



Kansans need incentive to move to rural area

Gov. Sam Brownback's initiative to lure people to rural Kansas counties by allowing them to skip paying state income tax for five years is an interesting idea, to say the least.

We hope it works. We fear it won't do much, because the program is limited to out-of-state residents. We believe the people most likely to move to rural areas are Kansans with ties to outstate areas who might want to move "home."

The incentives in the governor's program, now passed by both the House and Senate and awaiting his signature, won't apply to those people. If they want to move to rural counties, they'll still have to pay income taxes. The state won't help pay off their student loans.

And frankly, we think the state should include them in this plan. There is little to lose, and potentially, a lot to gain.

If someone living in Wichita or suburban Kansas City, say, decides to move back here, the state could stand to lose several thousand dollars in income taxes. That might smart a little, but only for five years.

After that the state would benefit from having more taxpayers in rural counties instead of less. Plus, it'd have saved the cost of building more highways and providing more services in urban areas.

It'd be years before enough people moved out to rural counties to require more of these

"infrastructure" expenditures. Even if everyone took advantage of a provision where the state and local governments would split the cost of paying down these "settlers'" college loans, the state would hardly notice.

As written, the bill is expected to help rural towns recruit professionals such as doctors, dentists, lawyers and even teachers, many of whom graduate with expensive student loans to pay. That alone could be powerful, and we fully support the bill as passed by the Legislature.

But if we are talking about reversing a century of population decline in rural Kansas, we need to think big. We are going to need a lot of people. And Kansans are the most likely to move out here.

Many either grew up in rural Kansas, or their parents did. Many still have relatives, land or business interests in rural areas. Others know people who live out here, or come to rural Kansas to fish or hunt or look for antiques.

These people, the ones with ties here, are the most likely to help us reverse the population decline. And that is what everyone says needs to happen.

So let's open up this program to Kansas people, and make it work.

— Steve Haynes



Reader finds it is a small world

Letter to the Editor:

I attended a small wedding yesterday in a little town of Prairie Grove, Ark., just 12 miles west of Fayetteville. The couple are friends I have met through my church singles groups.

I was conversing with this large mountain of a man and found out he was the bride's brother, lived in Manhattan and worked at Rock Springs 4-H camp. Yes, I am Arrilla's daughter and rarely meet a stranger.

He soon learned I was from St. Francis and the conversation picked up, he had been in charge of the census last year, spent two weeks there and loved the

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people. He gave special thanks to a lady at a church a block off of Main, well that has to be the Christian church, right? He does not know your name but he was very grateful to that lady for helping him a lot.

Special note to St. Francis motel: He had to stay in Goodland, because in this day of Internet, he needed Wifi...he said none offered it in Sainty.

I was proud to say I had been a 4-H member in Cheyenne County in the 50s and early 60s and had been a camper at Rock Springs. He added that he found

at the camp a plaque from the original 4-H club in Wheeler, but cannot remember what the name of it was. Does anyone remember?

He said that what is so funny now is that he sees St. Francis drivers license all the time... why, he is a bouncer at a club in Manhattan and checks I.D.'s... too funny. I just had to pass along a very nice report on my hometown.

Cathy O'Leary Rigby
Farmington, Ark.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com
It is hard not to give the current state of the nation of Japan some thought these days.

American media remains focused on the terrible aftermath of a devastating earthquake and resulting tsunami. These events now seem almost overshadowed by the danger of radio-active leaks from damaged nuclear power facilities.

There is a sad irony to the Japa-

nese situation. In the 1940s it took the first atomic bombs dropped in war to bring their military machine to its knees. Now, a generation later, the atom has been embraced as what was thought a safe form of energy. Once again a large portion of the island is at the mercy of nuclear power.

I am certainly not against nukes and the need of using their power in today's world solves a good portion of our energy

needs. Perhaps the devastation across the Pacific will lead to more stringent safety measures on our shores.

But with all the technology available to mankind, we are all susceptible to a power much greater than ourselves. Evidence of this can be seen on the evening news.

