

## Kansas goes Kremlin with arrests and secrecy

You and your spouse are sitting in your living room watching *Laverne and Shirley* re-runs some night when all of a sudden you hear a window break and something that looks like a jelly jar lands on the floor nearby.

Before you can get up to see what happened, the stun grenade detonates, the flash blinds you for a few seconds, the ringing in your ears has you completely disoriented. In a little more than a second, you and your wife are face down on the carpet with a SWAT team member's knee on the backs of your necks, handcuffed and arrested. Hours later, when the mess is sorted out, they let you out of jail with an apology. Ooops. Sorry. You weren't who we were looking for. Just a big misunderstanding. You're free to go.

Like most people, you want to know "why?" What in the world made the cops think you were a dangerous drug suspect? What led them to treat you like this and where did it come from?

The answer – the information the police and prosecutor submitted to the judge to get your arrest warrant – is listed in a court document called a "probable cause affidavit." In any other state, you can make a public-records request, get a copy of that affidavit and find out just why you were arrested.

But not in Kansas. Our Legislature keeps it secret, even if you are the victim.

Think I'm kidding? The scenario above is pretty close to what happened to Robert and Adlynn Harte in Johnson County.

After a year in court and \$25,000 of their own money paid in legal fees to unseal an affidavit, these two former CIA agents – people with security clearances – found out Robert's trip to a hydroponics store for his indoor tomato garden and some tea leaves Adlynn threw out in the trash were all that cops and prosecutors needed to send a SWAT team to their front door early one morning. The cops didn't find an indoor marijuana-growing operation – or any other drugs, for that

matter. For the Hartes to get answers was expensive indeed – not to mention the humiliation.

A bill that came out of the Kansas House this session would have changed that, but thanks to the Senate Judiciary Committee, headed by Republican Sen. Jeff King from Independence, it was gutted and the important provisions regarding arrests deleted. King even seconded the motion on the neutered bill when no one else on his committee would. As of this writing, unless the bill is put back into its original form, Kansas can still be deprived of their freedom, treated like criminals, and never know the reasoning of the cops, the prosecutor and the judge who did it to them.

How can Republicans like Sen. King – stalwarts of the party that supposedly will stand up for open government and individual rights – still hold to a policy that seems more like it came from the Kremlin than the Sunflower State? That's a question Chairman King and his cohorts should answer.

Opponents of openness say they fear pretrial publicity will taint a case if too much of that information is available. But the fact is that no criminal conviction in Kansas has ever been overturned due to pretrial publicity. Some may have been overturned because cops, prosecutors or judges are later found to have screwed up – but never because a newspaper or television station ran a news story. Never.

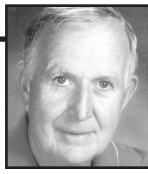
The public should be able to see those affidavits. The work of police, prosecutors and judges should be subject to the same scrutiny as the work of any other public official, especially when it can deprive Kansans of their freedom and the sanctity of their homes.

Kansas deserves better than this. – *Dane Hicks*  
*Dane Hicks, is president of Garnett Publishing Inc. and editor and publisher of the Anderson County Review.*

## Legislative News

Information from the House

By **Ward Cassidy**



120th State Representative

This week, I am going to write about some bills and share some information that should be useful to most everyone.

Last Friday, the House gave final approval to a bill that will allow cell phone numbers to be added to the "Do Not Call" registry. In addition, the registry will be updated every month, as opposed to the current quarterly updates. The do-not-call registry is maintained by the Kansas Attorney General, in cooperation with the Federal Trade Commission. If you want to be placed on the no-call list, go to <https://www.donotcall.gov/>.

The House also gave final approval to a bill that will require health insurance companies to offer coverage for autism spectrum disorder. The bill requires insurance companies to provide applied behavioral therapy analysis for children, with the bulk of the

treatment coming when the child is young, when studies have shown therapy is most effective. The goal is to help children achieve their full potential with early diagnosis and treatment.

I have spent a lot of time trying to run down problems with the Managed Care Organizations operating in Kansas. The House passed a bill that I hope becomes law that requires our three Managed Care Organizations to pay most claims within 30 days. There will be a few complicated claims that 90 days will be the timeframe. This is a good policy that helps maintain a healthy state business climate by keeping state government and its contractors accountable for money owed.

The House also approved a bill that increases the penalty for committing financial securities fraud against anyone over age sixty-five. The bill increases the severity of the punishment by one punishment

level, which translates to increased prison sentence for offenders. Financial fraud is among the fastest growing form of elder abuse in the nation. Anyone who knows of financial abuse committed against a senior citizen can report it to the state adult protection hotline at 1-800-922-5330.

