

Don't let employers eavesdrop on your life

So, you've just applied for a job at the XYZ Company. During the interview, you are told that, as part of the background check, you are required to give them the passwords to your Facebook and Twitter accounts. Do you?

This is no hypothetical question. Employers around the country are beginning to demand exactly that of existing employees, job applicants and even students. And in the current economy, most are getting away with it.

But just because something isn't illegal doesn't make it moral or ethical. This is just plain wrong. In the same situation, would you give an employer the keys to your house so they could snoop through your drawers and computer? Let them eavesdrop on your personal phone conversations or read your diary?

Most of us would say not only no, but heck no. Looking over your shoulder while you access your own account is no better. Even being asked by an employer to make them a Facebook friend, so someone can monitor your social activities, is no different from being asked to put a microphone in your home.

Some may say that your home is not private, since any number of friends and acquaintances may come and go, but the difference is huge.

You invite and control who comes in – it's not arbitrary.

Companies that make such a request of your electronic accounts apparently have no respect for personal privacy or personal freedoms, and are both morally and ethically bankrupt.

Some who have been asked for such access have simply said, "I won't work for a company that would make such a request." But these days, especially if you've been out of work for several months, you may not be able to afford the luxury of refusing.

The problem is significant enough that a bill being considered in the New York legislature – the Social Networking Online Protection Act, or SNOA (no, I'm not making that up!) – would make it illegal for employers to require social-account access as a condition of employment or application for a job. And it has teeth – a \$10,000 fine per incident. Maryland passed a similar law earlier this year.

Just because it is not illegal – yet – doesn't make it right, which is why Kansas should be at the forefront of the movement and pass its own bill. Don't wait and be the 49th state.

We have little enough personal privacy these days. Let's try to keep what's left.

— Evan Barnum

Hangin' With Marge

Graduation time

By Margaret Bucholtz



margeb@cityofstfrancis.com

That exciting time is upon us again. The time when new beginning will be taking place for the seniors in high school and the college graduate. There will be moves for most of them and lots of job applications looking for that perfect world we all knew would be at our fingertips.

I am so proud of all of you seniors for focusing on getting your education. It takes work and dedication to complete this phase of your lives.

This year we have been able to attend two graduations and will be at the St. Francis ceremony. In all, we will have been there for the graduation of three grandchildren.

Trey Hilt was the first one and it is so nice knowing that both he and his wife Nichole have become Doctors of Chiropractic. It was held in Kansas City. It is just too bad that they live so far from here and driving the 500 miles wouldn't be too practical for us to be a patient.

Then we went to Lauren Ross's graduation at Norfolk, Neb. She is going to be in the nursing field. So now when we have questions we will just put her number on speed dial and the answers will be at our fingertips. (I hope)

Lexi Hilt will be graduating from high school and she is interested in the psychology field. I just hope I

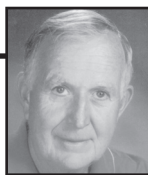
can be her first patient. Heaven only knows I need some kind of counseling.

We feel really blessed with all of our grandchildren and are so proud of their work ethic and what they have done with their lives.

Kurt and I would kind of like to see at least one of the younger ones decide to become a mortician. We are probably getting closer to needing one of those more than anything else. Not that it matters- it is just a thought.

Legislative News

By Ward Cassidy



I am writing this article with one official day left before the Legislature is to adjourn. It has been a very long week, with hours spent in meetings and debating on the floor of the House. No one seems to be able to tell when we will officially be done. I will have a summary article following the end of the session.

Some good news for Northwest Kansas – after fighting all year for home-owned carnivals, I carried the bill on the House floor, and the bill passed 114 to 7. It had previously passed the Senate and is on its way to the Governor's office for final approval.

All of the negatives were taken out of the original bill. The only stipulation that will be required, for our home-owned carnivals, will be to send proof of insurance to the Department of Labor. Recognizing that our home-owned carnivals are a different entity than the traveling carnivals, and not a Worlds of Fun, should make us free of negative legislation for years to come.

