

Past tornadoes should serve as warnings to us

Oftimes, we forget the lessons of the past. Not in Andover, the burgeoning Butler County suburb, where 23 years ago, one of the biggest tornadoes ever to hit Kansas marched through a trailer park and killed 13 people.

Rescue crews in Andover were practicing Saturday, marking the anniversary by searching a mock trailer park for two missing victims. No one who was in Andover that night — as many of the fire fighters and other rescue workers were — is likely to forget what happened then.

The next night, other rescue workers were digging through rubble and downed trees in Baxter Springs, in far southeast Kansas, searching for survivors of a storm that injured 25.

Scientists, especially the meteorologists at the National Weather Service, have learned a lot about tornadoes in the years since Andover. Some of those lessons are comforting, and some are not.

And society has taken some to heart, ignoring others.

Tornadoes in Oklahoma City suburbs the last couple of years, for instance, showed us that many schools lack safe space during a tornado. Only great tragedy showed us that truth, however.

The result has been a push to build strong rooms and other storm shelters capable of housing all the kids and teachers. Some districts have passed multi-million-dollar bond issues to pay for these and other improvements, but it's a price people have said they are willing to pay.

Many schools still lack proper tornado shelters, sending kids out into hallways that may or may not protect them. Not at Decatur Com-

munity High, at least, where strong concrete "tunnels" beneath the building should keep everyone from harm. At Oberlin Elementary, they depend on a well-built lunchroom.

Some communities now require trailer parks, apartment complexes and other places where lots of people live without basements or other shelters to build them, but thousands still live in places where there is no shelter, including homes with no below-ground space.

That's another thing meteorologists have learned by studying the massive Joplin tornado of a couple of years ago, which swept away blocks of the Missouri town and killed 158.

Sometimes the safest place in the house isn't very safe.

For years, the weather service told people to go to a protected room in the center of the ground floor if they had no basement. In Joplin, the storm swept whole houses away, leaving bare floors.

Anyone hiding in the "most protected place" had no protection at all from a storm that size.

And even with more than half an hour of warning, dozens died, many of whom might have been saved by real shelters.

Of course, in the Midwest, many of us view tornado sirens as a call to go see what's happening. That's fine, we guess, but there are days when a good basement shelter is the only place you want to be when a tornado is bearing down. Think of Greensburg, Andover, Topeka, Udall, Oberlin in 1942, a dozen other deadly storms.

We know it will happen again. Shouldn't we be ready, all of us? — Steve Haynes



City police keep residents safe

I personally think our police should be allowed to do more, not less.

I would ask that members of the council who want less coverage let the police know so they won't waste their time serving and protecting them. That way the rest of us will get more.

I would ask the owners of the motorcycles who want to place

them in a museum in St. Francis if they would like more or less coverage.

I would also ask the people who leave their houses for the evening or a weekend or longer if they would like less coverage.

I think I know what the drug

dealers and burglars want for coverage.

Why aren't we hearing support from the mayor and the city attorney for our police department?

Dale Henderson
Saint Francis

Reader says local police are needed

Letter to the Editor:

In the most recent issue it was reported that one of the 'little big men' in town has decided that the need for local police is not needed, and that a 'Town Marshal' aka Mat Dillon, would suffice. In that vein it was very disappointing to see that Mrs. Lampe and Mr. Weeks have no spine, and are simply Mr. Jensen's 'yes men(woman).'

In light of Mr. Jensen wanting to micro-manage the police de-

partment out of existence, I have a suggestion so simple even he should be able to make it work.

First, he and his sycophants should immediately resign from the city council. Then he should attempt to get himself hired as police chief.

Once hired, he should hire his lackies as officers. Immediately upon their and his swearing in, he would then fire all the officers and himself.

In that way he could say he

saved the city all that money, as well as saving the city future adventures into the stupidity of his making. At that point the existing city council would rehire the current officers and life would go on.

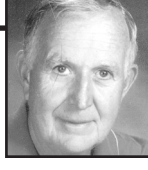
I am very proud to call St. Francis my home town. But with ignorance like this gone to seed, I am also glad to not be living there now.

Bill Fiedler
Oakley

Legislative News

Representative will not seek re-election

By
Ward
Cassidy



120th State Representative

I just received the figures for the school districts in the 120th district. There are gains in all of my districts. That is a much better result than the potential loss faced by all of the area schools. You can see it is not a great windfall to anyone but should allow the schools to maintain without layoffs.

