



Kansas should give licenses to illegal aliens

This may seem a strange thing to advocate, but Kansas should follow the lead of California and resume giving driver's licenses to "undocumented," or illegal, aliens living here.

Actually, California was not the first state to start issuing licenses to noncitizens, only the 11th. Others include Oregon and our neighbor to the west, Colorado.

Why?

First, having a license should allow illegals to get insurance again. Right now, thousands of these people, mostly hard-working folks with jobs, have to drive without insurance because they can't get a license.

Second, it will allow the same people to have a state-issued ID without qualifying them for welfare, medical aid or any other government programs. Most states issue a separate type of license for the undocumented, but at least they get into the system.

And finally, it could take the edge off a campaign to paint the Republican party as anti-minority. This is an issue that Republicans and Democrats should be able to agree on.

We are not talking about immigration "reform" here, or any sort of amnesty for illegal entry. Those are issues Congress will have to solve.

What we would be saying is that if people are going to drive here, they must follow American laws, register for an American driver's license and buy American insurance for their vehicles.

States can't enforce immigration laws anyway. They will have to leave the tough decisions to the feds.

Many Kansas police officials said it was a mistake to exclude this group from state-issued licenses because of the insurance problem and because it left them completely outside the system. That hasn't changed.

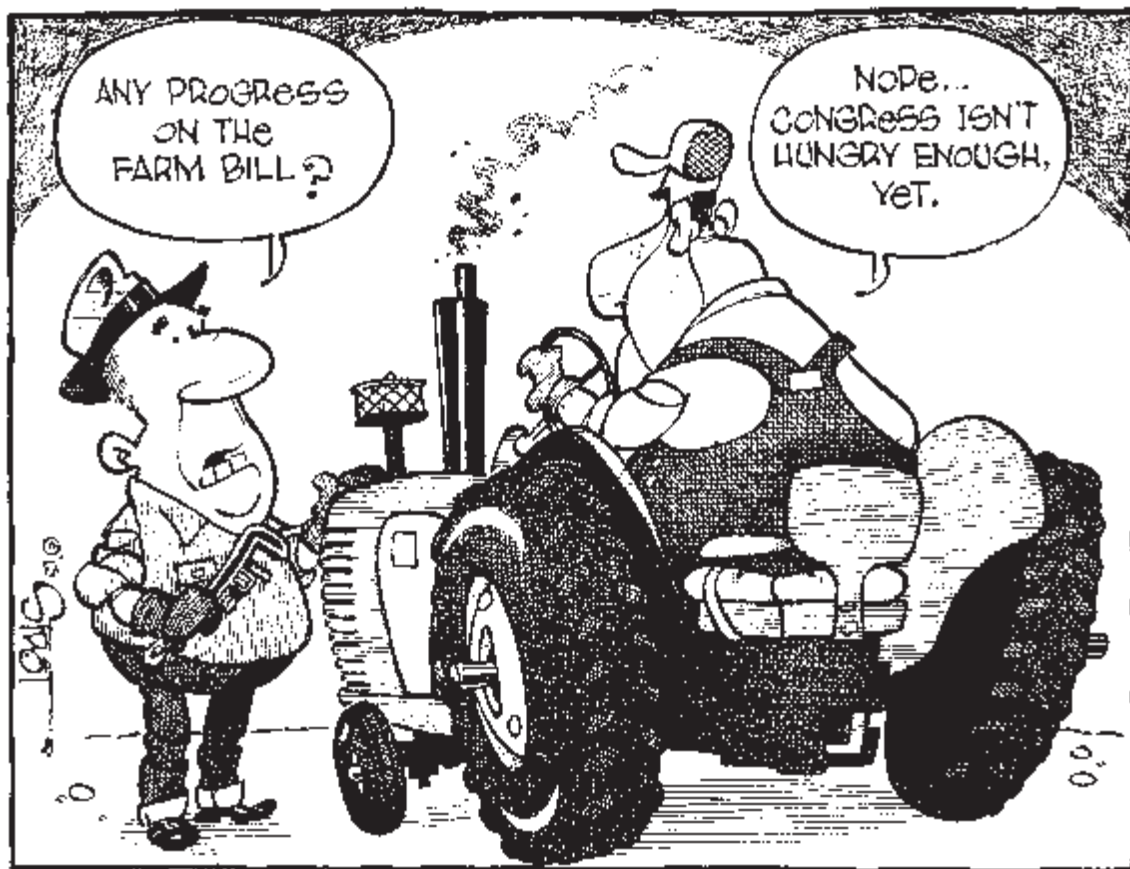
But the state Legislature got swept up in a wave of hysteria about illegal immigration and made a decision that causes more problems than it solves.

Many good, conservative Republicans, including farmers and their organizations, business people and others desperate for workers, know that immigrants usually come here only to work. Often, jobs can't be filled without hiring immigrants, and these people would not come here if we didn't have jobs. In fact, they did not come during the late, lamented Great Recession, when immigration numbers actually dropped.

We don't believe that illegals should be able to get any government benefits while here, including welfare, Medicaid, Social Security and the like. Even legal immigrants should not be allowed to come here just to get welfare.

But children, often U.S. citizens themselves, do need an education, and anyone who's driving here needs to have a license, proper training and basic insurance. It's to everyone's benefit to see that happen.

Gov. Sam Brownback and the Republican-dominated Legislature need to take a look at the problem and come up with a solution that includes making sure all drivers have a license and insurance. Everyone has a stake in that. — Steve Haynes



Open Season Bushels of Apples

By Cynthia Haynes



I was looking for Jonathan apples.

