



## Choosing a candidate may be hard for voters

Who should we vote for in the "minor" state offices, the ones below governor and attorney general where many voters may not have a clue who's running, let alone who's best?

It's often a decision made on the basis of acquaintance, looks perhaps or a fleeting image — or party label.

Candidates don't have the budget to blanket the state with advertising like those running for the Senate, governor or even Congress. Many are not that widely known across the state.

But voters have to choose, and there's no shortage of candidates to run.

Take the race for state treasurer. Longtime incumbent Lynn Jenkins left the post to become the U.S. representative in the second district two years ago after unseating Congressman Jim Ryan in the Republican primary. Jenkins herself had been a mostly unknown factor, the Shawnee County treasurer, when she won the office.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius appointed Mr. McKinney, then a state representative and minority leader of the House, in January 2009 to replace Jenkins, a Republican. Kansas law gives the governor discretion to appoint someone from either party to a state vacancy. (Interestingly enough, for a vacancy for county office or the Legislature, the governor must appoint the choice of the incumbent's party.)

Thus, while he's the incumbent treasurer, Mr. McKinney has to run his first statewide race

against a candidate with more party backing and more money. He's apparently done a good job of working the treasurer's position, tirelessly promoting programs to return unclaimed property and establish education spending accounts.

His opponent, Ron Estes, may have even less statewide name recognition, but his membership in the Republican party more than makes up for that. One poll a couple of months ago by Wichita television station KWCH showed him leading 58 percent to 37 percent.

There's not much on the race since. Mr. McKinney continues to work the state, county seat by county seat. That's one thing that sets him apart out here in the western half of the state is that he is one of us. He is from Greensburg, west of Wichita, so we know he's aware of where and what western Kansas is.

He has been to Oberlin, Colby, Goodland, Norton and St. Francis several times each. He knows the area as well as anyone.

Mr. Estes, we're not so sure. We haven't seen him, though he has made a few brief stops in the northwest. That's not to say he wouldn't be a good treasurer; just that he has not made much effort in our area. Maybe he doesn't need to.

Many people, even if they didn't meet a candidate, will be influenced by which one made the best effort in their area. Out here, for state treasurer, there's no doubt in our mind who that would be.

— Steve Haynes



## Across the County

By Marty Fear



County Extension Agent

### Fall is good time to body condition scoring herd

October is a busy time of year for many folks; fall planting, harvesting, preparing for winter and weaning calves. Remember that weaning time is an excellent opportunity to "body condition score" (BCS) the cow herd.

Body condition scoring of beef cattle can be an effective management tool for evaluating the energy reserves of cows and the whole nutritional program throughout the year. Adjusting the nutritional program to obtain desired body condition at different stages of production is necessary to enhance production efficiency.

The period from weaning to calving is a time when it is easier to alter cow body condition since a dry cow's only nutritional requirements are body maintenance and fetal development.

The most widely used body condition scoring system for beef cattle in the U.S. assigns scores from 1 thru 9; 1 being very thin and 9 being obese. The recommended body condition score at calving for a two-year-old, first-calf heifer is 6.

First-calf heifers are more likely than mature cows to fail to rebreed.

The recommended body condition score for mature cows at calving is a 5. Additional body condition provides some insurance against reproductive failure. However, excessive fleshing beyond body conditioning score of 6 prior to calving in first-calf heifers and mature cows may result in increased incidence of calving difficulty.

When determining body conditioning score of the cowherd, remember that the scoring system is a subjective evaluation of fleshing and fat deposition (energy reserves), not gut fill, hair coat, or body weight. Consider cow age, breed, and frame size when determining BCS.

Older cattle tend to carry less condition over their top than younger cattle. Fat deposition varies by breed or type of cattle.

Keep the scoring system simple. A thin cow looks sharp and angular, whereas a fat one appears smooth and square. Consistency and simplicity are key in evaluating energy balance of a cowherd.

Many factors are associated with changing body condition throughout the year. Following calving,

high nutritional requirements for lactation make maintaining or improving body condition during the first 60 days of the suckling period almost impossible.

Altering body condition takes time. One body condition score is equal to about 60 to 80 pounds of body weight in small to moderate frame cows. Large frame cows require 100 to 150 pounds of body weight to change a single condition score. After calves have been weaned is an excellent time to improve the cows body condition score.

Determining the nutritional status of the herd through body conditioning scoring at weaning or 100 days prior to calving is critical. It allows a producer time to develop nutritional programs that achieve optimum body conditioning score at calving.