Residents are coming back 'home'

To the Editor,

The sense of community continues to live in Cheyenne County. Life has been a whirlwind for many since our nursing home fire in October. Many of us have been traveling back and forth to keep in touch with our loved ones.

It was my pleasure to share something special last week. I got to bring Robert Morrell and my father, Owen Morrow, back home to the newly redone wing of the Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis. As you recorded in print, they were given a royal welcome.

Print could not adequately capture the loving care and warmth

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shown by so many of the employees and the administration as these and others began coming home. I heard residents say how beautiful it was and how happy they were to be back "home."

When Bob was away for eye surgery in Denver on Wednesday and Thursday, I heard him tell the social worker, "I like it. It is my home!"

We shared a worship service together on Sunday afternoon and it was so good to hear those voices sing together one more time. It is amazing how our regular folks in our county come together in that special sense of community.

It was shown again...that sense of community...when on Saturday we had St. Patrick's Day bed

racers. (I wanted to participate but read that they wanted light weights as the passengers for the events.) As you may or may not know, this event was put together by two wonderful people who came out of the woodwork (well...Eastern Kansas) to make St. Francis their home. They realize how harsh our wind can be when you plan something special. There weren't as many people participating as hoped, but those who did take part saw what a fun event it was.

Thank you, Joyce and Alan Russ, for being part of our community. It is with this spirit that Cheyenne County will always be a great place to live.

Norman Morrow
St. Francis

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Jerry Meyer, Bethune, Colo.; George Baxter, Wheatridge, Colo.; Rodney Radcliffe, St. Francis; Dana Timmons, St. Francis; Ed Marin, St. Francis; Walter Forsythe, St. Francis; Helen Howk, Bird City; A.O. Rueb, Kansas City, Mo.;



GOD SAYS
And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.
Matthew 24:4, 5

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STAFF

Karen Krien Editor/Publisher
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Something's wrong with this picture

To the Editor;

As I look at the landscape of public education in the U.S., all I see is a wasteland of mediocrity and under achievement, with the U.S. ranked 18th in academic scoring against other nations. What a poor commentary. The United States, once a light to the world in education and innovation, is now just the States that are behind most other countries in the world.

Where can we look for the reason of this race to mediocrity and under achievement? One thing that caught my attention as I watched the union demonstrations in Wisconsin and now here in Kansas, was the teacher unions that are front and center in all of these demonstrations. The next thing that caught my attention was an NEA official that was elaborating on the purpose and strength of the National Education Association, to which teachers belong. The union of-

ficial is the General Counsel for the NEA, Bob Chancenc.

Quoting Now: On the strength of the NEA! "It is not because we care about children and it is not because we have a vision of a Great Public School for every child. NEA and it's affiliates are effective because we have power, and we have power because there is more than 32 million people, who are willing to pay us hundred of million of dollars in dues."

In so many words, he stated that the purpose of the teachers union, aka. NEA, is not about education or the education of our children, it is about membership numbers, and membership dues, and what these numbers, influence and money can buy.

It is also interesting our teachers are a part of a union organization that espouses education in it's title and yet the NEA has no interest in education or in the education of our children according to their general counsel. The

only reason and the mission for the NEA is POWER AND MONEY, which they spent on Politician's and union leadership.

There is definitely something wrong with this picture.

The mantra of the union was SHAME, SHAME, SHAME, as they pointed their fingers in anger, but there were three fingers pointing back at them for their shameful actions of violence, assault, bullying and destruction of public property.

Every once in a while, I catch a movie that is of interest and has hope and inspiration in the story's theme. The movie "Dangerous Minds," with Michelle Pfeiffer, Courtney Vance and George Dzundza, is just such a movie. It deals with teaching, education and dedication and I would recommend it to the members of the NEA, teachers union.

R. Kent Voorhies
McDonald

Praise the Lord

<p>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.</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Salem Lutheran Church 332-3002 Pastor Chris Farmer Sunday School 10 a.m. Morning Worship 11 a.m. Communion 3rd Sunday</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Seventh-Day Adventist Church 785-890-5718 • 3rd & Adams Pastor Jerry Nowack Sabbath School 9:30 Morning Worship 10:45</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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</p>

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