My sister and I were on our way back from visiting relatives in Arkansas, and our trip took us through Branson, Mo., and along an area that Steve and I used to visit 40 years ago to get Jonathan apples.

Back in those days, we lived in Kansas City and would drive to the Branson area, where there wasn't much but orchards and a sleepy village — a lot like a bunch of other Ozark-area towns.

Times have changed. Branson is reached by a four-lane freeway that even in October was busy, and the town, while not at high season, had more than enough traffic for us. Apples were not being sold in fruit stands at every crossroads like I remembered.

When we finally did pass a sign that read "Jonathan Apples," I had to make a U-turn to get into the little roadside stand. There were indeed baskets of apples everywhere.

I was tempted by the bushels. We had always bought a bushel of apples back when we were young. I would sit at night watching the 10 p.m. news while peeling, coring and slicing the apples. Then I would put six cups of them with the spices for an apple pie and toss the bagged pie in the freezer to await its crust.

I also made apple sauce and we just ate a lot of them. There were three then four of us back in those days, and we could do a lot of damage to a bushel of apples.

However, there are only two of us now, so I settled on a peck, which is I discovered, one-fourth of a bushel. Frankly, I'd have guessed it was more like a half. It seemed like a lot of apples.

It had been a lot of years since I had made those pies for the freezer, but a sharp paring knife and a little perseverance put six pies in my freezer. It was almost more than I had room for, but we squeezed them in.

The same day, I prepared the frozen pie fillings, I used up the last of my large zucchini and yellow squash. I peeled and seeded them, ran them through a salad shooter to make nice shreds and froze them in two-cup portions. Two cups of zucchini and/or yellow squash is exactly what I need to make two loaves of zucchini bread or a pan of zucchini brownies.

You can't open the door to the freezer without something jumping out at you, but I'm ready for winter. I've already made one batch of brownies and a couple of loaves of zucchini bread.

For Thanksgiving, I asked my son if he wanted pumpkin or apple pie.

He said "yes." Now it looks as if there will be more people for dinner.

Looks like one or more of those apple pies will be hitting the crust. Yum.

And yeah! Freezer space.

Moments With Mila

Quit Smoking as soon as Possible

By Mila Bandel



County Health Nurse

The Great American Smoke out is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 21. This marks the day to encourage smokers to use the date to make a plan to quit, or to plan in advance and quit smoking that day. By quitting even for one day smokers will be taking an important step

towards a healthier life — one that can lead to reducing cancer risk. This program is sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

Tobacco use remains the single largest preventable cause of disease and premature death in the US, yet about 43.8 million Americans still smoke cigarettes. Nearly one in every five adults. As of 2010, there were also 13.2 million cigar smokers in the United States, and 2.2 million who smoke tobacco in pipes other dangerous and addictive forms of tobacco.

Quitting is hard, but you can increase your chances of success with help. The American Cancer Society can tell you about the steps you can take to quit smoking and provide www.cancer.org/Healthy/StayAwayfromTobacco/Guide-to-QuittingSmoking/guide-to-quit-smoking-toc" quit smoking and provide www.cancer.org/Healthy/StayAwayfromTobacco/stay-away-from-tobacco-landing" quit-smoking programs, resources and support that can increase your chances of quitting successfully. To learn about the avail-

able tools, call us at 1-800-227-2345.

The Cheyenne County Hospital, Clinic and Health Department can set patients up with the Kansas Quitline in which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Kansas Tobacco Quitline www.KSquit.org or 1-800-QUIT-NOW (784-8669) provides FREE

one-on-one coaching to help tobacco users quit. The Quitline is available 24 hours a day/7 days a week online or by phone. Trained Quit Coaches provide participants support to create an individual plan to quit tobacco and fight cravings. This FREE service is available to Kansans who are ready to quit any form of tobacco. The Quitline is provided through a partnership between the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and Alere Wellbeing.

For more information on the Great American Smoke out or the Kansas Quitline, contact the Cheyenne County Health Department at 785-332-2381.

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Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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Although Kansas City is a long drive from these parts, many here feel a strong connection to the Chiefs, stock yards and barbecue. Here's another interesting nugget of history from that town that I'd like to share.

The Union Station railroad depot on the Missouri side played an important role in getting people to the west. In 1945 it was estimated that 670,000 travelers passed through her majestic marble halls.

But it was also the site of the June 17, 1933 "Kansas City Massacre." Frank "Jelly" Nash was an escaped federal prisoner with known ties to organized crime. While serving a 25-year sentence he broke out of

the U.S. Penitentiary in Leavenworth, near the end of 1930.

Several years later, on a tip, the F.B.I. tracked Nash down in Hot Springs, Arkansas. After capture he, federal agents and an Oklahoma police chief boarded a train to Union Station.

However, word of Nash's arrest and route reached his criminal associates. A plan was hatched to free the gangster before his return to Leavenworth.

As Nash left Union Station, along with four F.B.I. men, the police chief and two Kansas City police officers, nothing seemed out of the ordinary as they proceeded to the parking lot and began to load

the prisoner into a waiting vehicle. Little did they know that laying in wait was Charles Arthur "Pretty Boy" Floyd, Vernon Miller and Adam Richetti. As machine guns sprayed the vehicle Nash and four lawmen were killed. The three shooters escaped in their get-away car.

Today the Union Station in Kansas City houses many interesting sites, but one of the most unusual is the bullet holes in the stone walls near the eastern entrance.

GOD SAYS
 For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.
 Psalms 37:10, 11

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