For more information on body conditioning score contact the extension office at 785-332-3171 or email cfear@ksu.edu.

Till next week - Marty

## Senior citizens are biggest assets

To the Editor:

Did you know that two of the biggest assets we have in America are our senior citizens and retirees?

We have lived the "American Dream" through hard work and determination, and we have gone through both hard and good times providing a good foundation for raising our families and making sure our kids received a good education. God and religion have played important parts in our lives also.

However, somewhere in recent times many of us have slacked off in taking the time to talk to our children and grandchildren about such important issues as the necessity

### Letter to the Editor

for personal and business accomplishments, and family commitments to live the dream. Instead, many senior citizens and retirees fill up their free time with golf and bingo. This should not be.

As a result many young American voters have come to believe that they are "entitled" to have the American dream given to them on a silver platter. These same Americans will be voting for the candidate that promises the most federal assistance in the upcoming November election which by the way is less than a week away.

Sample ballots are available

somewhere in your community, the county courthouse, local businesses, government buildings, etc.; get one and know your candidate before you vote. Senior citizens and retirees...you can make a difference.

The American Dream is not about making a million dollars, but having the pride and joy in our accomplishments! And the greatest privilege we have as American is to vote without fear and the greatest dishonor to America — not voting.

Marilyn Frisbie McDonald

## Hangin' With Marge

By Margaret Bucholtz



### Trash in a Car

[margeb@cityofstfrancis.net](mailto:margeb@cityofstfrancis.net)  
Throwing out trash is against the law, even the little children know that, but sometimes that empty candy sack just bugs a person.

One day I had finished eating a bag of candy while driving down the road. Here I was with that empty bag lying on the seat of the car. It didn't bug me as much as it reminded me that I needed to lose some of this weight.

I reached over and knocked it to the floor board, but I could still see it. Finally I decided what different would a little bag hurt if I threw it out the window.

At first, my good side said, "Margaret, the laws are made for everyone and what if each of us decided that one bag didn't matter." Then my bad side said, "Everyone does it so why shouldn't you."

I reached down and picked the bag up and then I started scoping out the perfect place for the crime. No one was behind me so I rolled down the window — Oh, no some-

one is coming so I just smiled and nodded my head as they went by. Whew, what a close call.

Once again I started looking in the mirror and then I looked forward and nothing was coming. No one would see me so I pitched the bag out the window.

I rolled up the window and it wasn't long until I met a car and it was then that I looked in my mirror. There it was, the candy bag had caught on the radio antenna and it was just waving away back

there.

I could just image those little kids in that car saying, "Look mom that old lady threw an empty candy bag out of the car. She's not very nice!"

That candy bag stayed on the antenna until I got home. I promptly took it off and threw it in the trash. I think someone was telling me that I should use the good side of my brain and I would stay out of a lot of trouble.

GOD SAYS  
If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?  
John 3:12

## The Saint Francis Herald

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## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



[scmccormick@nwkansas.com](mailto:scmccormick@nwkansas.com)  
As newspaper people, much of what we do is from the outside looking in. We try not to be the story but rather bring the happening to our readers. From this vantage point we become a sort of "third person" as we narrate a tale.

Last Tuesday when a phone call alerted us that there was a fire, I did what I normally do: grab a camera and spare batteries and head out.

Arriving at the Good Samaritan Village, I saw what could be called "a surreal scene." Despite the smoke and busy firefighters bat-

ling away, the overall sense was one of organization and calm.

Not that this should be a surprise. Great amounts of time and energy went into preparing for such an event. But that still doesn't mean that people won't crack under pressure.

However with gentle touches and soft but strong voices the staff guided their people to safety outside.

Within minutes all were moved to the school where volunteers and medical professionals continued to care for the shaken residents of the Village.

On top of this, high school kids

were released from their classrooms to chip in. The sight of young people giving to the elderly can provide the most callous heart some room for hope.

So it is with great pride for my fellow Cheyenne County members that I can report all is well here in the corner of Northwest Kansas.

Here's to getting this institution up and running again as soon as possible so the dedicated workers can get back to doing what they do best and the residents can return home.

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.

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.

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

St. Francis of Assisi  
Catholic Church  
625 S. River • 332-2680  
Fr. Roger Meitl  
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.  
Weekday Mass 8:30 a.m.  
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

Salem Lutheran Church  
332-3002  
Pastor Chris Farmer  
Morning Worship 10:30 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.

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

St. Francis  
Equity

St. Francis  
Herald