This causes me to wonder what was the president doing and thinking on that fateful day.

It seems like the president is disconnected to the American people and their feelings. It has been suggested by many of our nation's leaders that the mosque is really a tribute to glorify the 9-11 Islamic terrorists that killed 3,000 Americans and caused so much grief and pain. It was a terrible strike against the United States, and we will never forget it.

In my opinion, building a large expensive mosque 13 stores high looming over ground zero is disrespectful and dishonoring to the victims and their families of 9-11. What happened to the plans to erect a memorial in honor of the victims?

Most Americans support the Constitutional rights that call for freedom of religion; but not at ground zero! New York already has over a hundred Muslim mosques, and there are mega Muslim mosques being built all over America. Why is it so important to build one near ground zero where so many Americans were murdered?

The project is headed up by

Letters to the Editor

Muslim cleric Feisal Abdul Rauf. This is the same cleric who is being funded by the United States State Department.

It has been said by the State Department that Feisal Abdul Rauf is a distinguished Muslim cleric and they have a program through their Educational and Cultural Affairs Bureau that send people from Muslim communities here in this country around the world to help people overseas understand our society and the role of religion within our society.

I ask is this coming from the same president who during his

visit to Turkey told the Muslim audience that America is not a Christian, Jewish or Muslim nation. And has the U.S. State Department sent a Christian or Jewish or any other religious representative to the Middle East to "help people overseas understand our society and the role of religion..."

November elections are coming up and I urge everyone to vote, but more than that; vote for the candidate that puts Americans first and not their own agenda.

Let your voice be heard!
Marilyn Frisbie
McDonald

What value do ye get per \$1

What value do ye get per \$1: wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? Alcohol, drugs, tobacco, body painting, piercing, tattoos, lotteries, sports, and such like! "Woe unto him. That giveth his neighbor drink..."

At the last, it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder"...Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh...nor print any marks upon you."

On news, "Woman was trampled to death by spooked horses... Lil dog half blinded (an eye left dangling)! Kids health org cities,

"6 Dead, 9,300 injured by fire-works..."

"...so let the tradition fizzle out!" They don't hold a candle to a door rattling, house shuddering, thunder booming, panoramic, lightning blitz, ANYHOW! What value do yet get per \$1?

"What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Mark 8: 36-37.

Frank Sowers,
Benkelman, Neb.

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Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

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Church 332-2254,
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Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
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Morning Worship 10:45

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Weekday Mass 8:30 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

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Pastor Chris Farmer
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Communion 3rd Sunday

Solid Rock Baptist Church
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Worship 10:30
Prayer Meeting, Wed 7:30 p.m.

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Pastor Jeff Landers
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Bible Fellowship 9:15 a.m.
Church Service 10:15 a.m.

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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
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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.
Communion 1st Sunday of the Month

St. Francis Equity

St. Francis Herald