Another tidbit that I heard last week that again shows what a diverse state we have become: There are 81 different languages, which children have as their native tongue, in the Johnson County Schools.

There has been a lot of discussion about how we should meet the requirement of the Gannon decision. The proposals I have seen so far are not going to help NW Kansas schools. Next week is "Drop Dead" week and I would doubt if anything will be decided till we come back in late April.

## Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Harold Mitchell, Burlington, Colo.; Maria Kamla, Bird City; Rich and Judy Braun, Rowlett, Texas; Janet Carman, St. Francis; Tony Gienger, St. Francis; Ron O'Leary, Topeka; Marlene Brown, Chico, Calif.; Victoria Clapper, St. Francis; Gail Roy, Norton; Marlin Rueb, Overland Park; Western State Bank, St. Francis.

**GOD SAYS**

Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith. Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewithin. A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.

Proverbs 14:16-18

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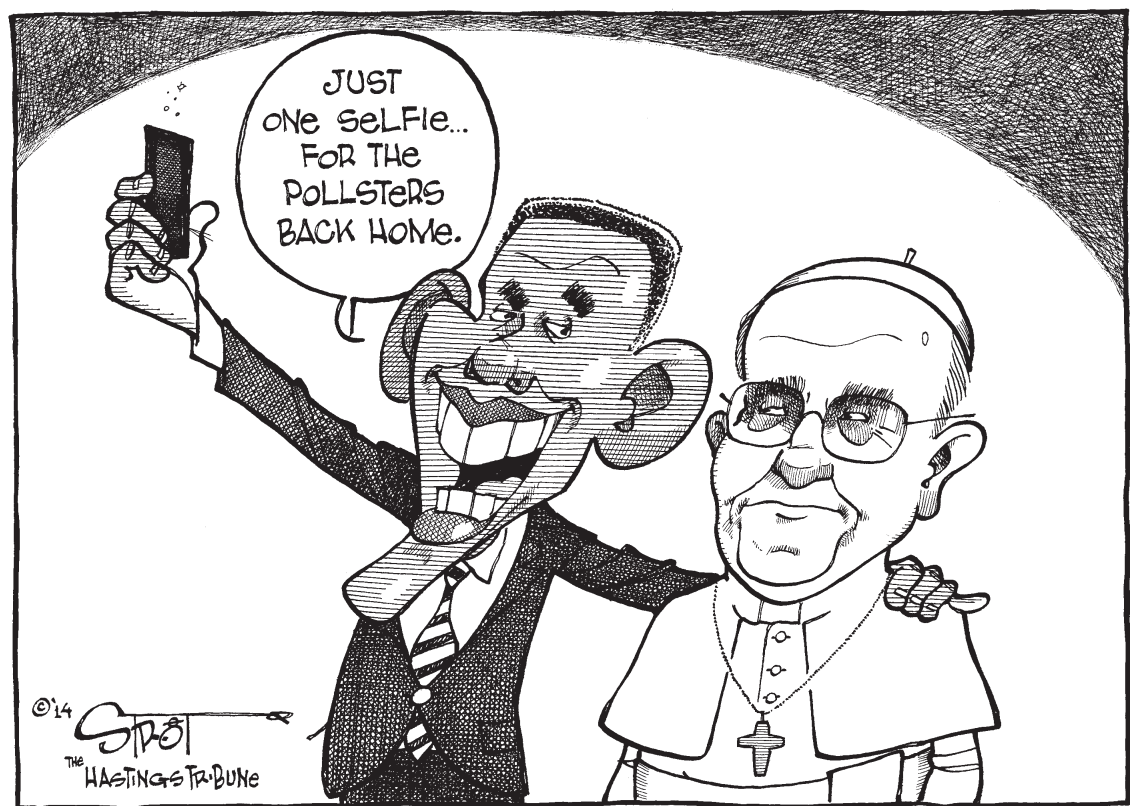
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## July 4th celebration a county event

Dear Editor and St. Francis residents,

I would like to explain why the Cheyenne County July 4th Celebration was moved to Bird City for 2014.

Four years ago when we first thought of a July 4th celebration we wanted it to be a county-wide event. The first articles that appeared in the St. Francis Herald about the celebration mentioned it would rotate between St. Francis and Bird City. Much like the Cheyenne County Wildlife Banquet rotates between the two towns. A rotation also helps to provide new ideas, higher enthusiasm and keeps one group from burning out because of the work load.