Here is a breakdown that was provided to me by our Legislative Research. St. Francis USD 297 will gain \$21,828 in General Fund, Capital Outlay, and additional Local Option Budget (LOB). They will get \$8,806 straight to the classroom and \$9,418 in proposed property tax relief.

USD 352 (Goodland) will gain \$176,672 in General Fund, Capital Outlay, and additional LOB aid. That's in addition to \$110,808 straight to the classroom and \$142,509 in property tax relief.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Rodney Ritchey, St. Francis; Scott Northrup, St. Francis; David Northrup, St. Francis; Chris Northrup, St. Francis; Charles Curry, St. Francis; Bob Ochsner, St. Francis; Pat Northrup, St. Francis; Dennis Merklin, St. Francis; David Fry, St. Francis; Rueben Schultz, St. Francis; Timothy and Tema Trumbo, St. Francis; Tom and Kelsey Raile, Cheyenne, Wyo.; Carol Wolters, St. Francis; Wheeler Equity, St. Francis; Jeffery Olofson, St. Francis; Stanley Hilt, Independence; Marcia Rueb, St. Francis; Keith Schorzman, St. Francis; Jerri Zwegardt, Colby; Tim Raile, St. Francis.

USD 103, (Cheylin) will gain \$3,974 from the General Fund, Capital Outlay, and additional LOB aid. They can also get \$5,323 in additional LOB straight to the classroom.

USD 105 (Rawlins County) will get an additional \$80,917 from the General Fund, Capital Outlay, and additional LOB aid. They can also get an additional \$11,255 to the classroom from LOB and \$44,505 in proposed property tax relief.

USD 315 (Colby) will get \$163,804 in General Fund, Capital Outlay, and additional LOB aid. That's in addition to \$335,306 straight to the classroom and \$143,813 in proposed property tax relief.

USD 314 (Brewster) will gain \$1,603 in General Fund, Capital Outlay, and additional LOB aid. They can get \$58,004 straight to the classroom from additional LOB.

USD 295 (Decatur Community) will gain \$22,276 in General Fund, Capital Outlay, and additional LOB aid. They will get \$10,292 straight to the classroom and \$12,365 in proposed property tax relief.

USD 241 (Wallace County) will gain \$4,769 in General Fund, Cap-

ital Outlay, and additional LOB aid. They can get another \$6,767 straight to the classroom from additional LOB aid.

USD 242 (Weskan) will gain \$13,159 in General Fund, Capital Outlay, and additional LOB aid. They will get \$3,904 in additional LOB straight to the classroom and \$6,624 in proposed property tax relief.

We have great schools and school leadership in Northwest Kansas. Education and teachers are not a problem in our area.

This is a good article to announce that I will not seek re-election next year. Four years and time away from family have taken their toll. I have enjoyed fighting for Northwest Kansas and feel I have had success in promoting and protecting our area. I did an interview for a Topeka paper a few weeks ago and responded to the question, "What did I like best and what did I like least about serving in the legislature?" My response was the same for both questions: "Some of the people I have met."

GOD SAYS
All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.
— II Timothy 3:16

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Bountiful harvests

By Casey McCormick
mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com

Having spent a portion of last weekend turning and nourishing soil in our garden, plus receiving the blessing of rain, it is time again to plant. It won't be long until the earth around our home offers some wonderful vegetables!

Speaking of blessings, it is good to live in an area where so few do so much for so many (hope Churchill will forgive me for paraphrasing.) In the Spring,

seeing the winter wheat greening up in the fields and the new born calves skipping along with their mothers across the range never gets dull.

In big cities across our nation, and in other countries around the world, often not enough thought is given to the farmer and rancher who provide the needed food. Without the hard work, dedication and pride from the stewards of this land, where else would these products come from?

Maybe those people are not to

blame completely for not giving it much thought. Locally it is easy for us also to take for granted that the "bread basket of America" will continue to provide.

None the less, here is to looking forward towards more blessings to continue to help with a bountiful harvest this season. Both in your fields and around the McCormick home.

<p>Church of Christ 332-2380, Pars. 332-3424 502 W. Spencer Norman Morrow - Minister Bible Class 9 a.m. Morning Worship 10 a.m.</p>	<p>St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church 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>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 Warren Cico 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 Morning Worship 10:30 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 423-650-5663 • 3rd & Adams Pastor James McCurdy 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 Randy Nelson Church 332-2928 Parsonage 332-2312 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Communion 1st Sunday</p>
<p>First Christian Church Pastor Jeff Landers 332-2956 • 118 E. Webster Bible Fellowship 9:15 a.m. Church Service 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p>St. Francis Equity</p>	<p>Saint Francis Herald</p>



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