



Opinion

Year is right on track to be hottest on record

This year is said to be "on track" to be the hottest on record, surpassing 2005, and that supposedly is another indicator of climate change.

And maybe it is. The "best science" of today says so. But remember, we've only been keeping weather records for a couple of hundred years, reliably for a century. And those start in the waning days of the "Little Ice Age," a cooling period stretching from the 17th century to the 19th when many glaciers and the arctic ice pack were growing.

There have been times when the Earth was much warmer and, during real ice ages, much colder. And when the Earth is very warm, it was very wet, almost inhabitable.

Then remember also, the "best science" of the day once told us the world was flat and ulcers were caused by bad diet and stress.

We know today that the world is more or less round, that bacteria causes most ulcers and that cancer can be cured.

The question is, what don't we know today that we ought to know, especially about climate?

Civilization thrived during those cool centuries, especially in the less-hospitable northern climates. Does that mean civilization won't thrive in a warmer era? And if that's true, is there anything we can do about it?

Perhaps cold weather suppresses tropical diseases and generates economic activity. Who knows?

Hotter, drier weather could put an end to the productivity of the Great Plains and kill crops, leaving a hungry world. Call it nature's way of limiting population, if you will. But instinct tells us men will figure out how to grow food for the world. American farmers are pretty good at that.

Common sense says we should do what we can to abate climate change, and for the most part, we are. We should be judicious, though, careful not to ruin the world economy while we chase elusive targets of global warming.

If some people had their way, we'd be reduced to little more than subsistence farmers, scratching out a living on small plots of ground from "renewable" crops, barely enough in good times to feed us and our pet cattle (for by then, eating animals surely would be banned).

But our ancestors did that, and it wasn't much of a life

And it's not going to happen: we're not going to give up our electronic gizmos, our cheap food and our civilized ways, are we?

So we had best be judicious in our measures. We should do whatever we can to make our way of life "climate neutral," but guard against either destroying our quality of life or going so far overboard that we tip the scale toward cooler days.

It's unlikely that men could do enough to create another ice age, even a "little" one, but the possibility is no better than continued global warming.

Even then, the best guess is that climate will continue to change, as it always has, becoming cooler and warmer in turns none of us will live long enough to understand.

We barely understand what's happening today, and odds are, much of what we know isn't right anyway. As in many things, we have part of the picture.

Reduce greenhouse gasses? Sure.

End production agriculture, ban electricity, go back to bikes and horse?

Not gonna happen. — Steve Haynes



Businessman offers several services

To the Editor.

I am trying to maintain an optimistic and upbeat attitude regarding the dispute my Dad and the city is currently having. I realize we are not all perfect but sometimes I wish people could take into account the good things people have done in and for the community rather than a few individuals deciding what is your trash or treasure. So, in an effort to see the contributions that Dad has made I just started a little list that I would like to share with the community.

The first idea I would like to look into is recycling as I know this is a precious area to a few that are determining the trash versus treasure issue. Dad started an aluminum buy-back program long before our city started their official recycling program. Not only did this keep the cans out of the dump, but also provided a little extra cash to those recycling. He still does this. This is not in an effort to have people not use the center because he is a firm believer and user himself. At the shop, he recycles all his cardboard, newspapers, bottles and cans. After we realized the extent of our business we also

Letters to the Editor

went to using washable coffee cups in an effort to quit throwing out so many Styrofoam cups.

Another area of great concern to the city is truck parking. The city council will not allow truck parking. Dad allows not only his customers to park on his lots but also many citizens of the community that have no other area to park in. The trucking industry is the livelihood to these citizens and if they have nowhere to park, how do you expect them to stay here?

Fuel for many of the newer vehicles, ATVs, and motorcycles was a needed item within the community. Dad saw to it when he was putting in fuel that he carried this for the local people. Trust me, you don't make a living on carrying this fuel. There is the storage and delivery cost to take into account, and most of the vehicles using this grade of fuel only take a few gallons. This was simply a need he saw within the community and decided to fulfill it.

When you are moving that college kid off, hauling furni-

ture around, or moving into your dream house you may need a way to haul it. Dad has also provided a business that can address your needs for this locally.

So many people have the need to send off payments for a bill quickly, send that college kid in distress some money to fix their car, or for any other reason that you might need to send money, Dad has found a way for you to do so locally. Before, you had to drive to Goodland, to you know where, and now you can do it here, because of his efforts.