I am sure everyone is aware also of the good news that most all of our small town post offices will still operate. Senator Moran has worked hard in Washington, D.C., to help

with this issue.

I would like to thank Lynn Doeden, the hospital administrator in Oberlin, for organizing a meeting of many area hospital administrators and other health agencies with the head of the Board of Healing Arts. Kathleen Lippert agreed to come to Oberlin and address our concerns with certifying needed health care workers for Northwest Kansas.

In a move that was both shocking and historical, the House rushed a Senate Tax Bill to the Governor. I will not attempt to tell you of all the behind the scenes political maneuvering or the parliamentary rule procedures used to get it through. I will tell you that I could not vote for

a tax plan that was not debated and that shows a tremendous negative balance in just a few short years. I just pray that we do grow jobs and the economy. I would love to cut taxes, but I would like to have a chance for debate to fight for our district.

There is not much time left, and I have not updated news about the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPRS). There is still a conference committee meeting today, and I am hoping we can at least start some good legislation to help with this critical issue.

GOD SAYS

"It is mine to avenge: I will repay. In due time their foot will slip; their day of disaster is near and their doom rushes upon them."

Deuteronomy 32:35

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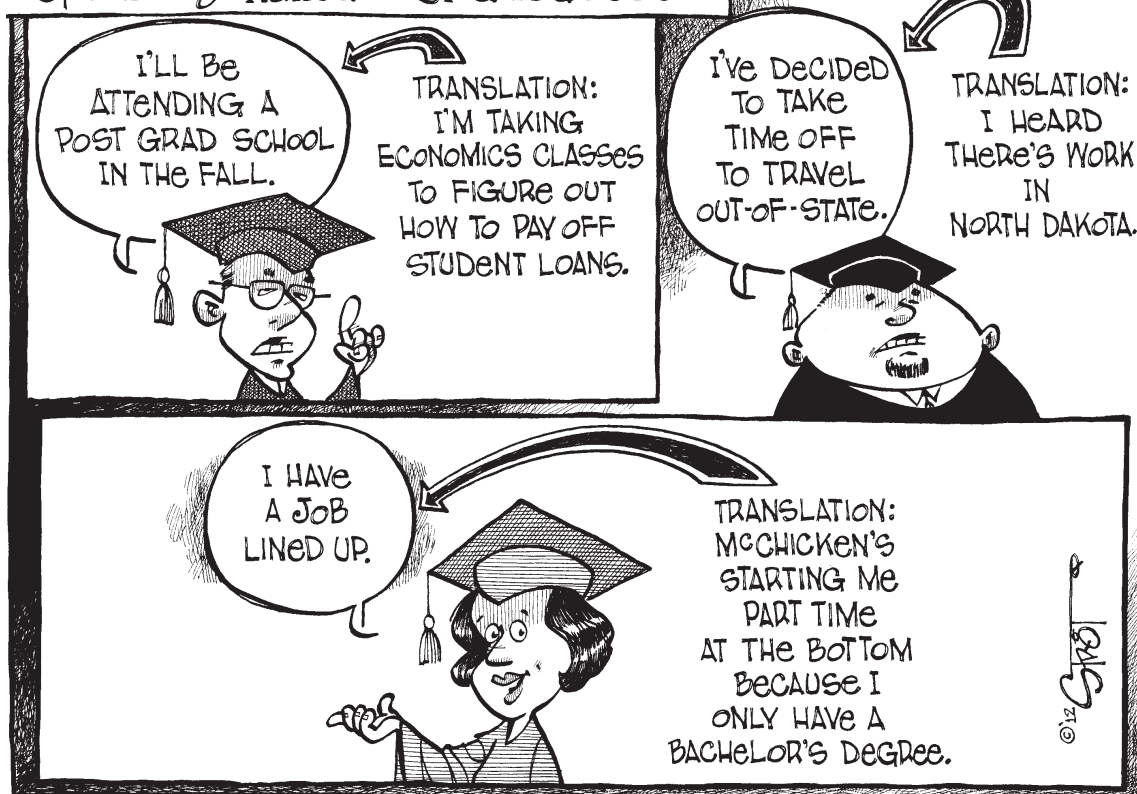
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Speaking Kansas Graduates



Administrator addresses rumors

Letter to the Editor:

Someone has posted a sign to "STOP THE MADNESS!!!" at the post office. I will sign my response and hope that whoever it is would be willing to share a cup of coffee and some facts regarding healthcare in frontier communities with me at some point.