Over the past three years we worked to involve both towns in the celebration. We have been pleased with the results. For example, last year the Cheylin cheerleaders were thrilled that we asked them to lead the kid's parade around the park. Several Bird City residents expressed their appreciation that we displayed two Cheylin flags along with the others on the US Highway 36 median. Four

## Letter to Editor

Bird City residents designed and then volunteered to hang the window posters in Bird City, McDonald, Atwood, Goodland, Benkelman, Idalia and Wray. The owners of Hometown Market in Bird City provided the large red and white tent used for the hot dog eating contest. She also helped provide paper products and food items for he hot dog meal as our own grocery store was nearly empty. Finally, we received cash donations from people in and around Bird City. Combine all these kind works with what St. Francis residents did and we had a very successful event.

As a result, we thought it was time to let Bird City shine and have the celebration in their town.

Throughout the month of March we met formally with the Bird City City Council, Thresher Association, Century II and informally with Bird City Community Club, American Legion members and pastors. Every group we contacted showed much excitement and enthusiasm to be able to host the

event this year.

Most of the schedule for the celebration is already set. It will include firetruck and wagon rides for all ages, the popular kid's parade and hot dog eating contest, noon meal, free swimming, sing-a-long at the American Legion, ice cream and cake social and large city-wide American flag display. This is followed by an evening of entertainment with a spectacular fireworks display set to patriotic music.

We appreciate the donations of time and money by both St. Francis and Bird City residents, farmers, businesses, churches, clubs and thrift stores.

Our hope is to continue the Cheyenne County July 4th Celebration as one large county event.

We look forward to seeing many people in Bird City on July 4th so we may all celebrate America's birthday.

Thank you for your time and support.

Rodney Neitzel  
St. Francis

## Casey's Comments

By **Casey McCormick**



[mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com](mailto:mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com)

### Good movies

Seen any good movies lately?

Considering what the average product from Hollywood looks like, there is plenty more bad than good showing on the big screen, in my opinion. But every once and awhile they get it right.

Recently, actor Kevin Sorbo received a lot of flack for addressing the hostility in the movie industry towards Christianity and attitudes that do not reflect the liberal norm. Another movie actor, James Wood, has felt discrimination by not toting the industry line politically.

There is no surprise that whole-

someness is not what sells when it comes to movie tickets. However, at least a couple movies have made an effort for breaking the norm.

The Son of God and Heaven is For Real are offering entertainment that Christians can appreciate. They first played at our local theater recently and hopefully the later will make it soon.

In Heaven is For Real, the story is told of a boy who has a near death experience and lives to tell about his experience in heaven.

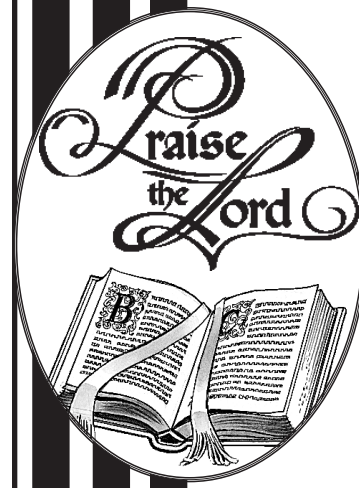
This comes from a real life drama that happened not far from here in

Imperial, Nebraska. Coincidentally, Kevin Sorbo has a role in this film.

A third movie that deals with Biblical accounts is Russel Crowe's version of Noah and his ark. From what I've heard from those who have seen it, I think I'll pass. Sounds like Hollywood won over on this project that, although it deals with one of God's great acts, avoids reference to the All Mighty as much as possible.

But should anyone be surprised?

<p><b>Church of Christ</b> 332-2380, Pars. 332-3424 502 W. Spencer Norman Morrow - Minister Bible Class 9 a.m. Morning Worship 10 a.m.</p>	<p><b>St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church</b> 625 S. River • 332-2680 Fr. Carlos Ruiz Santos 1st Sunday of the month Morning Mass 8:30 am Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m. Weekday Mass 8:00 a.m. Confessions Sat. 4-4:30</p>	<p><b>First Baptist Church</b> 2nd &amp; 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><b>United Methodist Church Office</b> 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.</p>	<p><b>Salem Lutheran Church</b> 332-3002 Pastor Chris Farmer Morning Worship 10:30 a.m. Communion 3rd Sunday</p>	<p><b>St. Francis Community Church</b> 332-3150 204 N. Quincy Street <a href="http://www.sfccfamily.com">www.sfccfamily.com</a> Pastor: David Butler Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Potluck &amp; Communion - Every 2nd Sunday Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.</p>
<p><b>Seventh-Day Adventist Church</b> 423-650-5663 • 3rd &amp; Adams Pastor James McCurdy Sabbath School 9:30 Morning Worship 10:45</p>	<p><b>Solid Rock Baptist Church</b> 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><b>Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC</b> 202 N. College Pastor Randy Nelson Church 332-2928 Parsonage 332-2312 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Communion 1st Sunday</p>
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