Breakfast anyone? Gosh knows this was no easy task. But he found the need and provided it for the community.

Dad has been able to provide these services, along with a reasonably priced convenient store to boot.

Maybe if you could take a look at the good instead of the bad all of the time we could all have a more optimistic outlook and a few more businesses within the community.

Kary J. Meyer
St. Francis

Hangin' With Marge

Backing a Trailer

By Margaret Bucholtz



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Backing a trailer into a certain spot is the hardest thing for me to do. In the first place my neck just doesn't turn around like it did when I was young. Of course back then we didn't have mirrors on things so I didn't learn to back up using the mirror trick.

My kids and Kurt have been trying to teach me for years how to do this, you know the look in the mirror and turn your wheels into the trailer the way you want it to go. Right!!

The other day I took the pickup to Wheeler to get my mower that had been repaired. Most women wouldn't be in such a hurry to get a mower back, but mowing is my entertainment and my way of getting around. Since I don't go very much anymore I now the barnyard

and try to remember how it used to be to go somewhere.

I had the nice people at Goodland Greenline help me load it on the trailer and then I came home.

I thought I could just back the trailer up and drive that mower off. I did get the trailer backed up to the spot and I drove off the mower. I should have quit there, but it was such a good feeling of accomplishment that I decided to back the trailer into the spot that we keep it and get it ready for Kurt. I just knew he would be so proud of me.

Finally after about half an hour, with a neck that had popped at least 10 times, and several gallons of gas, I got it close to the right spot.

Yes I had used the mirror at the last, but I really couldn't tell how close I was to the back of the garage.

I got out of the pickup to unhook the trailer and I did notice that the trailer was up against the old dog fence that was propped on the back of the garage. I didn't think that would matter. I started trying to undo the latch, but I couldn't get it to come open.

Finally I went in the house to get lunch and when Kurt came in he said, "Did you have trouble unhooking the trailer?" I told him I did and I couldn't figure out why. He said, "Well it might have had something to do with the fact that you ran the trailer over the dirt pile, that we are going to use, and into the garage. All of that puts pressure on the hitch."

I think next time I will just let him do the man things.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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For the most part, life comes with some pretty basic ground rules. You can call them the Kindergarten rules or 10 Commandments, but so much of what we do in life comes down to making simple choices between "right" and "wrong."

Early on we get our first lessons in how to behave from our families and at school. However, the majority of our lives are spent at work. So this is where we learn most about what is "good" or "bad" in life.

I consider myself very blessed to have had a wonderful variety of jobs. From factories to fields and offices to ditches, I've been able to try on a lot of different hats.

The one constant has been making choices that are both appropri-

ate for that work and correct for my own values. There have been times when what is good and right has gone against what the business world has asked.

That brings up another sort of rule, or maybe more of a statement. It is "life isn't always easy."

Now I'm no saint and don't claim to have always gotten it right each time. In fact I consider

myself a work in progress.

But for the most part, life is pretty simple.

Also, sure have had a chance to meet a lot of very good and interesting people along the way. That has been one of the greatest perks of my current gig.

GOD SAYS
Let them praise his name
in the dance: let them sing
praises unto him with the
timbrel and harp.
Psalms 149:3

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Repairs needed on carnival rides

Letter to the Editor:

A quick note from the Cheyenne County Amusement Authority... Fair time has come and gone for another year. Things are put away for another year.

It is time to look at repairs for the next year. This past year, there were two rides that went down early during the fair. To repair them,

it will cost more than we took in and that would leave no money for maintenance on the rides and no new prizes.

In year's past, we made enough money each year to cover expenses at 25¢ a ticket. We hate to raise the price of tickets or get a bank loan.

If there are those out there who would like to help the Amusement

Authority with a tax-deductible donation, it will be greatly welcomed. Donations can be sent to the Cheyenne County Amusement Authority, P.O. Box 814, St. Francis, KS 67756 or to Bill L. Ehrman, P.O. Box 157, St. Francis.

Thanks in advance.
Bill L. Ehrman
St. Francis

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 10 a.m.
Weekday Mass 8:30 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.

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.
Communion 1st Sunday of the Month

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.
Communion 3rd Sunday

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 9:15 a.m.
Church Service 10:15 a.m.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
785-890-5718 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor Jerry Nowack
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

Lraise the Lord

St. Francis Equity

Saint Francis Herald

Knodel Funeral Home
202 S. Benton • St. Francis
785-332-3131