I can recall being asked if the hospital was going to buy a house within the last 6 months. My response was, "Only if it makes us money."

The Cheyenne County Hospital Board is very conservative with regard to these kinds of issues and is always concerned that they be cautious stewards of the funds they control. Yet my understanding is that there are still some individuals in the community who have questions.

Here are a few things that we can clear up quickly:

1. The Cheyenne County Hospital Board does not "want to" buy a house, certainly not two. The board "wants to" help improve care or the financial situation for

Letters to the Editor

the hospital.

2. The Cheyenne County Hospital Board needs to be able to consider any service or change that will improve care at the hospital or improve the financial situation for the hospital.

3. In the event any non-operational decision, purchase, or sale needs to be made to improve care or improve the financial condition of the hospital, the board is charged with the responsibility, accountability, and authority to make that decision. It is their job to look at these things and ask questions for you.

4. The Cheyenne County Hospital Board is composed of thoughtful, caring, and purposeful people who you can count on to make decisions that will be in the best interest of patients, the community and the hospital.

5. The hospital struggles in an environment that is very difficult and not unique to Cheyenne

County. The hospital is in the midst of recovering from a financial injury that was sustained over a four-year period. Many of the factors that created this injury continue to exist in our environment today. Many hospitals across the nation have similar challenges to what we have.

6. Any individual or group that has questions or concerns about the hospital is invited to contact Les Lacy at 785-332-2104. I would be happy to address or listen to any group that is interested in providing input or ideas to improve things.

7. Cheyenne County Hospital Board meetings have always been and continue to be open to the public. Please contact Les Lacy or Shawna Blanka at 785-332-2104 if you would like to request time on the agenda.

Les Lacy, administrator
Cheyenne County Hospital

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



scmccormick@nwkansan.com

Nicknames are attached to people all the time.

In pro sports there is "The Bambino," "The Galloping Ghost" and "Sweetness." In war we find "Old Blood and Guts," "Chesty" and "Stone Wall." Politics brings "The Great Communicator," "King Fish" and "Old Hickory." Even the American mafia had names like "Baby Face," "Machine Gun" and "Bugsy."

The funny thing about a nickname, they have to be given by someone else. They become a way of drawing on a quality, characteristic or trait that shows a positive

or negative of the individual or group. For instance, English sailors would suck on limes to prevent scurvy. Thus, "Limes."

As stated, the negative can be addressed. For instance, I had a schoolmate with a head shaped like a triangle. We called him "Wedge Head." I imagine he grew into it and that handle didn't go with him.

Others can show admiration. For instance Elvis, Hugh McElhenney and Benny Goodman were called "The King." Not a bad name to have.

My siblings, as this could have

happened in your family, had nicknames for each other. Brother Rob was "The Slob." My twin, Kelly, was "Smelly." Mine was "False Face Case." I'm still not sure I get what it was supposed to mean, but pretty sure it was of the negative variety.

I like the nickname I carry now. Our kids refer to me as P.C. This stands for "Papa Case." To my ears that's as good as "The King" any day.

Praise the Lord

Church of Christ
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424
502 W. Spencer
Norman Morrow - Minister
Bible Class 9 a.m.
Morning Worship 10 a.m.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
625 S. River • 332-2680
Fr. Roger Meitl
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.
Weekday Mass 8:00 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.

United Methodist
Church Office 332-2292,
Church 332-2254,
512 S. Scott
Pastor Warren Cico
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

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.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
423-650-5663 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor James McCurdy
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.

Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC
202 N. College
Pastor Randy Nelson
Church 332-2928
Parsonage 332-2312
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Communion 1st Sunday

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

St. Francis Equity

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